

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

2-22-1996

February 22, 1996

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "February 22, 1996" (1996). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999*. 10.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99/10

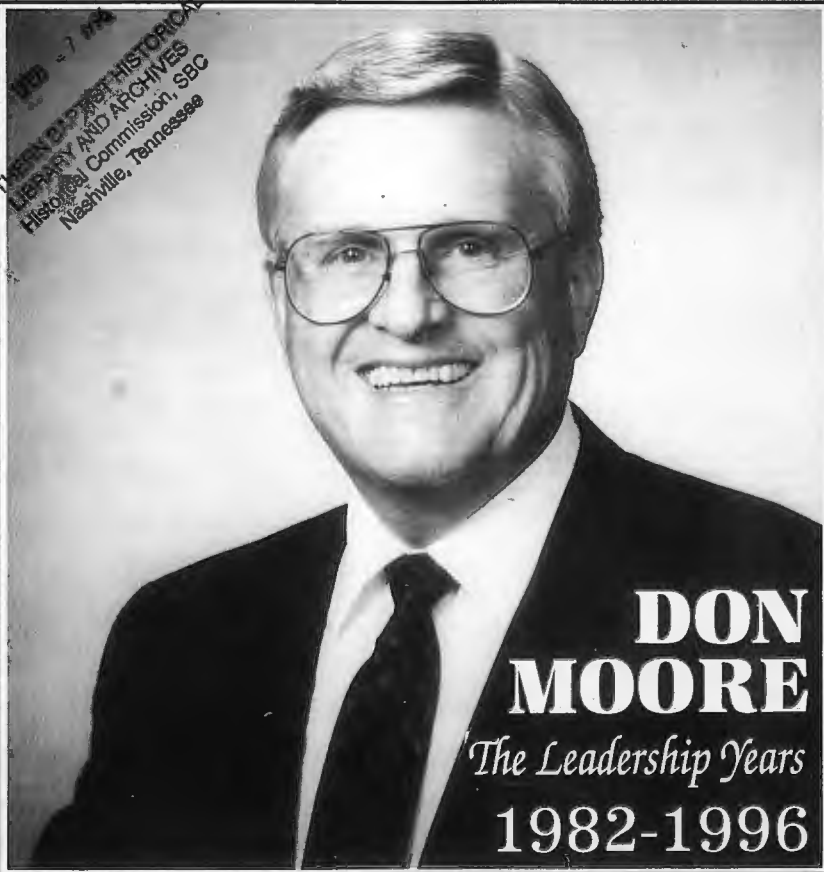
This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 95, Number 4

February 22, 1996



700 - 7 1114
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

**DON
MOORE**

The Leadership Years
1982-1996

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Page seeks anti-gambling support during '96 evangelism conference

"We know it's election year, because Oaklawn Park, the horse racing track in Hot Springs, is concerned about education and law enforcement," joked Larry Page as he urged Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference participants to fight proposed gambling amendments slated for the November state ballot.

Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation, warned the crowd during the Jan. 29-30 meeting at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock about the details of a proposed constitutional amendment, sponsored by the Arkansas' Future Committee.

"Two weeks ago, they filed an amendment that would allow for a statewide lottery," he said. "By the way, their amendment also would allow them to have a casino and two others in Hot Springs.

"Another amendment, a local amendment, would also create a statewide lottery and authorize other casinos in the state," he said, warning, "Undoubtedly there will be more amendments."

After Page spoke during the evangelism conference, another amendment proposal was filed, this one by the "Committee for Lottery, Charitable Bingo, Raffle and Video Terminal Games."

The new proposed amendment calls for the legalization of a state lottery, charitable bingo and raffles, as well as video terminal games.

Page told participants during the Monday evening session of the conference that gambling opponents "can win this

battle" with two strategies.

"We will win this battle, first, if we remember that it's ultimately God's battle and that we must be obedient and faithful to Him.

"Second, we all must work in concert with unfailing determination," Page continued. "Our enemies have virtually unlimited funds. They have the finest experts money can buy, the best law firms and advertising and media firms and the slickest political consultants.

"Humanly speaking, the odds are against us," he said. "Fortunately, this is not merely a human struggle. This is spiritual warfare that has eternal consequences.

—Larry Page
Christian Civic Foundation

"No, we don't have their money, we don't have their lawyers, we don't have their advertising and media propagandists and we don't have their political consultant gurus. What do we have?" he asked. "We have God, we have His people and we have His truth. Is that enough? It is."

He called on Arkansas Baptists to "roll up your sleeves and get to work. We will coordinate the campaign, we'll produce the materials, we will facilitate, equip and prepare the way for you, but you must join us.

"If we don't act now, we will be, by the turn of the century, one of the gambling Meccas of this nation," he concluded. "Let's do something good. Let's stop this evil as we seek the welfare of people as well as the welfare of their souls."

*"If we don't act now,
we will be...one of the
gambling Meccas
of this nation."*

Cover Story



The Best of 'Glad' 6-7

Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore retires Feb. 29 following 13 years of service to Arkansas Baptists. Excerpts from his bi-monthly column, "You'll Be Glad to Know" are featured in this issue.

Also inside

Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5
President's Perspective.....	5

Arkansas Baptists

Chaplains 'gift of love'.....	3
Honduras mission brings hope.....	8
Conference focuses on ministry.....	9
Arkansas All Over.....	10-11
Arkansas Acteen is 'Top Teen'.....	13
Training opportunities.....	14

Nation/World

Volunteers needed for Crossover....	15
Missionary notes.....	16
Missionary, son injured.....	17

Lessons.....

.....	22-23
-------	-------

Next issue: March 7



Available on
CompuServe through
the Publications
Library of SBCNet.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

Trenna Henderson.....Editor
Russell N. Dilday.....Associate Editor
Colleen Backus.....Assistant Editor

Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
Becky Hardwick.....Accountant
Erwin L. McDonald, Lit. D.Editor Emeritus

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6096) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individual) \$6.36 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.08 per year (Group Plan), Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 352, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 95 • Number 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mark Baber, Marion, president; James Alcock, Hope; Robin Cook, Magnolia; Karl Cunningham, Mensa; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Lucie Hagins, Fordyce; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Greg Kirby, Benton; Eddie McCord, Mount Ida; David McCormick, Russellville; Glenda Miller, Heber Springs; Mike Perry, Hot Springs; Karen Kamey, Fayetteville; Ken Shaddox, Fordyce; Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

Chaplains take church to the people

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

In Cass, teenagers are getting their Sunday wake-up call. Their alarm clock is Ron Clark, chaplain for the Cass Job Corps Center, where these young people learn a trade. He loads them on an aging bus and takes them to Cass Chapel, a tiny mission church where he is pastor.

"These kids have rough backgrounds—a lot of them have raised themselves," Clark comments. "They've been out where the rubber meets the road."

In Cass, Clark has seen most people move away, but since he started as chaplain to the center, he never drains the baptistry because he sees so many lost people.

This small look into Clark's ministry is featured in a *MissionsUSA* video which is part of the Season of Home Mission study, which includes the week of prayer, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and home missions day in Sunday School. The theme for this year's study is "People Count."

Chaplains, who are endorsed through the Home Mission Board, are the feature of this year's home missions study. "Chaplains go where the church can't," noted Marion Reynolds, who directs chaplaincy ministries in the state through the Missions department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"They are love gifts from Arkansas Baptists," Reynolds said. The state convention provides five full-funded chaplains, three in correctional facilities, one at Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center and one at Booneville Human Development Center. Three part-time chaplains are also provided, while many chaplains volunteer their time or are employed by the institutions which they serve.

Another Arkansas chaplain featured in the national home missions study guide is at one of those institutions. Alan Tyson is chaplain for Hudson Foods in Rogers. As an industrial chaplain, Tyson looks more like a worker on the chicken processing line, with his white smock, hard hat, rubber boots and ear plugs. But the ear plugs don't stop him from listening. "I remind myself as I walk through the plant that these are people God loves, these are people for whom Christ died. And many of them may never be in church."

Ministering to those the church can't reach also is the job of Chris Copeland, chaplain at the Booneville Human

Development Center. He has served in his position since 1977 and his compassion for the mentally disabled clients he assists has not dimmed through the years. The center trains the adult mentally disabled, a large number of whom are also mentally ill, to hold jobs and have a place in society.

The most frustrating part of his ministry, Copeland pointed out, is not the clients themselves but society's view of them. "People don't give them credit for their humanity," he said.

"Many of our clients are very aware of their limitations and how other people react to them," Copeland noted. "The rewarding thing is when they come to the realization that God loves them for who they are and that there are people out there who loved them enough to provide a chaplain."

Dan Clevenger, chaplain at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, also is involved in the business of telling people about God's love. The center trains people to become employable, whether they are physically disabled or have medical problems or a learning disability.

When reflecting on his role at the center, Clevenger said he sees himself as "pastor, preacher, teacher, counselor." He provides worship services for the students and pastoral care counseling. He promotes the work of the center to area churches and invites any church to come for a tour.

"I like to see students that have grown spiritually," Clevenger noted. "I have a couple of students now moving toward baptism—I've seen kids really establish a relationship with God."

Bennie McCracken, chaplain at the Pine Bluff Diagnostic unit for the state department of correction, takes God's message where a church can't go. The diagnostic unit is the intake unit for adult



Company chaplain Alan Tyson talks with workers at Hudson Foods in Rogers as they process chickens, during breaks or after hours. Tyson is featured in a nationwide home missions education campaign in Southern Baptist churches.

males offenders, and sees nearly 5,000 inmates per year.

His first line of ministry is to the new commitments— inmates just coming into the system, who are not allowed to associate with the general prison population. "I spend a lot of my time in the barracks with the new commitments," he explained. "We deal with a myriad of problems— family problems stemming from incarceration, divorce, and children following in their father's footsteps."

The newest specter to arrive on McCracken's ministry horizon has been AIDS. "The majority of inmates that die in prison will die here, because we have the medical unit," he explained. "But now in addition to men in their fifties dying of cancer, we also have young men under 30 dying of AIDS."

Julia Ketner, Arkansas Women's Missionary Union director, pointed out the need to assist these kinds of ministries through prayer and offering support.

"Without the Annie Armstrong Offering, we wouldn't have these chaplains on the field," she emphasized. It has become the major source of budget funds for the Home Mission Board.

"The Annie Armstrong offering becomes even more important as our nation increases in its lossness," she continued. "There would be no way we could go forward in reaching our state for Christ unless we increase our giving."



The last round up

Words fail me. "Melancholy" is a word I thought might describe what I am feeling. Various definitions make me think that may not be the word I am looking for. "1. A gloomy state of mind. 2. Sober thoughtfulness; pensiveness." "Nostalgic" was another word I considered. By definition it is "homesickness or strong desire for family and friends, in their severe forms producing derangement of mental and physical functions." Hopefully, that does not fit my state of mind.

Whatever it is and however you would define it, the feelings of finality that come with this, my last "You'll Be Glad to Know," is something that defies definition. Yes, there is peace that I am doing the will of God and that the convention is in good hands. Yes, there is abounding gratitude and appreciation for having been entrusted these years with this role of leadership. Yes, there is satisfaction that the investment of time in these kingdom endeavors has been a good stewardship of life. In spite of all of that, there are unfinished tasks, unreached goals and meaningful relationships that must of necessity be loosened, if not broken. There is pain mixed with pleasure.

I am so grateful that the editor has given me the privilege of doing an extended "You'll Be Glad to Know" for this final edition. There are some things I really want and need to say.

Appreciation and gratitude

No one could ever ask for greater support than I have experienced. My personal family, my church families (Geyer Springs First and Parkway Place), our staff, the directors of missions, the pastors and staff of our churches; all of you have been amazing and thrilling in your support. I could never adequately thank you. God knows the impact you have had on my life and the influence you have had in making good things happen in our churches.

