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**April 5, 1990**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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'In His Name . . .'

# Arkansas Baptist

April 5, 1990

## Traks!



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OBU photo / Steve Osmon

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*Ouachita's Tiger Traks is always a highlight of the university's spring schedule. The event is set for April 17-22 this year.*

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### Anti-Lottery Speech

A copy of the anti-lottery speech made by Don Moore to the executive board of the Christian Civic Foundation on March 22 is available from the ABN. Send a self-addressed envelope with 45 cents postage to: Against the Lottery, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

## IT'S UPLIFTING

### Timely Love Stops Suicide

BUKOBA, Tanzania (BP)—Anna Dunks was not a "fun friend."

The unmarried mother of four lived with her children in a cluttered 10-by-12-foot room. Arguing was the only thing that seemed to give her pleasure.

Because the local Catholic priest wouldn't baptize her children, she accepted an invitation to visit Bukoba Baptist Church, recalled by Betty Ann Whitson, a Southern Baptist missionary to Tanzania from Dallas.

Even though she had been educated at Oxford University in England, by the time Whitson met her, Dunks was barely surviving by tutoring students in English. She no longer could get jobs as a full-time teacher.

"She couldn't manage her time or her money. She was a mess," Whitson said. "That little room had two beds, two stools and a table jammed into it. Clothes and dishes were piled everywhere."

One Sunday afternoon, Whitson felt strongly compelled to visit Dunks. She found her nursing her 2-year-old child. The other three kids — ages 4, 6 and 8 — were asleep.

After visiting awhile, Whitson announced, "The real reason I came today is to tell you I love you—I really do."

"Me?" Dunks hurled back. "Nobody loves me. Nobody cares."

"I do, and God does," Whitson insisted, sharing Scriptures. "You are important. You have merit in God's eyes."

"I have nothing," came the reply.

"You have your children, and you're a

gifted teacher—that's something," Whitson pointed out. "Before I go, could we have a word of prayer, and will you come have tea with me tomorrow, maybe come to a women's meeting at church?"

Dunks came to church, still guarded, and she came back—each time hungry to know more about this love Whitson told her about. Six months later, she publicly accepted Christ as her personal savior.

The decision she had taken so long to reach did not calm all the storms raging inside her. "I don't understand everything it means to be a Christian," she told Whitson. "I have an emptiness inside. I want to know how to live." She began a weekly Bible study with Whitson and read books by C.S. Lewis, the famed British Christian apologist.

"It was a refreshing challenge to hear her, with her great intelligence, walk through the questions," Whitson said.

The changes spilled over into practical concerns. With Whitson's help, Dunks got a better house and a full-time teaching job.

But Dunks made one change even Whitson didn't know about for a long time.

When the missionary headed for the United States on furlough, a year and a half after Dunks' profession of faith, her friend gave her a note to read after the plane took off.

"The day you came to see me I was tired of living," Dunks had written. "And as we sat and visited, I looked over your shoulder to a bottle of poison I was going to drink when you left. I had decided that nobody loved me, certainly not God.

"Then you told me you loved me and that God loved me, too."

## GOOD NEWS!

### The High Cost Of Caring

Romans 9:1-3

A greeting card company uses the slogan, "When you care enough to send the very best." The Lord God cares about man, and he was willing to give his very best (John 3:16). Paul cared about the Jews, and he knew that it costs to care.

**The concern**—Paul felt great sorrow and unceasing anguish for his kinsmen, the Jews. He cared so much for them that he wished he could be accused and cut off from God if this would have resulted in their salvation.

Christians are to be concerned for the lost, whoever they are, because they are in

danger and are more valuable than the wealth of the world. One is never more like God than when he expresses concern for mankind, because God cares.

**The cost**—Caring for others cost Paul a heavy heart (v. 2), an anxious mind (2 Cor. 11:28), and a broken body (2 Cor. 11:23).

We cannot really care without it costing us. Robert Arthington of Leeds said, "Gladly would I make the floor my bed, a box my chair, and another box my table, rather than that men should perish for want of the knowledge of Christ." The greatest cost, however, is one's self. God in his caring gave himself and so must the Christian.

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# A Superb Conference

J. EVERETT SNEED

Recently this editor, along with approximately a dozen other Southern Baptist state paper editors, attended what may have been the best conference we have ever had. Among those we interviewed at the briefing were President George Bush; Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court; Wilson Abney, chief counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics; John Finerty and Erika Schlager of the Helsinki Commission; Wayne Angel, governor for the Federal Reserve Board, and personnel from the Russian Embassy. These interviews provided Baptist editors with an excellent insight into world affairs.

Our White House briefing lasted for more than two hours. Initially the President's staff provided information and answered questions for Baptist editors. President Bush himself spent approximately 25 minutes answering questions for the group. We commend the President on his apparent forthrightness, his command of facts, and his obvious desire to properly meet problems at home and abroad.

Mr. Bush and his staff dealt with a number of problems currently confronting the United States and the world. Among these is the need to control the sale of illegal drugs. The President's program includes the strengthening of the criminal justice system, the treatment of drug addicts, education and research. He also briefly dealt with the rapid changes which are occurring in Eastern Europe and Russia. He said that these changes should have a very positive impact on the wellbeing of everyone in the world if properly handled. Finally, Mr. Bush briefly discussed his program to encourage individuals and groups to volunteer to solve community problems.

Another unique opportunity for the group was to have breakfast with Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Justice Blackmun, an active member of First United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., discussed some of the struggles he had gone through in making decisions. He requested that he and the other Supreme Court justices be remembered in prayer as they consider issues which will affect the wellbeing of our nation for years to come.

We learned from several sources that religious freedom is increasing in Eastern Europe and in Russia. We had the privilege of meeting with experts from the Helsinki



Commission, personnel from the Russian Embassy, and Wayne Angel, a governor of the Federal Reserve Board. Information furnished by these groups enabled us to develop a fairly complete portrait of what is occurring in Eastern Europe. It is evident that the Eastern European and Russian people desire self-determination.

The Helsinki Commission capsuled a number of positive events which are transpiring in the U.S.S.R. as far as freedom of religion is concerned. Among these: (1) the release of religious prisoners on Dec. 12, 1989; (2) the increased religious activity outside the four walls of the church; (3) voluntary charity work being conducted by churches; (4) opportunity for more evangelists from outside of Russia to preach; (5) the reopening of churches which had been closed and (6) more prin-

ting and receiving of Bibles and religious literature.

One of the most impressive opportunities which the conference afforded for editors of Baptist state papers was a meeting with Robert Brauer, assistant commissioner of employees plan and exempt organizations for the Internal Revenue Service. Brauer has recently asked Oliver S. Thomas of the Baptist Joint Committee to head an informal discussion group composed of Internal Revenue personnel, local attorneys and preachers. The purpose of the discussion group is to avoid litigation between legitimate religious nonprofit organizations and the IRS. Brauer was extremely complimentary of Thomas and indicated that Thomas could answer most questions that we might have concerning nonprofit religious organizations.

