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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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'First Things First'

Arkansas Baptist

April 26, 1990



**Overcoming
Grief**

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(BP) photo / Judy Garrett

Overcoming Grief 7

Missionary Jurbee Philpot is ministering in Mexico once again after her husband's tragic death in 1985.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Bragging On The Lord

DALLAS (BP)—From modest beginnings in an abandoned, one-room schoolhouse, Prairie Grove Baptist Church has become a congregation serving an unchurched rural area in Cooke County, Texas.

Three years ago, layman Larry Clark and his family began to feel burdened about not being involved in missions. In particular, they were troubled by the absence of any Southern Baptist church in the Prairie Grove community, seven miles southeast of Gainesville, Texas.

"It's near the north end of Ray Roberts Lake — an up-and-coming area with a wide-open opportunity to reach people for Christ," Clark said.

With the direction and assistance of Ed Wiggins, director of missions for North Central Baptist Area, the Clark family and others informally started surveying the Prairie Grove community with the intention of starting a new church.

"We asked if there was any interest in starting a church there. We found 17 interested people, all Baptists who weren't going anywhere else," Clark said.

Under the sponsorship of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Valley View, Texas, Prairie Grove Baptist Mission was able to secure a meeting site — the old Prairie Grove School, built in 1881.

"We started with 21 in Sunday School,

meeting outside that first summer while the building was being remodeled," Clark said.

The following year, the church — now self-supporting — enlisted the Texas Baptist Men Retiree Builders to build a 2,700 square-foot educational facility beside the original meetinghouse.

Although the church has been without a pastor since last November, growth has continued. Currently, the congregation has 57 members and 61 enrolled in Sunday school.

"Since starting, we've had 22 baptisms," Clark said. "Nearly all that we've reached are people in the community who weren't going to church anywhere."

Texas Baptists have participated in reaching that community through gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions and on-going support through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget. Prairie Grove Church has received both direct financial assistance and a small church loan through the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Recently, Prairie Grove Church was given an additional acre adjoining its property. It has drawn up plans for a new sanctuary and hopes to work with the Texas Baptist Men Retiree Builders on another project.

"It has all fallen into place. We just can't brag on the Lord enough. He's been in this in countless ways," Clark said.

GOOD NEWS!

Conduct for Conflict

Romans 14:13-15:6

Conflict is an unavoidable reality of life. It is impossible for individuals to live together in a social relationship, whether in a city or a church, without experiencing some conflict. The Christian is never to seek to incite conflict, but he cannot evade it.

What are Christians to do when they experience conflict? Paul dealt with conflict over eating meat, and he stated some timeless principles of conduct for conflict.

Do not cause others to stumble (14:13-18)—Some people are weaker in faith than others. There are those who are new in the faith and others who have not matured as they should have. Christians who are stronger in the faith have an obligation to those who are weaker. They

are not to do things which, though right for them, may cause a weaker brother to stumble.

Do not injure God's work (14:19-23)—The Christian's goal in the fellowship of faith is peace and mutual upbuilding. These are to be given priority in all things. The good of the church is to be put above everything else, even the exercise of one's rights.

Do not seek your own way (15:1-6)—The rule in relationship is others before self. The mayor of a southern city had a plaque on his desk which could be read by anyone entering the office. It read, "You are second; God is first; I am last." Jesus Christ set the example of selflessness in service. He came not to be served but to serve (Mt. 20:28).

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Verbal Garbage

J. EVERETT SNEED

Fortunately, the people who collect litter and trash are gaining more status. It is certain that they deserve it, as they are hard working people who perform a useful service. Their improved status is long overdue. Tragically, however, the collectors of verbal garbage are usually accorded a higher status than they deserve. To solve this problem, Christians need to refrain from gossip and dissemination of gossip.

None of us would think of picking up common garbage and recycling it through our bodies as food. Nor do we keep it in our house for long periods of time. We keep it in garbage bags until it can be picked up and dumped into the garbage pit. With regular household garbage there is no mistaken identity. We recognize it for what it is and treat it accordingly.

Yet, good people hear verbal garbage and often pass it on for something reliable and respectable. The question arises, "How do we determine what is authentic truth from verbal garbage?" Obviously it is not always easy to tell the difference. Some of the following guidelines may be useful in separating verbal garbage from truth.

"Scoop" type of information should be treated as suspect, until it is confirmed. The news media often obtains information before it is generally known, but a good reporter makes every effort to authenticate his information prior to dissemination.

One may be able to identify verbal garbage by asking, "Why is the information being shared? Is the individual who is giving this information a friend or a foe of the person he is talking about?" It is difficult to discern the motives as it is to detect verbal garbage, but there are cases in which the intentions are rather obvious.

All of us collect more good things about our friends than we do about those who are our enemies. Bad stories can be tracked back to unhappy experiences which left emotional scars. Obviously, we are more eager to believe and to tell damaging things about people whom we already dislike.

Finally, a way to detect a verbal garbage collector is to count the number of times he passes on "dirt" regarding others and the number of people he knows unkind things about.

Jesus, our example, shared only as much as was necessary in order to help people. On one occasion when the scribes and pharisees brought a woman to him caught



in the act of adultery (Jn. 8:3-11) Jesus said, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her" (Jn. 8:7). After writing in the dust, Jesus observed that all of her accusers were gone. Many theories have been set forth as to what Jesus wrote, but Jesus shared only that which was necessary, and left no permanent record to harm anyone. When the wind blew across the dust, it was gone.

The Bible has a great deal to say about the sin of judging others. James, for example, warns, "Speak not evil of anyone. . . (Ja. 4:11). The verb "to speak evil" usually means to speak evil of someone in that person's absence, to criticize, to insult, to slander someone when he is not there to defend himself. This sin is condemned throughout the Bible.

Actually, when one is speaking evil of

another he is breaching the royal law of loving one's neighbor as himself. Obviously, a man cannot love his neighbor as himself and speak evil about him.

When we speak evil of another, we are infringing on the prerogative of God. The Bible is clear that no human being has the right to judge another. The right of judgment belongs to God and God alone.

One of the tragedies of the dissemination of garbage is that it is damage which can seldom be recalled. Once a false impression has been planted in the minds of others, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to repair the damage.

The dissemination of garbage is one of the worst sins that besets Christians. Devoted Christians are not given to violence and would say that they wish to harm no one. But, almost without thinking, an individual can pass on verbal garbage which can destroy the usefulness of another. This pitfall becomes even more likely when individuals are involved in a disagreement or debate.

Verbal garbage may be no more than a rumor, partial truth, inference or implication, or maybe the truth that puts someone in a bad light. Whatever it is, when we receive it and pass it on, we should consider why we are doing it. We should ask, "Are we doing this to help or to hurt?"

Most of us have heard repeatedly the old adage, "If you can't say something good about a person, don't say anything." It is very difficult to improve upon this advice.

All of us would do well to remember and to ponder the words of Jesus as he said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with the judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with the measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Mt. 7:1-2).

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Letters to the Editor

MIKE HUCKABEE

The President's Corner



Classrooms aren't the only place to learn "preachin' and pastoring" — and ultimately may not be the best place for that matter. Education is both vital and valid, and I would even agree that a call to preach is also a call to prepare. Greek and Hebrew, hermeneutics and homiletics, theology and ecclesiology are disciplines best learned from the scholars. But some of the most important lessons I've learned about the ministry didn't come by way of my formal, but rather my "informal" education.

Don't misunderstand me—I'm deeply indebted for my official studies and the faithful men of God who taught me a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Word of God. It's just that some of my most valuable tools for ministry were sharpened by fellows who will never write a book, preach at the Southern Baptist Convention, or lead the urban "mega-church."

When my wife was diagnosed with cancer 15 years ago, it was an elderly bivocational pastor who had never even completed high school who put his arm on my shoulder and offered an understanding and comfort that surpassed any superficial platitudes or "preacherisms." He wept with me. He hurt with me. He didn't explain anything and he didn't try to interpret anything. His unconditional love didn't earn him any "hours" of credit, but if it had, the grade would have been A+.

"Young bucks" like me, who are fortunate enough to have the size churches which affords us a staff, secretaries, well furnished offices, and a calendar full of "to do's" had best never forget the pioneers in Southern Baptist work, the real heroes in our army, those from line soldiers for Christ who still drive half-way across the state to visit one person in the hospital, reach deep into their own pockets to go to conventions or conferences, and preach wept-over messages from the heart to a handful every Sunday. The men in our smallest churches may indeed be the greatest among us.

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street Church, Texarkana, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

What Would Jesus Do?

It is difficult for me to understand persons who decide what Jesus would say about this and do about that.

Personally, I cannot help but believe in regard to abortion clinics, Jesus would condemn the society that makes them a necessity for some. Many young couples cannot afford to have irregularities. Some fetuses of women who dope and drink during pregnancy are already condemned.