A special word must be said about the administrative staff. No man could have greater helpers than these. Their competence and skills are wonderful but they are surpassed by their walk with God and their personal attitude of service to all of our Baptist family. The gifts and abilities God has given us in Jimmie Sheffield and Dan Jordan are staggering. They have been my closest co-workers in leadership. Joy Faucett, Joyce Thomas and Audrey Parker (following the retirement of Joyce Thomas) have been unbelievable in their support role. They are not just hard workers, they are dearest friends. Whatever success pertains to this office must ultimately be laid at the feet of these special people.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

Meaningful milestones

There are so many high moments that come to my mind as I reflect back over the years. Some of these you will share. Some will have been behind the scenes.

■ *Staffing* has been thrilling. God has allowed me to join you in employing some of the most capable and best motivated people in the country. What a joy they are!

■ *New church starts* have been a thrilling result of special efforts we began in 1983. We have moved from 1,260 churches to 1,342. If our 127 mission congregations become churches, we would have 1,469. This puts us well within the reach of what I had hoped would happen by 1998, that is that we would have 1,500 churches by then. We now have eleven Black, 67 non-English speaking, and 49 Anglo mission congregations. Praise God!

■ *Pastoral support* is another area that brings me real delight. We have started Termination Assistance, New Pastor and Staff Orientation, fellowship visits to pastors, Associational Dialogue Meetings, the Pastors' Retreat and Bivocational Pastors Meetings. These are designed to strengthen the hands of those who lead our churches.

■ *The church leadership support department* was started to strengthen all church leaders, both volunteer and employed, in their roles. A special assignment to this office was smaller membership churches and bivocational pastors. Calls for help from this office have been most gratifying.

■ *The dedication of two worship centers at Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs* has brought indescribable joy. Every aspect of that work has been enhanced by these wonderful additions, as well as the other improvements we have been able to make to our Assembly. Building and dedicating a guest house at Camp Paron was very meaningful, too.

■ *Nothing may be of greater significance than our growth in missions support*

through the Cooperative Program. Only one state, Alabama, gives a higher percentage of CP receipts to world missions than Arkansas. We have not compromised the biblical pattern of churches working together to support our missionaries. God has honored it. You and your churches have supported it. Thank you! This is gratifying!

Vital concerns

■ *Churches are not growing in their efforts to reach the unsaved.* In spite of the fact that we are now more than 500,000 in number, our trend in baptisms is down. We now baptize approximately one person for every 26 resident church members. In 1982 we were baptizing one for every 21 resident church members.

■ *Spiritual awakening* is still on the back burner for most of our members. Many not only do not know what it is, they are not praying for it, and would be appalled if it came. Would to God that we might be awakened to the spiritual and moral conditions of modern society.

■ *Political activity* has come to be an acceptable approach for accomplishing spiritual goals. We have deplored secularism from the pulpit and adopted its machinations to accomplish things we can't accomplish by spiritual means. A generation is developing who thinks this is normal Christian conduct in the churches and in the denomination.

■ *Changes* must come. Corporate America should not dictate the changes to be made. History, posterity, honesty and integrity should figure big in every major decision to change. Some of us are haunted by the drastic changes made getting us into the 70s. Many of our declines can be traced to those years.

Exciting days ahead

I delight over the good leader God has sent in Dr. Emil Turner. Everything is in place for him to lead us all in "Arkansas Awakening." The celebration of our 150th anniversary in 1998 is well along in the planning stage. The committees for the Foreign Mission Board appointment service in 1997 are paving the way for another high hour for all of us. And somewhere in the mix, the study committee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will bring its recommendations.

These are exciting days. I am pleased to have been a part of bringing us to this point. If God wills, I will celebrate with all of you as we move along toward the finish of the century/millennium at the peak of our spiritual effectiveness. May it be so! Amen!

Faithful and fruitful service

A man of the Word....A man of integrity....A man of faith. Those were a few of the many phrases used to describe the life and ministry of Don Moore during a recent retirement banquet in his honor.

Moore, who has served as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 1982, will officially conclude his statewide ministry role Feb. 29. During the past 13 and a half years, he has endeared himself to Arkansas Baptists as a committed Christian leader who has faithfully sought God's guidance and direction.

During the Feb. 9 retirement banquet at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, Moore was affirmed for the impact he has made on countless lives. "Every one of us feels like Don Moore has touched us in a unique way," noted master of ceremonies H.D. McCarty, pastor of University Church in Fayetteville. "He never failed to allow God to use him to touch us."

Arkansas Lieutenant Governor Mike Huckabee, a former state convention president, narrated a video tribute to Moore. Describing the retiring executive director as "a friend and an encouragement," Huckabee voiced appreciation for Moore's "many years of faithful and fruitful service to the Kingdom of God."

Personal tributes shared during the banquet included comments from John

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

Mathews, pastor of Maumelle Church, who noted that Moore is "the best pastor I have ever known." Affirming that Moore "shares the truth in fairness and in love," Mathews added, "Every time I have ever heard him preach, he has had a fresh word to share."

Carlton "Red" Berry, a former college roommate with Moore at Ouachita Baptist University, said God used Moore to help him discover peace and joy in life. Explaining that Moore was influential in helping him regain a desire and commitment to ministry, Berry thanked him "for being a faithful friend over the years."

Missouri Baptist Convention executive director Don Wideman pointed out that Moore "is a man who has answered the

call of Jesus Christ in his life." Declaring that Moore "is a man who lives out in every way what most of us think a Christian is," Wideman added, "I know he is a man of faith because I have seen him live it out.... He doesn't have an on and off switch."

In addition to honoring Moore's ministry with personal words of tribute, Arkansas Baptist leaders presented him with a 1996 Mercury Marquis and a lap-top computer. The retirement gifts were provided from individual contributions combined with reserve funds authorized by the Executive Board operating committee.

Noting that "God called me and has given me grace to serve during these years," Moore shared, "This has been a fantastic experience working with Arkansas Baptists and for Arkansas Baptists."

Looking toward the future, he emphasized, "I'm as excited about what is ahead as I am what is behind. I really believe God has done work that is going to result in having revival and awakening."

As Arkansas Baptists begin a new era of leadership and move toward a new century of ministry, we owe a lasting debt of gratitude to God for calling Don Moore to serve our state convention and to Moore for responding with "faithful and fruitful service." Thank you, Bro. Don. We love you and appreciate you.

REX HORNE

President's Perspective

Remembering Frank Lady

I have found the strength of Immanuel is the same as in many of our churches in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. I am speaking of the men and women who serve through our churches. They are called the laity; laymen. What they really are can be summed up in one word, vital.

Frank Lady was such a man. At last year's convention, Frank was elected as our second vice president. In these few months, I had grown to admire and appreciate this layman, lawyer and Christian gentleman from Jonesboro.

While I was in Jonesboro in mid-January for some speaking engagements, I made an appointment to visit Frank in his law office. He and his wife, Sue, greeted me with kindness. Frank and I

shared some special moments together.

I found Frank to be "in person" what I had heard about him. He was a conservative man in his theology and political ideology. He was a generous man as he shared honestly, but never presumptuously. He was a family man. He and Sue, his wife of 40 years, made a formidable team.

I particularly remember him speaking of his church, Central, and the respect he had for his pastor, Rodney Reeves. He spoke of prior service on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and his appreciation for the ministry of Williams Baptist College. He spoke fondly of his relationship with Dr. Don Moore. His words were humble as he spoke of the blessings of the Lord upon his life and family.



Frank also spoke with me about his desire to be helpful and of service as a convention vice president. We spoke of people, preachers and churches in that part of our state. He had already been a blessing to me in giving counsel and insight.

As I prepared to leave, I had prayer with Frank. We shook hands and I left for the next appointment. I had a settled peace in my heart that I had been privileged to meet a great Christian layman. I looked forward to our next meeting.

I thank God for Frank Lady. His commitment and service will doubtless continue to live. I thank God for the laity in our churches. May I encourage you in your ministries to Christ and His church. I fear, as a pastor, I don't show my appreciation enough.

We will miss Frank. He has finished his course. We are still here, so let us press on in the work God has given us to do.

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

The best of 'Glad'

Don Moore shares 13 years of personal insights with Arkansas Baptists

During the past 13-plus years as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Don Moore has shared words of affirmation, challenge and encouragement through the pages of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine. From Nov. 4, 1982, through Feb. 22, 1996, Moore has written more than 350 "You'll Be Glad to Know" columns which have helped communicate his dreams and goals for Arkansas Baptists.

Frequent "Glad" topics have included spiritual awakening, Christian unity, church growth and missions involvement. As Moore concludes his tenure as executive director Feb. 29, the following excerpts from his columns serve as a tribute to his years of faithful statewide leadership as well as a reminder of his constant commitment to Christ-honoring ministry.

1982 Nov. 4: "What a warm and wonderful reception I have received from all of you....I covet your prayers, patience and help in carrying out the assignment God has placed upon me."

Dec. 16: "I'm praying each of our churches will get new records in Lottie Moon...and Cooperative Program giving....I have yet to see a church do really well over the years who secure itself while slighting the rest of the world by neglect of mission support."

Dec. 23: "I do not know a single Arkansas Baptist who does not claim to be committed to the same thing every other Arkansas Baptist is committed to - glorifying Jesus Christ, winning the lost at home and abroad, and growing into His likeness."

1983 March 19: "We must ever live in the awareness that our success is not based on how well we do compared to others' performance, or even our own, but by what we could do with what God has given us."

Nov. 10: "It behooves us to consciously work at appreciation of God's workmanship as it is reflected in others. Shallow and narrow is the person who cannot appreciate the depth and commitment of a person different from them."

Dec. 15: "The world does have spiritual leprosy, but it is not untouchable. We are not to contract its disease, condone its values or enter into its folly, but we are to penetrate it."

1984 Jan. 26: "Nothing in recent days has confirmed my faith and reinforced my belief in the value of Christian living as the departure of Dad to be with Jesus....The long years of unwavering Christian character and conduct paid off. It's been paying off all along with the lives of the children and everyone who knew him."

Feb. 9: "If your life were taken from you today, what would you leave behind that would indicate that you had a relationship with an all-sufficient, full-of-grace God? When a Christian lives right, he is ready to go at any time."

June 28: "The gambling menace is advancing on our fair state like a giant prehistoric creature....May I encourage every one of our Baptist people to stand together and with one voice resoundingly and convincingly say 'no' to these forces."

1985 Jan. 24: "Two things can change the evangelistic effectiveness of a church: (1) Desire to do better. (2) Plan to do better....What are your plans, your church's plans to be more effective in reaching the lost?"

July 11: "These 'shaky times' make a good environment for sharing the 'unshakable' truth of God's Word. Wherever it is, whatever the circumstances, Jesus Christ comes through as Good News to the troubled, tired and trembling soul."

Nov. 21: "We have so many churches that get upset over insignificant things but never worry that they operate year in and year out without vision and effectiveness. People stretching toward a true spiritual vision will not turn aside to strive over insignificant matters."

1986 Jan. 13: "Doing things together works! That isn't the only way to get things done, but it is usually the best way."

Feb. 13: "The number of churches baptizing no one goes up each year. This has been happening while the Arkansas population has been growing. The situation must be looked upon as desperate....Oh, God, would you please make this the year every church in Arkansas reaches and baptizes at least one person?"

May 29: "Anytime is a good time to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord! If we really believe He is sovereign, we can trust Him to work in us and through us to accomplish His will. We don't have to make anything happen by ugly accusations, degrading demonstrations or devious manipulations."

1987 Jan. 15: "What are you doing in your church to improve your evangelism and missions efforts? Satan hates evangelism and missions. Those who want their church to be like the New Testament church will get before God and ask Him to enable them to lead their people to understand and make commitments toward winning the lost."

June 18: "Anytime is the right time to do right! I keep...evaluating whether or not that is a good maxim for life. So far I have not found a situation in which that does not hold true."

Nov. 26: "There is considerable evidence of widespread spiritual awakening in many parts of the world....Our recent experience in our Brazil partnership confirms the fact that the masses are ready to hear and receive the gospel. God has put 'the keys' in our hand that will determine the destiny of the masses."