This superb conference and the remarkable list of speakers was organized by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. We are persuaded that there is probably no other organization in all of Baptist life that could put together a conference such as this. Again, we were impressed with the knowledge, connections and ability of the small staff of the Baptist Joint Committee. The relationship Thomas has with the IRS alone is worth the small amount that Southern Baptists give to the Baptist Joint Committee. It would require years for a new organization to gain the prestige that our BJC already has in Washington. It is imperative that Southern Baptists maintain the strong support they have traditionally given to the Baptist Joint Committee. This organization represents the interests of Southern Baptists well in our efforts to maintain separation of church and state.

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## Letters to the Editor

DON MOORE

### You'll Be Glad To Know



There are strong indications that God is at work in an unusual way. So many have earnestly sought the Lord and prayed for a spiritual awakening. He is undoubtedly responding to these sincere prayers. Local churches and associations have continued special prayer efforts. Solemn assemblies, week-long prayer chains around the clock, early morning prayer meetings of pastors and of pastors with their lay people—these and other efforts have been conducted because of the spiritual burden we have had.

Has it done any good? How can you measure the value of time spent with God in prayer? You can't measure it. At the risk of being misunderstood for giving what might seem to be a numerical value to it all, let me give you some reports.

Churches that have had very little growth in recent years are experiencing growth. In communities where the population has plateaued or declined, large numbers of lost people are being saved. An unusual burden for revival swept through the Arkansas Valley Association in preparation for Here's Hope revivals. Some wonderful results have been witnessed. At Lexa, over the past few weeks, 46 people have accepted Christ. At First Church, Clarendon, some 18-20 people have accepted Christ. At First Church, Brinkley, they have seen 17 saved. God has surely honored the prayers and efforts of Director of Missions Carl Fawcett, and the pastors and people of the churches there.

A report came recently of more than 100 professions of faith at Watson Chapel in Pine Bluff. I'm sure there are many others. These are just the ones about which I have heard. I can handle a lot of telephone calls that provide such information. It would not be possible to write about each one in this column, but these I have reported should encourage all of our hearts. A little church in Gladewater, Texas, that averages 120 in Sunday School, had 106 saved in their Here's Hope revival.

Let's continue to pray as if it all depended on God and witness as if it all depended on us. May God be praised!!!

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

### Listen to Yourself

Why no revival in the church today? Oh, I don't mean that there aren't people being saved. I mean, "Why no revival in the church today?"

What is wrong with this picture? A church in Anytown, USA, is engaged with business as usual. Preaching services, Sunday School, youth activities, home Bible studies, prayer groups, fellowship groups, etc., are all functioning as usual. The church is growing in numbers and even is working on plans for the future. Together We Build campaign to meet their future needs. Nothing wrong with this picture, or is there?

Just down the street, around the corner, across town or in a nearby town other activities are also going on just as usual. These activities are known by the church members and even used by some. These activities are taking place even during the

time of worship being held in the church. Abortions! Children are being offered up on an altar of convenience and literally torn apart piece by precious piece! But the church continues with business as usual.

At the Judgment what are the church members going to say about their refusal to help the babies and their mothers in their time of trouble and need? "I gave to the Cooperative Program?" "I wasn't called into that ministry?"

If our Lord Jesus Christ were here today, standing in front of an abortion facility, what would he be doing? Advocating the "right" to destroy the life he created? Supporting the killing because it is "legal"? Or would he walk away and say to his followers: "They are not your neighbors!"

Ridiculous! Isn't that exactly the position we place our Lord when we turn our backs on the unborn and their mothers'? But I'm against abortion! What are you doing? But My church is against abortion! What are

## Woman's Viewpoint

### What a Father

MARY ELIZABETH HERRING

What is more beautiful than a bright red cardinal perched in a berry-laden evergreen which is weighted down and surrounded with snow? As I looked out our kitchen window one morning and watched the red bird enjoying the berries, I thrilled at such a picture of God's beautiful creation and his wonderful provision.

What an humbling feeling to realize that he promises to provide our every need if we but trust him, but so many times we let our worries and fears jump ahead of our trust. The birds surely don't worry. And the Lord admonishes us in I Peter 5:7 to place all our cares upon him, for he cares for us.

One day when our grandson was eight years old, he was watching his grandfather shave with an



electric razor. Their dialogue went like this:

"Daddy Doc, that razor won't cut you, will it?"

"No, Steve, and it isn't doing a very good job of shaving me. I had hoped Santa Claus would bring me a new one for Christmas but he didn't."

"Well, Daddy Doc, if your daddy had been living, he would have given you one."

As I eavesdropped on that conversation I thought of the wonderful sense of security a child has in his earthly father, and we as Christians can look to our heavenly Father in just the

same way. He surely promises us the greatest security one could ever wish for.

The Lord Jesus, in his Sermon on the Mount said, "Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns: yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Mt. 6:26).

Oh blessed thought, that we belong to the one who loves us so much that he forgives all our iniquities, he heals our diseases, he redeems our lives from destruction, he crowns us with loving kindness and tender mercies, and he satisfies our mouths with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's (Ps. 103:5).

What a Father!

**Mary Elizabeth Herring** is a homemaker and wife of R. Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus of Central Church in Jonesboro.

you doing? But abortion is legal and nobody forces anybody to get one! Listen to yourself! What would our Lord be doing?

Hypocrisy: act of pretending to have a character or beliefs, principles, etc., that one does not possess.

Pray about it. Then repent and do something about it!—Dale Morfev, Fort Smith

## Red Herring

I am writing to speak in favor of the SBC Executive Committee's proposal to

reduce the funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. I support the position of Dr. Ronnie Floyd and the majority of our duly-elected Executive Committee. In my mind, Southern Baptists can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines, and allow special interest groups to dictate the outcome of the key moral arguments of our day. We have hidden behind the "red-herring" of separation of church and state long enough! We need to exercise our constitutional right of involvement in the political process. I think 14 million Southern Baptists comprise a large enough group to have their voice heard in Washington, exclusively.

The sad truth is that one Methodist preacher from Mississippi on a shoe-string budget has done more to influence the moral climate of this nation than the Baptist Joint Committee and the Christian Life Commission combined! Recent changes at the Christian Life Commission are most encouraging. We need to get the same "bang-for-our-buck" in Washington!—Michael L. Trammell, Jonesboro

WILLIAM J. REYNOLDS

## Hymns Baptists Sing

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT: *First in a series of four articles*

### Definition and Beliefs

The New Age Movement is not new; it is old. The movement is not based on the gospel; it is an ancient heresy. What is new is, today the mainstream New Age leaders have westernized the occult (hidden things) and ancient oriental religions.

The term New Age denotes a different way of life. This means a different way of thinking, working, governing, and playing. The NAM advocates a new or different lifestyle of family, community, religion and government.

A definition: the *World Evangelization* periodical, issue of September 1985 properly defines the New Age Movement. The NAM is "a spiritual, social, and political movement to transform individuals and society through mystical enlargement, hoping to bring about a utopian era, a "New Age" of harmony and progress."

The New Age Movement is an umbrella term under which many groups and writers express themselves. It is not possible to identify all their teachings. In a *Belief Bulletin: New Age Movement*, The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention gives an overview of the basic teachings of the majority of the NAM groups. (1) All is one; all reality is unitary whole; (2) Everything is God and God is everything; (3) You (as an individual) are God. You are divine; God is within you; (4) You will never die; you have lived before and you will live again (reincarnation); (5) You can create your own reality, transform your own consciousness; (6) All religions are true and, therefore, one; (7) A new world is coming; a New Age is dawning.