As for the unmarried woman, if you can't emasculate or otherwise punish the male who got her pregnant, why condemn her to birthing the baby? Don't tell me all normal children will be adopted by good born again Baptists. I have an acquaintance who sometimes cries on my shoulder. She has been trying to find her mother. Because she is brilliant and gifted, she now has scholarships and college behind her. She isn't happy however.

Jesus would probably have told the very rich to sell what they cherish so much, their great wealth, and give the proceeds to the poor and follow him.

I don't regard abortion as murder. It may very well be an elimination of what could be an unwanted, unloved, and uncared for unhappy child.—**Mel Jacob Timm, Berryville**

Using Labels

Our Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has proposed that the convention this year drastically cut our budget support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Some have said this is because of the "liberal" approach of the BJCPA or because it does not represent the thinking of our convention. This is untrue. In the November issues of the *Conservative Voice* (more accurately the Pressler-

RANDALL O'BRIEN

A Pastor's Perspective

A Story For The Children



Once upon a time there lived a gorgeous, multi-colored, breathtaking unicorn. Everyone said, "How beautiful is the Rainbow Unicorn!" But, alas, she acted ugly, mean, and would never play with the children. Neither would she give them rides through the air, though the girls and boys pleaded, "Please Rainbow Unicorn. Please take us for a ride through the air." Instead the moody unicorn would sometimes snort and stomp and even splash mud on the children's clean clothes. And some of the kids would cry.

There lived nearby another unicorn. Not very pretty. Brown and black. Kind of ugly really. But very kind and sweet to the girls and boys. The brown unicorn would give rides to the boys, and rides to the girls. He would even rub against them. And lick their hands. But some of the people made fun of the little unicorn, laughing, "Look how ugly the dumb animal is! Ha, ha, ha! How ugly!"

Then one day—some say this happens only once every thousand years; some say it never ever really happens, that it's just make believe; while others believe

it could happen again today—something strange happened. Something unexpected. Something wonderful!

On this magical day they went to the stream. The Rainbow Unicorn and the little ugly unicorn. To drink. And then it happened. While drinking and viewing their reflection in the water, a miracle occurred: The Rainbow Unicorn turned brown, black, ugly. The brown, black, ugly unicorn became, brightly colored, rainbow-like.

Each turned on the outside what they were on the inside. And the whole wide world began to see them the way they acted: beautiful and ugly.

The happy little unicorn was so elated! Excitedly she found her little friends, all the girls and boys that have ever felt ugly. Or fat. Or skinny. Or left out. Or made fun of. And she taught them to sing: "Wish upon a distant star
What you think is what you are.
It may be near, it may be far
But how you live is who you are."

Randall O'Brien is pastor of Calvary Church, Lite Rock.

Patterson voice), the writer admitted that when the Pressler-Patterson organization labels people "moderate" or "liberal," it is not an indication of their theological beliefs. If means they have not supported their presidential candidates. They use these labels to harm reputations and divide the church. The term "liberal" in the relation to the BJCPA simply means it is not controlled by the political coalition that controls our convention.

The BJCPA and its director James Dunn have consistently worked for voluntary prayer in public schools and opposed government sponsored or written prayers. They have not embarrassed us by endorsing political candidates. James Dunn and the BJCPA opposed the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican while the SBC Executive Committee, controlled by the political appointees, meekly refused to condemn this action for fear of offending President Reagan. The BJCPA better represents our historic Baptist beliefs than

the current Christian Life Commission or Public Affairs Committee.

Last year in Arkansas we saw up close the work of this organization that controls our SBC and is recommending this change. They recently announced Morris Chapman would be their SBC presidential candidate. Our state convention voted overwhelmingly for conservative leadership dedicated to missions and evangelism, and against political organizing and dishonest labeling. We need to do the same for our SBC in New Orleans. We must vote against this executive committee budget recommendation and for a president that will appoint people based on their ability and conservative theological beliefs. We have many conservative, mission-minded pastors and laymen in Arkansas that cannot serve on our national committees and boards because they do not meet the approval of the clique that attempted to take over our state convention last fall.—Ron West, Arkadelphia

WILLIAM J. REYNOLDS

Hymns Baptists Sing



Come, Thou . . .

"Come, Thou Almighty King"
A detachment of British soldiers sur-

prised worshippers in a colonial church service one Sunday morning during the American Revolution. The commanding officer ordered the startled congregation to stand and sing "God Save the King." The congregation obeyed by singing heartily the right tune but substituting the words, "Come, Thou Almighty King," which fits the tune perfectly.

The tune that is sung in England for "God Save the King (Queen)" is used in the United States for "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." It dates from about 1745. It was commonly used in those early years for "Come, Thou Almighty King," and the colonial congregation felt quite comfortable in singing it with this hymn, to the chagrin of the British soldiers.

The hymn by an anonymous writer is in the form of a prayer addressing the Holy Trinity. In the four stanzas the Trinity is addressed by eight names: Almighty Father, Father All-glorious, Ancient of Days, Incarnate Word, Spirit of Holiness, Holy Comforter, Spirit of Power, and the Great One in Three. It is a magnificent expression of praise.

The tune we sing to the hymn was written by Felice de Giardini in 1769. Known in London musical circles as "The Italian," he was a talented violinist and skillful musician.

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

CHRISTIAN CIVIC FOUNDATION

State Sponsored Lottery

"The Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas is extremely concerned by the current effort to establish a state sponsored lottery," declared John Finn, executive director of the organization. The Christian Civic Foundation, in conjunction with all major religious organizations in the state, currently is working to keep the issue off the ballot in Arkansas, as well as to have an operative organization to oppose the establishment of the lottery in the event it is on the November ballot.

Finn observed that the establishment of a state sponsored lottery does not meet the educational needs of a state. For example, in Florida, a study by two University of North Florida professors found, "Earmarking lottery money for education simply meant that tax money that had been going for education was spent elsewhere" (*Lexington Reader*, Kentucky, Jan. 28, 1990, p. 12a).

Arkansas citizens should further be aware that the lottery does not produce the amount of money promised by its sponsors. For example, in Missouri those who instituted the lottery promised that it would produce \$100 million to \$150 million per year. Actually the lottery has produced approximately \$50 million per year, which is the amount that the opponents of the lottery said it would get in 1984.

The lottery income for Arkansas would

only produce about one percent of the state's budget. Ernest Dumas, associate editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*, observed, "A lottery in Arkansas, based on the experience of similar states, would net the government only \$20 million at most—the equivalent of a state sales tax of one-tenth of one cent and an increase in the state's budget of one percent. If Arkansas schools had to depend on the proceeds of a lottery they would shut down early on the morning of the fourth day" (*Arkansas Gazette*, June 23, 1989, p. 5b).

Proponents of the lottery argue that it is an easy source of revenue which will solve the state's financial problems. This simply is not true! James Smith, superintendent of the Wolf Branch School in Belleville, Ill., said of the lottery, "Real benefit is zero." Smith went on to observe that the actual benefit is less than zero since it made it impossible to get a bond issue authorized because local officials think that schools are rolling in lottery money."

On May 11, a press conference will be held in the rotunda of the State Capitol at 10:30 a.m. in which detailed plans to oppose the lottery will be unveiled. Leaders of the major denominational groups of Arkansas will participate in this conference. Leaders of a secular organization who have volunteered to oppose the lottery also will be introduced.

A SMILE OR TWO

The grass may look greener next door, but it's harder to cut.—Roy Hatten

The trouble with experience as a teacher is that the test comes first and the lesson afterward.—John Peers

What great accomplishments we'd have in the world if everybody had done what they intended to do.—Frank A. Clark

What Can We Do to Be Earth Keepers?

Every week a Southern Baptist family in Nashville drops a bundle of old newspapers in a church recycling bin. Another family takes its own dishes to church supplies rather than use disposable plastic utensils and styrofoam-like dishes. A third family recycles a aluminum cans and glass bottles, as well as old newspapers.

Each of us can become involved in earth care. Here are six practical steps to consider:

First, study the Bible. Scripture offers a clear message about earth care. Many of us either have failed to hear the message or just plain ignored it. We need to hear and to heed God's call.

Second, recycle. Landfills are disappearing. More than 66 percent of America's landfills have been closed since 1970. A significant portion of those remaining will be closed in the next several years. The best way to respond to our landfill problem is to reduce our waste through recycling. Japan recycles 50 percent of its trash. America recycles only 10 percent.

Consider recycling glass containers, aluminum cans and newspaper. Compost leaves, lawn clippings and vegetable wastes from the kitchen. Composting could reduce 20 percent of the nation's waste.

Third, plant trees. Tree planting can be a meaningful family activity with important environmental consequences related to the threat of global warming. Think about planting a tree this year and buying a living Christmas tree, rather than one destined for a landfill.

Fourth, use energy wisely. Wear a sweater in winter, rather than turning up the heat. Keep the lint screen clean in the dryer. Turn off the television when no one is watching it.

Fifth, exercise consumer power when you go grocery shopping. Let your purchasing power speak for earth care. Ask for paper sacks rather than plastic ones (plastic takes hundreds of years to break down in landfills). Buy products made from recycled material.