1988 Jan. 14: "Few of our churches are showing any real growth. Either we need to try some new approaches to outreach or we need to bathe the old approaches with more prayer and consistency until God visits us with an anointing for effective evangelism."

March 31: "For 100 years the women of Woman's Missionary Union have been leading our churches to know, pray, give and go that others may know....No one works harder than WMU ladies to further the cause of spreading the gospel. They need and deserve our finest support. Everyone gains when the hands of missions are strengthened and when the spirit of missions is fostered."

Dec. 1: "We can make a difference! This is the reason we have been redeemed and live in this world....How can one person or one small church make a difference? Working together is our only hope."

1989 May 4: "God is at work! I know He always has been....Sure, the devil is at work too. We know that. But the fact that God is at work and that we can work with Him greatly assists me to ignore the fears and doubts I may have because Satan is at work."

Oct. 12: "The Billy Graham crusade has concluded. Atheists, Buddhists, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, these conversions are a part of the story. The full story cannot be known or told. About all we can say is that we have seen once again that 'the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.'"

Nov. 9: "Missions and evangelism are the reasons for our churches voluntarily working together...Whatever our differences within the Baptist family, they are not as great as the mission needs that have bound us together the past 144 years."

1990 Jan. 11: "The cross of Christ is so powerful in transforming lives that communism is like a hollow echo in comparison. God has blessed the sacrifice and prayers of thousands of believers who for 40 to 50 years have been a despised, oppressed minority. Time always confirms the truth!"

March 1: "The simple truth about our nation is that we are in desperate need of a spiritual awakening. Without a doubt, prayer is the most outstanding thing that can be done. Regular, passionate prayer will be used of God to turn us back to Him."

May 3: "The forces of darkness can be defeated! They can't without the power of God...without the people of God rising up in righteous indignation...without the people of God taking a stand and paying the price in prayer, finances and hard work."

1991 Feb. 14: "Arkansas Baptists help Guatemala Baptists to double baptisms." That could be the headline. In recent meetings with our missionaries, I was told their baptisms this year were 125 percent over the previous year. They immediately attributed the difference to our partnership."

April 4: "Scattered over this state is a host of people who quietly and faithfully make things run smoothly in our churches. Could I suggest we do a two- or three-week campaign to try to say 'thanks' to the many unsung heroes who have kept their churches viable, spiritual organisms that God could use."

May 9: "Prayer and real revival produce disturbing results....Both church and society need to be disturbed....For this we must pray and pray and pray!"

1992 March 26: "Shirley and I thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy in recent days. After a 10-year burden and battle with human infirmity, the Lord relieved Shirley's mother by opening the door of death to mercifully and gloriously welcome her home. Nothing better could happen for Mamaw."

June 18: "How are Southern Baptists known? We are known for our controversy. We have fought too much, for sure....We can and should change the way we are known."

Dec. 3: "How can I pass the date of my 10th anniversary as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention without expressing my profound gratitude for the privilege of serving our Arkansas Baptist family? The hand of the Lord has been on our joint labors. He is to be praised."

1993 April 8: "Can we be honest enough, courageous enough and spiritual enough to call our churches back to total dependence upon God?"

June 17: "What is more valuable than gold? What is sweeter than honey? According to Psalm 19:10, the Word of God is the answer to both questions....Ideas, opinions and counsel from any other source have little to offer compared to God's Word."

July 15: "Multitudes are in the valley of decision and the day of the Lord draws near. Could you, would you, consider becoming one Arkansas Baptist who would not stop praying until we see 'great and mighty things' from the hand of our merciful God."

Dec. 16: "Cancer is not sovereign. God is sovereign. Life is God's to give and His to take away. Since His choices are governed by perfect wisdom and perfect love, it is safe to trust His decisions about our loved ones. In Shirley, the Lord gave.... Your prayers were not in vain. They helped her down the path of endurance as pain tore at her body. Then God did heal her in His way. He has also sustained me. Your prayers have doubtless been the bridges over the dark chasms I have had to cross....All of my family join me in saying thanks and God bless you."

1994 March 24: "Never have we had so many people in our churches praying....I truly believe the vast prayer efforts on behalf of Shirley and me have carried over into concerted efforts for others and...for Kingdom advancement."

April 21: "Thousands of Baptist young people are making commitments to sexual purity every week. It has been thrilling to see how readily the young people make such decisions."

Aug. 25: "What more can be said than has been said about the shocking death of our beloved friends, missionary leaders and employee? Glendon and Marjorie Grober, while snatched from us by an automobile accident, can never be removed from the memories that inspire us. They will truly live on in the lives of all of us who have been touched by their lives."

Oct. 20: "Our partnerships with the European Baptist Convention and the Iowa Fellowship are producing wonderful results. Many, many thanks to the hundreds of laypeople who go and serve so unselfishly."



Don Moore, retiring Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director, inspects the 1996 Mercury Marquis given to him as a gift by Arkansas Baptists during a Feb. 9 retirement dinner at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. Helping in his inspection are granddaughters Betty Spicer (driver's seat) and Andrea Moore (rear seat).

1995 Jan. 12: "You'll be glad to know" that God has provided a new companion for me in the person of Nita Miller. We plan to be married in a private family ceremony Feb. 4....It will be my joy to once again have a delightful companion who will share in the joys and privileges of serving our Lord and you."

April 20: "Those who read the *Arkansas Baptist* Newsmagazine regularly learned from the last issue that I plan to retire not later than Feb. 29, 1996....I can only praise God and thank both you and the Lord for these fruitful years. But 'the call' goes on...."

July 13: The highlight of the Southern Baptist Convention was the dramatic moments we spent visiting with Billy Graham. For one hour, God and Billy Graham talked with us. We witnessed feelings we may never again experience."

1996 Jan. 11: "I feel a tremendous need to call us all to prayer. The only hope for revival and awakening is for God to intervene. For our...ministries, the power of a sovereign and holy God must be manifest. Let us pray!"

Jan. 28: "These are exciting days. I am pleased to have been a part of bringing us to this point. If God wills, I will celebrate with all of you as we move along toward the finish of the century...at the peak of our spiritual effectiveness. May it be so! Amen!"

Baptists among medical volunteers to Honduras

By Staton Breidenthal

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

He unfolded his 6-foot-3-inch frame from the cabin of the small single-engine Cessna. For the 12th time in 12 years, Bill Scurlock found himself standing on a remote grass landing strip in the mountains of Honduras.

Scurlock, a retired surgeon from El Dorado, recalled his first trip to the village of Gualcinse, Lempira, Honduras, to provide much-needed medical care for the residents. He was examining a man with inoperable cancer of the abdomen.

"I said, 'Sir, you're here too late.' He said, 'No sir, I've been here all my life. You came too late.'"

"I'll never forget that."

Although Scurlock admits having to be persuaded to make the first mission trip, the impression that patient left on him and the need of the people in Honduras keep him returning year after year.

"The need is there and once you see the need you have to go back. I feel like these people depend on me. It would cost them a year's salary to see a surgeon."

With an average annual income of about \$100, it would cost most patients several months' salary just to get to the nearest hospital for surgery, according to local missionary Leslie Shaw.

Shaw moved his family from Florida to Central America in 1975 and has been operating a clinic in Gualcinse since 1984 through an agreement with the local government. The clinic serves about 25,000 people in a 150 square mile area. Patients come to the clinic in need of surgery, but often are not willing or are unable to go the hospital.

"The people would not go to the hospital, so it is here or not at all," Shaw said.

Shaw keeps a list of surgery candidates throughout the year and then schedules the patients based on need for Scurlock to see. In the 12 years of operating in the primitive hospital, Scurlock has seen well over 250 cases without a major complication or fatality.

Shaw also ministers to the spiritual needs of the community. "It is so easy to forget about the spiritual need when there are so many physical needs."

North American visitors are a popular import in the mountains of Honduras. The members of the group had followers wherever they went, not unlike the Pied Piper. Eva Umholtz, a 20-year-old college student and member of Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock, who stands slightly more than 5 feet tall, was the most popular



Family members and friends (above) provide the ambulance service for nurse Barbara Scurlock of El Dorado as they move a patient out of surgery and across the road to the hospital. Barry Bates (left), of First Church, Smackover, comforts a child during Bible school.

called out his nickname, "Oso," Spanish for bear, as he traveled down the mountain by mule.

Time spent doing missionary work is precious to Bates. After he and his wife dedicated their lives to mission work in 1990, the family was forced by illness to return to the United States from Portugal after only five months.

But a great deal of faith and a long chain of events brought Bates to Smackover, and eventually to Gualcinse, in 1993. To Bates it is verification of one of his favorite messages from the Bible: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Other volunteers from Arkansas and Texas traveled to Honduras to meet both the spiritual and physical needs in Gualcinse. The group, organized each year through First, Smackover, included Dr. Scott Hardin of El Dorado and Dr. David Powell of Beaumont, Texas; nurses Sylvia Bevell of Bearden, Donna Cheatham of Russellville, Julie Pitzer of El Dorado and Barbara Scurlock of El Dorado.

Members of the group organizing daily Bible school and church services were Fred Ball, pastor of Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock, and volunteers Mary Evans and Janice Langley Warwick, both of Smackover.

visitor with the scores of local children. She had never ridden on a plane or traveled outside the United States before, so the trip was her introduction to the world.

"What I was most scared of was being in a foreign country with no way to get home if something went wrong."

But her fear of the unknown soon faded into compassion for the throngs of children who adopted her as one of their own.

"It's sad to see the kids with holes in their shoes and dirty faces. I wish I could do something for them. It bothers me because I know what I've got and how life is in the States."

Another member of the group known to most of the children was Barry Bates, minister of music and youth at First Church, Smackover. One evening, on his way to a church service, every child he encountered

A heart like Jesus

Conference participants learn to 'mobilize church for ministry'

More than 100 participants learned ways to "Mobilize the Church for Ministry," the theme for the "Have a Heart Like Jesus" Workshop Feb. 8 at First Church in Benton. Participants attended a variety of conferences on topics ranging from organizing volunteers and ministry-based evangelism to community needs research and conducting multifamily housing ministries.

Keynote speaker Greg Kirksey, pastor of First, Benton, challenged participants to "be a friend to sinners" during the program's luncheon and award ceremony.

He told of a woman in Texas who recently was convicted of participating in a drug-related crime. The judge sentenced her to attend church for a year instead of serving a jail sentence.

"What if that happened in your community?" he asked. "What if a judge in your community were to sentence some known criminal...to attend your church? How would they be treated? What would they learn from spending 52 weeks with you? Would they find a friend?"

"Someone has defined a friend as somebody who steps in when the whole world steps out," he said. "That designation reminds me of Jesus. He is one who steps in when the whole world steps out."

Speaking from Matthew 11, Kirksey said that Jesus was called a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners by Pharisees, and that "it may well be the only true thing they said about our Lord."

Kirksey said that many Christians have few friends who are unsaved and un-churched because, "...we don't have a heart like Jesus."

He noted that "Jesus was always associating with those kinds of persons shunned by the religious crowd: the least and the lost, the diseased and the discarded, even the vile and the vicious."

"How can we have a heart like Jesus?" Kirksey concluded. "It's just a matter of coming under the conviction of God's truth. Taking a hard look at ourselves and asking ourselves, 'Am I somebody who steps in when the whole world steps out?'"

Workshop planner Tommy Goode, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, called participants "some of the 'have a heart like Jesus' heroes" in the state and noted that he was "glad" Arkansas Baptist church ministries "have gotten to a place where we can't keep up with it."

During the luncheon program, Goode presented the workshop's annual Have a Heart Like Jesus Award to Luke Flesher, minister of pastoral care/missions for Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Goode said Flesher "epitomizes what a minister sold out to Jesus can do." He also recognized Flesher for helping lead Park Hill to reach out to its community through a basketball camp, health classes, home repair, food distribution, a police prayer ministry and multihousing ministries.

