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### March 20, 1997

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



news magazine

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Nashville, Tennessee

MAR 25 1997



## PICKING UP THE PIECES

President Bill Clinton, Gov. Mike Huckabee and Federal Emergency Management Agency director James Lee Witt surveyed damage to downtown Arkadelphia following tornadoes that killed 25 people across the state March 1. Baptist disaster relief workers have prepared more than 50,000 meals for tornado victims and relief crews since the storms hit.

# Huckabee urges Christians to confront modern culture

**T**he hope of the United States "cannot be in politics, in the Republican or Democratic parties," Gov. Mike Huckabee declared during the 50th anniversary seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Liberals believe that government is really like God. If we just had more of it, we'd be so much better off," said Huckabee, a conservative Republican.

Conservatives too often focus on legislation or on "who's in the White House or who's in the statehouse, and we forget that what really matters is who's God in our own house."

"The whole hope of a culture and its survival lies not so much in what we do under the dome of a state capitol or a national capitol, but rather under the steeples of the churches that are supposed to be God's voice," he noted.

Huckabee, former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said America needs courageous leaders. Warning that many pastors have become "so fearful we might offend," he added, "Every time I read, whether it's the Old or New Testament, the pulpit always offended; it always challenged. It never allowed culture to move away from God without confrontation."

Some things, such as abortion and same-sex marriage, clearly are wrong, Huckabee said, but sometimes Christians are selective about which sins they decry.

"Let me be clear that while it is totally appropriate for us to say there is something wrong about men marrying men and women marrying women, sometimes our pulpits can be strangely silent when it comes to other moral failures," he said. "Take racism for example. It still bothers me — no, it more than bothers me; it burdens my heart dramatically — that in many cases it was the white churches across the South who not only tolerated racism but actually preached it, promoted it."

In September, the 40th anniversary of the school desegregation crisis in Little Rock will be observed. This year has been proclaimed the year of reconciliation in Arkansas, Huckabee said. During the observance, he will open the door of Little Rock Central High School to the former students who had to be escorted in by federal troops in 1957.

## Real power comes from Christ

While a governor can accomplish some things, Huckabee acknowledged his power is limited.

"I have come to understand that, yes, in this office there is power to take life, but there is no power to give it back," he said. "Only Jesus has that power."

"I can pardon people from the consequences of their crime...but nothing I will ever write down can take away the guilt of the person who has committed crimes. Only Jesus can do that."

"I can sit at my desk and I can veto laws...but I can't stop others from violating those laws. Only Jesus can do that."

"I can appoint people to boards and commissions and agencies...but I can't (add) one person to the Lamb's book of life. Only Jesus can do that."

"Real power is not found in what we do. It's found in what God does," Huckabee affirmed. He said Christians who want to make a difference need to "come to the place where being what He wants us to be is more important than life itself."

Other seminar speakers agreed that Christians must submit themselves to the authority of the Lord Jesus and the Bible if they are to help revive an America marked by decay and death at the end of the 20th century. Speakers addressed such issues as pornography, gambling, religious liberty and abortion.

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine



## Cover Story

**Disaster relief.....6-9**  
President Bill Clinton and Gov. Mike Huckabee surveyed damage in Arkadelphia following the state's March 1 tornadoes. Baptist disaster relief volunteers have worked throughout the state since the storms hit.

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## Lessons for Living ..... 22-23



Available on CompuServe through the Publications Library of SBCNet.

Next issue: April 3

# Missions celebration

## Appointment service features worship, inspiration, call to missions

Organizers of the Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service, set for April 8 at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, said the event is likely to draw more than 7,000 participants to witness the appointment of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. It is the second time the event has been held in the Natural State. The last appointment service held here was in 1989 in Little Rock.

Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, reported that the program, which will feature the appointment of about 60 missionary candidates, "will be a diverse mixture. It will combine the elements of worship and celebration while keeping missions - and God's call to missions - as its primary focus."

"For Southern Baptists," Sheffield observed, "the heart of what we do is missions and this is a first-hand opportunity to see our foreign missions program at work, which is what many Southern Baptists get the most excited about. This is an opportunity for Arkansas Baptists to be there firsthand and be a part of the beginning of these missionaries' ministries."

"It also helps us as Arkansas Baptists to get a look at the world and hear about what's going on," he added. "A very important part of this is that in this setting many people will feel the call of God to get involved in missions, some as career missionaries and some as volunteers."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed a record 590 overseas mission workers in 1996, according to FMB officials, increasing the number of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to about 4,200. They currently are serving in 126 countries with 336 people groups.

Among the new missionaries appointed last year, 262 were given long-term or "career" assignments, the largest total in nine years. In addition, growing numbers of missionaries are serving shorter, two-year assignments overseas before committing themselves to missions careers.

The largest growth areas for workers has come in what officials call "The Last Frontier," areas of the world where traditional missionaries are unwelcome, as well as in Europe.

FMB president Jerry Rankin said that while the numbers of missionaries have increased, the profiles of new candidates also has changed.

"We are looking more and more for people who have a broad range of skills, including English as a second language, medicine and marketable skills and we are placing more and more folks into

unreached areas where hardship is the rule rather than the exception."

ABC executive director Emil Turner emphasized the importance of the event. "Very few people have the opportunity to be a part of a worship service that changes the world," he said. "Parents, youth leaders, pastors and others who want to influence lives eternally have the opportunity to do so through this service."

"God's call to reach a lost world will resound with crystal clarity," he predicted.

Location, added Turner, also is crucial. "Arkansas is an untapped resource for world evangelization. Men, women, boys and girls come to Christ in Arkansas churches that love the Word and have a passion for souls. These believers represent a potential army of missionaries to reap a world harvest."

FMB appointment service prayer committee chairman Bill Eliff, pastor of First Church in Little Rock, said the committee has sought to achieve the urgings of Matthew 9:38 in preparing for the service. "Without prayer we get what man can do; with prayer we get what God can do."

"We believe that this event can result in a great blessing for appointees, a new missionary vision for our churches, dozens of new missionaries called out to the harvest and a great uniting of our Arkansas churches around our primary purpose," he said.

Eliff urged Arkansas Baptist congregations to pray for the appointment service and the missionary candidates as well as for church leaders to begin to "mention the appointment service, call your church to prayer...and mobilize your prayer warriors to pray weekly."

He also urged leaders "to join in planned days of fasting and prayer to be held in each Arkansas Baptist association and a pre-service prayer meeting held April 8 an hour prior to the appointment service at the Statehouse Convention Center."



**Q** We are looking more and more for people who have a broad range of skills...and we are placing more and more folks into unreached areas where hardship is the rule rather than the exception.

**JERRY RANKIN**  
President,  
SBC Foreign  
Mission Board



## Parking available for buses

Brian Carroll, chairman of the parking committee for the appointment service, noted that special arrangements have been made for vans and buses delivering participants for the service, while drivers of cars have fewer parking options.

"Coming by the busload is the best bet," said Carroll. "There's just not parking for 7,000 people in downtown Little Rock that's convenient or cheap."

"For vans and buses, drivers can use the driveway in front of the Statehouse Convention Center to unload," he said. "Secure parking for the vans and buses is available free of charge in North Little Rock, with shuttle service to bring drivers back before and after the service."

"Drivers of individual cars can use parking decks in the area. The parking lots range in prices from \$1.25 to \$4 and parking on the side streets is free."

## A Pastor's Heart



Emil Turner

ABSC Executive Director

**T**wenty-three men left their homes and family on March 1. Don't worry, they have returned to them. You see, they left to go as your representatives to serve in tornado-ravaged parts of our state.

Within 24 hours, two mobile kitchens and the 23 volunteers had served nearly 1,500 meals. A chainsaw crew of 16 volunteers was at work. By Wednesday, three mobile kitchens had served 10,300 meals. Forty-nine chain saw volunteers and a team of child care workers were hard at work.

The resources that have been expended have come from four sources: (1) gifts

from churches and individuals to meet needs; (2) the Cooperative Program gifts of our churches; (3) the State Missions Offering; and (4) the Home Missions Offering. Most churches are promoting the Home Missions Offering during March. What a great reminder that Baptists minister to each other and a lost world! Pray faithfully for those whose lives have been disrupted by these storms. They need the touch of our Lord.

Have you read *Leaders on Leadership* by George Barna? (1997, Regal Books). This is a compilation of short essays on leadership by recognized Christian leaders. It offers much practical and inspirational material. Especially helpful is Doug Murren's chapter on the leader as a change agent. This book is well worth its cost.

### Executive director's schedule:

March 23 Sherwood, Huntsville, AL  
March 24-25 Iowa Convention Evangelism Conference

March 27 Executive Board meeting  
April 1 (pm) FBC, Humphrey  
April 5 (am) Prayer Breakfast, Park Hill

messages, Jeremy said he sometimes likes to read them and remember what was going on at that time. Jeremy's answer sounds reasonable to me. Perhaps my reason to erase is to not remember what was going on!

Somewhere in the conversation the students reported that Dr. Elrod has the capacity (and ability!) to send electronic messages. I should be very clear about this, Jeremy did not say this was one of the messages he had erased.

The Easter Season can be compared a little to Jeremy's thoughts about his e-mail. Easter reminds us of what was going on then. The Son of God died in our place, for our sins, to be raised three days later by the awesome, resurrection power of God.