Sixth, become an environmental activist. Talk up earth care in your Sunday School class and neighborhood. Support community recycling efforts. Remove your address from the junk mail lists; write Preference Service, Direct Mail Marketing Association, 6 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017.

Collectively, we Southern Baptists can make a difference. We can be earth keepers and fulfill the biblical call to care for creation.—Robert Parham, SBC Christian Life Commission

Examples

Who are the people involved in the New Age Movement? It is surprising to know how far the influence of NAM reaches.

Most Americans know about the movie "Star Wars." The producer George Lucas, has become a leader in spreading New Age concepts. For example in "Star Wars" there are frequent references to "the force." In this movie the force is an inner power from which all spiritual strength is drawn. Both the hero Skywalker and the villain Darth Vader gain their inner power from the same source.

This makes God the source of both good and evil. Why is this in error? The reason is that if both good and evil come from one God, then it makes no explicit difference if one follows Christ or Satan.

Satan worship is not a stated aim of the New Agers. However, Satan worship has some of its root in the New Age concepts that God is the source of both good and evil, and that all religions are good. If evil as well as good comes from God, violence and serial murder could be seen as related to God. If all religions are good, then Satan worship cannot be evil. In contrast, Jesus taught that only God is good, and is the source of good, and Satan and human rebellion are the sources of evil.

Today many best selling novels, and award winning movies display sickening violence, explicit sex, and glut the markets with language filth. NAM and others say, "But this is the way life really is." The Christian answer is, "We should not support and promote a crude basis of life, but seek to transform life to a higher and godly quality."

Actress Shirley McClain is a strong advocate of the New Age Movement. Her books have sold in the millions. She has been involved in channelling, contacting the departed dead through a medium. Her medium, J.Z. Knight, a housewife in the state of Washington, reports to have received messages from the dead. One message supposedly came from Ramtha, a barbarian warrior king who is described as living on earth 35,000 years ago. Ramtha, through reincarnations, has ascended from warrior to a Hindu god and now is an ascended master beyond even deity itself.

Talk show host Merv Griffin interviewed Ramtha/Knight. He asked what important message Ramtha had given her for the world to hear. Ramtha's message was, "God is within your being. That which is called Christ is within your being and when you know you are God, you will find joy."

The fatal flaw and false teaching of the NAM is the phrase, "When you know you are God." What is the reaction to this kind of testimony? Some accept it at face value. Some say the messengers are real and are lying to us. Others say these are mental dysfunctions and should be recognized as such. Others say NAM is self-deception or a conscious fraud for purpose of gain.

The New Age Movement is based largely on hidden things (the occult), messages from the dead through mediums (chanelers), and other manifestations that bear the marks of mystery. In contrast, the Bible teaches that the hidden mystery of the ages has been revealed. The revelation is from the pages of the Bible, not from pictures on Tarot cards or Ouija boards. The solved mystery for all people of all ages is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." See Ephesians 1:9-12; Colossians 1:26-27. This means Christ is not just one good teacher among many others. Christ is the preeminent man for all ages.

What is the end result of the ancient mystery religions? India's perpetual poverty, misery and hopelessness is an example of the counterproductivity of Eastern concepts that are closely akin to NAM teachings. Is this really what the proponents of the New Age Movement want for themselves and the rest of mankind?—Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

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

Overcoming Grief

by Robin Martin
Baptist Press

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Jurhee Philpot confided to a single missionary in 1985 that she didn't feel she could endure life on the mission field alone.

One month later, Jim Philpot, her husband of 24 years and chairman of Southern Baptist workers in Mexico, was murdered. While he was driving near his home, another vehicle sideswiped his car

Oct. 11, 1985. When Philpot pulled to the roadside, a passenger in the other car fired several gunshots into his window, killing him and injuring a Mexican passenger. A Mexican man eventually was arrested, convicted and imprisoned for the crime, but his motive remains unclear.

Philpot's violent death shocked friends and family. "This type of thing just doesn't happen to modern-day missionaries," said Mrs. Philpot, a native of Childress, Texas. She and her husband lived in Independence County, Ark., when he was a county agent. They were members of Calvary Church, Batesville, Ark., until they went to Golden Gate Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in California.

The Philpots had worked in Mexico since 1967, when they were sent there as Southern Baptist representatives and he was assigned as an agricultural consultant. Their three daughters grew up there. Mexico City was home.

Suddenly, besides dealing with shock and grief, Mrs. Philpot confronted questions about her own life and work that she had never anticipated. When she and her youngest daughter, 13-year-old Jill, left Mexico after Philpot's death, Jill asked her mother to promise they would return. Mrs. Philpot's hesitant answer was, "Jill, if that's the Lord's will, we'll be back."

On furlough in Shreveport, La., she began investigating options for continuing



Jurhee Philpot is finding new ways to serve.

(BP) photo / Judy Garrett

her work in Mexico. Much of her ministry had been to support her husband in his work. But she could not return to Mexico without a specific job assignment of her own. While seeking a new niche, she sensed a deep spiritual assurance that she should return to the field.

"Jim's name was still on prayer calendars and people who knew about our case were praying for me. The Lord gave me a very, very clear call to come back to the people here," she recounted. By July 1986, she had returned with Jill to Mexico—to take on a new role in promoting church growth and evangelism and to confront life on the mission field without her husband.

Challenges loomed before her. When she first returned to Mexico City, the Mexican government required that she appear in court to read a written statement about her husband's death in the presence of the man who later was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the crime.

"It was hard. It wasn't impossible. It was just dreadfully hard," she recalled.

Because she and Jill continued to live in the same apartment the family had shared before Philpot's death, nearly every day she drove past the place where he had been shot. "I had to come to grips with that—that it was just part of life, and not make it a shrine," she said. "A lot of times now it doesn't come to my mind, but those first few months it was there."

"The hardest part was not having my friend to talk to."

Throughout her grieving period, she received support from fellow Baptist workers. But her main source of strength was prayer. "I had to spend about two hours with the Lord every day—especially in the beginning—to know for sure where I was going and what I was supposed to do and then to gather the strength and go on and do it," she said.

Mrs. Philpot spends most of her time aiding and encouraging churches in the sprawling metropolitan Mexico City area. She speaks, offers church-growth evaluation, organizes conferences on leadership or how women can promote church growth, and performs other services. She describes her work as telling churches

The more she works, the more confidence she gains. Carlos Amaro, a Mexican Baptist leader, called her dynamic. She has been totally accepted as a part of the team.

Confirmation she made the right decision in returning comes frequently, especially in expressions of appreciation from Mexican church members.

"People have said to me that they never expected me to come back," Mrs. Philpot reported. "A young man recently said, 'Sister, I just want you to know that I'm still amazed at the fact that you are here, or that you ever came back, but I praise the Lord for your influence on these people.' Those are the reassurances the Lord gives me."

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LOCAL & STATE

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MILLIE GILL

People

Bob Inmon began serving March 19 as pastor of Graves Memorial Church in Little Rock. Prior to coming to there, Inmon served as a lay leader and deacon at Cedar Heights Church in North Little Rock. A North Little Rock native, he presently is enrolled at Mid America Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Sue Higdon of North Little Rock. They have two children, Ashley and Josh.

Jan Church has accepted the call to serve as youth director at Remount Church in North Little Rock, beginning May 13. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, she currently is a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Church.

Dillard Miller, director of missions for Ouachita Association and pastor emeritus of Mena's First Church, recently was named 1990 Citizen of the Year by the Menapolk County Chamber of Commerce. Gary Newcomb made the presentation.

Ron Curtis began serving April 22 as pastor of First Church in Huttig, coming there from First Church in Justin, Texas, where he served as associate pastor of youth and education. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Curtis and his wife, LuAnn, have two sons, Nathan Paul, and Grant Everett.

Grace Parker of North Little Rock, a retired licensed practical nurse, died April 9 at age 89. She was a member of North Little Rock First Church. She was the widow of Eugene Parker Sr. Survivors are three sons, Eugene Parker Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, Robert Parker of Little Rock, and Dacus Parker of El Paso; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Richard Jones of Magnolia is serving as pastor of McNeil Second Church. Jones serves as director of adult education in Magnolia Public Schools.

Don Tibbit was ordained to the deacon ministry by Shiloh Memorial Church in Texarkana March 4.

Elvin Steed has been called as pastor of Tennessee Church at Texarkana. He has served the church as interim pastor for a year.

Shelby Bittle resigned April 1 as pastor of Union Avenue Church in Wynne to enter



Inmon



Church



Miller



Curtis

full-time evangelism. He currently is serving as interim pastor of Brownsville Church at Greers Ferry. Bittle may be contacted at Cross County Hospital in Wynne; telephone 501-238-3300.

Mrs. Edgar Griffin recently presented a baptistry painting of the River Jordan to Central Church in Hot Springs as a memorial to her husband Edgar Griffin who served Arkansas Southern Baptist churches for 46 years.

Joe M. Marsden of Eldon, Mo., has joined the staff of Central Church in Hot Springs as minister of education and music.