Among conferences offered on the program was "Organizing a Volunteer Program in Your Church," led by Bob Mills, director of Missions Service Corps for the Home Mission Board.

"You must look at ministry in the same light as evangelism. They are like two sides of a coin."

— Bob Mills, director
Missions Service Corps
Home Mission Board

In organizing a volunteer program, Mills said, "You must look at ministry in the same light as evangelism. They are like two sides of a coin."

In addition to meeting needs, Mills said that ministry also is a way for churches "to get off a plateau. Seventy percent of Southern Baptist churches are declining

in membership or on a plateau. Churches heavily involved in ministry are not plateaued or declining."

Participants also heard from local leaders like Sandy Wisdom-Martin, an associate in the ABSC Woman's Missionary Union department. Wisdom-Martin led the conference, "Knowing Your Community's Needs," instructing participants on how to take community and church surveys and locating and using resources for demographic information.

Diana Lewis, ABSC church and community ministries consultant, gave information on a less tangible subject: "Developing a Caring Attitude." She challenged participants to "look at your community with new eyes, pray, let God's Word challenge your heart, don't judge others and give yourself to others."

Workshop participants like Laura Owens gave favorable reviews of the program. Owens, a Ouachita Baptist University senior, said she "learned a lot about my community and what my responsibilities are as a citizen, but my responsibilities as a Christian go so much further in the community."

"I think that it's important to teach the importance of showing others...about learning the needs in your community and how to address those," she said.

Ray Anderson, a member of First, Benton, said the workshop was "fantastic. The people who did the program were well-informed and to-the-point. There is a lot of ground to cover and we need to be busy doing something."



Greg Kirksey (above), pastor of First Church in Benton, challenged participants at the "Have a Heart Like Jesus" Workshop to be "a friend to sinners." Manuel Ramirez, Paul Roaten and Edgardo Mansilla (at right, left to right) discuss migrant missions in the workshop's booth display area.

Church news

Trinity Church of Blytheville will present "For God So Loved the World" April 4-6 as its third annual Easter musical drama. The 7 p.m. performances, featuring a 40-member cast dressed in biblical costumes, will portray the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scott Goodman is minister of music.

Forrest Park Church of Pine Bluff honored two deacons, Jim Rees and Spive White, Jan. 14 by naming each of them as deacon emeritus.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock has launched Vision 2000 as a church growth strategy. Sunday School growth principles are being implemented under the direction of pastor Marty Watson and minister of education Sam Wakefield. The plan emphasizes prayer, meeting needs and visitation.

Central Church of Jonesboro held the first in a series of concerts Feb. 11 to dedicate its recently installed Rodgers 960 D digital computer organ. Richard Van Auken, an artist-teacher at Moravian



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

College in Bethlehem, Pa., was featured at the first dedicatory concert. John Dresbach, assistant minister of music at the church, is church organist.

Obituaries

Lori Ann Wilson of Camden died Feb. 3 at age 34, following a lengthy illness. She is survived by her parents, Larry and Barbara Wilson of Camden. Her funeral services were held Feb. 6 at Cullendale First Church in Camden where she was a member and where her father is pastor.

Caroletta House Roberts, age 86, of Rosie died Jan. 18 at Batesville. She was a homemaker, a member of Rosie Church and a life member of the Parent-Teachers Association. She is survived by her husband, George M. Roberts, who has served as pastor of Gulon Church, Mount

Pleasant Church, Sidney Church and White River Church of Oil Trough. Other survivors are a daughter, two sisters and two grandchildren.

People

David J. Napier was recognized Feb. 4 by Immanuel Church in Little Rock for 10 years of ministry as associate pastor and business administrator. He and his wife, Melissa, and their children, Josh and Jaclyn, were honored with an evening reception. Napier is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Allan Aunspaugh was honored Feb. 11 by Fianna Hills Church in Fort Smith for five years of service as minister of music and administration. The day included recognition in the morning worship service with a reception that evening. Aunspaugh and his wife, Anne, have three children: Rachel, Emily and Alyssa. He previously served Highland Heights Church in Benton and Emmanuel Church in Huntington, Md. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Arkansas Tech University.

Golden Age Evangelism Conference

April 11-12, 1996 • First Baptist Church, Springdale



with **JERRY CLOWER**

Humorist, Entertainer, Star of Television and

also featuring

Grand Ole Opry, Yazoo City, Mississippi

MARGE CALDWELL

Author, Popular Conference Speaker, Houston, Texas

DICK BAKER

Composer of over 300 published sacred Songs, Minister of Music at Large, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

DARRELL ROBINSON

Vice President for the Evangelism Section, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia

Register with the ABSC Evangelism Department, PO Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 1-800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5132. **Registration Fee: \$10**

Conference times:

Thursday Afternoon: 1:00-4:30 • Thursday Evening: 7:00-9:00 • Friday Morning: 9:00-11:00

Staff changes

Kenneth L. Johnson is serving as pastor of Philadelphia Church of Jonesboro, coming there from Celebration Church of Romeo, Mich. He previously has served in other ministry positions in Michigan and Indiana. A former trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, he is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Johnson is married to the former Deannie Martin of Crossett. They have two married children.

Raymond E. Laramore has accepted the call to become pastor of Trinity Church of Fort Smith. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, Arkansas and Missouri for the past 24 years. Laramore is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Donna, have three adult children.

Ronnie W. O'Neal began serving Feb. 11 as pastor of First Church of Delaware, coming there from Refuge Church of Story. A native of Kirby, O'Neal also serves as an associate in the Brotherhood department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, coordinating the work of volunteer construction teams, disaster relief teams and working with Royal Ambassadors. O'Neal and his wife, Pennyne, have a married daughter and one grandson.

Chad Morgan recently joined the staff of Nettleton Church in Jonesboro as university and single adult minister. He previously was minister of music and youth at Magnolia Church in Jonesboro. Morgan, a graduate of Arkansas State University, is a full-time employee of Hytrol in Jonesboro.

Patty Merrill is serving as director of children's ministries for Nettleton Church in Jonesboro where she has been a member for more than a year. A native of Milwaukee, she attended Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Wisconsin. Merrill and her husband, Doug, have three children, Rachel, Rebecca and Andrew.

Ralph Burrage recently resigned as minister of education for First Church of Springdale to serve with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. Burrage is manager of the board's resources development section in the pastor-staff leadership department. He previously has served as a staff member of churches in Texas. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University in Starkville and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

J. Carroll Farmer joined the staff of First Church of Russellville Feb. 1 as minister of education, coming there from Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, Miss., where he also served as an adult team leader with the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He also has served churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Farmer is a graduate of

Jackson State University in Mississippi and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Patricia, have two children, Lacey and Justin.

Larry May has accepted the call to join the staff of Immanuel Church in Warren as minister of music and youth. He has been a staff member of Oaklawn Church in Texarkana, Texas, as well as other Texas churches. May has completed seminary extension work through Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have three children, Michelle, Mindy and Scotty.

Brian Campbell is serving as youth director of Bingham Road Church in Little Rock where he has been a member. He has been employed by Coulson Oil Co., for more than 10 years. Campbell and his wife, Traci, have two children, Rachel and Cody James.

Joe Cervini of Texarkana is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Lockesburg.

Ordinations

Pulaski Heights Church of Little Rock ordained David Blackwell as a deacon Jan. 21.

Forrest Park Church of Pine Bluff ordained minister of music David Smith to the gospel ministry and Bradley Iig to the deacon ministry Jan. 14.

Golden Age Conference Special!

While in N.W. Arkansas why not stay in the most beautiful place in N. W. Arkansas! Bella Vista Village.

- 117 holes of golf • 7 Lakes
- Tennis • 5 Swimming pools
- 5 Clubhouses & Restaurants

Deluxe Condo* Rentals At Motel Rates

- 2 Nights.....\$160.00
- 3 Nights.....\$240.00
- 4 Nights.....\$300.00

Plus Free welcome reception with 50 or more conventioners!
*Sleeps 4 (\$20.00 per person per night with 4 guests per Condo)

Vacation Rentals

1-800-FUN-IN-BV

1-800-365-4628

430 Town Center • Bella Vista, Arkansas 72714

PASTORS!

Take a giant step in developing an overcoming ministry.

Two refreshing days of deep biblical insights, encouragement and fellowship with other pastors.



Disciple Yourself

Becoming God's Man and a Leader of Spiritual Combat
taught by H. D. McCarty, Senior Pastor for over 30 years of University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Disciple Your Church

Practical Principles on People Building, Problem Solving, and Effective Leadership
taught by Cliff Jenkins, Church Growth Consultant and Pastor Springdale, Arkansas

Disciple Your Vision

Catching God's Dream for You and Your Church
taught by Ed Saucier, Senior Pastor of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas • Enrollment limited. Call TODAY! for information and brochure.

April 8-10, 1996 (noon Mon. thru noon Wed.) • 1-800-264-0074

The challenge today is to go beyond church growth to church impact!

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

WMU members to 'Risk the Journey' during state meeting

Woman's Missionary Union members will discover the meaning of "risk" at the WMU Annual Meeting March 15-16 at East Side Church in Fort Smith. The theme for the meeting is "Risk the Journey" and will focus on Southern Baptist mission work.

Julia Ketner, executive director of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, said that the theme will serve as a "challenge carried out through the speakers and personal testimonies."

She said the meeting program will be a "celebration of missions for everyone" and anyone interested in missions, including pastors, laypeople and Baptist Men, Girls in Action and Acteens members. Sessions will feature testimonies, media presentations, special music and offerings for magazines for Arkansas missionaries.

The program will feature several well-known speakers, including: Barbara Joiner, a humorist and writer; Phyllis Poe, an Oklahoma City police chaplain who ministered to victims of the 1995 federal building bombing there; Pattye Box, Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Germany; and Arkansas native Camille Simmons, a home missionary in San Antonio, Texas.

Other featured speakers will include Sarah Keyes, president of Iowa WMU, and Bible study leaders Bruce Tippitt, pastor of Fianna Hills Church in Fort Smith, and Mary Helen Dixon of national WMU.

Ketner also issued an open invitation to the meeting's Friday evening sessions and fellowship. The session will feature a flag processional, testimonies and challenges. Following the session will be a fellowship time to visit with program personnel as well as new ABSM executive director Emil Turner.

Ketner said the evening session and fellowship will provide a "good time for GAs and Acteens to attend."

Sessions will begin at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Friday and at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. A Baptist Book Store and preschool child care also will be provided at the meeting.

There is no cost for the meeting. Participants must provide their own meals and lodging during the meeting.

For more information on the annual meeting, contact the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union at 1-800-838-2272 in state or locally at 501-376-4791, ext. 5137.



Joiner

Poe

Simmons

"Hope for Tomorrow" Ministering to Children in Crisis

March 29-30, 1996

1:00 p.m. Friday - Noon Saturday

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

A Two-day Workshop Addressing Concerns and Celebrating Opportunities with Children

For more information, contact the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at 1-800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.



HAWAII

Roundtrip air from Little Rock • Five nights hotel accommodations
Transfers to and from airport • Lei greeting • Package Price starting
as low as \$723.69 per person based on double occupancy • Leave the
cold weather behind! Erma Bridges, Certified Travel
Counselor • Affordable Travel, 202 East Cross Street,
Benton, AR 72015 • Benton 501-778-8257 • Little Rock
501-223-0196 • Nationwide 1-800-223-0196

SUNMAKERS
Travel Group



Joining hearts and voices
across the state!

ARKANSAS
MASTER SINGERS
&
SINGING WOMEN

1996 FESTIVAL OF SONG CONCERT

Tuesday, February 27
7:00 p.m.

Central Baptist Church
of Jonesboro
1010 South Main Street

Sponsored by ABSM
CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRIES

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY

in Eureka Springs, AR! \$31 Pkg for Groups
now includes the Best (\$13) Tickets, plus
lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It All!
KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT
501/253-8418

Are your Seniors tired of
crawling over the HUMP? The
solution is a 15-passenger van
with an Aisle, Raised Roof &
Electric Step. Call Tri-State
Van & Bus Sales Today!