Easter reminds me of my past. I remember Easter services at Canaan Baptist Church in Louisiana where Big Papa sat by the aisle of the second row singing bass. Across the aisle on the second row, Big Mama joined in singing "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes. He arose the victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Easter reminds me of our opportunity now, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. With all our technological advances, the most effective method is and always will be the personal touch of the one whose life has been eternally changed by the Savior.

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

## quotes

**"If your faith is wimpy and weak, your faith costs somebody else their eternity."**

—Ken Freeman, keynote speaker, Hot Hearts Youth Evangelism Conference

**"The main thing now is ministering to people emotionally, spiritually and physically."**

—Shelby Cowling, pastor, Second Church, Arkadelphia

**"Real power is not found in what we do. It's found in what God does."**

—Gov. Mike Huckabee

## President's Perspective



Rex Horns

ABSC President

**T**he Wednesday after the deadly storms struck our state, I had the opportunity of eating lunch with a dozen of Immanuel's young men and women who are students at Ouachita. I am pleased to report they all looked great, had smiles on their faces and seemed to enjoy being together with fellow "Immanuelites."

I enjoyed hearing them speak of their classes, professors (some were there when I attended!) and future plans. James Taylor and Holly Tidball had, just before our lunch, gotten tetanus shots which allowed them to help with clean-up efforts in Arkadelphia.

While discussing school, we somehow moved to things like e-mail. Even a dinosaur like me enjoys e-mail. It has regularly kept me in touch with my oldest daughter, Ashley, during her first year in college. Freshman Jeremy Greenwich, son of Ron and Alan, special friends and missionaries to Brazil, said he had erased two e-mail messages. I, on the other hand, read and erase the same day usually. Jeremy said he has some 1,800 e-mail messages saved.

Upon asking him why he saved all the

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

# After the storm — what's next?

Nearly three weeks after devastating tornadoes ripped through our state, life has gradually returned to normal for most folks — except those who have lost family members, friends, homes, businesses, jobs, health and a sense of security and stability.

As with any major disaster, the intense media focus quickly fades while people are left to pick up the shattered pieces of their lives. It is understandable, of course, that emergency relief efforts are short-term — a rapid response to help disaster victims cope with their initial trauma.

Arkansas Baptists can be proud of the immediate response from more than 170 trained Baptist Men relief workers as well as the countless church members who have served meals, cleared debris, collected food and clothing, donated money and prayed. According to Harry Black, director of the Arkansas Baptist Brotherhood department, disaster relief volunteers served more than 50,000 meals to storm victims and relief crews as well as clearing debris from nearly 100 homes.

Southern Baptist disaster relief ministries have earned a positive, proven

## Straight from the Editor



Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

reputation throughout the nation. The American Red Cross and other relief organizations depend heavily on Baptist volunteers to help coordinate and staff relief efforts ranging from tornadoes and floods to earthquakes and hurricanes. The quality and quantity of relief work here at home was no exception.

"The churches have been a major part of the volunteer efforts," affirmed Gov. Mike Huckabee following the March 1 tornadoes. "Quite frankly, without their help we'd be in much greater difficulty than we already are."

While initial relief efforts are drawing to a close, extensive needs remain in

numerous Arkansas communities. Black emphasized that volunteers are still needed to help local churches respond to ongoing physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Individuals also can participate in rebuilding projects as well as continuing to provide financial aid and prayer support.

Interested individuals also have an opportunity to participate in disaster relief training June 7 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. The statewide conference will equip participants to respond to future disaster situations.

Dan Grant, president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University, was among volunteers serving meals at First Church, Arkadelphia, the morning after the storm.

"The Arkansas Baptist disaster relief ministry is so impressive and effective," he remarked. "This is the best example of Christianity in action, as far as I'm concerned — living out the Christian life."

As the emergency crews pack up and the media move on to other stories, it remains imperative that Arkansas Baptists continue to express "Christianity in action" on behalf of thousands of fellow Arkansians who are still seeking to pick up the pieces.



## letters to the editor

### Headed down the wrong road

Concerning the letters in the March 6 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine* about worship styles and tradition, I have wanted to write a similar letter for a long time, but I dreaded being branded a "troublemaker" — again, yet I do want the writers to know that they are not alone in their thinking.

In a big church where I go, the people will voice their feelings in private, but that is as far as it goes. They never take a real stand. So many people don't want to rock the boat. Therefore many of our churches have become a place for foolishness and worldly pleasure.

As for these new strange-sounding Bibles, they are printed to sell and make money. You can't follow the Scripture reading anymore because you may not have the right book. Yes I know that the KJV was translated into English, and that is where it should stop.

If you have an early edition of "The Living Bible" please read I Kings 18:27 and I Samuel 20:30, then ask yourself if this book is fit to carry inside the House of God. The later edition does not say the same thing; it has been changed again. Now read Revelation 22:18-19 in the KJV.

Ask yourself, where are all these new Bibles going to lead the future generations?

Bribing people to come to church is wrong. If you have to give door prizes to get people in church, what have you got? Preachers called of God and filled with the Holy Spirit are the first things a church needs. Then he must be backed with people with heartfelt religion instead of the head religion.

It is plain to see that we are headed down the wrong road.

Steve Liles  
Texarkana, AR

### Examine, define boundaries

In response to the "Worship Battle Rages" letter in the March 6 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*, my questions are as follows:

Isn't it somewhat exaggerated? Is there really a battle or simply something taking place that none of us like at times — change? Why does tradition exist? Is it for passing down the best to the next generation?

What needs to be examined and defined are the boundaries. Are they good ones or bad ones? Are religious practices burdening or liberating in worship?

A reason we resist change is fear of the unknown; fear of the direction headed.

Did Christ Jesus die for all? Is His message one of inclusion or exclusion? How far do we bend? How far did He?

In my opinion, good worship can include both traditional and nontraditional methods. We may not always agree or like it, but did we like spinach or brussels sprouts when we were younger? Some may answer yes, some no! The process of growing and pruning sometimes hurts.

Our goal is bringing all to know, love, serve and worship our Holy Triune God. Caution is good judgment; condemnation not always so. Good worship leaders can blend both traditional and nontraditional under the direction of the Holy Spirit of God in accordance with the Word of God. The caution being, don't use methods that turn worship into a spectator worship.

As a congregation, we have the choice to accept or reject certain practices. However, one objection does not make a majority. Assumptions are not always true. Prayer is the key.

Good leaders listen, glean, then use what will help grow the majority to maturity in worship. The heart and mind should be one. We are blessed with a good worship leader in our church.

Donna M. Hall  
Fayetteville, AR

# Baptists take lead in major relief efforts

Russ Dilday & Trennis Henderson

Arkansas Baptist

**A**rkansas Baptist volunteers continued to lead in disaster relief efforts during the first two weeks following a series of tornadoes that destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 houses and businesses March 1. Relief projects included providing meals for victims and relief workers, chain saw and clean-up efforts, child care for victims and financial aid.

Harry Black, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department, said he is "absolutely thrilled with how Arkansas Baptists responded—both from church members who responded out of compassion and trained volunteers who put in hours to be ready. They responded immediately and effectively.

"Arkansas has never seen this amount of disaster response," Black observed. "It has been an overwhelming experience seeing our volunteers actually serving meals and seeing them do what they are trained to do. I cannot brag enough on our volunteers. Every one is a hero."

While the damage and loss from the tornadoes is staggering, the response from Baptist volunteers also has been massive. Black reported that through March 14, Baptist disaster relief teams had:

- Prepared more than 50,000 meals in four locations. Arkansas Baptist feeding teams served food in Arkadelphia, Little Rock and Jonesboro, while a Texas team served food in Saline County.

- Cared for 69 children through a child care unit based at a Red Cross Victim Service Center in Arkadelphia.

- Cleared debris from 96 homes through Arkansas Baptist Men's chain saw crews working in south Little Rock, College Station and Campbell Station. Chain saw teams from Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas worked in Arkadelphia.

Black noted that approximately 172 trained volunteers served in the disaster response, "but it is impossible to count all of the other Baptists who responded. There have been vast numbers of volunteers doing other things. This response has been significant."

Among the significant response were Arkansas Baptist Men's groups that used chain saws March 2-8 to clear fallen trees from roof tops and driveways in central Arkansas to give victims mobility and



provide access for other relief services.

Chain saw coordinator Carl R. Robinson, a member of Zion Hill Church in Cabot, directed clean-up operations in Pulaski and Saline counties from a command center in the southwest Little Rock home of Hunter Douglas, who donated phone service, a tractor and his time to the effort. Robinson said chain saw teams in his area "cleaned up 64 houses in six days, with an average of 24 volunteers a day."

Wes Shirley, a member of First Church, Dover, and the Arkansas River Valley Association disaster relief team, said March 5 that his team had cleared trees away from approximately 25 homes in three days by rotating in 10 team members each day.

"I'm doing this kind of work because the Lord told me to," Shirley said. "A lot of the people, their insurance won't pay for these trees. Anything we can do to alleviate their suffering, we'll do."

## Devastation impacts volunteers

Many relief volunteers noted they were affected by the storm's violence and the stories of survivors. According to Conway Sawyers, a member of Calvary Church in Little Rock, "I was talking to a young man who was visiting his grandparents when the tornado hit. After the winds subsided, he found a lady who had a tree across her body. She was telling him, 'Please don't let me die.' But there was nothing he could do for her. She didn't make it."

Among tornado victims helped by the chain saw crews were Larry Powell and his family, who live in the Bryant Estates area near Sardis. "They cleared three or four trees out of the way so I could at least get out of my house with no problem," Powell said. "They took some off of the fence and uprighted my shed for me."