John Clement announced his retirement April 1 as pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Benton. Clement has pastored Arkansas and Oklahoma churches for 36 years.

Johnnie Long is serving as pastor of Harris Chapel Church at Pangburn, going there from Brownsville Church at Greers Ferry.

Kelly Kimber of Oklahoma has accepted the call to serve as youth director of South Side Church at Heber Springs.

Charles Styles has resigned as pastor of Joiner Church.

Jeff Knowlton has resigned as pastor of Cross Roads Church near Blytheville.



Hillside Church of Camden recently dedicated a new educational and fellowship wing to its existing families. The 7,600 square foot addition was completed and furnished for \$195,000 and includes 11 classrooms, a large fellowship hall and a kitchen. The speaker for the dedication service was Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The church's first pastor, Elson Herdon, spoke at the church-wide potluck dinner. Greg Kirksey is pastor.

Keith Beggs of Longview, Texas, is serving as minister of youth for Trinity Church in Texarkana.

Brad Watson has been called to serve as minister of youth for Rolling Hills Church in Fayetteville where his father, Brock Watson, formerly served as pastor. He is a 1989 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Rex Newman began serving April 1 as pastor of Shepherd Hill Church at Pine Bluff. He has been serving there as interim pastor since May 1989.

Elva and Myrtle Adams celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary April 14 with a reception at Greenwood First Church. He is the former director of missions for Buckner Association.

Brian Burton, a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, has been selected as a recipient of the Ernest J. Loessner Scholarship from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This scholarship is awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding potential for ministry through Christian education.

Carolyn Kimbrell has been her ninth year of service as financial secretary for Central Church in North Little Rock.

Rodney Reeves, assistant professor of religion and chairman of the religion and philosophy department at Southern Baptist College, recently presented a paper at the regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Dallas, Texas.

Roy and Beverly Cook of Texarkana celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary April 7 when a reception was given at Holiday Inn in Texarkana. Hosts were their children, Roy Cook Jr. of Houma, La., Karen Ann Cook of Little Rock, Tim Cook

of Little Rock, Mark Cook of Houston, Texas, Jenifer Cook of Little Rock, and Greg Cook of Pensacola, Fla. Cook, pastor of Faith Church in Texarkana, has pastored churches in Arkansas and Louisiana for 37 years.

Harrison Johns of Harrisburg is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Lake City.

Junior Holland has resigned as pastor of Abbott Church, Mansfield.

Bob Dickerson has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Lane Church at Crossett, following 12 years of service.

Travis Roberts began serving April 8 as pastor of Corinth Church, Bastrop, La.

Phillip Brown recently resigned as pastor of Calvary Church in Crossett to enter the field of music evangelism.

Randy Kuykendall is serving as pastor of Shell Lake Church, Heth.

George Fink is serving as pastor of Hydrick Church, Cherry Valley.

William H. Cook of Mountain Home died April 13 at age 74. He was a member of East Side Church in Mountain Home. Survivors include his wife, Helen Cook; a son, John Cook of Mountain Home; a brother; a sister; and three grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Sylvania First Church, Mountain View.

J.P. Cragar of Perryville conducted a revival April 1-8 at the Mullen Church in Montrose, Ill., that resulted in five professions of faith. Cragar pastored and taught elementary students in Illinois from 1968-1977, retiring and moving back to Perry County after being away 43 years.

Briefly

Beebe First Church, in a business meeting April 4, unanimously voted to oppose state lottery gambling. Ron Mayes is pastor.

Little Rock Immanuel Church dedicated a skywalk April 1, linking the education center and the church plant. Allen Smith served as building committee chairman.

Petit Jean Mountain First Church ordained Alan Harris to the deacon ministry April 1. Participating in the service were Pastor B.L. Dorman, V.L. Harris, and Mike Petty. The church held its "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" revival April 11-15. James Anderson of Oklahoma was evangelist.

Pine Bluff South Side Church ordained Melvin Bailey to the deacon ministry April 8.

Briarwood Chapel at Cabot, a mission of Cabot First Church, recent "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" revival resulted in five professions of faith, one addition by letter and three rededications. One person from the sponsoring church also made a commitment to continue work at the mission. Scott Hamilton is pastor.

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" revival March 25-28 was led by Mickey Anders, pastor of Sherwood First Church, and Lester McCullough, ABCS Music Department director. Pastor Ross Woodbury reported one profession of faith and three baptisms.

Friendship Church near Conway reached a new Sunday School attendance record of 255 and an offering of more than \$2,500 March 18. Pastor Gary E. Thomas said he and other staff members were assisted in accomplishing these goals by "Cheerful Heart," a drama team of the Baptist Student Union of the University of Central Arkansas, Conway.

East Side Church in Osceola held its "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" revival March 19-25, reporting 11 professions of faith, eight rededications, and 13 baptisms. Randy Ross of Blytheville was evangelist, and Mike Welch of Nodena directed music. Wayne Moore is pastor.

Solgohachia Church held its "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" revival April 1-6. Pastor Monroe Hunt reported four professions of faith, two rededications, and one addition by letter. Ed Harrison, pastor

Holcombs Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Jesse and Irene Holcomb celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 8 when a reception was given by their family in the B.K. Selph Building at Springlake Assembly, Lonsdale. They have two daughters, Glenda Knox of Pine Bluff and Jan Parker of Paragould, nine grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. The Holcombs were married March 30, 1940, in Cardwell, Mo. Holcomb, who has pastored churches throughout Arkansas, retired in 1982 while serving as pastor of Leonard Street Church in Hot Springs.



of Dollarway Church in Pine Bluff, was evangelist, and E. L. Brown of Bigelow directed music.

Gosnell Church reported 32 professions of faith, 31 of which were adults, and 10 additions by letter as the result of a "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival held March 25-April 1. Carey Miller of Miami, Fla., was evangelist, and Steve Hartsoe directed music. Bill Oakley is pastor.

Valley Church at Searcy held its "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival March 18-25 with Gene Ellis of Hot Springs serving as evangelist and Roy Cook Jr of Houma, La., directing music. Pastor Bert Thomas reported three professions of faith and three additions by letter.

Indian Springs Church of Bryant observed High Attendance Sunday March 25, reporting 424 in Sunday School, and nine additions to the church, of which three were by profession of faith and baptism. Benny Grant is pastor.

Lancaster Road Church in Little Rock moved into a renovated children's church building April 8, using it for Sunday School classrooms and children's church for grades one through six.

Lepanto First Church has purchased a new van for outreach ministries.

Maple Grove Church at Trumann has purchased a home in Trumann to be used as a parsonage.

Piney Grove Church at Hot Springs was in revival March 31-April 2. Rodney Gage was evangelist, and Sam Lewis directed music. Pastor Joel E. Moody reported 37 professions of faith, three additions by letter, and three baptisms.

Hardy First Church held its "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival April 2-8 with Buddy Keim serving as evangelist. J.B. Dreadfulwater directed music. Pastor Wes Pruitt reported 15 professions of faith.

Hot Springs Second Church observed Staff Appreciation Day April 8.

Maple Avenue Church at Smackover held a "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival April 22-27 with David Millican as evangelist. Robert and Kathy McMenis were music leaders. David Laird is pastor.

Augusta First Church ordained Steve Collier, Doug Petty and David Fellows to the deacon ministry April 22.

Piggott First Church ordained Willard Hughes to the deacon ministry April 22. The church also observed Deacon Recognition Sunday on that date.

Pleasant Grove Three Church at Waldron has launched a Children's Church for preschoolers.

Shady Grove Church at Van Buren completed a four day "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival April 4 that resulted in seven professions of faith, one baptism, one addition by letter, and one rededication. Robbie Jackson was evangelist and Gordon Wells directed music. The revival was preceded by a day of prayer and door to door visitation. Denny Neff is pastor. The church ordained Gordon Wells, minister of music, to the ministry April 8. James Bryant, former pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, preached the ordination prayer. Neff delivered the charge to the candidate and to the church.

Foothills Chapel at Mountain View held a "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival April 1-6 that resulted in one profession of faith, two additions by letter, 14 commitments to faithful service, and two commitments to the preaching ministry Jack Kwok, ABSC director of Cooperative Ministries, was evangelist. Ron Sims of First Church, Mountain View, directed music. J.R. Hull is pastor. Chapel members were in a Lay-Renewal March 16-18 with Buck Woods of Forrest City serving as coordinator of the 18-member team. The weekend concluded with a Sunday evening testimonial service in which 55 participated. There was one profession of faith.

Three Creeks Church at Junction City will hold a Centennial Celebration June 2-3. Featured speaker will be W. O. Taylor who served as pastor of the church in 1918 and 1919. Taylor also will celebrate his 100th birthday this year. Former members and friends of the church will be special guests. Lowell Snow is pastor.

Jarvis Chapel at Crossett observed Pastor Appreciation Day March 25, presenting Pastor Gayle Riles with a love offering and red rose.