1-800-330-3622 • (817) 484-8145
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

New Sound, Inc.

47 Thornhill Dr. • Sherwood, AR 72120

501-835-3163

Ken E. Newberry, owner

After 16 years of working for someone else in the Sound Systems Contracting Industry, I finally have decided to put all that knowledge, experience and persistence to work for my family and myself.

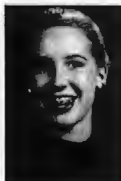
I will promise this to all my old friends and new customers, no one has personally designed and installed more successful top quality professional sound systems for churches in the state of Arkansas than I have. I will also pledge this: that no one will design and sell you a more thoroughly engineered, premium quality, professional sound system at a fair price than I will.

Sincerely, Ken E. Newberry

Service • Design • Installation • Sales • Service
• It starts and ends with service •

Arkansas Acteen among selected national 'Top Teens'

"I'm excited about the things I can do through Acteens," commented Brandy Ussery. "My involvement has helped me to face problems in life with a Christ-like attitude." That attitude has resulted in Brandy's selection as one of 20 Acteens to be named the 1996 National Acteens Top Teens.



Brandy Ussery

"These girls represent the best of what the Acteens organization can help girls become," said Jan Turentine, design editor of the Acteens magazine, *Accent*. "Their views of the world and its people are so refreshing and inspiring," she noted. "Through their participation in all that the Acteens organization has to offer, they have acquired skills and developed personal talents and gifts."

Selection of panelists and top teens is based on accomplishments in StudiAct, the individual achievement plan for

Acteens; involvement in Acteens and other church activities; and achievements in school, scholastically and socially.

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

"Brandy is a very dedicated person," commented Angela Lowe, state Acteens director. "She is going to accomplish anything she puts her mind to." Lowe also noted that Brandy will be featured in an upcoming edition of *Accent* along with other Top Teens.

"I'm really proud of her," said Emma Clark, Brandy's Acteen leader at Calvary Church in Paragould. "She is interested in letting God do His will through her."

Pastor Junior Vester noted, "Brandy is always ready and willing to do whatever she's asked to do. She is a very good leader and enjoys taking responsibility."

Brandy, the daughter of Kathy and Fred Ussery of Marmaduke, is a 16-year-old sophomore at Marmaduke High School and a former state Acteen panelist. Although involved in many school activities, she finds making time for

StudiAct rewarding. "I really like the reading and the hands-on work that StudiAct offers," she explained. "I have grown in my relationship to Christ."

Meeting missionaries she has read about is a high point for Brandy, who felt "blessed" to meet missionary Mildred McWhorter, whom she had studied.

Teaching others also has been a result of Brandy's Acteen involvement. From mission day camp to Vacation Bible School, she was surprised that she could teach kids effectively.

Last summer, Brandy led a Big A Club for the children in the neighborhood. "We invited the kids who lived in the apartments across the street from the church," she explained. "Kids came on roller blades and some of the boys came without shirts on — but they really seemed to get something out of it."

Brandy will serve as an Acteen Activator at the Olympics in Atlanta this July. Next summer her goal is to take part in the Sojourner program.

"Acteens has opened a lot of doors for me," Brandy said. "I get to meet other girls who believe like I do. I'm glad to know I'm not alone."

2nd Annual Northeast Arkansas Single Adult Conference

March 1 & 2

"It's A ONE-derful Life"

Arliss Dickerson, featured speaker

Cost: \$10

Registration information contact

Walnut Street Baptist Church

1910 Scenic Jonesboro, AR 72401



SALES and RENTALS
All Sizes

CHURCH BUSES
Competitive Prices
SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.
Clinton, MS

1-800-423-9826

601-924-1982

WHATEVER IT TAKES 5!

MARCH 1-2, 1996

PARK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
NORTH LITTLE ROCK

WHATEVER IT TAKES 5! is a skill and leadership workshop designed to combine recreation and ministry to reach people and meet needs. The training equips people for a local ministry as well as missions beyond the local church.

Sessions begin 6:45 p.m. on Friday, March 1 and end at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 2.

For more information, call Judy in the Missions Dept., ABSC at 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5249.



Albert George Mfg. Co.

Quality Custom Manufacturers of:

Pew Cushions

Upholstered Seats & Backs

717 N. Cypress • P.O. Box 5700 • NLR, AR 72119

501-375-2921

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Whateverittakes to explore 'alternative' ministries

Participants will learn "whateverittakes" to minister and reach people during the Whateverittakes 5 recreation and ministries workshop March 1-2 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. The workshop, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions and discipleship and family ministry departments, will include 40 conferences on alternative ministry ideas and creative worship. Topics will include puppetry, clowning, resort ministries, camp, senior adult ministries, games and sports ministries.

ABSC missions department associate Pete Petry said the "idea was to put recreation and ministry together. We want participants to see that they could use these creative arts and ministries outside the walls of the church in their community as well as on mission trips."

Discipleship and family ministry department director Bob Holley said that attending the workshop "can make a difference in the ministry of your church."

The program will begin at 6:45 p.m. Friday and conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday.

The cost for the workshop is \$17.50 per person, which includes pizza and refreshments.

For more information on the workshop or to register by the Feb. 28 deadline, contact Judy at the ABSC missions department in-state at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally at 376-4791, ext. 5249.

Choirs to ring March 8-9 at annual Handbell Festival

The annual Handbell Festival March 8-9 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock will offer two training tracks to participating Baptist handbell choirs. The festival is open to any youth or adult handbell choir active in a Baptist church in Arkansas.

The two tracks will be divided by choir proficiency. "Festival A is for three- to five-octave choirs that have sufficient experience to ring medium-difficult music and wish to ring for adjudication," said Glen Ennes, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department. "Festival B is for three-octave choirs with less experience, that do not wish to be adjudicated."

The cost for the festival is \$55 per choir, \$45 per additional choir with additional bells and \$35 per additional choir without additional bells. For more information or to register, contact Ennes at 1-800-838-ABSC in-state or 376-4791 locally, ext. 5121.

Legacy Builders Rally to focus on Men's Ministries

The Midwest Regional Legacy Builders Rally March 29-30 at First Baptist Church in Ferguson, Mo., will focus on promoting Men's Ministries in churches. The rally is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and eight state Baptist convention Brotherhood departments, including the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ABSC Brotherhood department director Harry Black said the rally "is in response to requests by associational leadership to raise awareness about Southern Baptist Men's Ministries and its objectives."

"The focus of the rally will be on men building a Christian legacy through the local church," he explained. "It also will be an opportunity to minister to men in their unique hurts and needs."

Program speakers will include Promise Keepers vice president Glenn Wagner, Brotherhood Commission president James Williams and Gary Rosberg, president of Cross Trainers.

The cost for the rally is \$35 per person. For more information or to register, contact Black at the ABSC Brotherhood office, toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally at 376-4791, ext. 5158.

If revival comes, are you and your church ready?

A CONVOCATION ON REVIVAL, SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REFORMATION

EVENING SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Here is your opportunity to hear some of God's choicest revival leaders from around the world who will help equip the church for the coming blessing of revival and spiritual awakening...*a time of inspiration and preparation.*

Speakers include:

Vernon Higham - pastor of the largest Evangelical church in Wales, a "son of the Welsh revival" and recognized authority on revival.

Josef Tson - Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Oradea, Romania and leader in the Romanian revival movement.

Al Mohler - President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who will share on the doctrinal truths necessary to prepare for revival and reformation.

Richard Owen Roberts - One of America's premier authorities on revival and reformation.

February 27-29 7:00 p.m. nightly

**First Baptist Church 62 Pleasant Valley Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72212**

Bring your church family nightly as we seek God together for genuine revival!

For more information call 501-227-0010



Volunteers needed for Crossover New Orleans effort

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP)—Volunteers for the June 8 witnessing blitz before this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should sign up by May 1, according to Crossover New Orleans organizers.

Volunteers who do not meet the May 1 deadline may still participate, but early registration provides leaders time to match volunteers' interests with local church needs, explained Don Smith of the Home Mission Board evangelism staff.

Greater New Orleans Baptist Association covers five parishes, or counties, with 1.2 million people, noted association missionary Fred Dyess. Only 3 percent of residents are Southern Baptists. Currently the association has more missions (83) than constituted churches (65). Only 29 of the churches have more than 100 in Sunday School, and none of them have 1,000 in Sunday School.

With so many new and small congregations, Crossover New Orleans "could really be a boost" to area churches, said Louisiana Baptists' evangelism director Wayne Jenkins.

The pre-convention evangelism trust began in 1989 and has grown to include block parties, door-to-door witnessing and street evangelism. Each activity is designed to present the gospel and discover prospects for local churches.

During block parties, churches offer free food and entertainment to attract local residents. Door-to-door activities involve teams of two asking residents about their religious beliefs and sharing the plan of salvation. Street evangelism includes performers such as chalk artists and puppet teams who share the gospel through their art. Dyess noted New Orleans is especially suited to street evangelism because

sidewalk artists are popular there.

This year volunteers are sought for a prison ministry as well, Jenkins said. Volunteers will go to a women's prison and a youth facility to visit inmates in their cells. Baptists have established ministries in the places to be visited, and Crossover activities will undergird those ministries, Jenkins said.

Southern Baptists can participate in Crossover as individuals, a group from one church or a group from several churches, Jenkins said. Goals for Crossover New Orleans include evangelism, witness training and church starting.

"This is an opportunity to reach thousands for Christ in a single day," Smith said. "Not many times in your life do you get the opportunity to do that."

Jenkins added, "We really hope to get the gospel to literally thousands of people and, out of that, a large number will come to know Christ." He said he also hopes two churches will be started from prospects discovered during Crossover.

Crossover New Orleans is the first phase of the association's goal to present the gospel in every local household, Dyess said. "We hope to have a large number of people saved who we can disciple and get into our churches."

Most Crossover events will take place Saturday, June 8, with training on Friday, June 7. To register, write to the Louisiana Baptist Convention evangelism office, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309-0311. Include your name, address, phone number, church name and how you would like to participate.

Sound the Good News!

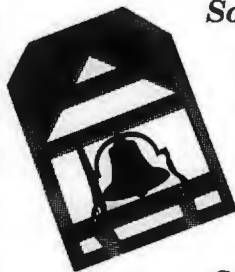
Preferred Risk Mutual is the insurance company America's churches trust! Over 45,000 churches in 30 denominations rely on us for quality coverage and claims service.

Protect Your Church . . .

CALL 1-800-321-5754 TODAY!

1111 Ashworth Rd., West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

A member of Preferred Risk Financial, Inc., SM



P
PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL

RETREATS	SKI TRIPS	AFFORDABLE TRAVEL	YOUTH GROUPS	SKI TRIPS
	GROUP TRAVEL, OUR SPECIALTY			
	If your group travels, you need our planning service. Our 31 years experience can save you money!			
	AFFORDABLE TRAVEL , 202 East Cross St., Benton, AR 72015.			
BENTON 501-778-9257 • LITTLE ROCK 501-223-0193 • NATIONAL 1-800-223-0196				
Call Erma Bridges, Certified Travel Counselor, for your group needs.				
CHOIR GROUPS		RETREATS	SENIOR CITIZENS	



Available in 20' to 33' Models
(12 to 38 passengers)

Church Buses • Rental Buses

(New and Used)

• We buy used buses • Guaranteed buy back program

Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc. • Brentwood, TN

Call Henry Headden

1 (800) 370-6180 • 1 (615) 371-6180

MUSIC / YOUTH MINISTER BROSSARD, LOUISIANA FBC

**Full-time position.
Prefer seminary graduate,
but not required.**

**Send resume to:
Music/Youth Committee,
First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 839
Broussard, LA 70518**

Tulsa Metro Baptist Association of Oklahoma is taking resumes for Executive Director. TMBA has 128 churches. Send by March 2 to TMBA Director Search Committee, 3365 E. Skelly Dr., Tulsa, OK 74135-3227, or fax 918-743-4898. For info, contact Bob Green, 918-455-5020, Chairman.