Many New Age Movement advocates are highly educated in the fields of science, business, health, psychology, religion, and politics. The movement is pervasive in all areas of society and shows up in the arts and education.

The NAM is not a denomination, but a movement. NAM advocates have not formed another church. The movement aggressively infiltrates traditional Christian institutions and alters concepts it deems are weak or outmoded. For example, New Age advocates strongly promote ecology, health education and science. The strong emphasis on these areas makes the movement appealing to many people.

Some people are not aware of the movement with this enchanting new title. Many Christians who are aware, ignore the New Age Movement. They hope it will go away after a popular start.

Because the New Age Movement has old and strong roots it will not quickly pass off the scene. Evidence of the strength and appeal of the NAM and other organized cultic groups is obvious. They are strong and growing because some of their teachings are highly appealing to people of various spiritual and social needs. This is not to say their leaders and disciples are not sincere. They are trapped into errors that, to them, seem to be true.—Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

Information for this series is based in part on a seminar conducted in February 1990 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. David Fite, chairman, Dr. John Newport, leader. Tapes are available from Dr. Fite's office at the seminary.



### Let Jesus Come In

"Let Jesus Come into Your Heart"

On a Sunday morning in 1898, at a

Methodist camp meeting in Mountain Lake Park in Maryland, the preacher preached on repentance. At the conclusion of the service many came forward to the altar. One woman was obviously possessed by an inner struggle.

Standing nearby was Leila Morris, who knelt with her to pray and counsel. Henry L. Gilmour, the music director for the camp meeting, heard her conversation with the woman. Mrs. Morris whispered, "Just now, your doubtings give o'er," and Dr. Gilmour added, "Just now, reject him no more." Mrs. Morris concluded, "Let Jesus come in to your heart." The woman accepted Christ and there was great rejoicing.

The experience lingered in Mrs. Morris' mind, and in a day or so she had completed the hymn—words and music—and it was sung in the last days of the camp meeting. Later it was used in other camp meetings she attended that summer.

Leila Morris began writing hymns—words and music—in the 1890s, and over a period of 37 years she wrote about 1,500. Among her more popular hymns are "What If It Were Today," "Nearer, Still Nearer," and the solo song, "The Stranger of Galilee."

Dr. Gilmour, a dentist in Wenonah, New Jersey, and a devout Methodist layman, first published the song. He practiced dentistry for eight months during the year and for four months during the summer led music in the camp meetings.

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



## Ouachita Tiger Traks

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University's campus will be alive with excitement and activity on April 17-22 as various departments, offices and organizations sponsor a diverse collection of spring activities ranging from an elaborate musical to mud oozeball.

During that interval of time, the Ouachita Student Foundation will sponsor its annual Tiger Traks event for OBU students, and this year the Foundation has added Youth Traks, a collection of "fun" competitions for junior and senior high school students.

The admissions counseling office at Ouachita will also host the Academic Scholarship Recognition Banquet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 20 in the Banquet Room of Evans Student Center.

Tiger Traks, April 20-21, will involve teams of eight OBU students, four men and four women students per team. The teams will compete in eight different events for the most points overall.

Applications for Tiger Traks teams will be available on Monday, April 2, and must be submitted to the OSF office in Flenniken Hall by Monday, April 16. The registration

fee for a Tiger Traks team is \$40 (\$5 a person) and includes a T-shirt. The fee for Youth Traks is \$80 a team (\$8 a person) and includes a T-shirt and the picnic lunch in Daniel R. Grant Plaza on Saturday.

Prizes will be awarded to the top four teams in both Tiger and Youth Traks competition on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Williams Field.

### Preview Day

The Ouachita Baptist University Admissions Counseling Office will sponsor Preview Day on Saturday, April 21 for high school juniors and seniors, and their parents, according to Randy Garner, director of admissions counseling at OBU.

Preview day will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 9 a.m. in Evans Student Center. At 9:15 a.m. in the Recital Hall of Mabee Fine Arts Center, Dr. Ben M. Elrod, President of OBU, will greet the guests, followed by a special presentation titled, "Panorama of the Best of Life!"

A picnic luncheon will be served to the

students free of charge, while parents may purchase tickets at the meal.

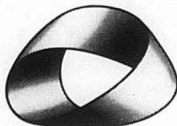
For more information about Preview Day, persons should contact Garner at OBU, P.O. Box 3776, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; telephone (toll-free in Arkansas) 1-800-342-5628 or 501-246-4531 (outside Arkansas).

### 'Oklahoma'

The Broadway musical hit "Oklahoma" will be presented by a campus cast at Ouachita Baptist University on April 19-21 at Mitchell Hall Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. A matinee performance is also set for April 22 at 2 p.m.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is being sponsored by the OBU School of Music and the university's drama department.

All tickets sold in the auditorium will be reserved. Tickets are \$6 each, with tickets to schools and church groups being sold for \$4 each. Advance seat tickets may be purchased from the OBU School of Music office, P.O. Box 3771, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; telephone 501-246-4531. All group sales must be concluded by April 10.



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CHRISTIAN CIVIC FOUNDATION

## Against the Lottery

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas will become the first state in the union to reject the lottery out of hand, if the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas has any say in the matter.

In their annual meeting March 22 at Little Rock's Baptist Medical System headquarters, Christian Civic Foundation board members lent their support to a new plan for statewide opposition to the latest pro-lottery campaign.

Board members heard a report from an ad hoc planning committee that announced the formation of CALL, Citizens Against Legalized Lottery. The effort will seek to recruit more than 3,000 volunteers for a county-by-county grassroots fight against state-sponsored gambling.

Don Moore, chairman of the ad hoc planning group, told CCF board members that the active support of virtually every religious group in Arkansas has been enlisted and that, "When the Christian people of Arkansas stand together on a moral issue, they won't be defeated."

Moore also announced that prominent Little Rock attorney William "Buddy" Sutton has agreed to serve as CALL general chairman. More than \$150,000 will be needed to defeat the lottery forces, which are expected to have significant funding from gaming interests outside the state.

Defeating the lottery will be an uphill battle, in spite of the state's traditional conservatism and Christian influence, Moore said. A 1989 poll conducted by a Little Rock television station indicated an overwhelming 88 percent of those surveyed favored a state-run lottery over higher taxes to increase state revenues. In 29 ballot initiatives, lottery adoption has not failed yet, he observed.

On the other hand, lottery proponents will have to overcome the "miserable track record" lotteries have racked up in the states that have adopted state-run numbers games, Moore said.

The lottery has failed to deliver the vast sums of money it promised in virtually every one of the 28 states and the District

of Columbia that have adopted it, Moore explained. In addition, ample evidence exists that state-run lotteries hurt business receipts and rarely benefit concerns—such as education—they promised to advance before they were adopted.

In addition, state-run lotteries put government in the position of promoting moral and spiritual decay in the lives of the very people it is supposed to protect, Moore said.

Moore challenged CCF leaders to call upon their people to refuse to sign lottery petitions in hopes of preventing proponents from gaining the 68,000 signatures required to place the initiative on next fall's

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



From left: Harris, Finn, Mayes, Parker, Stanford

general election ballot.

During their meeting, board members also adopted a revision of their charter, approved a 1990 budget, and elected a new slate of officers.