Fisher First Church held a "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" revival March 18-25. John Pretlow, professor of theology at Criswell College in Dallas, Texas, was evangelist. Pastor Gary Corker directed the music.

Pulaski Association youth ministers will sponsor "For Radicals Only," featuring Rick Ousley and Harbor, a musical group, at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock May 4-5. The Friday session will convene at 7 p.m. and conclude at 10:30 p.m. Saturday hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Further information may be obtained by calling Ben Jones at 888-1240 or Jim Agee at 565-3469.

ABN photo / J. Everett Steed



East Mount Zion Trinity Church of Clarksville held a dedication for its new facility April 8. The celebration began Friday, April 6 and concluded with the actual dedication Sunday evening, April 8. The new 3,780 square foot facility was erected at a cost of \$115,000 with the use of donated labor. This included a new piano and all of the furniture. The new facility will seat 265 people and contains four restrooms, two baptismal dressing rooms, one classroom, and a sound control room. Speakers for the occasion included Julia Rowton, pastor emeritus, and Don Moore, ABSC executive director. Robbie Jackson is pastor.

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'First Things First'

Baptist student leaders from across the state met at Camp Paron March 30 - April 1 to sharpen their skills for ministry on campus.

The annual Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference addressed subjects such as leading dormitory Bible studies, witnessing, using music and drama, engaging in social action, and ministering to international students. The theme for the weekend was "First Things First."

While they were gathered at Paron, the students and their leaders heard inspirational messages from Ralph and Pam Neighbor, who serve the Inland Community Baptist Church in Chino, Calif.

Keith Draper, Baptist Student Union director at the College of DuPage and Wheaton College in suburban Chicago, also addressed the student leaders. Draper, a native of Bauxite and graduate of Vanderbilt University, serves those campuses as a Mission Service Corps volunteer through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Mission Service Corps volunteers raise their own financial support to serve in areas where financial resources are limited or non-existent.

Deaf Conference

The Arkansas Baptist Conference of the Deaf will hold its 34th annual meeting at Camp Paron May 4-6. The weekend conference offers fellowship and worship opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Larry White, pastor of the First Baptist Church of the Deaf in Del City, Okla., will lead the worship services.

Deaf and hearing-impaired persons, their families, and church interpreters are encouraged to participate in this event. The weekend cost is \$18.50. For more information, call June Chandler at 376-4791.

Receipts Sought

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children has nearly completed a drive to obtain an Apple computer for use by its residents through the Harvest Foods "Apples for the Students" program. However, additional grocery sales slips are needed to finish the campaign.

Arkansas Baptist families who have cash register receipts from Harvest Food stores are urged to send them by May 31 to Kim Bussell, Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655.

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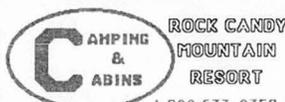
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Exploring Old, New

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

Helpline highlights the major activities conducted in a given month by the Executive Board program staff. Since I write the first page of this monthly section of the News magazine, I am more aware than anyone, perhaps, of the strong effort our people are making to provide the most help possible for our churches. We have broken with tradition. We have adjusted, adapted, improvised and worked constantly to provide ministries that will enable our churches to do a better job. We are grateful for your response. Your attitude and participation indicate that we are on target. We are thankful to be laborers together with you.

Now, let's explore the old and the new for May. The exciting new—"Sing 'N Share" for senior adults. More senior adults gather in Eureka Springs than anywhere else in Arkansas. Our music leaders have wisely scheduled the event at the First Church, Eureka Springs, May 3-5. The Evangelism Department will be assisting with an emphasis on "sharing." Dale Holloway, an exciting and humorous speaker, will be the special guest. What a great opportunity to combine a trip to the Passion Play, the craft shops, with a great time of singing. I congratulate our Music and Evangelism Departments and hope you can get your senior adults together for this inspirational event.

Regional Instrumental Workshop is another new event. It is for ministers of music and members of their instrumental ensembles in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and surrounding regions. Outstanding leaders are being assembled from several states to make this an extraordinary event. Great church leaders as well as university level musicians will be your leaders. The most competent will be challenged and helped by this workshop. It is good that the three state conventions and the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board can share in the expense and sponsorship of this event. The place will be Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. Call Glen Ennes (376-4791) for more information.

"Get In Touch, Keep In Touch" Seminar. This is another new effort to provide our churches with an outreach tool.



Moore

This Outreach Communication Plan should help churches do a better job of keeping church members involved in the life of the church as well as helping to reach new people. Our Sunday School Department is sponsoring this, with James Harvey of Nashville leading it.

Church Planting Conference—Should you sponsor a mission congregation? Could you join with another church and the association to sponsor a mission congregation? Most churches could! Many should! You can be inspired to do it and learn how to do it on May 14-15. Pastors whose churches have been sponsoring missions will be at Camp Paron to share how they did it. Harvey Kneisel, First Church, Houston, Texas, will tell you how they do it. Church and associational missions development members should attend. Pastors and new work leaders should attend. Directors of missions and mission pastors should attend, along with the pastors of sponsoring churches. Above all, we want those who should consider starting a church to attend.

Discipleship must claim a more prominent place in our churches. The best tool ever developed to help a person grow in their spiritual life is **MasterLife!** Our record is that 54 percent of all of our church members will be inactive within the next 10 years. "Tragic" is not a strong enough word. Perhaps "criminal" is the word that should be used to describe the nature of our neglect of church members' spiritual development. If they survive, it is almost in spite of us and not because of us.

Please Take MasterLife Seriously! May 14-18 a MasterLife Workshop will be held at Ouachita. Val Prince of Fresno, Calif., and John Horton of Denham Springs, Texas, will be leaders. Call the Discipleship Training Department for more information. Who from your church could Pick up on this and lead in the use of it?

For bivocational, small membership churches, and all others! Good news and bad news, I have for you! Too often the jokes told about how deacons and pastors get along are not funny at all. In fact, it is no laughing matter that 55 percent of all of our churches have had major fellowship conflicts in the last 10 years. It would be very unusual if these conflicts did not involve a crisis between the pastors and deacons at some point. No one wants it to be like this, but it keeps being repeated over and over, often in the same church.

The good news is that something can be done about it!

If both pastors and deacons will admit that they might could learn how to work together, probably 75 percent of church fuses could be stopped. If they both can start them, they both can end them.

We will give you the best boost we can at the **Pastor-Deacon Conference**, May 4-5, at Olivet Church, Little Rock. Wives are not only welcome to come, but they are urged to come. A special conference will be conducted for wives.

We'll pray for God to give some great insights and great determination to the end that our churches may be healed.

DiscipleYouth Workshop—Leaders from the Baptist Sunday School Board will be here to train youth ministers and volunteer youth leaders in the use of the DiscipleYouth materials, May 18-19. A spin-off of MasterLife, this is a tool for use in your local church. Scores of people would have a burden about this. Hundreds have the need for this help. The meeting will be held at Ouachita Baptist University. Call Bill Falkner to make your reservation 376-4791.

Campers On Mission Alert! Your Spring Rally begins at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 17, until Sunday, May 20, at Petit Jean State Park. Baptist campers who have not explored the blessing of this fellowship and ministry group ought to look into it. Just show up!

Chaplains Awareness Conference, May 7-8. Dr. Bill Hendricks will be leading in the personal growth segments of the program. Volunteer chaplains from over the state are especially urged to attend. We want to help equip you to do your calling more effectively, if we can. We also want you to be encouraged by rubbing shoulders with some of the most consecrated workers in the kingdom. Call Carter Tucker for more information—376-4791. Special notice: the conference will be at DeGray this year rather than at Camp Paron.

GA Mother-Daughter Camp—May 18-19, Camp Paron. This camp is only for girls in grades 1-3 and their mothers. A great time of growing together spiritually in a beautiful setting and around the greatest theme, that of missions. Registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday. The meeting ends at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

10th Annual Senior Adult Conference, May 21-23, OBU, Arkadelphia. More details are found elsewhere in this issue.

Baptist Men's University, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn. A four-day leadership training experience that will help you start or rejuvenate your church's Baptist Men. Basic training, church renewal, mission action and evangelism are some of the major areas being addressed. The dates are May 31-June 3. The cost for everything but travel is \$120.

Discipleship Training MasterLife Workshops

Those who are interested in certification as a MasterLife leader may choose from two MasterLife Workshops being conducted in our state.

The first May 14-18, will be held on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. The workshop leaders will be Val Prince of Fresno, Calif., and John Horton of Denham Springs, Texas. The second workshop will be on the Southern Baptist College campus July 30 to Aug. 3. The co-leaders for this workshop will be Charles Sharpe, executive director of the Colorado Baptist Convention and Ken McMillan, a pastor from Mississippi.