Ted and Brenda Daniels, missionaries to Venezuela, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Junta Misionera Foranca, Apartado 80920, Caracas, Venezuela). He was born in Fordyce. She is the former Brenda Bolien of Missouri. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1994.

Milton and Nannette Lites, missionaries to Colombia are on the field (address: Apartado Aereo 51687, Bogota, Colombia). He was born near Garland. The former Nannette Webb of Arkansas, she was born near Dyess and grew up in Wilson. They were appointed in 1969.

Kenneth and Lou Ann Locke, Baptist representatives to Russia, are in the States (address: Rt. 1, Box 1388,

Donaldson, AR 71941). He is a native of Texas, and she is the former Lou Ann Lewis of North Carolina. They were appointed in 1987.

James and Marci Miller, missionaries to Ecuador, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Casilla 125, Machala, Ecuador). He considers Bryant his hometown. The former Marci Lifer, she was born in Forrest City. They were appointed in 1964.

Mel and Nancy Skinner, Baptist representatives to Russia, are in the States (address: 4501 Geddes, Fort Worth, TX 76107). He was born in Moberly, Mo., and considers Trenton, Mo., his hometown. The former Nancy Pelley, she considers Mena her home-town. They were appointed in 1991.

Great deals — At KMS Sound & Communications we have some great deals for you such as 25ft mic cables \$8.95, 50ft \$13.95 and direct boxes starting at \$24.00. Call now for your lowest quote in the country on Audio Technica Wireless, 1-800-753-6753.

Seeking resumes — for full-time minister of youth and college and part-time minister of music. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Beebe, AR 72012.

Children's minister — Full-time position. Please send resume to Debbie Brown, Children's Minister Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1901 North Pierce Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

Seeking resumes — Monte Ne Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Send resume to: 1610 Monte Ne Road, Rogers, AR 72756.

Accepting resumes — for staff position, minister of youth and music. A degree in music and/or religious education is preferred but experience may be considered. Send resume to Bayou Meto Baptist Church, 26200 Highway 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076, Att: Jon Prince, chairman.

For Sale — 1984 Ford People-Mover, 21 passenger. All new interior, excellent mechanically, low entry step. Negotiable. 501-394-2697. Mena.

Accepting resumes — for full-time pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church. Mail to: St. Charles Baptist Church, P.O. Box 241, St. Charles, AR 72140.

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

Accepting resumes — for full-time minister of youth and music. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, c/o Fairfield Bay Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1658, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088.

Wanted — Part-time youth minister. Send resume to Cross Point Baptist Church, 5301 Summertree Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116-6626.

Accepting resumes — for full-time pastor. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 202, Atkins, AR 72823.

Needed — Part-time youth minister. Send resumes to: Tommy Freeman, First Baptist Church, PO Box 368, Star City, AR 71667.

Accepting resumes — for full-time minister of youth. Send to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 501 N. Main, Fordyce, AR 71742.

Accepting resumes — Sylvan Hills First Baptist Church needs a full-time experienced recreation/youth minister. Send resume to 9008 Sylvan Hills Hwy, Shanwood, AR 72120.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. Classified ads shall be restricted to church-related subject matter. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unavailable subject matter.

For a Career in Care

You need to be in the Right Place

Baptist

SCHOOLS OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

Please send me information about the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Coding Technology* | Nuclear Medicine* |
| Histotechnology* | Radiography* |
| Practical Nursing* | Registered Nursing |
| Medical Transcription* | Registered Nursing (Springdale) |
| Medical Technology* | LPN to RN |

*These schools have a March 1, 1996 application deadline.

Call 501 223-7415 or 1-800-345-3046

Visit or mail coupon to the Information Office, 11900 Colonel Glenn Road, Suite 1000, Little Rock, AR 72210-2820.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Days) _____

MATHEMATICS

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking an experienced individual as a full-time Faculty Member in Mathematics (beginning Fall 1998)

Candidates should have these qualifications:

- Committed evangelical Christian
 - Active member of a Baptist church preferred
 - Earned Ph.D. in Mathematics
 - Preference for theoretical mathematician but applications for applied mathematician accepted
- Hominations and applications, a resume, and names and telephone numbers of three professional references should be sent to:

Dr. Beverly Giltner, Dean
College of Natural Sciences
and Mathematics
Dallas Baptist University
3000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, Texas 75211
(214) 333-5307

Christian Medical Cost Sharing

This scriptural concept of burden sharing is the alternative.
1 Cor. 13:14

- People helping people.
- Up to \$1 Million of expenses shared.
- \$162 average monthly share per family in 1995.
- Assistance with maternity expenses.
- Every published need met to date.



11 Chronicles 20:26
CALL: 1.800.704.4103

WORLD

Missionary, son both in comas following auto accident in Peru

TRUJILLO, PERU (BP)—Foreign Mission Board officials are asking Southern Baptists to pray for members of a missionary family critically injured in an automobile accident in Peru Feb. 1.

Missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts and their two sons, Marcus and Joshua, were on a mountain road outside of Huancayo, south of the capital, Lima, when the accident occurred.

Watts, 40, and Marcus, 9, have been in comas since the accident and were listed in grave condition Feb. 9. Neither Mrs. Watts, 35, nor Joshua, 7, is in a life-threatening situation.

The family was on the way to Huancayo,

where they planned to take a short vacation when the accident occurred about 2:30 p.m. Feb. 1. Another driver involved in the wreck suffered shock and trauma and was unable to recall the accident.

Marcus and his mother were airlifted to Memphis hospitals Feb. 6. Joshua, who was hurt the least, flew by commercial airline Feb. 5 with Foreign Mission Board missionary Kathy Phillips to Memphis.

Doctors considered the condition of Wade Watts too unstable to risk a lengthy flight to the United States. He is in a Peruvian air force hospital in Lima with injuries to the brain and internal organs.

Marcus is in intensive care at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis with possible brain damage.

Surgeons at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Central in Memphis repaired several fractures in Mrs. Watts' face, thumb and wrist. She was in stable condition Feb. 9, and a full recovery is anticipated.

Watts and his wife were appointed as missionaries to Peru in 1986. He works in secondary education and men's work and she is a church and home worker.

KITE SPECIAL!

Promote attendance - give your boys and girls "Jesus Loves You" kites. Colorful - Top Quality

• "Jesus Loves You" Kite...
Plastic - Colorful Design -
24" x 28"

Only \$9.75/Dozen
(One gross or more \$8.95/Dozen)
• 200' Kite Cord
Only \$5.75/Dozen

Add \$4.00 Shipping (7% on orders over \$60.00)
(Alabama Residents add Sales Tax)

Order From: MINISTRY SERVICES
P.O. Box 432, Pleasant Grove, AL 35127
Phone: (205) 744-6395



A.B. Culbertson and Company

Invites your indication of interest to:
FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS

EARN UP TO: **8.85%**

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed Culbertson IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Semiannually
This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

A.B. Culbertson and Company

Financial Services Since 1954
1250 Continental Plaza
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Member: Chicago Stock Exchange

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the underlying. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value plus accrued interest, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern
P.O. Box 1302
Benton, AR 72018
Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by A.B. Culbertson and Company.
Member NASD & SIPC



Quality
Van Sales

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



SEMI-TRAILER
GET A.S. Complete
A.S. Gas
Diesel Chevy
Up to 31 Pass



OC-8
V-6 480 Gas
V-8 7.3 Diesel
Up to 39 Pass



1995 & 1996 GOSHEN COACH - 29 Pass
1995 & 1996 7.3 Turbo Power Stroke Diesel



ARKANSAS BUS SALES

4105 Hwy. 65 South
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

501-534-1234 • Fax 501-535-9780
1-800-822-5307



- Churches
- Colleges
- Hotel
- Commercial
- Airport
- Tour
- Charter
- Handicapped

WE BUY USED BUSES & VANS • WE ACCEPT TRADES • WE DO CONSIGNMENT SALES • FINANCING AVAILABLE

✓ THESE BUSES OUT

1992 - GOSHEN COACH - 7.3 Diesel - 29 Pass - 11,000 miles

1993 - EL DORADO PARA-TRANSIT - 8 Pass/2 Wheelchair - 400 Gas - 80 to 90 miles - (9) in stock

1992 - METHO-TRANS-PARA-TRANSIT - 7.3 Diesel - 15 Pass/2 Wheelchair - 29,200 miles - cheap bus

1987 - CHAMFION - 25 Pass/Rear Luggage - 7.3 Diesel

TODAY'S SPECIAL - \$12,500



(1) 1988 EL DORADO AERO TEC - 7.3 Diesel - 25 Pass - Rear Luggage

Mattew Memorial Baptist Church 507.18
 Oak Grove Baptist Church 78.00
 Pine Bluff First Baptist Church 5,824.01
 Pine Bluff Second Baptist Church 225.65
 Pine Bluff Baptist Church 150.00
 Nison Baptist Church 1,000.00
 River Road Baptist Church 65.70
 Shannon Road Baptist Church 739.00
 Shepherd Hill Baptist Church 100.00
 South Side Baptist Church 639.00
 Sitar City First Baptist Church 1,629.91
 Sulphur Springs Baptist Church 566.00
 Watson Chapel Baptist Church 1,785.00
 White Hall First Baptist Church 465.30
 Yorktown Baptist Church 70.00

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church 77.00
 Pleasant Valley Baptist Church 170.00
 Pease Oak Baptist Church 79.00
 South Side Baptist Church 546.95
 Sugar Camp Baptist Church 180.00
 West Side Baptist Church 1,423.38
 Woodrow Baptist Church 1,071.77

Blue Eye First Baptist Church 940.79
 Burnett Baptist Church 578.00
 Cassville Baptist Church 496.00
 Deer Baptist Church 100.00
 Dora City First Baptist Church 275.00
 Dove Circle Baptist Church 278.00
 Eagle Heights Baptist Church 1,953.83
 Elvair Baptist Church 883.15
 Elmwood Baptist Church 200.00
 Ewanaw Baptist Church 192.11
 Eureka Springs First Baptist Church 18.00
 Freedom Baptist Church 200.00
 Freeman Heights Baptist Church 301.22
 Gaither Baptist Church 39.00
 Grandview First Baptist Church 875.43
 Green Forest First Baptist Church 1,314.11
 Grubb Springs Baptist Church 263.56
 Harrisville First Baptist Church 1,000.00
 Howell Baptist Church 130.00
 Japper First Baptist Church 1,001.00
 Liberty Baptist Church 757.00
 Lead Hill Baptist Church 2,465.00
 Lehigh Falls Baptist Church 201.50
 New Hope Baptist Church 548.07
 Northvale Baptist Church 176.00
 Oregon Flat Baptist Church 149.19
 Osage Baptist Church 658.00
 Parkersburg Baptist Church 642.72
 Rock Springs Baptist Church 498.42
 Ruff Baptist Church 28.32
 Snowhill Baptist Church 10.00
 South Side Baptist Church 143.00
 Trinity Baptist Church 190.53
 Union Baptist Church 602.70

Independence Baptist Assn Gift
 Arbansia Baptist Church 1,474.01
 Batesville First Baptist Church 425.00
 Calvary Baptist Church 1,233.00
 Cord Baptist Church 390.00
 Dasha First Baptist Church 453.73
 Eastside Baptist Church 1,748.73
 Ewanaw Baptist Church 83.80
 Faith Baptist Church 100.00
 Fellowship Baptist Church 77.00
 Floral Baptist Church 386.00
 Foxhills Baptist Church 97.66
 Galloway Baptist Church 133.00
 Mountain View First Baptist Church 1,076.23
 Mt Zion Baptist Church 428.13
 Newark Southern Baptist Church 120.00
 Northside Baptist Church 183.63
 Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church 155.00
 Pleasant Plains Baptist Church 100.00
 Rehoboth Baptist Church 175.00
 Rosie Baptist Church 674.93
 Ruddell Hill Baptist Church 359.00
 Salado Baptist Church 260.00
 Strawberry Southern Baptist Church 38.00
 Sulphur Rock Baptist Church 135.31
 West Baptist Church 271.00
 White River Baptist Church 109.21