The charter revision added four new areas of concern to the agenda of the interdenominational organization, which seeks to promote "civic righteousness" in regard to alcohol, drugs, gambling, and pornography. With the amendment of its charter, the Christian Civic Foundation also will address issues related to the family, abortion, euthanasia, and "secular humanism."

Board members were told that the adoption of the proposal indicated no weakening of their stance on the four original areas of concern, nor did it imply that equal time would be given to each issue.

Instead, circumstances will dictate the allocation of resources, said Larry Page, a Little Rock attorney who presented the proposed revision. Page also explained that while the Christian Civic Foundation

would not mandate a particular position on any issue, it would forcefully argue such 'moral dilemmas' can be solved only in reference to Judeo-Christian values as they are expressed in Scripture.

Board members also received a report that income had declined slightly in 1989 and adopted a \$112,115 1990 budget. The new budget represented an increase of .6 percent over the previous year.

Elected as officers for the new year were Charles Stanford of Mountain Home, president; Robert Parker of Little Rock, first vice-president; D.C. McAtee of Forrest City, second vice-president; Ronnie Mayes of Beebe, third vice-president; Linda Harris of Little Rock, secretary; and Harold Walls of Little Rock, treasurer.

The board also recognized Don Hook of Little Rock for 19 years of service as treasurer for the organization.

Outgoing CCF President Norman Carter and members of the board acknowledged with sustained applause the presence of CCF Executive Director John Finn, who attended the meeting but did not address the group. Finn is recovering satisfactorily from open heart surgery but has not yet returned to a full schedule of activities.

## Classifieds

**Seeking**—Christian people to market computer systems to churches. No prior computer or sales experience necessary. Call or write: CCS, Inc., Box 665, Benton, AR 72015; 1-800-441-7786. 4/5

**Volunteers**—FBC, Ozark, Missouri, seeking volunteer builders July through December. 417-485-2484 4/5

**Pastor Available**—Don Wheeler, Box 216, Plainfield, Vermont 05667. 802-454-1406 4/12

**Accepting Resumes**—Second Baptist Church, Russellville, now accepting resumes for Education/Music Minister. Send to P.O. Box 782, Russellville, 72801. 4/12

**Position Available**—Organist. Send resume and letter of application to Second Baptist Church, Attn: Dr. Keith Bell, chairman, Music Committee, Factory & Polk St., Conway, AR 72032. 4/5

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included.



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**Gene Bates** has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock. He has pastored Rosie Church and Rector Heights Church in Hot Springs.

**Jeff Black** has resigned as pastor of Turner Church to serve as associate pastor of Goucher Church in Gaffney, S.C.

**Robert and Sylvia Flowers** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary April 14 with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Brumley Church, Conway.

### OBITUARY

**Nelson Franklin Tull** died March 24 in Nashville, Tenn., at age 89. Tull retired in 1966 as Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood Secretary, following 20 years of service.

During his tenure as ABCS Brotherhood secretary, that department took on the responsibility of working with Royal Ambassadors and directing their camps. He also was noted for his personal witnessing efforts which resulted in numerous professions of faith and baptisms. As a layman, Tull not only preached Brotherhood revivals, but as he preached he equipped church members to be soul winners and this led to many professions of faith and baptisms. In addition to his Brotherhood work, he served as a staff member for Little Rock churches, including First Church, Second Church and Gaines Street Church (now Olivet Church).

His graveside services were held March 28 at Roselawn Cemetery in Little Rock with Charles Barfield, associate pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, and Hunter Douglas officiating.

Tull's survivors include a daughter, Mrs. John (Frances) Mowrey of Nashville, Tenn.; three sisters, Willene Herring of Charlotte, N.C., Madie Merle Westmoreland of Houston, Texas, and Mildred Chalfant of North Little Rock; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

**Mr. and Mrs. Junius Fite** of Sparkman recently celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. They are members of First Church in Sparkman, where he has served as a deacon. Mrs. Fite was treasurer for 40 years and has served as a Sunday School teacher and as an officer in Baptist Women. They are parents of two children, Mary Louise Scott of Sparkman, and Lynn Fite of El Dorado. They have three grandchildren.

**Garth Rotramel** has resigned as minister of music at Immanuel Church in Fayetteville.

**Brian Harbour** announced his resignation as pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock March 15 to become effective April 8. He has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Church in Richardson, Texas, beginning April 15.

**J.W. Buckner** has resigned as pastor of Martinville Church at Hamburg.

**Mark Smith** has joined the staff of Ridgeview Church in Fayetteville as minister of youth. He previously served on the staff of University Church in Fayetteville.

**Fred Blake** observed 10 years of service March 4 as pastor of First Church in Winslow.

**Shirley Santifer** is serving as outreach coordinator for Beech Street First Church in Texarkana.

**Mark Jackson** has accepted the call to join the staff of First Church in Fordyce as youth and activities minister. He will move there from Haltom, Texas. He currently serves as youth intern at Shady Oaks Church in Hurst, Texas. Jackson is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**David Hill** has resigned as pastor of the Lone Oak Church in Lockesburg to join the staff of Ridgeway Church in Nashville as associate pastor of youth. He will assume his new position April 16.

**Brenda and Russ Meeks** have given Immanuel Church in Little Rock and its music ministry a Schulmerich "Americana" 150, a computer-assisted carillon, as a memorial for Donie Sullivan Meeks and Frank and Vasta Reed.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



*Baptist Men from Harmony Association recently presented a 6x14 foot fully enclosed trailer to the Disaster Relief Unit of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Brotherhood Department. More than \$3,000 was raised to purchase and outfit the trailer, which will increase from 3,000 to 15,000 the number of meals the relief team will be able to deliver to disaster scenes. Pictured above are (from left) ABCS Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober, Harmony Association Baptist Men's Director Wayne Inzer, and Director of Missions Bill Lewis.*

## Briefly

**Gentry First Church** will dedicate a new 930-seat auditorium Easter Sunday morning, April 14, beginning at 9:45 a.m. and concluding at noon. The \$500,000 auditorium is debt free. Dedication speakers will be Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton County Association. Joe Finrock is pastor.

**North Little Rock Central Church** ordained Rusty Hart, minister of music, to the ministry March 25.

**Lonoke Church** held an Appreciation Day March 4 to recognize Gary Ellis, minister of music and youth, his wife, Glenna, and their daughter, Janet, who were beginning their sixth year of ministry. Activities included special music, a potluck luncheon, and fellowship. The Ellis Family was presented with a love offering.

**Armored Church** held its "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival March 3-9. Pastor Roland Chappell reported five professions of faith. Delton Cooper, pastor of First Church in Wilson, was evangelist and Mike Sypult, minister of music for Trinity Church in Blytheville, directed music.

**Mena First Church** ordained Ron Wright to the deacon ministry March 18.

**Pine Bluff Second Church** ordained George Lawhorn, O.P. Williams, Donald Hunter, and Dickie Reed to the deacon ministry March 11.

**Sang Avenue Church** in Fayetteville celebrated payment of the indebtedness on its sanctuary with a noteburning service March 18.