Powell admitted his options for help were slim. Noting that he would have left the trees "there for a long time," he

explained, "I hurt my back and haven't worked for over five years and I'm not supposed to lift over 10 pounds. I've just gotta make do."

Powell also ate some meals provided by Pleasant Hill Church in Sardis, which led in disaster feeding efforts and stockpiled food and supplies for that area.

LeAnn Whitmire, a Pleasant Hill member, said the congregation mobilized the second day following the tornado.

She said the church served meals, "but we found that we have to go out if we want to serve food." She said members of East End Church in Hensley and Pleasant Hill member Susan Barnes volunteered to deliver food.

Barnes began taking food and supplies to affected areas when she realized that "no one was coming. They're busy from dusk to dawn trying to gather their things and work and they don't want to leave their homes."

At one home, she noticed "a camper trailer beside a house that had no roof. I stopped to see if they needed blankets and pillows. It was a little old lady and little old man and they each had one blanket."

"She said if they just could have a pillow they wouldn't take a blanket because someone else might need it," Barnes said. "But it's been in the mid-30s every night. I asked if they needed something to eat, and she said, 'We haven't eaten since lunch yesterday.'"

Barnes said she and others at Pleasant Hill were involved in the effort "because it's not for us to know why God spared everyone in our church. He spared us for a reason and I felt like we would be in sin if we did not try to help."

Whitmire said the supplies came from a variety of sources. "The first delivery was Tuesday morning. Steve Landers (a member of First Church, Benton) met us here with a truckload. Red Cross emptied us out by

that night" and others "filled us back up."

"Ultimately, I have to give God the credit for providing our needs," Whitmire added. "Everything we've needed has been provided. God gets all the credit and glory for that."

Arkansas Baptist feeding efforts in Arkadelphia primarily focused around a feeding unit set up at First Church there. "We've had a tremendous number of individuals coming by to help," noted disaster relief team leader David Raulerson of Saratoga. "It's a privilege to do this for our Lord. It's all to His glory."

"It breaks my heart to think about the devastation," he added. "I can't imagine all the grief these people are going through. The most important thing we can do for these people is pray for them. There will be needs for weeks to come, even after we're gone."

Shelby Cowling, pastor of Second Church, Arkadelphia, noted that his church "had windows blown out, roof damage and major water damage." Despite the damage, he added, "The church was very fortunate. We don't have major structural damage."

Pointing out the extensive damage in the surrounding neighborhood, Cowling noted, "If you look at all the damage, the first thing you see standing is the church. It represents that God is in this place."

"One good thing is it has brought the church people closer together and brought the community together," he added. "The main thing now is ministering to people emotionally, spiritually and physically."

Arkadelphia mayor Mike Kolb affirmed that relief efforts have included "a total effort on the part of our church community to assist the needs in Arkadelphia. That's been very gratifying."

Recounting the "emotional shock and stun" following the tornadoes, Kolb pointed out, "This is a whole lot more than

dealing with buildings — it represents people's lives and livelihood."

In addition to feeding and clean-up work, Arkansas Baptists sent a team of 13 chaplaincy volunteers to work in affected areas. Marion Reynolds, chaplaincy director for the ABSC missions department, said the chaplains were kept busy following the storm destruction in Arkadelphia and Jacksonport.

"Chaplain care teams from both local and outside sources were given access to zones of destruction and provided meaningful ministry to victims, relief workers and to citizens affected by the disaster," he said. "Their mission was to seek and find the hurting, provide comfort and give guidance to helping resources."

Faculty, staff and students from both Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College helped in the disaster relief efforts. "Since the damage was so close, our students pitched in where they could," noted Phil Hardin, assistant to the president at OBU. "We were very proud of their response. They were willing and able to help."

More than 50 students at Williams Baptist College helped residents of Jacksonport through debris clean-up March 4-8.

"It was sad," recalled student Sergio Lemos of Brazil. "All the houses were on the ground. You could see all the people needing help and it felt good that we could do something to help them."

Bret Cooper, director of public relations for Williams, noted that "much of the students' time in Jacksonport was spent salvaging furniture and other belongings from the debris."

"Some students also reported that they found residents who simply needed someone to talk with in the wake of the storm," Cooper added. "In the end, the psychological trauma of the storm and the lost homes may take longer to mend than the physical devastation."

## Clinton, Huckabee tour areas ravaged by tornadoes

President Clinton returned to his hometown March 4 to survey the devastation from the killer tornadoes that claimed 25 lives in Arkansas. Walking amid the rubble that still exists downtown Arkadelphia, Clinton sought to console and encourage tornado victims who have lost family members, friends, homes and businesses.

Recounting disasters that have hit the nation in recent years, the president noted, "Nothing has quite affected me the way this has today.... The number of people who died here in the space of about 18 hours is almost equal to the number of people who died from tornadoes in the entire 12 years that I had the honor of being governor of Arkansas."

"Hillary and I said a prayer for these people and their families and I would just like to ask that all the rest of us who were unscathed by this to keep those folks in mind as well as those who were injured and those who lost everything they had. They're all going to need our help."

During a tour of Arkadelphia and southwest Little Rock, two of the state's hardest-hit areas, Clinton was accompanied by Gov. Mike Huckabee, Federal Emergency Management Agency director James Lee Witt and several other government officials.

Describing the devastation as "one of the most difficult, tragic events in our history," Huckabee said, "We have seen not only the destruction of what nature can do but we've seen what God's grace can do, lifting people up, giving them hope and optimism.... It's very, very evident that this community and the rest of the Arkansas communities up this 260-mile path of terror are going to be okay."

During an interview following the president's remarks, Huckabee told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, "Everywhere we've been all up and down the corridor, the churches have been a major part of the volunteer efforts, offering not only their facilities but their people are coming out in great force."

"Quite frankly, without their help we'd be in much greater difficulty than we already are. With their help, not only their physical help but their spiritual, encouraging help, they're going to be a big part of the recovery."

## Black cites ways to help victims

While ABSC Brotherhood department director Harry Black expected initial relief efforts to end March 16, he acknowledged there is still much recovery work to be done. "After this, we move into disaster recovery, with the need for a lot of involvement to help people get their lives together, like construction and continued clean-up."

Black urged those available to continue assisting in the recovery process to:

- Call directors of missions and local churches in affected areas to volunteer.
- Call the ABSC Brotherhood department at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5158. Brotherhood leaders are compiling a list of people interested in being involved in building efforts, such as with Church in a Day, which has been activated to work in Arkadelphia and Jacksonport March 21-22.

- Donate funds to aid storm victims. "This can go two ways," Black explained. Individuals can provide "donations for victims with any money earmarked that way going directly to victims through churches and associations" and "those earmarked for disaster relief ministries that go for developing equipment for that ministry." Donations may be made through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

- Attend the state disaster relief training to be held at Immanuel Church in Little Rock June 7. Black said the training "will have different tracks for those getting involved in disaster relief."



# RELIEF AMID THE RUBBLE



▲ Following the March 1 tornado that damaged homes and businesses in Arkadelphia, Park Hill Church made its facilities available as a Red Cross shelter for storm victims.



▲ The historic Clark County courthouse shows the impact of the tornado that ravaged downtown Arkadelphia. The storm damaged the building's windows, roof and clock tower.



▲ Maurice Hitt, director of missions for Red River Association, visits with tornado victims in Arkadelphia, assessing where Baptist relief feeding, clean-up and clothing efforts are most needed.

◀ Construction workers repair the roof of Second Church in Arkadelphia. Heavy rains following the March 1 tornado left the church facility with extensive water damage.



▲ Pulaski Association director of missions Ed Hinkson (right) and associational secretary Janet Ginn sort through clothing and other items donated through the association to aid tornado victims.



▲ Shannon Baxter (foreground), wife of Jacksonport Church pastor Lonnie Baxter, sifts through debris amid the ruins of the church parsonage with the help of Williams Baptist College students. Construction of the parsonage was completed last fall.



▲ A College Station man (center) clears a downed tree from his driveway with the help of two volunteers from Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. Arkansas Baptist Men's chain saw crews cleaned debris from 96 homes.

◀ Disaster relief volunteer Jack Hollingshead of Glenwood prepares a meal for storm victims and relief workers at the Arkansas Baptist Men's feeding trailer, which was stationed at First Church in Arkadelphia. Baptist Men volunteers served more than 50,000 meals.



## Breaking barriers

Power Team brings high-energy evangelism to Arkansas churches



The scene seemed surreal: a massively-built man in a warm-up suit and tank top smashed his forearms through several layers of concrete blocks as hundreds of people cheered him on and an equally huge man called on the power of God to help his teammate. And the setting? The sanctuary platform of First Church in Benton.

The congregation hosted the Power Team in eight services March 5-9 in an area evangelistic crusade geared at attracting unsaved residents through the church doors. The Power Team is a Dallas-based evangelistic team that performs strength exhibitions such as breaking blocks of ice and concrete (some engulfed in kerosene flame), ripping thick phone books in half, lifting sections of telephone poles and bending half-inch steel bars into triple circles by hand. Between their displays of strength, each team member shares a personal testimony or preaches.

The crusade was the result of a vision of pastor Greg Kirksey, who explained that "God placed a burden on my heart for our community. There is a large segment of our community not only that we have not reached, but no other church is reaching through conventional methods." He described the crusade as "a tool that enabled us to do what we wanted to do."

"I wanted something to invade those sections of our community and break through those walls and I felt like the Power Team would attract them," he noted, quickly pointing out that "numbers

says, 'Don't be afraid of the one who can just kill your body.' Your body is just a shell. One day this shell is going to the grave.