Ashdam First Baptist Church 903.30
 Brownstown Baptist Church 100.00
 Central Baptist Church 1,147.67
 Churchville Baptist Church 422.30
 Cross Roads First Baptist Church 666.99
 Foreman First Baptist Church 691.70
 Hicks First Baptist Church 391.50
 Horatio First Baptist Church 100.00
 Kern Heights Baptist Church 827.00
 Lakeview Baptist Church 83.25
 Lockwood Baptist Church 330.80
 Milwood Baptist Church 71.13
 Murfreesboro First Baptist Church 1,940.00
 Nashville Baptist Church 293.00
 Oak Grove Baptist Church 13.97
 Ogden Baptist Church 421.33
 Rock Hill Baptist Church 190.00
 State Line Baptist Church 176.73
 Washington Baptist Church 300.00
 Wilson First Baptist Church 88.18

Parkersburg Baptist Church 482.72
 Parkersburg Baptist Church 482.72
 Rock Springs Baptist Church 498.42
 Ruff Baptist Church 28.32
 Snowhill Baptist Church 10.00
 South Side Baptist Church 143.00
 Trinity Baptist Church 190.53
 Union Baptist Church 602.70
 Valley Springs Baptist Church 498.42
 Valley View Baptist Church 380.00
 Western Grove First Baptist Church 813.34
 Woodland Baptist Church 698.94
 Zion Light Baptist Mission 698.94

Liberty Baptist Assn Gift
 Calendena Baptist Church 232.00
 Canon Baptist Church 326.21
 Camden First Baptist Church 1,134.33
 Camden Second Baptist Church 99.00
 Chiodeter Baptist Church 280.00
 Cross Roads Baptist Church 150.00
 Calandria Baptist Church 635.00
 East Main Baptist Church 385.00
 Ebenezer Baptist Church 912.58
 El Dorado First Baptist Church 21,074.75
 El Dorado Second Baptist Church 2,476.30
 Elliott Baptist Church 274.00
 Fairview Road Baptist Church 278.00
 Fairview Baptist Church 350.00
 Gallie Baptist Church 740.31
 Grace Baptist Church 150.00
 Hillside Baptist Church 365.00
 Huttig First Baptist Church 509.03
 Issanaw Baptist Church 1,549.45
 Joyce City Baptist Church 363.00
 Junction City First Baptist Church 600.00
 Knoxville Baptist Church 60.00
 Lapite Baptist Church 467.50
 Lawan Baptist Church 180.73
 Liberty Baptist Church 460.00
 Maple Avenue Baptist Church 1,443.50
 Marabelle Hill Baptist Church 280.00
 Midway Baptist Church 620.07
 New London Baptist Church 867.51
 Northport Baptist Church 1,072.70
 Northwest Baptist Church 251.01
 Parkers Chapel First Baptist Church 471.00
 Parkview Baptist Church 828.31
 Philadelphia Baptist Church 218.00
 Reader First Baptist Church 278.00
 Sales Baptist Church 919.97
 Seawater First Baptist Church 76.00
 Stephens First Baptist Church 35.00
 Strong First Baptist Church 375.00
 Teale Baptist Church 150.00
 Temple Baptist Church 380.00
 Three Creeks Baptist Church 393.75
 Trinity Baptist Church 160.00
 Union Baptist Church 855.00
 Urbana Baptist Church 170.00
 Village Baptist Church 507.30
 Wason Baptist Church 500.00
 West Side Baptist Church 360.00

MISSISSIPPI CO. BAPTIST ASSN Gift
 Bethany Baptist Church 120.00
 Blackwater Baptist Church 89.81
 Blytheville First Baptist Church 1,490.00
 Brinkley Chapel Baptist Church 25.00
 Brown Chapel Baptist Church 150.00
 Calvary Baptist Church 192.61
 Calvary Baptist Church 421.50
 Clear Lake Baptist Church 481.50
 Cole Baptist Church 28.23
 Cross Roads Baptist Church 12.00
 Dell Baptist Church 509.50
 Elm Springs Baptist Church 190.00
 Ewanaw Baptist Church 31.00
 Etowah Baptist Church 96.00
 Genesell Baptist Church 100.50
 Joiner Baptist Church 150.00
 Leachville First Baptist Church 409.00
 Leachville Second Baptist Church 1,981.53
 Manita First Baptist Church 332.40
 Marys Chapel Baptist Church 46.64
 Memorial Baptist Church 19.90
 New Maroney Baptist Church 221.60
 New Liberty Baptist Church 65.00
 Nodeba Baptist Church 471.00
 North Tenth Street Mission 206.50
 Nusbar Nine Baptist Church 612.41
 Ocala First Baptist Church 14,686.49
 Ridgecrest Baptist Church 50.00
 Rose Baptist Church 243.30
 Trinity Baptist Church 280.00
 Wendell Baptist Church 550.00
 Whitton Baptist Church 83.55
 Wilson First Baptist Church 310.50
 Woodland Corner Baptist Church 192.61
 Yarbore Baptist Church 1,410.00

North Central Baptist Assn Gift
 Angus Baptist Church 25.00
 Bee Branch Baptist Church 352.00
 Bolivar Baptist Church 35.43
 Clinton First Baptist Church 876.00
 Fairfield Bay Baptist Church 625.00
 Foreosa Baptist Church 392.00
 Friends Baptist Church 1,791.84
 Issanaw Baptist Church 389.00
 Leslie First Baptist Church 1,369.29
 Lexington Baptist Church 100.00
 Marhaha Baptist Church 648.00
 Morning Star Baptist Mission 70.00
 New Hopeful Baptist Church 89.00
 Pine Bluff Baptist Church 397.00
 Plant Baptist Church 50.00
 Pleasant Valley Baptist Church 980.01
 Rupert Baptist Church 350.00
 Scotch Baptist Church 950.18
 Shady Grove Baptist Church 791.33
 Sibley Baptist Church 64.00
 Sugar Loaf First Baptist Church 528.00

Little Red River Baptist Assn Gift
 Brennaw Baptist Church 46.37
 Concord First Baptist Church 231.22
 Harris Chapel Baptist Church 31.31
 Heber Springs First Baptist Church 2,145.00
 Higginson First Baptist Church 400.00
 Lone Star Baptist Church 590.00
 Mt Zion Baptist Church 83.00
 New Bethel Baptist Church 55.00
 Palestine Baptist Church 325.00
 Pine Baptist Church 217.00

MT ZION BAPTIST ASSN Gift
 Bay First Baptist Church 806.72
 Black Oak Baptist Church 97.32
 Bone First Baptist Church 458.85
 Bowen Baptist Church 300.00
 Buffalo Baptist Church 200.00
 Caraway Baptist Church 2,763.07
 Central Baptist Church 2,653.50
 Childs Baptist Church 190.00
 Dixie Baptist Church 50.00
 Egypt Baptist Church 79.00
 Jonesboro Baptist Church 54.44
 Lake City First Baptist Church 244.73
 Madison Baptist Church 169.18
 Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church 281.46
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church 140.83
 Nettleton Baptist Church 519.94
 New Hope Baptist Church 36.35
 North Main Baptist Church 330.23
 Philadelphia Baptist Church 216.60
 Providence Baptist Church 186.21
 Rowel Baptist Church 50.00
 Strawfleur Baptist Church 283.72
 University Baptist Church 210.50
 Walnut Street Baptist Church 829.00
 Westvale Baptist Church 90.00

North PULASKI BAPTIST ASSN Gift
 Abbey Baptist Church 179.00
 Baring Cross Baptist Church 378.00
 Bayou Mato Baptist Church 2,424.64
 Bethany Baptist Church 598.33
 Bethel Baptist Church 277.29
 Calvary Baptist Church 978.00
 Cedar Heights Baptist Church 563.00
 Central Baptist Church 25.00
 Crosspoint Baptist Church 380.00
 Crystal Valley Baptist Church 123.00
 First Seventh St. Baptist Church 25.00
 Gravel Ridge Baptist Church 212.82
 Graves Memorial Baptist Church 452.50
 Highgate Baptist Church 357.00
 Jacksonville First Baptist Church 1,560.00
 Jacksonville Second Baptist Church 311.70
 Lewistown Baptist Church 210.00
 Maddox Road Baptist Church 288.00
 Marshall Road Baptist Church 393.52
 New Liberty Baptist Church 2,026.00
 Northington Chapel Baptist Church 1,177.90
 N.Little Rock First Baptist Church 406.78
 Norwood Baptist Church 180.00
 Panhandle Baptist Church 2,494.80
 Resunt Baptist Church 86.32
 Runyan First Baptist Church 75.59
 Sheward First Baptist Church 2,926.00
 Stanford Baptist Church 155.00
 Stanley Hills Baptist Church 745.00
 Vicksburg Baptist Church 1,387.50
 Zion Hill Baptist Church 3,540.85

Little Red River Baptist Assn Gift
 Brewnaw Baptist Church 46.37
 Concord First Baptist Church 231.22
 Harris Chapel Baptist Church 31.31
 Heber Springs First Baptist Church 2,145.00
 Higginson First Baptist Church 400.00
 Lone Star Baptist Church 590.00
 Mt Zion Baptist Church 83.00
 New Bethel Baptist Church 55.00
 Palestine Baptist Church 325.00
 Pine Baptist Church 217.00

NORTH ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSN Gift
 Alton First Baptist Church 711.00
 Batavia Baptist Church 431.10
 Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church 194.66
 Bellefonte Baptist Church 505.00
 Berryville First Baptist Church 150.00

NORTHIEBY BAPTIST ASSN. Gift
 Bella Vista Baptist Church 2,171.00
 Bentonville First Baptist Church 1,233.00
 Bentonville First Baptist Church 290.00
 Charity Southern Baptist Mission 586.73
 Decatur First Baptist Church 23.92
 Ewanaw Baptist Church 23.92
 Faith Baptist Church 190.72

Convention Uniform

Secrets of the seed

By William H. Sutton, attorney;
member, Immanuel Church,
Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 13:1-23

Focal passage: Matthew 13:13

Central truth: Some people listen
and some don't.

On the night of June 1, 1944, a calm BBC voice casually read a few lines from the poet, Verlaine. Most listeners yawned and went to bed, but to a select group of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied France the coded words meant that the most awesome military plan ever conceived was about to be executed. D-day was five days away.

Jesus' parable of the sower is a unique message, beautifully told. Within every seed there is a precious secret. Planted in good earth it delivers beauty, abundance and continuing life in such a miraculous way that only a fool would claim to know the depths of its secrets. So it is with the Word of God for that person who listens, believes and commits all to God.

Some will reject the Word of God from the outset. In due course, their opportunities to be blessed by it will disappear like seed scattered by the roadside. Some will receive the Word gladly, but lacking firmness, they will give up in the face of adversity and forfeit the promises of God like seed planted in rocky ground.

Others will receive the Word gladly, but will refuse to expel the things in their lives which are incompatible with God's presence. Trying to hold on to their distractions from God, they lose their gifts like promising plants choked to death by weeds whose appetites are never satisfied.

Jesus presented the message of the sower as the ultimate realist. As awesome as the consequences are, he does not fantasize that all will grasp and cling to the kingdom of God. Some will and some won't. The issue is not settled by whether a person has ears to hear or eyes to see (v. 14). It is settled by the understanding and commitment of the listener (v. 23).

A brilliant intellectual without a heart prepared for understanding may be roadside ground. A well-meaning socialite without understanding may simply be thin soil that can't withstand adversity. A successful business person without understanding may be ground too full of weeds and thistles for God's seed to survive.

God's Word is uniquely precious. Guard against any reason for falling to listen, hear and understand it.