**Norphet First Church** ordained Bob Brewer, Scott Carter, Scotty Kennedy, David Long, and Wayne Love to the deacon ministry March 18. Participating in the service were Pastor Lawrence Harrison, Donald Mason, and Pat Long. The church held a noteburning service March 4 to celebrate the payment of an indebtedness that had extended from the 1950's. Participating in the service were Frank Burton, Fred Love, Pat Long, Donald Mason, and Pastor Lawrence Harrison.

**Trumann First Church** held its "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival March 18-21. Gene Culver of Terrell, Texas, served as evangelist and Hal Saunders directed music. Pastor Jerry Wilcox reported 53 professions of faith and six rededications.

**Horseshoe Bend First Church** will dedicate its new educational building May 6 with a praise and thanksgiving worship service, followed by a fellowship dinner. Saturday, May 5 an open house for the community will be held. All volunteer workers who helped with the construction are to be special guests for the weekend.

**Mayflower First Church** held its "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival March

4-7 with Clarence Shell, ABSC director of evangelism, serving as evangelist. Jeff Stotts directed music. Pastor Ken Reece reported 28 professions of faith.

**Hot Springs First Church** will present its fifth annual Living Cross program April 14-15, beginning at 7:30 p.m. A 55-voice choir and 25-piece orchestra, directed by Larry Bradley, will present "The Promise." Janis Perceful is serving as drama director. Complimentary tickets are available in the church office.

**Grace Church in Camden** held its "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival March 11-16. Wes Kent was evangelist and James and Catherine Nash provided the musical leadership. There were six professions of faith, according to Pastor Ken Shaddox.

**Nettleton Church** in Jonesboro is now televising its Sunday morning worship service to be aired on ACTS Mondays at 7 p.m. Stan Ballard is pastor.

**New Hope Church** in Jonesboro recently held its first services in a new building. Don Vuncannon is pastor.

**Indian Springs Church** in Bryant held a Church Growth Conference March 4-7 with Clifford Palmer of Rogers as speaker. Benny Grant is pastor.

**Hot Springs Second Church** has designated April 8 as "Staff Appreciation Day." Both Sunday morning worship services will honor Pastor Dennis W. Swanberg and his wife, Lauree; Minister of Education Carter Shotwell and his wife, Gayle; Minister of Business/Benevolence Joe Angel and his wife, Shirley; Minister of Senior Adults/Family James Craver and his wife, Rhonda; and Minister of Youth/Recreation Charles Elrod and his wife, Carla.

**Barnett Memorial Church** in Little Rock held a fellowship March 25 to honor Pastor Carter Day in recognition of nine years of service. He was presented with a gas grill.

# Young Musicians Camp

June 25-28

Ouachita Baptist University

## Choirs Directors

Tricia Wakefield — FBC, Stuttgart

Don McCall — Church Music Department, Dallas, Texas

Mary Ann Marsden — FBC, Elden, Missouri

Susan Messer — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

## Camp Pastor

Stephen Hatfield — Baring Cross, North Little Rock

## Drama Emphasis

Wanda Pearce — FBC, Malvern



*A Cooperative Program Ministry of the  
Church Music Department  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention*

## Nailbenders Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following Nailbenders for Jesus construction projects.

—May 7, Bono Church

—June 4, Scotland Church

—July 9, Sulphur Rock Church

For more information, contact Frank Allen, Rt. 1, Box 25, Williford, AR 72482.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Participants at the WMU annual meeting bow in prayer.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

## 'In His Name...'

by Mark Kelly  
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Meet human needs. Share the gospel wherever you have opportunity. Pray fervently for the lost and those in missionary service. Give sacrificially for the cause of missions. Be prepared to serve wherever the Lord sends you.

Those were the calls repeatedly raised during the 101st annual session of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union. More than 650 persons participated in the two-day meeting, which was held March 16-17 at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

Meeting under the banner, "In His Name," WMU leaders heard a series of program speakers challenge them time after time to lead the way in bringing Southern Baptists to a new era of obedience and sacrifice in missions and evangelism.

Among the keynote speakers for the conference were Esther Burroughs, a national evangelism consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Bobbie Sorrell, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Burroughs delivered four theme interpretations and a closing address during the annual meeting. She challenged the women to new heights of commitment in prayer, ministry, and witnessing.

Prayer is not an activity, but a relationship, an "intimate conversation with God the Father," Burroughs observed. Because prayer releases the power of the Holy Spirit to touch lives, it is "a life and death mat-

ter" for men and women all over the world whom God wants to save, she said.

Yet, in spite of all the prayers, most of those people will wait for salvation until

Christians rediscover the servant spirit of Jesus, she added.

She called on her hearers to be like Christ, who "took off his kingly robe and laid down his life for others." She said: "The world is waiting for Great Commission Christians to kneel down and give up their titles and possessions and 'Christ' them in the love of God."

A servant lifestyle, however, is only half of the Christian's calling, Burroughs observed. Far too many Southern Baptists are so busy with church work that they fail to stop and tell others why they are working so hard, she said.

"We are called to be salt and light wherever God has placed us," she said. "Being obedient witnesses means going to the lost wherever they are. You are wrong if you believe we are going to win a lost nation solely through the men who stand behind the pulpit. Their job is to equip us to go and win a lost world."

Arkansas Baptist women hold in their grasp the power to change their churches into the force for world missions that God intended them to be, Burroughs concluded. She challenged them to lead their congregations to "let go of material possessions and self-centeredness and get a vision of a world in need."

There are 3 billion lost or unreached persons in the world, and Southern Baptists are fielding only one missionary for each

## Don't Become Spiritual Sponges

Every night, 2 million people die without Christ. Yet the average Southern Baptist gave only \$4.74 to missions last year, and Southern Baptist congregations seem ever more self-absorbed and ignorant of the world's vast physical and spiritual needs.

This troubles Stan Parris deeply, and he told participants in the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting March 16-17 in Little Rock that Southern Baptists need a fresh reminder of the richness of their blessings and the lossness of the world.

Parris, who is serving as pastor of Hope First Church while on a leave of absence from the mission field in Venezuela, told WMU leaders he returned from seven years abroad to find churches "losing their understanding of what it means to be servants."

"Too many of our congregations have become spiritual sponges," soaking up God's blessings and giving little in return, Parris said. The trouble with sponges, he observed, is "you have to squeeze them

to get anything out of them."

Southern Baptists must come to grips with the fact that they are building luxurious facilities for themselves while one person in four goes to bed hungry each night, and one in five lives in devastating poverty, Parris said.

"God expects more from us. We need to give sacrificially," Parris warned. "If we don't do something about our lifestyle, we will lose our witness in the rest of the world. Third World Christians already are starting to ask questions about how we spend our money."

"God is serious about sharing the gospel with the world," Parris concluded. "We need to let that consume our lives. We have been sent in his name, with his heart, to perform his ministry.

"And if we are not consumed, we need to go back to Isaiah chapter 6 and start all over again. We need a fresh vision of his holiness, which will move us to confession and cleansing, so we can once again hear his call and receive his commission."

I million souls, she observed. She called on the women to go back to their churches and "stand up" for missions needs. She asked them to evaluate their personal finances and ask God if they are giving enough. She pleaded with them to ask God to change his people so that they would be more interested in others than in themselves.