"Our bodies are temporary, but inside we have a spirit that's going to live forever," he declared. "What you have to fear is saying no to God, but don't ever fear that God will say no to you. There's never been one sinner, no matter what they've done, who's come to God and said, 'Lord forgive me, come into my heart,' that He's ever said no to."

Hundreds answered the team's nightly altar call. Of those who came, 230 made professions of faith in Christ and 257 others registered other decisions.

"I'm getting phone calls and hearing stories and the numbers will continue to increase," Kirksey reported. "These are not 'ministerial speaking.' We used sound counseling. If we looked at every name, those 487 were genuinely touched."

He pointed out that the church trained 150 counselors in preparation for the crusade. "That's awesome." It mobilized our church."

First Church member Phil Jones said the team's unorthodox methods "really stretched me to see these things happening in a sacred place. But when I heard them speak as they did and their feats of power, I became convinced these guys were sincere, that they have a burden for lost people and, as they moved closer to the invitation...there is no doubt that God's Holy Spirit was moving in this place. I have no doubt that God's Spirit was here convicting and moving people."

Acknowledging that some people may criticize their methods, Jacobs pointed out, "When you're successful in anything, people are going to criticize you...I know

wasn't a goal. I checked them out left to right and found that this wasn't a gimmick. They had a sound theology, leaving fruit behind wherever they have gone."

Power Team founder and leader John Jacobs most often presented the team's gospel message. Defending the team's unconventional methods, he told the audience, "We can't just sit in our churches and wait for them to come in here. The Good Samaritan, Jesus, went where the hurting was."

Citing the popular slogan, "No Fear," Jacobs told the crowd during one session that there is "no fear if God is with you. In Luke 12:4, Jesus

my heart. I know we're sincere. Our motivation is genuine.

"God put faith in my heart for souls. I would do anything I could to lead people to Christ. God just blessed me with a tool," Jacobs explained. "With every generation, we have a new audience."

Jones, the crusade's prayer committee chairman, credited prayer with the positive response. He said the committee "began by soliciting the 'Ten Most Wanted' list (a list filled out by church members naming 10 unsaved people each). We compiled the names and asked a group of prayerers to pray for each name every day."

The prayer committee also organized 40 days of prayer and fasting prior to the crusade and prayer during the crusade.

The Power Team performed in nine area schools, taking a message of hope to students. Although they could not share their Christian testimonies during the school assemblies, they gave messages of inspiration and encouragement.

Team member Kecan Smith urged students at Bryant High School to "become dream makers, not dream breakers. The decisions you make today affect you for the rest of your life. That's a hard-core fact."

Smith told the students to find and be true friends. "A true friend is somebody who won't lower your goals or your standards. A true friend is someone who'll never cause you to lose sight of your hopes and your dreams...A true friend is someone who will love you for who you are, how you are and where you are."

Bryant senior Tanna Beatty said the team members "told the truth. They were really good speakers and they got the point across: Do the right thing, don't do drugs and don't have sex."

Assistant principal Doug McClain agreed that their message "accomplished their goal. They gave a positive message and (students) don't hear enough good things.

"I wish we'd have had more time," McClain added. "We ran late, but I decided what they could get in here was probably more important than what they could get in the cafeteria."

Power Team members also participated March 12-16 in a multi-denominational citywide crusade sponsored by several churches in Camden. Mark Williams, minister of students and family life at First Church in Camden, said the congregation provided counselors, ushers and greeters for the crusade.

"We live in a world that needs Jesus Christ," he said. "These guys give a clear message of Jesus Christ and point people to the Savior. One of the most amazing things is the diversity of faces that were at the crusade: every racial background and a lot of unchurched and the Savior was glorified through it."

# Hot Hearts in Arkansas

## Regional youth evangelism conferences challenge teenagers to be bold witnesses



Declaring that "friends don't let friends go to hell," youth communicator Ken Freeman challenged Arkansas students to witness to their friends. His message came during the March 7-8 Hot Hearts Youth Evangelism Conference in Little Rock, one of three regional conferences in the state encouraging more than 6,000 youth to have "hot hearts" for Christ.

The three conferences, held in Fayetteville, Little Rock and Texarkana, featured Christian music, speakers and drama. The events resulted in more than 350 public decisions by participants, including more than 100 professions of faith in Christ.

"You say you believe in hell," Freeman told the Little Rock crowd, "but when was the last time you told somebody about it? When was the last time you shared your faith? A lot of y'all say you believe a lot of things with your lips but your hearts say something else."

Speaking from Luke 5, he told students that the friends of the paralytic went to great lengths to bring their friend to Christ. "God's not telling you to tear a hole in the roof of your church. God's just telling you to bring them through the front door. If your faith is wimpy and weak, your faith costs somebody else their eternity."

"You say you believe in friends, but why don't you get upset that at your school you have drinking and drugs?" Freeman asked. "Why don't you get upset? Your friends have been paralyzed by sex, AIDS, alcohol, drugs, depression, fear, guilt and hate....When they brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus, he got saved."

The Little Rock conference was held at the Robinson Center Music Hall and featured Freeman, musical performances by Christian artists Geoff Moore and the Distance and Lisa Beville, dramatic interpretations by Tom Toombs and praise and worship led by Jeff Berry. Participants also heard testimonies from former Miami Dolphin cornerback Don McNeal and former Miss Arkansas Heather Covington.

The events were sponsored by Southern Baptist congregations in Arkansas. The Texarkana conference, held Jan. 17-18 at the Four States Entertainment Center, resulted in 3,620 in attendance with 201

decisions, including 57 professions of faith. The Fayetteville conference, held Jan. 31-Feb. 1, had an attendance of 850, with 67 decisions and 23 professions of faith.

Little Rock planner Eric Westermann, minister of youth for Calvary Church in Little Rock, noted that about 1,400 students attended the central Arkansas conference, with 137 decisions, including 37 professions of faith and six decisions for full-time Christian service.

"It's been overwhelming, seeing 1,400 kids come together and seeing the Spirit of God move on a place like this," Westermann observed. "Last night, we saw 102 kids make decisions and reaching students is definitely the focus. That is the bottom line....It made it all worth it."

### 'A really important message'

Jennifer Poteet, 14, a member of Second Church in Little Rock, said she "thought Ken has had a really important message to get across to us and I think he has done a very good job with that."

"It's about reaching out to people and spreading the gospel," Poteet explained. "I have a hard time doing that and it really spoke to me. The music's touched some people. That's the way to get to a lot of teenagers, through music."

Dave Hughey, minister of youth for Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, agreed. "Our goal was to have a regional conference that would have the kind of environment that kids would feel comfortable bringing a friend to, a neutral setting

that we could bring in artists that would have a big enough name that they would draw some of the secular kids."

He said the good response from participants "makes it worth whatever we have to do to keep it happening."

Geoff Moore, the leader of the contemporary Christian band Geoff Moore and the Distance, took time to encourage "those of you that are working with students" during a special conference time.

"For some reason, students feel free to talk to musicians or write letters in a way that, many times, they won't speak to you," Moore explained. "And here is what they say: They are not looking for youth ministers who act like kids, they are looking for youth ministers who act like adults, that can be role models."

"They are not looking for perfect people," he added. "Perfect people intimidate them. They are looking for people who are willing to live their faith out. One of the greatest tools for evangelism is just a faithful witness."

Moore also encouraged youth ministers "not to give up on problem students. They are waiting for us to get in line behind their friends, teachers and their family and tell them they are losers. The church is not the place to hear that."

Among student leaders at the conference was Doug Hibbard, who brought students from Second Church in Jacksonville. He said the program "stood out because it talked about how God can use anybody and take anything they've got and use that in a positive way."

Hibbard also noted that the conference was positive for student leaders. "Many adults come and say, 'We're here to watch our students and chaperone,' but there is a solid message for adults who work with teenagers that there is a purpose to keep working on them and to love them."



More than 6,000 youth were challenged to have "hot hearts" for Jesus during recent regional evangelism conferences held in Fayetteville, Little Rock and Texarkana.

## TRANSITIONS

**Bill Melton** began serving as pastor of First Church of Gentry March 2, coming there from Trinity Church of Pittsburg, Kan. He is a graduate of the University of Tulsa and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Melton and his wife, Carmel, have two children, Meleah and Malachi.

**Steve Walter** began serving March 2 as pastor of First Church of Marianna. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

**Tom Wicker** began serving March 2 as full-time pastor of Owensville Church. Wicker, a native of Yelville, graduated in December from Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Lisa, have four children, Sarah, Caleb, Rachel and Tessa.

**David Tolson** joined the staff of Mount Olive Church in Crossett March 2 as minister of students, coming there from West Church in Batesville where he has served for 16 years as associate pastor. He is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his Gayle, have two daughters, Julie and Jennifer.

**Skip Schalk** is serving as youth minister for Mount Zion Church, Paragould. He is a senior at Williams Baptist Church.

**Jimmy Jeffress** is music director for Magnolia Church, Crossett. He and his wife, Candace, were members of Eudora Church. Jeffress, who has taught music and led choirs for Crossett schools, is now serving as a state representative.

**Jeff Bennett** resigned Feb. 23 as minister of music for Calvary Church of Little Rock, following more than four years of ministry. Bennett has accepted the call to join the staff of First Church of Grapevine, Texas, as minister of music and worship.

