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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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6-14-1990

**June 14, 1990**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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**Yes, You Can!**

# Arkansas Baptist

June 14, 1990



**Yes, You Can!**

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8888 photo / Jim Veneman

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## IT'S UPLIFTING

### Sending Cars And Bibles

KAISERLAUTERN, West Germany (BP)—An English-speaking Baptist church in West Germany has made aid to Romania a major ministry, sending two cars, 700 Romanian-language Bibles and other items to help Baptist work there.

The two used cars, provided by Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserlautern, West Germany, are being used to transport Romanian Baptists to a series of teaching sessions in a "School of the Prophets" program led by visiting Southern Baptist professors. Scores of Romanian Christians are receiving training in the Bible and ministry through the program.

Members of Faith Baptist Church, a 725-member congregation, come mostly from the 12 U.S. Army and Air Force bases in and around Kaiserlautern.

Six men from Faith church recently went to Romania for 10 days to deliver the cars and other supplies. Four are members of the American military forces assigned to NATO bases in West Germany.

"The Romanians were impressed to have American NATO officers in their country,

since in their army people were never promoted to officer level if they're Christians," said Faith pastor Jim Tomberlin.

The Faith team preached, taught or sang daily during their visit to Baptist churches in five Romanian towns near Oradea and Arad, Tomberlin said. Steve Kahne, a major in the U.S. Air Force and a Christian of Jewish background, taught sessions on Old Testament festivals.

Among other items, the church sent several typewriters, medical supplies and a bicycle to help a Romanian Baptist pastor with transportation. One team member repaired a copy machine Faith church sent earlier to the Baptist association office in Arad.

"Lines were everywhere in the stores, but the situation isn't as bad as earlier," said Tomberlin. "The stores are very bare and half-empty still, though."

The visitors were impressed with the vision and zeal Romanian Baptists displayed for reaching their land for Christ. "Their churches are flourishing despite the hardships. If they can equip their people and send them into the other Eastern European countries, they'll have a far greater hearing than we would," Tomberlin said.

## GOOD NEWS!

### Therefore, Fear God

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

To see the Book of Ecclesiastes as a search that never finds an answer would be unfortunate, for meaningful life can be found but only as man walks by faith with God. These scriptures strongly reaffirm that truth.

Verses 9 through 11 praise wisdom and the sages who taught it. The writer is described as one of the best of these wise men who taught the people through carefully prepared proverbs. He spoke and taught that which was "upright," even words of "truth" revealed to him by God. His teachings were like goods that pricked and stirred his listeners to action; they were designed to stick in man's heart and to motivate him to look for more in life than physical pleasures and possessions.

Verse 12 makes a strong point that wisdom alone cannot bring real satisfaction. Wisdom is good and can show man his creatureliness, but wisdom alone can never bring real meaning to life. The author admonishes his readers to study and to walk by faith with God.

Verse 13-14 remind the reader once more (5:1-7; 7:18; 8:12-13, 12:1) that life has meaning only as it is lived in the proper relationship with God the Creator Real and meaningful life is not found in an endless inquiry into man's wisdom but in "fearing" God (acknowledging who he is and responding to that revelation in obedient love) and keeping his commandments (walking daily by faith with him and sharing that faith from one generation to the next). Life can have hope and meaning, but only as it is lived in a faith relationship with God.

How desperately this message is needed in our world today. Many, if not most, in our society are searching for some meaning or purpose to life; and this search is not wrong. Yet, search as they may, men will never find the answer they need in their own wisdom. Like the writer of Ecclesiastes, we should show our fellow man the limitations of man's wisdom and point them to God. Only as man acknowledges God as Lord and Savior does life begin to have real meaning.

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# The Right Choices

J. EVERETT SNEED

In many instances it is easy for a Christian to make the right decision. The Bible clearly instructs us not to kill, steal or cheat. Yet, there are occasions in which there is no clear instruction in the Scripture. The Christian is always obligated to do that which is keeping in God's will. But, how can one know the right thing to do when there is no direct command in the Scripture? The Bible does lay down certain principles to be applied in the day by day decision making process.

First, a Christian should be directly involved in those things which will glorify God. Christians are to reflect God in the world. Daily activities and lifestyle of the Christian will either enhance or detract from the cause of Christ.

Often lost individuals will point to actual or imagined inconsistencies in lives of Christians as a reason for not accepting Christ. Since the most important Christian mission is to bring the lost to Christ, it is imperative that the daily lives of Christians serve as an evangel.