Each workshop begins at 6:45 p.m. on Monday and concludes at noon on Friday. The workshop fee is \$82.50 (\$72.50 for an accompanying spouse). Lodging is available in area motels during the workshop on the Ouachita campus, May 14-18. Lodging and meals will be available on campus during the workshop on the Southern Baptist College campus July 30-Aug. 3. For additional information on lodging and meals for both workshops, contact the Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 552 Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.—**Robert Holley, director**



Holley

Both the camps are held at Camp Paron. The camp dates are May 18-19 or June 1-2. Camp begins with registration at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 2:30 p.m. lodging, meals, craft and insurance.

Moms, if you are interested in you and your daughter attending one of these camps, contact your daughter's GA leader or Frances Usrey, State WMU Office, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.

Don't delay! These two camps fill up quickly.—**Frances Usrey, GA director**

Church Music Mission Impossible

Youth choirs and youth programs have been on the decline for several years. Ministers of music and youth have expressed frustration in trying to motivate their youth. Is capturing the attention of your youth and challenging them with the call of Christ an impossible mission for you? Don't give up!

Your mission, if you decide to accept it, is to encourage... no! Don't just encourage! Fill the car, van or church bus with youth and bring them to Music Arkansas, July 23-27, on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. They will enjoy five days of "Centrifuge-type" activities and competition; learn the musical "Celebrate Life," led by the composer, Beryl Red; be challenged and led in worship by Billy White and Tom Wideman of Second Church, Little Rock; choose to play handbells or in the band, conducting, piano playing or composing; and much more. This could be a dangerous mission because it could change your life and infuse excitement into your youth choir and your church.

Remember, if you should choose to accept this mission, we will avow all knowledge of you and assist you in any way we can. This message will not self-destruct. Complete information is in the hands of your minister of music, in the form of the State Music Ministry Handbook. If it still sounds impossible, call me at 376-4791 and ask for more information about Music Arkansas.—**Lester McCullough, director**



McCullough

Stewardship/Annuity Adopt An Annuitant

Arkansas is home to 556 people who draw some form of annuity from the Annuity Board. Of these ministers, widows and missionaries, 155 draw less than \$100 a month and may have other sources of limited income.

The Adopt An Annuitant program is a partial answer to those who are usually in an older group who served during the Great Depression and World War II.

Individuals, classes or churches can adopt an annuitant by committing \$600 for a minimum of one year. This will provide an additional \$50 a month for one whose income profile reflects needs. Those who receive the monthly contribution are approved by a special committee for the Annuity Board.

For additional information on the Adopt An Annuitant program you may contact John D. Boskas at the Annuity Board or your state annuity representative.—**James A. Walker, annuity representative**

Baptist Student Union Producing Leaders

Do you need a pastor? How about a strong deacon, a WMU director, or a faithful church member? Baptist Student Union is in the business of producing leaders. In a day of "quick fixes," we are seldom willing to plant seeds and wait for fruit.

If you read the January-March *Teacher's Quarterly* for the "Life and Work" Sunday School series, then you will find an illustration of fruit bearing. Jon Stubblefield, who wrote the *Teacher's* material, is pastor of First Church, Shreveport, La. When he was a freshman at the University of Arkansas, he surrendered to a Christian vocational calling. His former BSU director, Jamie Jones, invested much time in his life. The fruits were immediate, but even better, they are still being produced. All over Arkansas former BSUs are pastoring, deaconing, and participating in local churches as faithful lay people.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for helping us to produce leaders for the future.

Thanks, Jon, for helping us understand more fully the life of our Lord from Mark's gospel.—**David James, director**

Woman's Missionary Union GA Mother- Daughter Camps

In the busy world we live in, it is often hard for mothers and daughters to spend quality, one-on-one time together. GA Mother-Daughter Camps do just that—provide quality time for mothers and their first through third grade daughters through shared mission activities.

Mothers and daughters will experience a variety of activities such as shared quiet times, singing, crafts, and participating in a mission action project. A highlight of camp will be hearing Debbie Moore, missionary to Liberia and Diana Lewis, consultant for state missionary, tell about their work.

Church Administration Pastor-Deacon Conference

Dr. Robert Sheffield, Deacon Ministry Consultant in the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead conferences for pastors and deacons at the annual Pastor-Deacon Conference on Friday night and Saturday morning, May 4-5. The conference will meet at the Olivet Church in Little Rock. Sheffield is the author of *Equipping Deacons to Confront*



Conflict and a new book, *The Ministry of the Baptist Deacon*. His conference topics will include "Deacons and Pastors: Partners in Church Growth" and "Successful Deacon Ministry for the 90s."

A special conference is planned for the wives of pastors and deacons. The conference leaders will be Michael and Bo Barnes. Michael Barnes is pastor of the Owensville Church in Lonsdale. His wife, Bo, is a chaplain at the Baptist Medical

Center in Little Rock. The wives conference will focus on their role as partners in developing an effective, caring ministry in their church and in strengthening family relationships.

The Friday night session is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. The Saturday morning session will begin at 8:30 and adjourn at noon. No pre-registration is required for the conference.—Robert Holley, director

Church Music Summersing

SummerSing III can't be anything but great. If you are 55 or over you won't want to miss this exciting time at Ouachita, July 23-27. There will be music classes, choir, Bible study, witness training, worship, crafts, ukulele classes, classes for non-musical spouses, and lots more. Leaders include: Roy Cook, the Cajun uku player and story teller; Jim Hawkins, the sound of Nashville, to lead the choir; some preachin' and teachin' by Paul McClung, home grown in Arkansas, and all the ole gang of workers from the past two years. The picnic is on again this year at DeGray Lake and of course you will be able to get your fill of

Photo / Glenn Ennes



The State Handbell Festival showed an increase in participation this year with 28 choirs from 21 churches, plus two churches that brought members to observe. A total of 376 attended the festival. There was virtually no room to place another choir as they packed the fellowship hall of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. Cynthia Dobrinski, noted composer and clinician from Ft. Worth, Texas, was well received as the festival clinician. A number of the outstanding choirs were recommended for participation in *PraiSing II*, the celebration of the release of the new Baptist Hymnal in Nashville, Tenn., March 11-14, 1991.

peanut brittle.

See your Minister of Music for details or contact the Church Music Department for information at 376-4791. A video promotion tape is available.—Glenn E. Ennes, associate

Family Ministry Senior Adult Celebration

Let's celebrate! The tenth annual Arkansas Senior Adult Celebration is to be held on the Ouachita campus Monday-Wednesday, May 21-23. Senior adults, pastors, staff members and senior adult leaders from across our state are expected to attend the three-day event.

"Transitions in the Senior Years" will be the theme of this year's conference. The program will begin with a banquet on Monday at 6 p.m. in the Evans Student Center and conclude by 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

Jack Gullidge, retired editor of *Mature Living* will be a keynote speaker and conference leader. His wife, Shirley, will lead conferences on "Self-Esteem in the Senior Years," Clyde Spurgeon, ventriloquist and pastor of First Church, Piggott, will be at the conference with his friend, Archie. They will entertain at the banquet on Monday evening along with the Hot Springs Village Orchestra and Sam and Jesse from Gum Springs.

Pastors and others who lead or minister to senior adults are invited to attend the leadership conferences led by W. L. "Bill" Howse III, and James Hightower. Leadership topics will include "Pastoral Care for the Aging," and "Ministering to Senior Adults in the 90s." Other conferences for senior adults will include "Writing your Family Legacy," "Spiritual Growth in the Senior Years" and "Managing Finances in the Senior Years."

Registration for the conference is \$25 which covers the banquet, two breakfasts, breaks and insurance. Rooms are available on campus for \$8 per person per night (single occupancy) or \$6 double occupancy. For reservations or additional information call or write: The Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.—Robert Holley, director



Gullidge

Looking Ahead

May

1 Get in Touch, Keep in Touch Seminar, Little Rock Immanuel Church (SS)

4-5 Senior Adult "Sing 'N Share," Eureka Springs First Church (Ev/M)

4-5 Pastor/Deacon Conference, Little Rock (DT)

7-8 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, DeGray Lodge (Mn)

12 State Youth Music Festival, Little Rock Second Church (M)

14-15 Church Planting Conference, Camp Paron (Mn)

14-18 MasterLife Workshop, Ouachita Baptist University (DT)

17-19 Regional Instrumental Workshop, Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. (M/BSSB)

18-19 GA Mother/Daughter Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)

18-19 DiscipleYouth Worship, Ouachita Baptist University (DT)

21-23 Senior Adult Celebration, Ouachita Baptist University (DT)

29-6/1 Student Summer Missionary Orientation, Mills Valley Retreat Center (Mn)

31-6/1 Student Summer Missionary Supervisors Orientation, Mills Valley Retreat Center (Mn)

31-6/3 Baptist Men's University, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn. (Bbd)

June

1-2 GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)

18-22 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (SS)

18-22 RA Camp, Camp Paron (Bbd)

18-22 Super Summer Arkansas, Ouachita Baptist University (Ev)

25-26 Parenting in the Minister's Home, Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock (DT)

25-28 Young Musicians Camp, Ouachita Baptist University (M)

July

2-6 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (SS)

9-10 Student Summer Missionary Mid-Summer Retreat, Ouachita Baptist University (Mn)

9-11 GA Mini-Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)

9-13 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (SS)

11-13 GA Mini-Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)

16-20 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (SS)

19 Fellowship of Retired Workers in Arkansas of Southern Baptist Churches, Institutions and Agencies, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)

23-24 Family Enrichment Workshop, Parkway Place, Little Rock (DT)

23-27 Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, Siloam Springs (SS)

23-27 SummerSing III, Ouachita Baptist University (M)

23-27 Music Arkansas, Ouachita Baptist University (M)

28 Associational Brotherhood Directors Meeting, Little Rock (Bbd)

Abbreviations:

Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

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President Bush Invited

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—President George Bush has been invited to speak at the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans June 12-14.