**Randy E. Collins** is youth pastor of First Church of Atkins rather than pastor as reported in the March 6 Issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

## CHURCH LIFE

**Siloam Springs First Church** will hold its first service in a new 34,000-square-foot building March 23. The facility, built on a 20-acre site on Dawn Hill Road on the north side of Siloam Springs, includes educational space for all Sunday School classes, plus the Tendercare Preschool, a family life center/gymnasium, a "first stage" worship center and offices. The March 23 "Celebration Sunday" will feature a special worship service followed by dinner and a program in the family life center.

**Park Hill Church** of North Little Rock's music ministry will present its Life of Christ Easter pageant March 29-30 in the auditorium of North Little Rock High School East Campus. The pageant, directed by minister of music Joe Fitzpatrick, will feature the sanctuary choir, a 26-piece orchestra, full biblical drama and live animals. Performances will be at 3 and 6 p.m. on Saturday and at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Additional information is available by calling 501-753-3413.

**Springdale First Church** will present the drama "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" on March 30 at 6 p.m. and on March 31 and April 1 at 7 p.m. The drama portrays the joy of the believer as he enters God's presence in contrast to the condition of the unbeliever as he faces spending eternity with Satan.

**Smackover First Church and Hope First Church** jointly sponsored their 13th annual mission trip to Gualacine, Honduras, Feb. 2-12. The 15-member mission team, composed of five doctors, five nurses, four pastors and a cook, provided medical assistance for approximately 450 people in the remote mountain village. Team members led 20 discipleship classes and 12 worship services which resulted in three professions of faith.

**Clarendon First Church** recently voted to build a new education building that will include additional Sunday School space and a new kitchen. In addition, the existing

fellowship hall will be remodeled. A Nail Benders group from Jonesboro will begin construction in June.

**Parkway Place Church** in Little Rock is expanding its outreach ministries through a new hospital ministry program and enlarged prayer and children's ministries. Allan Greer is pastor.

**Little Rock Second Church** recently sponsored a mission team of six men who served 11 days in Chile. The team worked with Southern Baptist missionaries David and Martha Miller.

**Zion Hill Church** of Cabot held a True Love Waits commitment service Feb. 23 in which 14 youth were presented with gold rings symbolizing their commitment to sexual purity. Minister of youth Len Johnson led the service with Lance Kershner and Tracy Flemons presenting special music.

## OBITUARIES

**Martha Elizabeth Elswick Roberts** of Little Rock died Feb. 19 at age 88. She was a member of First Church of Little Rock where her husband, the late Paul Roberts, served for 13 years as pastor. She is survived by a daughter, Carol Ann Roberts Hill; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a brother; and two sisters. Memorials may be made to First Church.

**Lyville L. Yielding** of North Little Rock died Feb. 20 at age 82. His funeral services were held Feb. 22 at Baring Cross Church of North Little Rock where he had served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher for 50 years. Yielding was also active in the Salvation Army, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Quapaw Area Council Boy

Pulaski Association broke ground Feb. 18 for its new facility on Lawson Road in southwest Little Rock. The 5,500-square-foot structure will include offices, a meeting room with a 150-person capacity, and the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Little Rock office. Participating in building committee members (left to right) Ed Culin, Geyor Springs First; Bob Fluharty, Sunset Lane; Aaron Carter, Rosedale; chairman Jim Lagrohe, First Southern; Bryant; Ruth Presley, Natural Steps; and Melina Martin, South Highland.



Scouts of America and the Gideons. He had been inducted into the North Little Rock Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Survivors are his wife, Alene Yarbrough Yielding; a daughter, Linda Perry of Plano, Texas; two grandchildren; and a sister.

**Ovid Luro Bayless**, pastor emeritus of Second Church of Hot Springs, died Feb. 25 at age 85. Bayless had served as pastor of Second Church from 1947 to 1960. The church had a net growth of 1,587 in his 14 years of ministry. In 1960 he became secretary of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Colorado and editor of Colorado's state Baptist paper, *Rocky Mountain Baptist*. After retiring in 1977, he was named associate pastor of Second Church. He was named pastor emeritus after retiring in 1987. Bayless, who also had been pastor of churches in Oklahoma, was a graduate of Blackstone College Law School, Burton College in Manitou Springs, Colo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Survivors are his wife, Frances Bayless of Hot Springs; two sons, Jon W. Bayless of Dallas, Texas, and Lyndal Bayless of Jonesboro; a daughter, Darla Sue Westbrook of North Little Rock; three brothers; two sisters; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the O.L. Bayless Scholarship Fund at Ouachita Baptist University or to Hot Springs Baptist Church.

**William A. Sims**, 90, of London died Feb. 13. He had been pastor of East Point Church and Bakers Creek Church of Russellville, Dover Church and New Hope Church in Yell County. He was also a retired rural mail carrier, peach grower and school teacher. Survivors include his wife, Nilene Rachel Sims; a son, W.C. "Bill" Sims of London; three brothers; four grandsons and seven great-grandchildren.

**William Hugh Owen**, 86, of Malvern died Feb. 27. His funeral services were held March 1 at Third Church of Malvern where he was a member. Owen, a retired director of missions for Central Association, had been pastor of Lee Memorial Church of Pine Bluff, Second Church of Conway, Magnet Cove First Southern Church and Temple Church of Benton. Survivors are his wife, Iris S. Owen; two sons, Hugh David Owen of Pine Bluff and Benjamin Robert Owen of Big Island, Va.; and one brother. Memorials may be made to Spring Lake Baptist Assembly or Third Church.

## ORDINATIONS

**Graves Memorial Church** of North Little Rock licensed Travis Matthews, youth minister, to the gospel ministry Jan. 19.

**Zion Hill Church** of Cabot ordained Daryl Brenneise, David Copeland and Lawrence Vowan as deacons Feb. 23.

**Walnut Valley Church** of Hot Springs has ordained Harold Alford as a deacon.

**The Golden Age Evangelism Conference**, set for April 3-4 at Tucker Coliseum on the Arkansas Tech University campus in Russellville, will offer worship, fellowship and an opportunity to sing in a mass choir, said planner Paul McClung, interim director of the ABCS evangelism department. The program will feature speakers Harper Shannon, retired director of evangelism for the Alabama State Convention; television and movie star Tom Lester; and author Marge Caldwell of Houston. Also featured is music from soloist Russell Newport of Missouri and the Melody Boys Quartet, gospel singers from Little Rock. Extension 5132.

**"Understanding People Through Strengths"** is a seminar that will help lead participants in understanding the Bi/Polar approach to life, said leader Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. It also will help participants "apply these truths to yourself, family, church and job." The seminar, set for May 29-30 at the Baptist Building in Little Rock, will begin at 1:30 p.m. Thursday and conclude at 11:30 a.m. Friday. Sheffield said participants will receive "more self-confidence and more confidence in family and vocational relationships" as well as "insights and plans of action for communicating more effectively at home or at work." The cost for the seminar is \$65 per person. The registration deadline is April 7. Extension 5103.

**A LIFE Support Group Leadership Training Workshop**, set for April 17-18 at Second Church in Conway, "will provide pastors, staff or laypersons the understanding to lead their church to develop a support group ministry," said Gerald Jackson, an associate in the ABCS discipleship and family ministry department. "It will teach participants how to organize, implement and carry out a LIFE Support ministry consisting of discovery and support groups within the church." Among life issues covered in LIFE Support curriculum are self-worth, codependency, addiction recovery, family relationships, grief, blended families, eating disorders, overcoming tobacco use and sexual integrity. The program, which begins Thursday at 6:45 p.m. and concludes at approximately 5 p.m. Friday, will feature Dale McCleskey, editor of LIFE Support materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board. The cost is \$15 per person and includes a LIFE Support Leader's Handbook. For participants who bring a handbook, the cost is \$5 per person. Extension 5160.

**A prayer breakfast** sponsored by Central Arkansas Men of Integrity will be held April 5 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the lower level of the Robinson Center Music Hall in Little Rock. The program will feature keynote speaker Harry Black, director of the ABCS Brotherhood department, and Christian musicians Twice Brothers. The cost is \$5 per person and tickets will be available at the door. For more information, call 501-835-4301 or 501-888-6864.

**Charitable remainder trusts** are a good way to maximize gains made from the sale of stocks, said David Moore, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. "There are many Baptists who hold stocks and other assets and would like to convert those gains into income," he explained. "The problem is, they will face a huge capital gains tax if they sell their assets." He said many donors have discovered a way to make this conversion possible. "Through the generosity of the American tax laws, charities receive favorable treatment. Currently, a donor can place appreciated properties into a Charitable Remainder Trust with the Baptist Foundation as trustee. The Foundation can sell the assets without paying any capital gains tax and invest the entire proceeds into income-producing assets for the donors and future charities." The donor receives a substantial income tax deduction in the year of the gift and bypasses the capital gains tax concern. "The stock market has had a remarkable rise over the past few years and may go up in the future, but nothing goes up forever," Moore noted. Additional information is available by calling the Foundation at 376-0732 or 1-800-798-0969.

For more information about ABCS related events, call 1-800-838-ABSC. In Little Rock, call 376-4791

**TRAINING  
UPDATE**

## Baptist relief workers offer aid to Kentucky flood victims

FALMOUTH, KY (ABP/BP)—"You just feel so helpless," pastor Norman Workman said March 5 as he drove along a watery highway from an emergency shelter where he had been comforting people evicted from their homes by one of Kentucky's worst-ever floods.

Flood waters swamped the community of 2,400 people March 1, the same day deadly tornadoes ripped through much of Arkansas.