Even good things can be misused so they will fail to glorify God. For example, Christians are repeatedly instructed to pray. But even prayer can be used in such a way as to exalt self—not God.

Jesus told of two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a religious man (a Pharisee) and the other was a hated tax collector (a Publican). The religious man thanked God that he was better than the tax collector. The Publican prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Lk. 18:13).

Jesus said the tax collector went away justified while the religious man was condemned. Self-centeredness, self-righteousness, and self-exaltation are always wrong for a Christian. When our motives are wrong our choices are likely to be also.

Second, a Christian should not be involved in things which will cause others to stumble. The Apostle Paul gave us this principle as he said, "therefore, if meat makes my brother to offend, I will eat no meat while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (1 Co. 8:13).

In Corinth, there were numerous Christians who previously had been involved in idol worship. The worship of idols included the use of burnt offerings. The meat left from these offerings, being of the best quality, was sold at the market at a reduced price. There was nothing morally wrong



with eating such meat. Yet, Paul said, if his eating of this meat would cause his fellow Christian to sin, he would refrain from the eating of meat.

Some things may not be wrong in and of themselves, but for the sake of others, it may be necessary to refrain from them. Christians are responsible for the well being of others.

Third, a Christian should not be involved in things which will harm his body or his mind. Paul said, "know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Co. 3:16).

God created our bodies, and we are responsible to him for the proper care of them. Hence, we are not to take anything into our bodies which will harm them. It also means we are to obtain proper rest and recreation. One can be so overwhelmed in

the doing of good things that he is sinning because he is overworking his body.

We are responsible for the proper care of our minds. We are to study those things which will build up our minds. Essentially, a person is his native ability plus all the things with which he has contact. If we fill our minds with that which is base or evil, it will become a part of us. In a time in which our television screens and magazines are filled with lewd, suggestive and even pornographic materials it particularly is important that we shun these things. If we fill our minds with such materials they become a part of us. It may even be that we will act out the sinful things that we have seen or read.

Finally, a Christian should not be involved in things which will promote evil. Throughout the Scriptures, we are instructed to "abhor that which is evil." We are to have absolutely no contact with it. This, in some instances, is the most difficult of the principles to be used in determining what is right. Because, often evil masquerades as righteousness.

Some religious sect may make appeals for money, purporting to carry out benevolent activities. The Scripture warns us that the Devil often masquerades as an angel of light. The cult established by Jim Jones is an example. A Southern Baptist can protect himself by giving his money through his own church. The local church can protect the Lord's money by channeling it through the Cooperative Program.

Life is made up of choices. Even what appears to be a small decision may have long reaching effects. It is essential that a Christian utilize practical, biblical principles under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, so that he can make the right choices.

## Arkansas Baptist

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MIKE HUCKABEE

## The President's Corner

If funding can be finalized, Arkansas Baptists will make history this fall in our annual state convention. Plans are underway to televise the entire gavel-to-gavel proceedings of the ABCS via satellite and simultaneously broadcast it on all state affiliates of ACTS as well as make it available to anyone with a satellite dish.

We hope to test a concept that one day will probably be a standard way of conducting convention business. Unofficial "polling" will be carried out at designated viewing sites on each issue that is being officially decided by the messengers attending the actual convention. A phone hook-up to the satellite headquarters facility will yield results from the unofficial "poll" and will be received within seconds of the official balloting going on in the convention hall.

Conventions are often more representative of pastors with convention budgets than many rank-and-file Baptists, unable to take three days off in the middle of a week to attend. We can make the proceedings of our denomination accessible to a larger part of our constituency, and hopefully one day create the opportunity for "folks at home" to actually express their convictions on the issues of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Despite the fact that any such "voting" for the time being is unofficial and will not count in the outcome of decisions, we will be able to demonstrate that it can be done.

Imagine the possibilities when churches could send its full number of messengers without bankrupting the budget by having to pay expenses of distant travel!

Corporate sponsors ar being lined up to defray the approximate \$10,000 it will cost to carry out the project. The cost is ridiculously low due to ACTS of Arkansas churches which are donating time, personnel, and equipment for the effort.

Jesus said, "The last will be first." We in Arkansas are often sneered at for being "last" in per capita incomes, teacher salaries, and the like. If we can pull off this bold effort, the Christian world will certainly not say of Arkansas Baptists that we are last!