Most prominently featured on the WMU program were four Arkansas missionaries. Ted Stanton, missionary to Argentina, directed music for the meeting, brought special music, and spoke once. His wife, Mary, addressed the subject of praying for missionaries and led one period of intercessory prayer. Debbie Moore, missionary to Liberia, shared two testimonies about her work and led in a period of prayer for her colleagues around the world. Stan Parris, a missionary to Venezuela who is serving as pastor of Hope First Church during a leave of absence, delivered the keynote address during the Friday evening session.

Two Arkansas couples who have served terms as missions volunteers also were featured. Boyd and Bonnie Margason of Mountain Home shared a testimony about their two years' work in Nevada. Tom and Marie Turner of Arkadelphia related their experiences from a year on the faculty of Zhengzhou University in central China.

Two presentations supported this year's WMU emphasis on Acteens, a missions organization for girls in grades 7-12. Sandra Kemmer of Brinkley and Liz Hill of North Little Rock talked about factors they believe have contributed to the success of their work with Acteens. Jenny Baker of West Memphis, Jeannette Hodel of Dan-

ville, Dixie Morris of Cabot, and Robin Wood of Little Rock, the 1990 State Acteens Panelists, gave testimonies about their involvement in missions.

Five Baptist Young Women testified about missions experiences that had affected their lives. Ellen McMillan and Susan Yates of Fort Smith, Pam Rusher of Jonesboro, Thelma Rice of Waldron, and Holly Moody of Dardanelle related the work they had done in Oklahoma City, Hermitage, Hope, and Guatemala, respectively.

During their business sessions, Arkansas WMU leaders re-elected their officers — Marjorie Grober of Little Rock, president; Ina Miller of Mountain Home, vice-president; and Polly Reynolds of Gould, recording secretary — and received a report from their executive board that indicated two records in missions giving had been set the previous year.

Arkansas WMU Executive Director Julia Ketner said that receipts for the 1989 Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions were up a record 14 percent over the previous year. In addition, a record 1,070 Arkansas Baptist congregations had contributed to the offering. At the same time, however, receipts for the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions suffered their first decline since 1977, she said.

Ketner challenged Arkansas WMU leaders to increase their ranks and the number of their organizations in the next year. She said the ongoing need for more career missionaries, the importance of an intercessory prayer base, and the pressing needs for stronger financial support require more WMU organizations and members.

More than 80 percent of the Arkansas dollars given to missions comes from congregations which have WMU organizations, she observed.

Another highlight of the annual meeting was the Friday evening reception for program personnel. Arkansas WMU leaders turned that event into a surprise celebration of Ketner's 20th anniversary with Arkansas WMU. She was showered with praise for the progress WMU has made under her leadership and presented with a book of letters, a bracelet, and other tokens of affection.

The 1991 WMU annual meeting will convene March 15-16 at First Baptist Church in West Memphis.

## 'No One Can Fill Your Shoes'

Arkansas Baptist women must rise up and rescue their churches from self-indulgence and irrelevance, a missionary declared during the 101st annual meeting of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union.

"There are dramatic changes occurring in our world, some great, and some not," said Ted Stanton, a native Arkansan who serves as a Southern Baptist missionary to Argentina. "Who would have thought that once-evangelistic Southern Baptist congregations would become middle class country clubs?" Stanton asked. "Who would have thought that Christian social ministries would become dusty closets filled with unlabeled cans and clothes none of us would wear ourselves? Who would have thought missions offerings would be reduced to giving alms for Annie or Lottie?"

Southern Baptist priorities can be discovered in the "treasures, timetables, and traditions" of the churches, Stanton asserted. And the priorities thus revealed do not reflect the sacrificial missionary and evangelistic spirit Southern Baptist's once exhibited, he said.

"We must be willing to do what God has called us to do," Stanton declared, "and we must be willing to do it boldly. We must be faithful with the riches God has given us.

"If we do not share the gospel where God has placed us, who will? If we do not change our churches, who will? If we do not respond to God's call to missions, who will?

"Woman's Missionary Union, no one else can fill your shoes."

ABn photo / Mark Kelly



Julia Ketner and recording secretary Polly Reynolds exchange an affectionate greeting.

NEW ORLEANS BLITZ

## Witnesses Needed

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Organizers of the "Sharing Hope with Greater New Orleans" project now are recruiting 3,000 people willing to share their Christian faith with residents of the host city for the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

More than 600 pastor-teachers already have responded to a request for 250 people to lead training sessions for the door-to-door witnessing effort in New Orleans June 8-9, according to officials of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Southern Baptists will gather in New Orleans June 12-14 to conduct business and hear reports from their agencies and institutions. As a precursor to that event, the Home Mission Board and Louisiana Baptist Convention are planning an evangelistic blitz in the city, similar to the door-to-door witnessing done during last year.

Through last year's effort, nearly 1,000 people made professions of faith in Jesus.

This year, the emphasis is on both train-

ing and sending witnesses, said Howard Ramsey, HMB personal evangelism director.

Ramsey had issued a request for 250 pastor-teachers to lead evangelism training sessions in Louisiana churches the weekend before the convention. More than 600 pastors responded to his request.

From those 600, workers at the Louisiana Baptist Convention will select volunteers to lead the training sessions in participating churches, Ramsey said. Those selected will be notified by letter and given details about where to report.

Those not assigned as teachers still are needed to participate in the door-to-door witnessing blitz, Ramsey said: "We are encouraging everyone to join us in knocking on doors, whether they are selected as teachers or not. Obviously, there are only so many positions for pastor-teachers, but we hope that won't keep any pastor from being a witness in New Orleans."

The 600 pastors have committed to bring another 1,800 people with them. But more volunteers still are needed, he said.

The experience in Las Vegas last year

taught the importance of door-to-door evangelism in the convention's host city.

In November, after the SBC had met in Las Vegas in June, Ramsey received a letter from a woman who lives in the one area of Las Vegas Southern Baptists did not visit.

Jody Gilbert said she found one of the Home Mission Board tracts that had been thrown on the ground in another area of town that caters to tourists. "Your tract was so dirty, I had to give it a bath," she said.

Gilbert, who is a Christian, explained that she lives away from the glitzy tourist attractions, in "an impoverished ghetto filled with broken spirits."

"The people in my neighborhood are much more ready to receive Christ than the well-off tourists," she wrote. "Please, next time you come to Las Vegas, come to my neighborhood. Even though the people here are financially poor, this neighborhood has a wealth of souls ready to receive Jesus as their personal savior."

This letter moved Ramsey to make certain that as many volunteers as possible were enlisted to canvass all of New Orleans.

Anyone willing to participate in the evangelistic blitz should register by writing the Home Mission Board's personal evangelism department at 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367.

# NATIONWIDE BIBLE CONFERENCE

"DECADE OF DESTINY:  
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- How to Use TV, Radio and Other Media to Impact the Masses
- How to Administrate With the Anointing of the Lord
- How to Bring Glory to God Through the Use of Banners

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- Janet Vines ... "Overcoming Depression"
- Joyce Rogers ... "The Lord Shall Choose for Me"
- Marthe Beasley ... "How to Have Victory over Adversity"
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# Peacemaking Affirmed

by Louis Moore

SBC Christian Life Commission

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Three trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission met in Birmingham, Ala., with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Glen Stassen in an effort to resolve questions about recent trustee action involving future speakers at commission seminars and conferences.