Although the White House has not yet responded to the invitation, the offer likely will be accepted, since Bush reportedly initiated the idea.

Dwight "Ike" Reighard, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, which plans the program for the annual

convention, confirmed that his committee issued the invitation after a Bush aide notified the committee of the president's desire to speak to Southern Baptists.

"To tell you the truth, we're not assured of anything at this stage," Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga., told the Florida Baptist Witness April 12. "We've not received back confirmation... (but) they have expressed an interest in being there."

"We need to know something within next two weeks," Reighard added.

The White House does not comment on such invitations until they are accepted, but a spokesman for the president told the Witness April 11 that any plans for the June convention would have to be put in motion "within a couple of weeks."

Reighard said word of the president's desire to speak to Southern Baptists came from Doug Wead, the president's liaison for religious affairs. Both Reighard and SBC president Jerry Vines "were made aware there was a possibility," Reighard said.

A peek into the future of Siloam!



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For further information contact the campaign office: P. O. Box 14, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 or (501) 376-4791 Ext. 5169.

RTVC Hikes Budget

by **Toby Druin**
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Buoyed by an optimistic financial report and the observation from interim President Richard T. McCartney that "the patient is now healthy," Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees voted to increase the agency's budget by more than \$600,000 for the last half of the current fiscal year.

The increase will boost the 1989-90 budget, which runs through September 1990, from \$7,756,000 to \$8,173,000 and will provide funds for marketing, return of four employees to the payroll who have been working on a contract basis, reopening of at least one regional office and promotion funds for the ACTS network and a 5 percent salary increase for employees—their first in two years.

The trustees also were informed by trustee Chairman Michael S. Hamlet that the search committee, which has been seeking a successor to President Jimmy R. Allen, who resigned last April, expects to summon the trustees back to Fort Worth,

Texas, soon to hear a recommendation from the committee.

Hamlet, who apprised the trustees of the committee's efforts during a 35 minute closed-door session, told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he expects to ask for the called session of the trustees "probably in two or three weeks."

Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., said the schedules of other members of the search committee had prohibited the committee from being able to bring a recommendation at the regular meeting.

McCartney, former executive vice president who has been as interim president since Allen's resignation, reported to the trustees that during the year the commission's short-term debt of \$625,000 had been paid off; the long-term debt, which was \$8.4 million last April, had been reduced to \$7.5 million; and the commission's reserves had been increased to \$400,000. The goal is to build the reserves to \$500,000 by the end of 1992.

"Over the past months we have had to

be extremely pragmatic in confronting financial realities," McCartney told the trustees. "Now we can begin to dream again. We can replace the problems of the past with the possibilities of the future."

The improved financial picture was achieved through "tightening our belts until we could hardly breathe," he said, and also through greatly increased revenues from advertising and from syndication fees for films and programs the commission owns.

Projected advertising and syndication revenue for the first six months was \$485,000, but already has totaled almost \$800,000, and is expected to continue at the increased level.

The contract with the San Antonio, Texas, firm that has sold spot advertising and spot announcements on the ACTS network is under review, McCartney noted.

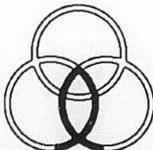
Michael S. Wright, vice president of ACTS for affiliate relations, reported that during the last year of "hold our own" activities, the ACTS network had done just that—losing about 750,000 subscribers, but also gaining about the same number.

His report showed the network is now on 438 systems with a total potential viewing audience of almost 25 million.

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Position Available—Gosnell Baptist Church, Blytheville, Ark., is presently seeking an associate pastor who has experience in church education and has some musical background. Applications should be received before June 1, 1990, and should be mailed to: Fred Roberts, c/o Gosnell Baptist Church, 603 Highway 181, Blytheville, AR 72315. 5/24

SBC Hotel—New Orleans Convention hotel space available and convention packages. 1-800-624-2947. 4/26

Needed—NLR church needs paid nursery worker. Call church office: 753-4827 or 758-2829. 4/26

Insurance—Hospitalization plan pays outpatient and prescription drug benefits. Coverage is available for Medicare Supplement insurance. Phone Mr. Stewart collect at 501-664-0511 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Reserve National Insurance Company (closed Wednesdays) 4/26

Seeking—Christian people to market computer systems to churches. No prior computer or sales experience necessary. Call or write: CCS, Inc., Box 665, Benton, AR 72015; 1-800-441-7786. 5/17

Revelation—"Revelation: An Exposition," by Carroll Gillis. Dr. Gillis' book is written for the layperson rather than the scholar. It is a sane and able treatment of this difficult Bible book. Sunburst Press, P.O. Box 3129, Pacoima, CA 91331. Paperback, \$8.95; hardback, \$16.95. Add \$1.50 for handling. Refund if not satisfied. 4/26

BANGALORE, India (BP)—Ground-breaking in April signaled the start of construction on a \$400,000 addition to the Bangalore Baptist Hospital, a center of Southern Baptist mission work in India since 1971.

The new wing will add 23 beds to the 100-bed hospital and increase space for treating outpatients. It will be used for private patients paying market rates for treatment, allowing the hospital to continue serving others who are too poor to pay.

The aim of the hospital always has been to provide high-quality medical care to people of all socioeconomic classes and religions, said Southern Baptist missionary

Rebekah Naylor, associate medical superintendent of the hospital. The new wing is considered vital for the hospital to achieve financial self-support, she added.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will pay half of the construction costs. Also contributing to the project are more than 100 churches and individuals, including First Baptist Church of Dallas, which gave \$150,000.

Two years ago the Foreign Mission Board signed over management of the hospital to the Christian Medical College in Yellere, India, as visas for Southern Baptist personnel became increasingly difficult to secure. Southern Baptists still own the property, however.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Abiding in Christ

by Tom M. Deere, First Church, Plainview

Basic passage: 1 John 2:18-29

Focal passage: 1 John 2:20-27

Central truth: Abiding in Christ protects us from false prophets.

Rarely has there ever been a more urgent time in history for Christian disciples to gain knowledge of the enemy and "be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Mt. 10:16). Just as Jesus taught his disciples to be aware of false prophets, described as vicious "wolves," God expects us to exercise prudence in our day. We must gain knowledge of the enemies of God and be "harmless," not to oppose them recklessly. Spiritual warfare can only be fought by those who are spiritually mature.

False prophets, false religions, cults, and ministers of Satan appearing to be angels of light are among the many antichrists present today. As John said, "By which we know that it is the last hour" (v. 18). John saw his period of time as the "last hour." Today we are in the final minutes of the "last hour" of the "last day" (Ac. 2:17). Satan knows his time is short, very short. As a result, we are seeing an increase in the spirit of the antichrist. For this same reason, John admonished his readers to "abide in" Christ (v. 27) in three ways.

(1) We have received an anointing (v. 20). The anointing of Christians, which enables them to know spiritual realities, is from the Holy Spirit of God, and his ministry is inextricably coupled with the Word of God. The anointing we received "abides" (v. 27) in us as God's Word, teaching us "all things" (v. 27) under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

(2) We have acknowledged God's Son (vv. 22-23). Acknowledging Jesus Christ as God's Son is important because of the seriousness of the alternative. Rejecting Jesus will cause many who are deceived to go "out into the world" (2 Jn. 7) where "deceivers" are and become vulnerable to the spirit of the antichrist.

(3) We have the ability to learn (v. 27). Jesus taught his disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them "all things" (Jn. 14:26). Because we have the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we can learn spiritual truths from the Word. As "stored up" knowledge of God lives within us as divine truth, we will gain greater wisdom in abiding in Christ.

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Life and Work

The Prophet's Sorrow

by Emil Williams, First Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Jeremiah 8:18-9:2; 14:17-18

Focal passage: Jeremiah 8:18-9:2; 14:17-18

Central truth: The true prophet of God suffers with people in their pain.

The authentic prophet enters into people's lives and shares their pain fully. The passage before us illustrates Jeremiah's sorrow for suffering people, both for their misfortune and their sinfulness. The first expression (vv. 18-19a) is one of unrelieved sorrow.

Jeremiah's identification with the people is complete; he hurts because they hurt. The disaster that has befallen them is complete, though it is not identified.