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



## Letters to the Editor

### Honest Appraisal

Your editorial of May 17th states so accurately and precisely our problem in SBC affairs. This honest appraisal of where we are as Southern Baptists should be explained in every pulpit in the Convention. We have tried, as my grandma used to say, to "keep down peace" by not pointing out to our people what was taking place the past ten years. We have tried to exemplify what we believed to be the Spirit of our Lord in not stirring the waters, hoping that others would respond in the same spirit. They didn't.

Jerry Vine's ruling the minority report out of order proves your point in vesting power in the hands of a few. In Vine's ruling, one man has made a decision for a democratic body that has not yet assembled! How does he know the mind or every independent, church elected messenger to that Convention, and what their convictions are? He doesn't, but has ruled them out of order before they meet. A democracy? Think on it. Keep up the good work, my brother!—J. Lowell Ponder, Farmington

### Teaching Religion

Yes, Virginia, religion can be, is being, or will be (if we allow it) taught to our children. Any religion—New Age, Eastern Mysticism, Hinduism, Yoga, Humanism—except Christianity and its precepts is acceptable in the public schools. Can Christians sit passively by while modern pagans subtly influence and reshape the values of our children? How can they remain silent when the faith of their fathers and the teachings of their Lord and God are ridiculed as worthless or rejected as dangerous?

While we pray to evangelize the world, we also pray to allow pagan philosophies to trifle with the lives and souls of our children.

Christians have been deceived into believing this is what is meant by separation of church and state. We are allowing our little ones to be wooed by a thought world where false religions are given free reign and Christianity is ridiculed or ignored. When persecution comes, will they be among the persecuted—or persecutors?—Gwen Carpenter, Magnolia

BOB PARKER

## Today's Issues

### Implacability

The word "implacable" was recently looked up in a dictionary even though I minored in English at Ouachita College, now OBU. It means "not capable of being pacified, not willing to forgive when efforts at reconciliation are made." One who is implacable isn't willing to accept overtures of peace.

In describing those with depraved or reprobate minds (Ro. 1:28ff), Paul included the sins of gossip, slander, insolence, arrogance, disobedience to parents and being senseless, faithless, heartless and ruthless. The King James Version uses the word "implacable," instead of "heartless."

Several verses before the above listing, Paul wrote also of the sins of homosexuality and lesbianism. Sins of every type need the cleansing power of the Holy

Spirit, not just the ones we are least susceptible to. A "good soil" Christian will not be heartless or implacable as opposed to the "weedy and thorny" soils. He will want to display to the lost world around him peace and love, which are two of the fruit, or evidences, of being a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Religious groups such as Islam and Mormons thrive and grow when fertilized with all types of sins by Christians, including implacability and lovelessness.

Let's always seek to reflect the beautiful peace and love of Jesus Christ in every relationship, at home, at work, at school, at church and in our beloved denomination.

Robert A. Parker is director of the Christian Life Council.



## Ordained for Good Works

God ordained government, and its leaders are God's servants to do good works (Ro. 13:1-7).

The same God who ordained the moon and the stars (Ps. 8:3), the prophets (Jr. 1:5), and a place for his people (1 Ch. 17:9) ordained government, the "powers that be." This is the fundamental biblical teaching which should guide Christians in their understanding of, and involvement with, government.

To affirm government as ordained by God is to affirm government as limited. God the Creator and Redeemer is eternal.

His Kingdom is forever. In working among humans, God establishes and uses many temporal servants.

Government and rulers are such temporal servants. In a limited world distorted by sins, they serve limited functions. Paul could say that the rulers are God's ministers to encourage good. Certainly the rulers of his day did not seek to advance specifically Christian values. They presided over one of the most decadent eras of Western civilization. Later rulers became tyrants against the faithful, and the authority that God ordained was distorted. Its

dependence upon him was denied.

But during Paul's life, the power of Rome controlled conflict. It provided what was known as the *Pax Romana*, or Roman peace. Because of the limited peace of his day, Paul could travel throughout the regions of the Mediterranean proclaiming the gospel. This measure of peace was certainly a part of Paul's expectation that rulers would in part "do that which is good."