"This is the first time I've been in anything like this," said Workman, pastor of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth, Ky. "I've felt awfully helpless.... The people are so helpless right now. There's not much you can do but be there with them.

"Physically, they are all right," Workman said of the flood victims. "Emotionally, they're just drained. No one really knows what to do."

Falmouth, situated at the juncture of two rivers, was one of the state's hardest-hit areas by the flood. Water surged above the highest point on the town's flood markers, which stop at 52 feet. The facilities of two Baptist churches in the community, Falmouth Baptist and Trinity Baptist, were severely damaged by the flood.

"The one thing I've been trying to share with people is right now it doesn't seem like there's any hope, but we know there is hope," Workman said. "God will take care of us."

As of March 11, units from Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee were at work as floodwater from the Ohio River and its tributaries began to recede above Louisville, Ky.

Combined with disaster relief efforts in

Arkansas, Southern Baptist disaster relief crews have provided 95,500 meals and completed 270 clean-up jobs since the response began.

Mickey Caison of the Brotherhood Commission said flood relief workers "could be there for weeks, maybe months."

He said disaster relief officials were "still waiting for the crest to happen in other areas. Once it does, it takes two to three days for the water to go down for every day it took for the water to rise, and it takes a long time to dry out the homes and churches."

Caison called on Southern Baptists to pray for the disaster victims and the volunteers, noting that there will be "unprecedented opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in many of these communities."

# GOLDEN AGE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

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## Albania violence prompts FMB workers to evacuate

TIRANA, ALBANIA (BP)—All Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board workers remaining in Albania left the country March 12 as violence in the southern region continued to intensify.

Nine workers evacuated to Greece and Bosnia in early March, but then rebel mobs seized more territory. Insurgents looted assault rifles, heavy machine guns and

fighter planes from government bases, forcing army and police units to flee north. The continued violence prompted mission administrators to evacuate the remaining nine workers from the country as well. They have relocated to Greece, Bosnia and Macedonia.

In the Albanian capital of Tirana, President Sali Berisha agreed to June

elections and a coalition government in an attempt to quell the insurrection, sparked by public outrage over failed investment schemes that depleted nearly every Albanian family's savings. Rebels, however, have insisted on Berisha's resignation.

The violence threatens to hurt growth on one of the most responsive mission fields in Eastern Europe. Dozens of evangelical churches have sprouted across Albania in recent years as people have responded rapidly to the gospel.

More than 830 villages in Albania's rugged countryside have been the focus of a program called Albania Evangelical Rural Outreach (AERO), carried out by Foreign Mission Board missionaries in cooperation with Campus Crusade for Christ, Hell-mission and Albanian believers.

FMB administrators are asking Southern Baptists to pray that Albania's civil unrest will calm. They are also asking for prayer that response to the gospel continues.

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## Georgia pastor named chairman of Implementation Task Force

NASHVILLE, TN (BF)—John Yarbrough, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Perry, Ga., is the new chairman of the Implementation Task Force, the group responsible for guiding the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Yarbrough, formerly vice chairman of the 10-member task force, was appointed to the chairmanship March 4 by Ronnie Floyd, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee which created the task force in 1995. The change in the ITF is the result of Robert E. Reccord's March 2 resignation as chairman, clearing the way for him to be the probable nominee for president of the new North American Mission Board.

In related developments, the group studying cooperative agreements between the Home Mission Board and state conventions and fellowships has developed a survey for gathering information and named a larger study team.

Cooperative agreements are documents which have guided the HMB and state conventions in supporting mission work in the states.

"The study will list strengths and challenges concerning the agreements as they presently are structured," Yarbrough said. "Recommendations concerning effective ways for these partnerships to be structured by NAMB in the future will be provided."

The survey/questionnaire will be mailed to key participants in the cooperative agreement process, state convention executives, mission strategists and denominational leaders. Their input will be analyzed by a larger study group of 13, consisting of six state executives, two pastors and five HMB staff members, Yarbrough said. He will chair the group.

ITF officials also noted that a Brotherhood Commission contract with Brotherhood president James D. Williams to serve as an NAMB consultant through Nov. 1, 1999, will not require NAMB approval. Legal sources say the contract is a legally binding agreement upon NAMB, since the new agency will assume all of the liabilities and assets of the three agencies being merged.

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### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dick is counselling pastor at Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, served as Dean of Administration for Rosemead School of Psychology, Dean of Students at Moody Bible Institute, and a professor. Jane is a free-lance writer, speaker, author of *A Woman of Excellence*, and manages D&J Ministries.

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## missionary notes

**Patricia Frost**, a Baptist representative to the Middle East, is on the field (address: P.O. Box 44, Askalon, Israel). A native of Parks, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

**Albert and Karen Hodges**, missionaries to Senegal, are on the field (address: B. P. 8417-Yoff, Dakar, Senegal). He lived in Alpena while growing up. The former

Karen Atwood, she was born in Paragould. They were appointed in 1978.

**Lee and Payma Walker**, missionaries to Chile, are on the field (address: Casilla 168-29, Santiago, Chile). Born in Texas-Kana, he considers Little Rock his hometown. They were appointed in 1982.

**Ron and Elaine West**, missionaries to Taiwan, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 5-811, Taichung 400, Taiwan ROC). They both are natives of Booneville and were appointed in 1978.

## MK prayer calendar

Missionary kids with birthdays in April attending college in Arkansas:

■ April 7: Mai Friesen, OBU Box 3113, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Ghana.

■ April 19: Lendy Seaberry, OBU Box 3529; junior from the Gambia.

■ April 20: Paul Watson, OBU Box 4166; freshman from Singapore.

■ April 23: Tim Day, OBU Box 4518; junior from south Brazil.

■ April 25: Sam Stroope, OBU Box 4596; sophomore from Hong Kong.

■ April 25: Jenifer Pierson, OBU Box 3521; freshman from Belize.

■ April 29: Gavin Faulkner, OBU Box 3091; junior from Canada.

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# Group seeks to block Ouachita agreement

Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

**R**esponding to a letter expressing concern over "the compromise with Ouachita Baptist University regarding trustee selection," a group of approximately 40 Arkansas Baptists met recently in Heber Springs to discuss ways to block implementation of the reconciliation process approved last fall by state convention messengers.

The letter, written by Barry King, pastor of Tumbling Shoals Church, reportedly was mailed to about 100 people across the state. King's letter invited individuals "to attend a meeting of conservative leaders dedicated to restoring the historic relationship between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Ouachita Baptist University as well as to continuing the reforms of the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention on the state level."

Conflict with Ouachita surfaced last fall after the state convention nominating committee declined to recommend any of the eight names suggested by OBU president Ben Elrod for four openings on the Ouachita board of trustees. Following the nominating committee's action, OBU trustees voted Oct. 10 to return to the university's original charter and resume responsibility for naming their successors.

The state convention Executive Board's executive committee responded by voting

to escrow OBU's Cooperative Program allocation until the issue was resolved. They also voted to establish a five-member reconciliation committee to negotiate with Ouachita trustees.

The groups held two joint meetings to draft a proposal which was adopted by convention messengers by a vote of 801-456. The agreement calls for OBU trustee nominees to be recommended to the convention by a joint committee composed of members of the state convention nominating committee and representatives of the OBU board of trustees.

Final implementation of the plan will require bylaw changes which must gain a two-thirds vote by messengers to two consecutive annual meetings. The bylaw votes, scheduled for 1997 and 1998, are what King and others are seeking to defeat.

Ironically, King was a member of the reconciliation committee which negotiated the initial agreement with Ouachita. He cast the lone dissenting vote against the plan, however, and urged messengers last fall to "stand for what is right and reject this action." King also was a member of the nominating committee which declined Elrod's trustee suggestions.

David Miller, a member of Tumbling Shoals Church, emphasized that the purpose of the Heber Springs meeting was "to share some ideas about what can be done regarding the change in policies at Ouachita Baptist University." Calling the messenger-approved plan "bad policy,"

he said the meeting's primary goal was to discuss "what we can do to reverse that policy."

Other participants who voiced concern about the OBU situation included former state convention president Ronnie Rogers; former Executive Board president Jim McDaniel; former nominating committee members Delton Beall and Van Harness; Joe Atchison, retired director of missions for Northwest Association; Wyndham Cook, a Home Mission Board trustee; and Gene Thomas, president of Conservative Arkansas Baptists.

Highlighting the need for opponents of the proposal to gain at least one-third of the vote, King noted, "This is not over...I think it is highly likely, if not probable, that this proposal will not be enacted."

In an effort to detail their concerns, Tumbling Shoals Church has voted to publish a quarterly newspaper named *Arkansas Baptist Life* with the goal of "communicating news of interest to Southern Baptists in Arkansas from a distinctly conservative perspective."

The first \$2,500 of the estimated \$10,000 annual cost of the publication will come from Tumbling Shoals' state convention Cooperative Program gifts which the congregation "voted to retain for one year." King is soliciting additional funds "from individuals and churches which are sympathetic with our aims and objectives." Distribution plans include providing free copies to each Arkansas Baptist pastor and to each messenger who attended last year's annual meeting.

Reconciliation committee chairman Chuck McAllister, who did not attend the Heber Springs meeting, noted that the proposal adopted last fall "is the strongest recommendation that exists between a state Baptist college and its convention forged through a reconciliation process."



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## TRAINING

# Ministers of education, youth to meet

Ministers of education and youth will have an opportunity for personal and professional growth, fellowship and relaxation at DeGray State Park Lodge as they meet April 17-18 in separate retreats.