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

Life and Work

A new goal

By Ben J. Rowell, pastor,
First Church, Rogers

Basic passage: Matthew 6:19-24

Focal passage: Matthew 6:24

Central truth: Love God more than
material things.

All of us would like to make some great investment to make us financially secure. Christ offers two reasons for our laying up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.

First, treasures upon earth are not a safe investment. When you buy a car and drive it off the lot, you have lost money. When you buy a house, it deteriorates and needs repairs. But time and effort poured into the Kingdom of God are a safe investment. There is no doubt that we should save and make plans for the future, but never to the exclusion of laying up our treasures in heaven. If we are not careful, we will set our hearts on the world and not on heaven.

The second reason for investing in heavenly things rather than in the treasures on earth is the effect upon ourselves. The heart goes with our treasures. Therefore, if we concentrate on earthly things our hearts become earth-bound and take on the characteristics of this world, such as selfishness, grasping, hard, feverish and anxious. We will therefore lose taste for the things of God.

On the other hand, when we seek those things which are from above, we become heaven-bound. The Pharisees were interested in building great treasures on earth, but treasures built here are subject to decay, rust or theft. Yet treasures deposited in heaven can never be lost.

The Pharisees had eye problems, and so do many people in our churches today. Our eyes are on money and wealth and because of this, we are in spiritual darkness. If a Christian is occupied with the things of God, he will not care so much for earthly things. Mammon, in verse 24, means money. The meaning is that you cannot serve God and property and cars and T.V. sets and clothes. You cannot be a bond servant to two people. A person may indeed carry two jobs, if the two bosses want his services at different hours, but a bond servant knows only one master. As Christians, we are indeed bond servants. Therefore, any attempt at serving two masters will end in conflict and confusion. God and mammon are such opposites that we cannot love both or serve both. Our Lord wants us to know that the Christian life is much more than material things.

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Bible Book

Riches, responsibility

By Don Moseley, pastor, Sylvan Hills
First Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: I Timothy 6:2b-21

Focal passage: I Timothy 6:2b-11,
17-19

Central truth: Christian
responsibility demands that the
church be protected from false
teachers seeking financial gain; that
it encourage the man of God to seek
riches in righteousness; and the rich
to put their hope in God and use
their riches for good.

Paul warned Timothy about false teachers whose motivation was financial gain (v. 5) and people seeking riches.

We need to consider Paul's strong words of warning (v. 9). Wealth is a dangerous goal for a believer. Paul dealt with an attitude of love for money that takes control. Paul said, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (v. 10). We must be careful not to misquote Paul by saying, "Money is the root of all evil." It is the "love of money" that is the root of evil. Our attitude toward money makes it a blessing or a curse.

He also warned Timothy not to be like the man of the world, the false teacher seeking gain or the man seeking to be rich, but be a "man of God." What a contrast: "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness" (v. 11). The man of God seeks spiritual riches over worldly riches.

He also gave advice to wealthy believers. Paul warned that they not become "arrogant, nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (v. 17). We must not forget that God is the provider. He commands that we use our riches "to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous and willing to share" (v. 18) and to have a "generous" spirit. Through that spirit, "they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (v. 19). As Jesus said, "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:20-21).

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Convention Uniform

Forgiveness cancelled

By William H. Sutton, attorney;
member, Immanuel Church,
Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 18:21-24

Focal passage: Matthew 18:35

Central truth: In the new nature, the acid of pride is replaced with the sweetness of humility.

In the real world it is chilling to hear so often the words, "I will never forgive him for that." Equally chilling is the fact that many have made such silent resolves in their lives.

Failure to forgive is the by-word for a world without Christ. It is a world where revenge rules over grace and mercy with an ever-increasing toll of misery.

Jesus spoke to the condition of the unrepentant heart when He answered Peter's question about how many times forgiveness should be extended. In a word, Jesus warned that we must not think in terms of limitations.

How can we be obedient to a command for unlimited forgiveness when it is so contrary to our nature? Jesus answers that He will give us a new nature in a new birth. In the new nature, the acid of pride is replaced with the sweetness of humility. Compassion so richly received is generously extended only by a heart humbled by unmerited grace.

In his maturity, Paul was well-acquainted with the formula. In his letter to the Philippians, he charged them to "do nothing from selfish or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself" (Phil. 2:3). When we have been changed to regard others as more important than ourselves, forgiveness comes easier.

The original debtor's problem was that he was unchanged by the receipt of grace. Instead of being appropriately humbled, he became more haughty with self-centered pride in his debt-free status. Jesus said this cannot be. Even God's forgiveness is unavailable to an unforgiving heart (v. 35).

No other prayer will suffice in the place of: "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt 6:12).

Life and Work

Live in confidence

By Ben J. Rowell, pastor,
First Church, Rogers

Basic passage: Matthew 6:25-34

Focal passage: Matthew 6:28-34

Central truth: Put your care in the hands of God.

I believe some people enjoy worrying. They just have a negative attitude. I got on an elevator not long ago with a man, and I said to him, "It is a beautiful day today!" He said, "So far." One of the most devastating tools Satan has ever used on the human race is worry. Many people are losing hope. They worry about inflation, insecurity, the threat of war, constant change, approaching old age, rejection, loss of friends, loss of job, shaky marriages or their worth. Worry has settled in like a choking fog, but the Scripture says, "Take no thought for the morrow." The Christian should live with quiet confidence in God.

It should be shocking to all of us that we put so much worry into things of this world. We are so anxious about food, clothes and tomorrow, that we put to shame the Word of God about these matters. We worry about things that we should put in the hands of our Lord. Since God provides substance for birds that have not the ability to sow, reap and store, how much more can men who have been provided with abilities, trust their heavenly Father. We should be concerned more about our service to our Lord and Savior.

In Matthew 6:28-34, the Lord speaks of the lilies, the beauty of which is short-lived. They soon find themselves cut with the grass. God does it all for the lilies. Surely then, we do not have to worry about all the little things in our lives. The lilies often grow among the thorns, yet are cared for. They are God's workmanship, and every blossom has its season. We are very precious to our Lord. He will take care of us. Put your life in Jesus' care. You must have His help.

All the power of positive thinking in this world is not enough to ward off worry. Jesus said in John 15:5, "Without me you can do nothing." I'm talking about lasting liberation, not something short-lived. Matthew 6:33 is a key verse, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." If we put our mind and heart on the Kingdom of God, our worries will begin to fade into the background. The perfect cure for anxiety on these and other matters is found in Philippians 4:6-7, "Put all your worries in His hands."

Bible Book

The effective servant

By Don Moseley, pastor, Sylvan Hills
First Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: II Timothy 1:1-2:26

Focal passage: II Timothy 1:13-14,
2:1-7, 14-26

Central truth: Be faithful to the truth received in Christ Jesus and pass it on to others.

This second letter was written to Timothy by Paul from Rome where Paul was imprisoned. Paul wrote Timothy with the thought that time may be short for him and Timothy would have to carry on the work Paul had established.

Paul wrote words of encouragement. He assured Timothy that he was constantly praying for him (v. 3) and encouraged him to be willing to suffer for the gospel's sake (vv. 8-9). Paul then moved to his great concern for Timothy: He had given a deposit of spiritual truth to Timothy and it was Paul's concern that Timothy "keep" and "guard" that body of truth and faithfully pass it on to others (vv. 13-14). It was to be seen by Timothy as the "pattern of sound teaching" and to be guarded as a "deposit that was entrusted" to him. Paul called for loyalty to the Word of God as being sufficient for faith and practice in the life of the church. We need to depend upon it today as much as in Timothy's day.

Paul then used several analogies to illustrate the marks of an effective servant of the Lord:

■ A steward (v. 2) of the truth, responsible to pass it on to others.

■ A good soldier who does not get "involved in civilian affairs" which can detract him from faithful service (vv. 3-4).

■ An athlete who must participate according to the rules (v. 5). Paul had given Timothy the rule book to which he must be faithful to win the crown.

■ A farmer (v. 6) who must work hard and be patient but shares in the harvest.

■ Paul called for Timothy to present himself as a workman "who does not need to be ashamed" (v. 15). He described one who works with diligence and serves well. Every believer is called to serve.

■ Paul used the analogy of a vessel which if cleansed can be a vessel for noble purposes (vv. 21-22).

■ A servant (v. 24). The slave is to have no will of his own, but be totally under the control of his Lord. Paul uses all of these illustrations to paint a vivid picture of the effective servant we are all called to be in Christ.

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* offers subscription plans at three rates:

■ **The Every Resident Family Plan** offers churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

■ **The Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

■ **Individual subscriptions** may be purchased at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more expensive because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the above form.

When inquiring about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the *Newsmagazine* at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.

Saddleback baptisms surpass 1,300 in '95, set record

LAKE FOREST, CA (BP)—A Southern Baptist baptism record was set in 1995 by Saddleback Valley Community Church, Lake Forest, Calif., which baptized 1,365 new converts. Eighty people, including a 91-year-old woman, were baptized on the last day of the year.

According to Southern Home Mission Board statistics, the previous record was 1,313 baptisms by First Baptist Church, Dallas, but 1,072 of those baptisms were included from missions of the church. Saddleback, which has started 27 missions, does not include its mission baptisms in its count. If Saddleback's missions were included, the baptism total would top 2,000 for 1995.

Founding pastor Rick Warren said the congregation is "reaping the results of our purpose-driven strategy, which focuses on church health, rather than church growth. At Saddleback, conversion is just the first step in our strategy of turning seekers into members, then into ministers, then into missionaries."

Orlando's First Baptist reaches \$1 million CP mark

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Members of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., gave \$1 million through the Cooperative Program in 1995, becoming the third Southern Baptist congregation in the denominations' history to reach that level of CP giving. In 1989, First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, and North Phoenix Baptist Church in Arizona each reached the million-dollar mark. The Midland church gave another million in 1990.

For the past four years, the Orlando church has led all Southern Baptist churches in Cooperative Program giving. Pastor Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, described the giving record as "a joy that we could strongly affirm what we're doing to reach our state, nation and the world for Christ."

First home missionaries affiliated with foreign agency

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP)—A Brazilian couple working among Portuguese-speaking people in New York City are the first home missionaries jointly appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Baptists in another country.

Sebastian Baptista and his wife, Ieda, were appointed Feb. 6 by the HMB executive committee. They also serve with the Brazilian Baptist Convention's World Mission Board. They are financially supported by Brazil's World Mission Board, the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of New York.

Baptista holds degrees from Bethel Theological Seminary and Simonsen College, both in Brazil. In New York City he is a church starter in an area with 350,000 to 500,000 Portuguese-speaking people and three Portuguese-speaking churches. He has worked in the area since March and has started two congregations.

The Home Mission Board is considering other joint appointments with Baptist groups in Korea, Romania, Argentina and other countries.

Chuck Kelley nominated for New Orleans presidency

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr., a New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary evangelism professor, has been nominated for president of the seminary. Trustees will meet this week to vote on his selection.

Kelley, if elected, would be the eighth president of the 80-year-old seminary, and would succeed Landrum P. Leavell II, who was president for 20 years until his retirement at the end of 1994.

Kelley, 43, has been director of the seminary's Center of Evangelism and Church Growth and chairman of the seminary's pastoral ministries department, since 1993 as well as the Roland Q. Leavell Professor of Evangelism since 1983. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and Baylor University. His sister, Dorothy Patterson, is the wife of Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Florida considers excluding charismatic churches

JACKSONVILLE, FL (ABP)—Three churches face ouster by the Florida Baptist Convention for "neo-Pentecostalism," a charge that pastors of two of the churches deny. Florida's state board of missions has voted to recommend that membership credentials be denied to Citrus Christian Ministries, formerly First Baptist Church of Homosassa Springs; Riverside Christian Fellowship, formerly Riverside Baptist Church, in Hernando; and Main Street Baptist Church in Inverness pending a review of the churches' teaching by an ad hoc committee.

Last year, Alachua Baptist Association voted to disfellowship the Homosassa Springs congregation and the other two churches chose to resign from membership in the association.