The "good works" of government are not exhausted by the responsibility of protecting its citizens. Government and leaders are to promote justice and fairness (2 S. 23:3-4; Am. 5:24). They are to resolve conflict among citizens (Ru. 4:1-12). They are to protect the poor and the oppressed (Am. 5:10-15; Lev. 24-26). These expectations of government, rooted in the Old Testament monarchy, are certainly among the "good works" God ordained all governments and all leaders to perform.

What of government today? The kingship of Israel is gone. The emperors of Rome are no more. We as Americans have a democratic heritage that provides for greater participation in the work of government. Even in totalitarian lands signs of democracy and participation are stirring. But the fundamental truths about government remain the same.

Government is ordained of God. It exists to serve his purposes. God established other human institutions such as the home and the church. Each institution, and those who participate in it, has a special calling. Those callings are different.

Government is limited. God has not given it the purpose of the home or the church. God's purposes are bigger than any government, any party. To expect too much of any government, to claim too much for any ruler, is to deny both God's ordination of those powers and his ultimate sovereignty.

Christian Citizenship Sunday is a day on the denominational calendar for Southern Baptists to affirm this most fundamental truth about government and rulers: they are ordained of God to do his purpose among humankind. They hold their power, not by right, but by gift from him.—Larry Braidfoot, SBC Christian Life Commission

### SILOAM SPRINGS ASSEMBLY

## Unforgettable Influences

Every so often—but not every day—God raises up and inspires a dynamic spiritual leader whose talents, conversation, and spirituality give a blessing and a positive life-changing influence to the people they meet and to whom they minister. A well-fulfilled function to the Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs has been to offer to a wide assortment of young people, families, and lay-church leaders an intense exposure to this type of individual. The decisions and life-direction changes resulting from these exposures are a tremendous spiritual force in action today.

How well I remember the intellectual persuasive sermons of Vance Havner, the foot-stomping of J. Harold "Fort" Smith, and the intensity of "Cousin" J. D. Grey. My mother recalls that at Siloam she first heard R.G. Lee preach his famous sermon, "Payday-Someday."

For approximately seven years the Assembly was unforgettable for the soprano solos and testimony of Rose Arzamanian, a petite brunette, temperamental, operatic Armenian from Chicago. Her tremendous voice filled the Tabernacle and spilled out over the campus as she sang both new and old songs about Jesus. Her testimony about the persecution of Armenian Christians in the 40s and 50s ironically predated the 1989 headline news by 35 years.

My Aunt Jean relates the stirring story of World War II, when on the Assembly grounds, Dr. and Mrs. Grant (at that time president of Ouachita College) received the news of their son's death on the battlefield. The Grants refused to leave

Siloam, preferring to share their sorrow and love with the members of God's family already gathered about them.

For four or more years the music at Siloam was directed by Gayle Dunn, who introduced a chorus book of songs which he had composed. Many of these choruses were memorized, including such unforgettable ones as "Everybody Ought to Know Who Jesus Is" and "Jesus Lives, Yes He Lives, Hallelujah, Jesus Lives." I recall the evening services when a storm would suddenly knock out the lights and we would sit thirty minutes or more in the dark in the Tabernacle singing choruses with Gayle Dunn.

Can I ever forget the sermon by W.O. Vaught on "Jacob's Well" and his admonition that when Jesus spoke of "fields—white unto harvest, he was not referring to the golden wheat but to the white-robed Samaritans traveling to and from the fields." This was one of those moments when God came down and walked through the Tabernacle of the Assembly—and this time he tapped me on the shoulder.

So many times I've felt him walk through a Tabernacle service, and I have seen hundreds respond to his touch on the shoulder. The sawdust aisles are now concrete, but still they come—responding to his presence, call, and touch. Mountaintop experiences are always inspirational. When we add to them God's dynamic leaders, the experience becomes more focused and unforgettable; and God's presence becomes more real and his touch on the shoulder more frequent.—Rel Gray, Ruston, La.

## Notice

The featured column "Hymns Baptists Sing" has been left out of the past two issues due to space considerations. It will return next week in its regular space.

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The Contact YAG Laser was instrumental in another medical first for Arkansas when it was used to correct a condition caused by abnormal

uterine bleeding in women. The availability of this technology gives hope to women who may be faced with the need for a hysterectomy.

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Neurosurgeons use the CO<sub>2</sub> to cauterize tissue during brain surgery, while ear, nose and throat physicians — ENTs — use it in the treatment of tumors of the vocal cord.