Afterward, the three commissioners issued an affirmative statement about Stassen and his stand on abortion.

The meeting between Stassen and commissioners James Wood, of Atlanta, Curt Scarborough of Florissant, Mo., William E. Whitfield of Mobile, Ala., was initiated by the three commissioners themselves.

The commission's 31-member commission voted March 2 to request commission staff to refrain from inviting speakers to seminars and conference who are outspoken on pro-abortion issues. During the discussion, some trustees expressed concern about a statement on abortion signed by Stassen in 1977.

Afterward, Stassen issued a statement expressing concern that his name had been brought up without being invited to discuss the issue with the commission.

Stassen's name surfaced because of his role as a speaker at the commission's annual seminar in Birmingham March 12-14. Stassen spoke March 13 on "How to Apply Transforming Initiatives to Family Conflicts that Arise from Addictive Behavior."

Wood said, "The intention of the original motion was not a fine-tooth examination of each prospective speaker, but to express concern of trustees about persons who are actively advocating a position opposite to pro-life."

The three commissioners' statement says:

"What we see in Dr. Stassen is a man whose life is pro-life. His wife and son afford him a unique opportunity to live what many profess. We appreciate his life for God and his calling to work for peace. We hope that his example in this regard will continue to be a blessing to our whole convention.

"We understood Dr. Stassen to say that the document he signed in 1977 is not an accurate reflection of his position today. Many of us have grown in our understanding of the abortion issue in the past decade, and we believe it is important that we look beyond words and see peoples' lives."

In his statement, Stassen said his wife, Dot, "is a nurse who has chosen to work full time at a special school for teenage mothers who have elected not to have an abortion. She helps them nurture and care for their babies, stay in school and plan their vocational futures. Our blind son, David, is extensively handicapped as a result of the German measles Dot got in the first three month of pregnancy. We did not get an abortion. Instead, we have tried to help David cope with the suffering of 14 operations, including heart surgery twice, and struggle against heavy odds to grow into a bright linguist who speaks German without an accent."

The trustees said they intend to communicate their statement and their impressions of the meeting to other trustees.

Stassen said, "We need to show respect for persons of diverse and sincere Christian understandings."



You are invited . . .

## State Pastor-Deacon Conference

for Pastors, Deacons, and their Wives

Friday-Saturday, May 3-4, 1990

Olivet Baptist Church, Little Rock

Sessions: 7 p.m. Friday - Noon Saturday

### Conference Topics

- Pastors and Deacons: Partners in Church Growth
- Successful Deacon Ministry for the 90s

No Preregistration Required

### Conference Speakers



#### Pastors-Deacons

Robert Sheffield, Consultant Church Administration Dept. Nashville, Tenn.



#### Wives' Conference

Michael Barnes, Pastor Lonsdale, Ark.

Bo Barnes, Chaplain Baptist Medical Center

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Cost: \$5

Registration: Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Contact: State WMU Office



## Convention Uniform

### *The Eternal Cross*

by Tom M. Deere, First Church, Plainview

**Basic passage:** John 19:28-42

**Focal passage:** John 19:30

**Central truth:** The cross of Christ is an eternal cross.

The last words of a dying man usually concern matters that are most important to him. D.L. Moody was given a glimpse of heaven just before he died. He said that seeing heaven was his triumph, his coronation day. "It is glorious," he said.

The last word of our Lord Jesus Christ before he died was also important to him. It was not the whimpering cry of a crucified criminal. It was instead the victory hour of our triumphant Savior. His last word was (*tetelestai*) "it is finished" (v. 30), a perfect tense Greek verb. It describes a completed action in the past which has abiding results in the future. In other words, Jesus died one time on the cross to bring to a conclusion and fulfill his Messianic purpose, to be the perfect sacrifice for man's sin. All future generations can benefit from Christ's sacrificial death on the eternal cross.

(1) The eternal cross is a cross of love behind us (Jn. 3:16). God loved you and me so much that he sent his only Son to die in our place. "It is finished" means that Christ fulfilled his intended purpose, accomplished his objective, and completely satisfied the debt of sin. He paid the price in full with the last drop of his precious blood. The debt was paid on the basis of God's love for us.

(2) The eternal cross is a cross of life within us (Lk. 9:23-24). When we "take up (our) cross daily" and die to sin, the old sin nature is being crucified so the divine, spiritual nature of Christ may come alive within us. Our sin nature, "the old man," must be crucified before Christ's divine nature, "the new man," can live within us (Ep. 4:22-24). As the old sin nature is being crucified, the cross we bear becomes the cross of life within us.

(3) The eternal cross is a cross of liberty before us (1 Co. 1:18). Christians can be liberated from the bondage of sin and its strongholds because "the message of the cross" to us "is the power of God." Power over worry, doubt, and fear is ours to receive because of the power of the cross of liberty. God's power breaks these shackles that have constrained us.

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

## Life and Work

### *Guarding In Vain*

by Emil Williams, First Church, Jonesboro

**Basic passage:** Matthew 27:62-66; 28:2-4,11-14

**Focal passage:** Matthew 27:62-66; 28:2-4,11-14

**Central truth:** We cannot thwart God's purpose, but we can miss it.

This is a story of a pathetic attempt to prevent an outcome the participants could not tolerate. It should not surprise us that those who brought about the crucifixion of Jesus would do all in their power to make certain he "stayed dead," or appeared to do so. So, they received permission from Pilate to seal the tomb and set a guard where Jesus was buried.

What was the real fear of the Jewish religious leaders? Did they really think the disciples would try to take the body away and "invent" a resurrection? Or where they afraid God would, in fact, raise Jesus to life?

If it was the latter, would it not be foolish for them to think they could prevent it by sealing the tomb? Yet, human rebellion is often just that irrational. Men often try to thwart the purpose of God even when it is their own destruction they bring about—particularly when reputation or power or prestige are at stake. Human sin is, after all, irrational.

In any case, the purpose of God cannot be stopped. We only succeed in putting ourselves outside that purpose. The God who spoke the world into being is not stopped by a sealed tomb. The resurrection was not accomplished by the power of men and could not be prevented by the devices of men. This was God's doing.

When the guards told them about the thing that happened, the religious leaders were then forced to use the fiction they had contrived in the first place: the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus. The men who stood guard were bribed to tell that lie. Like King David caught in his web of adultery, murder, and deceit, these men found conspiracy has a life of its own. The course was set and it had to be perpetuated; one lie gave birth to another, but it did not defeat the truth.

The purpose of God cannot be stopped or successfully denied. Men's efforts cannot keep the body in the tomb, nor can their paid for lies deny the reality of the life that came out of the tomb. That can only be rejected or received—never defeated.

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## Bible Book

### *Taking the Promise*

by Verne Wickliffe, First Church, Des Arc

**Basic passage:** Hebrews 3:1-4:16

**Focal passage:** Hebrews 3:5-15, 4:1-2,11-12

**Central truth:** Jesus' promise of life is dependent on our acceptance.

Israel heard the reports of the wonders of the promised land and of the might of people living there. With less than the faith in God needed for such a conquest, Israel decided not to enter the promised land. Hebrews 3:7-11 is a quote from Psalms 95:7b-11, recalling Israel's refusal to enter the promised land. The results of Israel's refusal to enter the promised land, "My rest" in Hebrews 3:11, was wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. Israel remained God's chosen people though their faith had failed. God continued to care for Israel, though those who refused the promised land died before the next opportunity.