"Working with Youth and Their Parents" will be the topic of the Youth Ministers' Retreat, led by Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Retreat planner Robert Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist

State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, said the retreat "will help youth ministers expand their ministry to include the families of youth."

"Strategic Leadership Skills for Today's Educational Ministries" will be the focus of the Ministers of Education Retreat. Holley said Ron Pratt, consultant in the Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department, will lead the program "for all educational staff members and will

focus on strategic planning, leadership skills and personal growth."

The program will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday and end at noon Friday. The cost for each retreat is \$30 per person and \$20 per spouse and includes a buffet dinner.

Room cost at DeGray Lodge is \$60 per person, single-occupancy or \$30 per person, double-occupancy. Reservations for lodging must be made with DeGray Lodge at 1-800-737-8355. Retreat registrations should be sent by April 14 to Holley at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.



### Southwest Baptist University

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The education department at Southwest Baptist University invites applications for a tenure track assistant professorship in education. Candidates should possess outstanding teaching ability, demonstrate scholarly potential and be prepared to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in teacher education. Public school teaching experience is required. An earned doctorate is required at the time appointment. Send application letter, resume, statement of Christian philosophy and three letters of recommendation by March 21, 1997, to Mr. Chuck Lentz, department of education, Southwest Baptist University, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. EOE.

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- 10:00 am Ladies' Coffee\*
- 6:30 pm Anniversary Banquet\*

#### Sunday, April 6

- 9:00 am Worship and Sunday School
- 10:30 am Sunday School and Worship
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Includes luncheon on Saturday. Note: Registration fee does not include lodging. Mail registration fee to: Dan Jordan, ABSC, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

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**University ministries staff position** — Southwest Baptist University invites applications for director of university ministries. Candidates must possess a master's degree from a Christian university and have prior experience working with campus, church or denominational ministries. The director will coordinate and preside over chapel program, oversee the University's faith missions program, supervise various drama, music and revival ministry teams, supervise small group ministry activities, minister to students, and promote Missouri Baptist Convention involvement. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send application letter, resume and three letters of recommendation by March 28, 1997, to Dr. William Brown, Southwest Baptist University, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. EOE.

**Seeking** — The Washington-Madison Baptist Association is looking for a new director of missions. Those interested need to send letters of recommendations and resumes postmarked no later than March 31 to: Chairman of Search Committee, David Rouse, P.O. Box 200, Winslow, AR 72959.

**Full-time music/youth minister** — FBC Horseshoe Bend is seeking an energetic minister for a growing music program and active youth. Send resumes (cover letter preferred) to first Baptist Church, PO Box 4036, Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512. Attn: Search Committee.

**Houseparents** — The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello is seeking houseparent couples. Salary, life and health insurance, and paid annual leave. Call Royce Aston at 1-501-367-5358.

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**Fayetteville area director needed** — Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries is seeking an individual with professional counseling or social work license to fill the above position. Job includes Christian counseling, supervision of a small emergency shelter for children, and residential intake evaluation. Salary, excellent benefits, auto. Call Charles Flynn at 1-800-838-2272 or in Little Rock 378-4791, ext. 5167.

## Ouachita Baptist University

**Benefit concert:** Christian music artists Point of Grace and Wayne Watson have scheduled a benefit concert for tornado victims in the Arkadelphia area. The concert is set for April 16 at 8 p.m. in the Bill Vining Arena at OBU. Ticket information is available by calling David Goodman at 501-245-5597.

**Spring Preview Day:** Ouachita is offering a Spring Preview Day on April 19 for high school juniors and seniors and their parents. Activities will include an opening assembly, campus tour and other events. More information is available by contacting OBU's office of admissions counseling at 501-245-5110.

**May term scheduled:** Ouachita will offer May Term courses from May 19-June 6. The official class schedule for the May Term and the two regular summer sessions will be available in OBU's academic affairs office April 1. More information is available from the office of the vice president of academic affairs at 501-245-5196.

**Payne wins Miss OBU:** Shari Elizabeth Payne of Hot Springs, a 20-year-old sophomore musical theater major at Ouachita, has been crowned as Miss OBU 1997. Payne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Payne of Hot Springs.

## Williams Baptist College

**Israel trip:** Williams Baptist College will host a 15-day trip to Israel and Greece this summer, with an optional three-week extension to help excavate the biblical city of Tel Rehov. Randy Richards, a religion professor at Williams, is coordinating the trip, which starts June 10.

Additional information about the trip is available by contacting Richards at 501-886-6741, ext. 155.

**Britt crowned queen:** Kathy Britt, a senior from Paragould, has been crowned 1997 homecoming queen at Williams Baptist College. Britt, a physical education major, is the daughter of Roger Britt and Nancy Adams, both of Paragould. She was elected by a vote of the WBC student body.

## college digest



Dr. Rex M. Home Jr., pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, announces *10 Days in the Holy Land*, May 26-June 4, 1997. All inclusive price \$2,198 from Dallas (optional 3-day stopover in London). Assisted by Becky Home, Alla B. and Bob Gladden. Call 376-3071 or 225-4285 for brochure.

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### Family Bible Guaranteed resurrection

By Grant Ethridge, pastor,  
First Church, Lavaca

**Basic passage:**  
Matt. 28:1-10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

**Focal passage:**  
Matt. 28:5-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

**Central truth:**  
Christ's resurrection assures the resurrection of all Christians and offers hope in times of grief.

### Life and Work What kind of day is Easter?

By Tim Reddin,  
director of missions,  
Central Association

**Basic passage:**  
Matthew 28:1-20

**Focal passage:**  
Matthew 28:1-10; 16:20

**Central truth:**  
The truth of the resurrection of Jesus should cause us to rejoice, to reflect and to obey.

### Explore the Bible The resurrection message

By Bill Bowen, pastor,  
First Church, Menz

**Basic passage:**  
Matthew 28

**Focal passage:**  
Matthew 28:1-10

**Central truth:**  
The resurrection produces a message that must be shared.

In Matthew 28:7 the angel announced that Jesus "is risen and is gone before you to Galilee." As the good shepherd, Jesus has gone before us preparing the way. His resurrection guarantees our resurrection. Believers have resurrection power to overcome any problem we face. "Do not be afraid" (v. 5) is what all believers need to remember. We have no need to fear life or death.

The return of Jesus is the most mentioned event in all the Bible. Throughout history there have been those who have gone to extremes and set dates. As believers we do not have to speculate. When you open God's Word, you hold in your hands divine revelation that you can count on.

Today, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. At the appointed time on God's timetable, the Heavenly Father will say go get my children and Jesus will descend (v. 16). Those who "sleep in Jesus," God will bring with Him.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16, Paul describes the

resurrection of believers. Because of Jesus' resurrection, death cannot hurt us and the grave cannot hold us. Believers who are living when the Lord returns will be "caught up." At that moment there will be a great reunion "with them." What a comfort that is to those who have had loved ones die in the Lord.

These verses were given to comfort and encourage us to do our best. While we are not saved by works, believers will be rewarded for our works at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The angel told the woman who went to the empty tomb of Jesus to come, see, go, tell! The resurrection of Jesus is a message of hope. Death is not the end for those who trust in Christ. It is the doorway that leads to eternity with God: The message of the resurrection of Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves. Tell someone this week that the risen Lord is coming again!

**E**aster! What kind of day is this? **Easter is a day for celebration.** The initial reaction of the women who first encountered the empty tomb was fear. But as the reality of the good news became evident, they were filled with inexpressible joy (v. 8).

Can you grasp the significance of this glorious truth? Jesus is alive! Through His resurrection, He has conquered death and hell. He has triumphed over sin and Satan. He has engaged the forces of evil in the ultimate battle of time and eternity, and He has won.

This is cause for rejoicing! Easter Sunday should be a time of jubilant celebration as the people of God join together to worship our risen Savior.

**Easter is a day for contemplation.** When our emotions are high, our tendency often is to put our minds in neutral. But Easter is a time to think as well as to feel. Our joyful celebration should be marked by reverent contemplation.

When John came to the empty tomb that first

Easter morning, "he saw and believed" (John 20:8). The language suggests not mere physical sight, but that he saw with perception and insight.

Easter is a day that should be marked by depth of thought as we contemplate the mystery of the person, passion and provision of Jesus. These are truths which may be most clearly seen as one peers into the darkness of a mist-enshrouded tomb.

**Easter is a day for cooperation.** The resurrection story is not complete until we hear the words of our risen Lord commanding us to take His gospel to the ends of the earth (v. 19). Easter reminds us that we have a unique story to tell and that the risen Christ we preach goes with us to encourage and empower us (v. 20).

This is not a task we can do alone. Easter is a wonderful time for God's people to recognize anew the common faith that unites us, and for us all to join hearts and hands to carry out the commission He has given us.

**T**he climax of the earthly ministry of Jesus is also the climax of God's redemptive plan of salvation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands as the one event that cannot be duplicated by anyone. With the resurrection of Christ, the foundation stone of Christianity was laid. Upon it the hope of eternal life rests.

The first picture in the collage Matthew paints of the resurrection of Christ is through the eyes of two women—Mary Magdalene and Mary, the wife of Clopas and the aunt of Jesus. Luke 24:10 mentions that other women were also present, but Matthew deals only with the two Marys.

At a predawn hour the women came to the grave of Jesus to anoint His body. The Lord was buried so quickly because of Passover that proper preparation for burial had not taken place. Nicodemus and Joseph had already done some preparation (Matt. 27:61). However, as an act of worship, these women came to anoint Him.