We are proud of the progress we have made since 1962 at Baptist Memorial Medical Center where lasers are indeed more than science fiction for the people of North Little Rock and North Pulaski County. They are but one example of the medical advancements that are keeping Baptist Memorial Medical Center at the forefront of medical technology in Arkansas. And, as part of Baptist Medical System, Baptist Memorial Medical Center's patients have access to the resources of the state's largest private, not-for-profit healthcare provider.

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Gail and Greg Skipper work to blend her text with his music for the "You Can" series of musicals for small churches.

## Yes, You Can!

*Flexibility allows small churches to present musicals*

by Charles Willis

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE — Gail and Greg Skipper have realized a dream of providing the "impossible" for small churches.

Gail, a special education teacher for multi-handicapped children, and Greg, manager of the Genevox marketing section at the Sunday School Board, remember their contact with small churches in south Alabama during their college days. While Greg was part-time minister of music in a church of about 500 members, numerous smaller churches populated rural communities nearby.

"Often, members of these smaller churches would come to our church to hear Christmas and Easter musicals," Greg Skipper recalled. "Though it was always a good feeling to have visitors come to hear the program which we had worked on so hard, we wondered if there was not a way for a small church to present its own music program on these special occasions."

"Tell Me the Story," a Christmas musical and the first release in the "You Can" Music Series from Genevox Music Group, was written by the Skippers to help small churches accomplish what some had thought was impossible.

"The 'You Can' Music Series means just that," Gail Skipper said. "You can sing and present a musical with limited resources. No choir loft or pianist are needed, though

they may be used if they are available. Optional solos and an optional narrator add to the flexibility, tailoring the musical to the number of persons available to participate."

Each "You Can" packet contains all the basic materials and step-by-step instructions needed for a pastor or volunteer leader to present a successful musical. The packet for "Tell Me the Story" includes 10 books, a stereo rehearsal cassette, a performance cassette, three posters, newspaper advertising art, a suggested order of worship, and sermon outline suggestions.

The Skippers said they believe a musical presentation can create outreach opportunities that expand ministry, increase attendance, provide visibility for the church, strengthen fellowship and begin or build a music program.

"Small churches may have size in common, but they are all different," Greg observed. "One may have a good pianist, but no soloist. Another may have several good voices, but no accompanist other than a teenager who has had three years of lessons. Some may have no musical instrument at all. We've tried to take all these possibilities into account."

"We hope small churches like those we have known will present their own musicals instead of watching one at a larger church," Gail added. "Above all, we want God's people to tell the story of his Son."

## Classifieds

Available—Pastor or Music, permanent or interim. Jim Oliver, 501-223-2735. 9/14

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

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## A SMILE OR TWO

Work is what you do so that some time you won't have to do it any more.



# Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**Maynard Whipple** has resigned as pastor of Mandeville Church, Texarkana.

**Kim Chebahtah** has resigned as children and youth director of Memorial Church in Waldo to do mission work in Alaska.

**Jay Rowton** has resigned as pastor of Rocky Mount Church, Fouke.

**Clarence F. Presley** of Batesville died May 28 at age 84. He was a member of Calvary Church in Batesville, where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was retired as tax collector for Independence County. Survivors are his wife, Verble Stone Presley; one son, J.P. Presley of Batesville; two daughters, Mrs. George Brickell of Batesville and Mrs. Bill Callahan of Sulphur Rock; one brother; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Don Wright** observed 15 years of service May 27 as minister of music at Bella Vista Church.

**Neil Franks** is serving as minister of music and youth at First Church in Mount Ida. He is a student at Henderson State University.

**Harold Presley** has resigned as pastor of Bethel Church, Prescott.

**Mike McCauley** and **Sloan Barrett** have joined the staff of Richwoods Church in Arkadelphia as youth co-workers.

**John Resecker** has joined the staff of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana as building services administrator.

**Marguerite Lavender** and **John Clinton** recently were recognized as Senior Adults of the Year by Immanuel Church in Little Rock. Lavender, a member of the church since 1936, serves in the Adult Two Department, is a member of Woman's Missionary Union, and is program director for the XYZ organization. Clinton, a member since 1946, teaches in the church's children's division of Sunday School and serves as a van driver.

**Lisa Tucker** of Trumann and **Frances Usrey**, Arkansas WMU Girls in Action director, were recently in Birmingham, Ala., to attend the 1990 writers conference at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union headquarters.