Jesus' superiority to Moses is pointed out in Hebrews 3:5-6. As Jesus is superior so is the promise of God's "rest" for his people. Superior to a land flowing with milk and honey is the promise of life through Jesus Christ. The promise of life for Christians is our promised land. Just as God's people once chose not to enter the promised land there are many Christians who choose not to enter the promised life. Though they are still God's people they are wandering in a Christian wilderness.

For the promise of life to profit the Christian the Word of God must be mixed with faith in those who hear it (see Hebrews 4:1-2). The fulfillment of the promise of life requires a continually growing faith in the Christian. There must be enough faith to lay aside our loyalty to self, work, and pleasure and to be totally loyal to Christ. There must be enough faith to go into spiritual battle relying on God for the victory. After refusing to enter the promised land, Israel did decide to give it a try and entered into battle. Israel lost; their faith was not enough. Christians trying to enter the promised life on their own ability also lost, their faith is not enough. The promised life requires faith that is God-reliant not self-reliant.

Faith begins in the heart and we cannot fool God because God knows what is inside of us, Hebrews 4:11-12. The diligence the writer of Hebrews speaks of is a heartfelt desire for God and the promised life.

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# Age Limit Lowered

by Donald D. Martin  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Prospective missionaries have responded positively to a new policy that opens Southern Baptists' foreign missionary associate program to a larger group.

"The response to the changes from a number of prospective missionaries was almost immediate," said Bill Morgan, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Board's missionary enlistment department. "They've all been pleased with the changes."

The qualification changes, approved by board trustees Feb. 15, lower the minimum age for missionary associates to 24 and allow vocational skills and experience to supplant formal education in some cases.

They also allow the spouse of a person with the primary missionary assignment—for example, the wife of a preacher or the husband of a nurse—to qualify for service without formal education beyond high school when other requirements are met. A substitution of experience for education also may be allowed in some primary assignments, such as mission office secretaries, builders or even pastors who

have many years of experience but lack the normally required master of divinity degree.

Missionary associates work on four-year, renewable terms. The missionary associate program seeks people with existing skills for limited-term assignments in foreign missions, whereas the career missionary program emphasizes preparation for work that spans a person's career.

In the past, some couples questioned the associate program's educational qualifications, which required husband and wife to have some college training, said Tim Brendle, associate vice president for mission personnel.

"We have a number of prospects well into their careers who have said, 'I have my degrees and my years of ministry experience, but my wife and I chose early on

that she would fill a homemaker role,'" Brendle said. These couples felt penalized when applying for missionary service, he added.

The new qualifications allow experience to substitute for formal education when possible. That means a pastor's wife with a high school diploma and demonstrated leadership ability could qualify without further education.

The board has not compromised its standards for the associates, Brendle stressed.

"We're not lowering any standards. We're recognizing that quality skills are gained in more than one way," he said. "We're also recognizing that some families choose a non-professional path in terms of the wife's role in the family. These women don't feel the need to follow a degree program and yet are very effective leaders with good self-images. We're trying to give more Southern Baptists an opportunity for involvement in missions."

## 'Lottie' Offering Tops Goal

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Gifts to the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions will total about \$81.3 million, meeting the goal for the first time since 1981, according to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board projections.

By March 12, the agency had received about \$61.5 million in Lottie Moon gifts, toward a goal of \$81 million. Projections based on actual receipts from Baptist state conventions indicated that by the final tally May 31, the total will amount to about a 3.2 percent increase over 1988 giving.

"I certainly am encouraged the projections at this time indicate we're anticipating meeting our goal for the first

time in nine years," said board President R. Keith Parks. But Southern Baptists should note the percentage increase only equals the inflation rate, he cautioned.

"I would have to acknowledge reality and say that while we're grateful for the increase, it still doesn't provide the bold mission funding Southern Baptists need if we're going to take advantage of the great evangelistic opportunities that are opening, such as those in Eastern Europe," Parks added.

The offering is projected to fund almost half of the \$174.9 million foreign mission budget, encompassing the work of some 3,800 missionaries in 116 nations.

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## WORLD

SOUTH KOREA

# Principal Released

by Micheal Chute  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—The principal of a Korean Baptist church kindergarten devastated by fire last October has been released from a maximum-security prison on the outskirts of Seoul, South Korea.

Ohm Hyun Suk, who took personal responsibility for the fire that killed six children although she was not present at the time, was freed by a Seoul judge. No formal charges were filed against Ohm, who will be on parole for three years. She is the wife of Han Myung Guk (David Han), pastor of Seoul Memorial Baptist Church, which sponsored the 150-student kindergarten.

"The judge probably saw the church was trying to provide for the families of the children who were killed or injured in the fire," said Southern Baptist missionary Betty Jane Hunt. "That probably helped gain her release."

Missionaries also are seeking assistance from the United States in treating the more seriously burned among 23 children injured in the Oct. 16 blaze.

"We're working to see if we can't get the worst case" to a U.S. Baptist hospital, said missionary Charles Sands of Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan. "If they could take one patient and do rehabilitative surgery, it would be a tremendous help for others to see the church is doing all it can to help make these kids' lives a little easier."

Four children injured in the blaze remain hospitalized, and three others continue to receive medical treatment as outpatients. Injuries to three of the children required amputation of one hand each.

The church has paid nearly \$50,000 to the families of the six children killed in the fire that swept through the church's educational building. Officials have yet to determine its cause.

Ohm turned herself in to authorities the

night of the fire after returning with her husband from a Christian retreat in another province. She was jailed in the police station for 10 days, then moved to the prison to await trial.

"In Oriental tradition, somebody had to be responsible," said missionary Virgil Cooper, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in South Korea. "She's borne the responsibility for the whole thing. (Jail) was as much for her protection from irate parents as anything else."

Demonstrations outside the church compound by parents of fire victims forced the 1,500-member congregation to move its services to a nearby school playground. Later the congregation was able to return to worship in its building.

The church educational building sustained little structural damage but is not usable because of extensive smoke damage. The church has no plans to reopen the kindergarten.

The Baptist congregation pays monthly hospital bills for the seven children still receiving medical care, church officials said. In addition, the church pays about \$450 a month to each child's family for living expenses.

The church was forced to secure bank loans to meet mounting debts related to the tragedy, although \$350,000 has been donated by church members, missionaries and other Korean Baptist churches. Pastor Han sold his house and moved the family into living quarters in the church.

"The church has paid off the compensations to the families of children who died, but they really haven't begun to work on the ones who are going to need rehabilitative surgery," said Sands.

The church has lost about 100 members since the fire because of negative publicity and financial debt. But nearly that many people have joined the church in the last three months, church leaders reported.

## MK Birthday Prayer Calendar: April

*Missionary Kids Attending College in Arkansas*

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 12 | Keri Dickerman<br>(Macao)              | OBU Box 3956<br>Arkadelphia, AR 71923                    |
| 21 | Angie Bryant Leachner<br>(St. Vincent) | OBU Box 4530<br>Arkadelphia, AR 71923                    |
| 28 | Elda Hernandez<br>(Warren, Ark.)       | Fox Run Apartment J-9<br>Donaghey Ave., Conway, AR 72032 |