In 19b the question is raised—not stated as a fact—whether God himself has abandoned his people. The awful possibility: Has God left his throne? Is God still present in this Holy Hill? Is God with his people? Suffering, deep and real, sometimes causes the honest—and sensitive—to raise such questions.

Many interpreters think in verse 19c Jeremiah inserts a word from God as a possible answer: God has been provoked because of the people's idolatry. If this is the reason for suffering, it does not relieve the prophet's sorrow, for that is no less reason for grief than unexplained suffering.

The familiar expression in verse 20 uses an agricultural figure to express a feeling of hopelessness: The time when one would have expected help to come has passed, and no help has come.

In the face of that terrible prospect, Jeremiah expresses complete and unrelenting sorrow (8:21), wonders about the healing that should be present but wasn't (8:22) and wishes only that he could more fully express sorrow for the many victims (9:1).

We find a change in feeling in 9:2, but it is just as honest. Jeremiah wants to flee, for he knows their sin as fully as he feels their pain.

The closing verses (14:17-18) present a word from God that Jeremiah is to speak to the people. He is to tell the people of his sorrow because of the devastation of the land while the indifferent leaders go about business as usual, unkind of the people's suffering. But not so the true prophet!

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Bible Book

The Better Way

by Verne Wickliffe, First Church, Des Arc

Basic passage: Hebrews 7:1-28

Focal passage: Hebrews 7:1-3, 11-13, 19-27

Central truth: The priesthood of Jesus gives power for living.

Taken lightly, the Old Testament law can seem much easier than the discipleship Jesus demands. Pay your tithe and offer a sacrifice and life would go on. Even the priests, who were guardians of the law, were only men and had to offer sacrifices for their own sins. The only problem is that the law tells us what we are supposed to be, but gives no power to become perfect (He. 7:11). We are left struggling with our inadequacy and knowing we are not complete. A change was needed and was brought by Jesus, the new priest who saves to the uttermost, who had no sin of his own, but offered himself as the one time sacrifice for ours.

The necessity for change is pointed out in comparison between the Levitical priesthood and the priesthood of Jesus in Hebrews 7:11-28. The limitations of the old priesthood were numerous. They were limited by human inadequacies, sin and death, and the truth that the priests were no better than the people they served, having to offer sacrifices for their own sins. Jesus has been given the priesthood directly by God. He provided one sacrifice, all that is necessary. Facing temptation, he remains sinless, yet sympathetic to our weakness (He. 4:14-15).

We are better served only with Jesus as priest, but by the new covenant that he administers from God. The priesthood has changed and so has the law (He. 7:11-12). The old law showed perfection, but gave no power, so change was necessary. The new covenant of Jesus shows us perfection and gives us power and freedom. Freedom from sin and power to move to a mature faith and Christ-likeness (He. 7:25-27).

The old law was not eternal. Man served God before the law, as Abraham came to Melchizedek, a priest of God in Genesis 14:18-20. The old law had a beginning with Moses and a fulfillment with Jesus. Now rather than coming to God through a priest who has no power to help, we come through Jesus Christ the eternal, sinless priest who allows us to obtain mercy, grace, and needed help.

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Shortage Jeopardizes Work

HONG KONG (BP)—Slow response to requests for teachers in China threatens to curtail Southern Baptist work in that country, according to officials with Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Only 17 Southern Baptists applied to teach in China beginning in the fall under CSI sponsorship. The organization earlier requested 86 teachers, hoping to expand its work from the 57 Southern Baptists now teaching in China.

"The only thing that's saving the program is the 30 teachers who have agreed to stay over for another year," said Jack Shelby, CSI's Hong Kong-based administrator. "We will have to concentrate only on the schools where we have established relationships and will not be able to expand our program at all this year."

"Even in schools where we have teachers and established relationships, the number of teachers for each school will be drastically reduced."

Other Christian organizations working in China apparently are facing similar problems in finding personnel. Officials cite two main factors in the downturn of

foreign volunteers: reaction to last June's crackdown on student protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, and an upsurge of interest in Eastern Europe as that region opens up.

"English teachers applying in large numbers for teaching posts in Eastern Europe are apparently taking the edge off interest in China," Shelby said. "Also, many people are still afraid to come to China. Still others believe it's wrong to help China at this time."

Five Baptists to Teach in Vietnam

HONG KONG (BP)—Five Southern Baptists have been selected to teach in Vietnam this summer under the sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptists' aid organization.

The five will teach English to university students, focusing on oral and conversation skills. During the six-week program they also will teach English to university staff members, help upgrade English teaching

methods and assist in curriculum design.

Vi Marie Taylor of Austin, Texas, a retired CSI worker who taught in China, will teach in the English Language Center at Thu Duc University of Agriculture and Forestry in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). She also will work with the government's ministry of education to start a new English Language Center in Hanoi patterned after the one at Thu Duc.

Glen and Rose Davis of Frankfort, Ky., will teach English at the Agriculture University No. 1 in Hanoi and work with the ministry of education in curriculum development. The Davises have taught in China for the past two years.

Frances Petersen and Hazel Garner, both faculty members at Mobile (Ala.) College, will teach English at the University of Agriculture No. 3 in Bac Thai province, northern Vietnam.

"Two snags in sending teachers on an ongoing basis are the availability of Southern Baptist teachers and the availability of visas," added Shelby. "It's still difficult to get visas for Americans since the United States doesn't have diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Tourist visas are no problem, but visas for American teachers or other professionals, even for short-term projects, are difficult to obtain."

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WORLD

ROMANIA

Despite Destruction

by Michael Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

COMANESTI, Romania (BP)—A flimsy plywood Baptist church sits forlornly on an otherwise vacant lot in the mining town of Comanesti, Romania—a visible reminder of the rule of deposed communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Flurries of snow mix with ice and rain on a cold Thursday night. But more than 100 members pack the temporary structure, lit by two naked bulbs hanging from the ceiling. Members greet visitors warily but with the standard greeting: "Pace!" Peace.

None owns a car. All have walked to get to the Bible study and prayer meeting. Men sit on the left of the sanctuary, women on the right. A layman leads in study.

Last spring the 120-member congregation worshipped several times, not in the plywood structure, but in a new building that had taken nine years to complete. Members proudly show visitors well-thumbed snapshots of the building—the real church building—on which they worked so hard. It stood near the point where the temporary sanctuary now stands.

But more than 100 uniformed policemen descended on the new building last May 31 with several bulldozers and other heavy equipment and demolished it. They arrested eight of the church's leaders, including Pastor Ionel Chivoiu.

Some were detained for a few hours until the church was demolished. Some, including the pastor, were detained three days. Several were beaten, according to Gheorghe Jacobuta, a lay leader and one of those arrested. Four men were sentenced to one year to three years at hard labor on government farms. The church had to provide for their families.

Young people of the church, thinking they could stop the destruction, went to the site that May morning as word spread. They also were jailed briefly, said member Cornel Fedor, 22, who took a camera to document the destruction. When police approached, he threw it into some bushes as he ran. Fedor, who was arrested and held for several hours, did not retrieve the camera for several days, afraid police would spot him.

A police agent told Mihai Fedor, Cornel's father, who also was arrested briefly, that Ceausescu's government "had decided to exterminate the Baptists." Authorities said they bulldozed the building because members had used illegal building materials.

Chivoiu vowed the church did nothing

wrong, even by Ceausescu's "warped standards," and bought all building materials legally, some from the state and some from "private sources."

Church members bought about \$125 worth of gravel from truck drivers, he said. The drivers obtained the gravel legally from a riverbed. But church leaders received no official documents approving the purchase. That gave authorities a "hook" to use against them, Chivoiu claimed.

"The secret police were just looking for something," he said. Chivoiu holds down multiple pastorates, as do many Romanian Baptist pastors. He leads two churches in Bacau, the largest city in the region, the church in Comanesti and two mission congregations. The secret police considered him the "most dangerous man in the district," he said.

He was accused of having sophisticated radio transmitters and was said to be spying for America. "It was just because I had visited the United States," Chivoiu said with a laugh.

Christians in the United States did send him money for materials to construct the church at Comanesti, he admitted, although church members did all of the work themselves.

When word came late last December that a revolution had begun in Romania to overthrow Ceausescu, Chivoiu announced the news from the balcony of his apartment building in Bacau and led a group of Baptist young people in prayers of thanksgiving.

Today, a small police checkpoint building stands abandoned along the main road leading into the town, its windows smashed gleefully by vengeful residents during the December revolution.

The nightmare for the Comanesti congregation is over—almost. The church still does not have its permanent building. When Chivoiu looks at the unpainted little meetinghouse, he still is moved and angered. He glances at the building, then at the vacant lot and looks away quickly.

Local, post-revolution authorities have given approval to rebuild the church building and may even lend the church money for construction. But Chivoiu estimated replacement will cost \$70,000. Even by Romanian standards, the Comanesti members are poor; \$70,000 might as well be millions.

But for now he is more concerned about the needs of congregation—a congregation still faithful enough to walk through rain and snow to fill a plywood meetinghouse on a cold Thursday night.