Apparently as they approached the grave they forgot all the promises Jesus had made about His resurrection. Mark 16:3 records that they wondered who would roll away the stone when they arrived

at the gravesite. When they arrived, they found an angel had moved the stone. The work of the angel produced a severe earthquake in the area.

The guards assigned to guard the tomb of Jesus were severely afraid. The word that is used to describe the shaking of the earthquake is the same root word that is used to describe the shaking that the guards had from fear. Trauma consumed them as they became like dead men.

As the women approached the grave, the announcement that all of history had been waiting upon occurred. The angel announced, "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."

Verse 8 records the natural outcome of a confrontation with the living Lord. They immediately went with joy to find the others and tell them about Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the proof of God for eternal life. However, it is more than future hope for the child of God. It is the good news that must be shared. A living Christian in relationship with a living Lord has a living message for a dying world.



**T**he book of Revelation answers some very important questions about the future. However, more than revealing the end times, this book reveals Jesus Christ. It is dedicated to Jesus and describes for us His garment, hair, eyes, feet, voice, hands, mouth and countenance. It is His revelation.

Revelation completes the circle of truth begun in Genesis. John wrote this book for the Isle of Patmos. He was banished there for preaching the gospel. Sundays should be exciting days. John received this revelation on the Lord's day. It was a Sunday he would never forget.

It is a book that comes with a promise and a blessing. According to verse 3 we will be blessed when we take time to read, understand and apply God's Word. The prophecy is about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to defeat the kingdom of darkness and establish the kingdom of light.

In verse 10 John was worshipping on the Lord's

day when he heard the Lord speak. I wonder how many believers will hear the Lord speak this Sunday? You can live in two locations, in the "isle" and in the "spirit." We may die down here, but we must live for up there!

John saw the glorified Christ and His church described as a lampstand. Every local New Testament church should be a lighthouse holding forth the word of God to a dark world.

John's attitude was one of fear and respect. One reason I believe people sin so openly today is because there is no fear of judgment. There is no need to fear life or death if you are trusting in Jesus. But everyone should fear judgment.

So many people do not believe Jesus is coming again. Families who believe the Bible will attend church on Sunday as though it were their first time and realize it could be their last time. My friend, Jesus is coming again. Are you and your family ready for that day?

**T**he term "born again" was once in vogue with the pop culture. No fad, it is the basic theme of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Using earthly illustrations and heavenly allusions, He explains its meaning.

■ *On being born* (vv. 3-7). You must be born again, literally born from above or anew. This is where we get our theological term regeneration (see Titus 3:5). Regeneration is necessary to see the kingdom of God. How? To live a physical life, it takes parents, that's biology. To live a spiritual life, it takes God, that's theology. The new birth is an act of God's grace upon the individual, in which He re-creates the nature of man. Man is dead, but God quickens (see Eph. 2:1, 5), thus enabling one to repent and to have faith unto salvation.

■ *On the blowing of the wind* (v. 8). This new life is imparted and imputed by God. Just like the wind, one cannot initiate the cause, but experience its effect. The new birth cannot be controlled or seen, but its effects are evident (see John 1:13).

**G**od is a God of organization and of order. Order is one characteristic of God that I can easily recognize as I've always been an organizer.

I took a philosophy course at college in the fall. I understood very little of the philosopher's way of thinking. Ancient philosophers had a belief that everything was made up of four basic elements, earth, air, fire and water. A certain philosopher argued that those four elements had to have mixtures with forces to have reality. Those two forces were love and hate. Love was the unifying force. The Greek word for the unifying force was *cosmos*. Hate was the fragmenting and disintegrating force that resulted in chaos. The philosophers noticed that in the midst of this change and fragmentation there seemed to be order.

To go further than the ancient philosopher, it is specifically the love of God that brings order. God's love can take that which is in chaos and put it together. Love is presented in Scripture as a divine force that actually results in harmony, order, balance, structure and beauty.

The word *cosmetics* comes from the Greek

How can this be? We now move on to what Jesus called the "heavenly" things.

■ *On ascending to heaven* (vv. 12-13). Some in Nicodemus' day had the expectation to ascend into heaven by fidelity to the law. Once received, this one could return and share it with all. Here, by identifying Himself as the Son of Man, Jesus alludes to prophecy (Daniel 7:13), and to His own pre-existence and incarnation. Not only has He come, but He will go again by the cross with exaltation.

■ *On raising the brazen staff* (vv. 14-15). Just as Moses lifted the serpent on a staff so shall Jesus be lifted on the cross (see Numbers 21:5-9). In the desert, whoever looked upon the staff was delivered from the bite of the serpent. The very means of death became the object of deliverance. Those who looked were given a chance of starting life over from the point of death.

So it is with Jesus (II Cor. 5:17). Whosoever looks and believes in Him shall live eternally.

word *cosmos*. In our focal passage God is engaging in cosmetics. The earth was without form and void. The Hebrew word there denotes chaos, an absence of order. The six days of creation are six days of ordering and building *cosmos*. Taking what is disorderly, God begins to harmonize, set boundaries and form a universe of marvelous order. Dr. Keith Putt of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, preaches a sermon entitled, "God's Cosmetic Love." He notes that it is the love of God that orders reality and makes it into a universe. Creation is the result of God's love.

The threat of chaos in our lives comes when we try to do things on our own. We are basically saying we can order our lives by ourselves. God gives us this free will of choice and will allow us to try to make order in our own lives. When God steps out we have disorder and chaos. The only thing that removes the chaos from our lives is God's love.

## Family Bible

### A Sunday to remember

By Grant Eltridge, pastor, First Church, Lavaca

**Basic passage:**

Revelation 1

**Focal passage:**

Revelation 1:1-3, 10-18

**Central truth:**

Christians may not know all the future holds, but we know Who hold the future.

## Life and Work

### A discourse with Nicodemus

By Randy P. Magar, pastor, Newark Southern Church

**Basic passage:**

John 3:1-21

**Focal passage:**

John 3:3-15

**Central truth:**

One must experience the new birth to see the kingdom of God.

## Explore the Bible

### God is a God of order

By Katsy McAllister, member, First Church, El Dorado

**Basic passage:**

Genesis 1-2

**Focal passage:**

Genesis 1-2

**Central truth:**

God's love can bring order to our lives.



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**Clinton bars federal funding for cloning of human beings**

WASHINGTON (ABP/BP)—Declaring that "human creation is not simply a matter of scientific inquiry," President Clinton issued a directive March 4 barring the use of federal funds for human cloning. Clinton's announcement came on the heels of recent advances in cloning technology, including the successful cloning of an adult sheep in Scotland and a rhesus monkey in Oregon.

Citing "the troubling prospect that it might someday be possible to clone human beings," Clinton said, "Any discovery that touches upon human creation is not simply a matter of scientific inquiry, it is a matter of morality and spirituality as well."

Clinton also has asked the National Bioethics Advisory Commission to review the legal and ethical issues raised by cloning and issue a report by the end of May. Clinton's directive does not restrict privately funded research, but he asked the scientific and medical community to impose a voluntary moratorium on human cloning until the bioethics panel reports its findings.

In their semiannual meeting March 6, trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission adopted a resolution commending the president's action and calling on Congress to prohibit human cloning.

**House affirms Ten Commandments display**

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. House of Representatives has thrown its weight behind a controversial bid by an Alabama judge to keep a display of the Ten Commandments on a courtroom wall. The House voted 295-125 on March 5 to approve a resolution supporting Etowah County Judge Roy Moore's display of the Ten Commandments.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit two years ago to stop the Gadsden, Ala., judge from opening court sessions with a prayer by a local Christian minister and from displaying the commandments.

The nonbinding resolution expresses the "sense" of the House that the Ten Commandments are a declaration of fundamental principles that are the cornerstones of society and "the public display, including the display in government offices and courthouses, of the Ten Commandments should be permitted."

Supporters of the resolution say there is no difference in Moore's display of the Ten Commandments and a display of the same commandments in the U.S. Supreme Court. Opponents argue that the Supreme Court display only represents the commandments with Roman numerals without written text. They also note it is part of a larger display that includes other historical documents and symbols.

**Meredith College board votes to become self-perpetuating**

RALEIGH, NC (BP)—Trustees of Meredith College have voted to make their board self-perpetuating beginning in 1998, increasing the number of board-selected trustees by 25 percent each year until the change is completed in 2001.

The 36 trustees of the 2,500-student women's college currently are elected by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in annual session upon recommendation of the convention's nominating committee.

Under a plan approved by messengers at the 1992 state convention, agencies and institutions may elect their own trustees and have a proportionate reduction of funding from the state convention. North Carolina Baptists' 1997 budget allocates about \$1 million to Meredith College, approximately 4 percent of the school's annual operating budget.

**Former HMB president Lewis earns church planting award**

SAN JOSE, CA (BP)—Larry L. Lewis, former president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has received the Jack Redford Church Extension Award. The award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding leadership in Southern Baptist church starting. As president of the HMB, Lewis placed a priority on starting what he called Bible-preaching, soul-winning, ministry churches.

"He gave church starting high visibility among Southern Baptists and emphasized planting churches by penetrating unreached people groups through evangelism," said Floyd Tidsworth, director of new church extension at the HMB. "He made major contributions to home missions by leading Southern Baptists to clearly move toward A.D. 2000 with goals of significant increases in new churches."

Lewis stepped down as HMB president at the end of 1996 to work with Mission America as a national facilitator for Celebrate Jesus 2000.