**Wendy Johnson** and **Megan Strother** will serve as summer interns at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. Johnson, of Fort Smith, is a junior elementary education major at Ouachita Baptist University. Strother, of Mountain Home, is a sophomore pre-med major at Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

**Del L. Medlin** observed five years of service June 3 as pastor of First Church in Cabot.

**Don Caddy** has joined the staff of Parkway Place Church in Little Rock as summer youth minister.

**Jerry Taylor** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Alexander, effective June 30 to serve as a pastoral missionary at Bay Church in Gladstone, Mich.

**Carol Moody** began serving June 3 as summer youth minister at Calvary Church in Little Rock. She is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Sam Moore**, who has been serving as bi-vocational pastor of Twelve Corners

Church at Garfield, will begin serving the church as full-time pastor in July.

**John Nauman**, who has been serving as bi-vocational pastor of Charity Southern Church at Rogers, will begin serving the church as full-time pastor in July.

**Jim Wallis** has resigned as pastor of Lowell Church to serve as pastor in Noel, Mo.

**David Montoya** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Gravette to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Ferrel Duffel** has resigned as pastor of Crosby Church at Searcy to serve as pastor of Cherry Valley Church.

**Norman Miller** has resigned as pastor of Good Hope Church at McCrory.

**Donnie Smith** is serving as pastor of First Church in Griffithville, coming there from Grubbs Church.

**Anita Murdoch** will serve as summer youth director for First Church in Pangburn. She is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



*Second Baptist Church in Russellville observed Truman L. Owens Day June 3 in recognition of 22 years of service from the congregation's bivocational minister of music. Owens, who is employed by Tyson Foods, had served the congregation since 1968. The morning message was delivered by Marshall Dark of Clinton, Mo., who recruited Owens to the music ministry at Elaine in 1958. Before coming to Russellville, Owens also served Barton Baptist Church. A noontime potluck and afternoon reception followed the morning service. Owens was presented a leather-bound hymnal and a walnut director's baton, as well as a book of letters and an "outstanding citizen" certificate signed by Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton.*

**Kenny Sutton** is serving as summer youth director for Temple Church in Searcy. He is a student at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

**Gene Carpenter** is serving as pastor of Knobel First Church at Peach Orchard, coming there from Tipperary Church.

**Wade Hood** has resigned as pastor of Mount Pleasant Church at Maynard to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Steve Patterson** has resigned as pastor of Success First Church to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## Briefly

**Beech Street First Church** in Texarkana recently ordained Ronnie Bell, Ed Wright, David Simmons, Tarleton Rutledge, Doug Elkins, David Reavis and Mike Hickerson to the deacon ministry. Gary Underwood was ordained to the preaching ministry.

**Martindale Church** in Little Rock celebrated its 50th anniversary June 10. Scott Johnson is pastor.

**Calvary Church** at Timbo will celebrate its 20th anniversary July 1, using the theme an "Old Fashioned All Day Meet'n with Dinner on the Grounds."

**Trinity Church** in Fort Smith held an Appreciation Day June 3, recognizing three years of service by Calvin Remy, minister of music, and one year of service by Cliff Jameson, minister of education.

**El Dorado Second Church** ordained Tom Barber and Rick Bauman to the deacon ministry June 3.

**Geyer Springs First Church** in Little Rock will celebrate its 50th anniversary July 14. Russell Newport will be featured musical guest. There will be an evening fellowship for present and former members.

**Greater Grace Church** in Little Rock launched an apartment ministry in the Pines Apartments in Little Rock May 26 with 54 in attendance.

**Indian Springs Church** at Bryant broke ground June 3 for a family life/worship center.



*The Smiths*

## Arkansas Couple Named

RICHMOND, Va.—Randall and Debra Smith were among 29 people recently named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in San Diego, Calif.

The Smiths will live in the Philippines, where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1987, Smith has been pastor of Immanuel Church in Wabash, Ark. He also is a cabinet maker with Carpenter's Cabinets in Elaine. Smith is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of North Carolina State University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Smith, the former Debra Blackwelder, is also a native of North Carolina.

The Smiths have three children, Anna Elizabeth, Paul Thomas, and Randall Scott.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



*The Faith Church, DeWitt, dedicated its new facilities June 3. The new building was constructed at a cost of approximately \$75,000 and has a replacement value of about \$140,000. The new building has a 225-seat auditorium, five Sunday School rooms, a nursery, and two choir rooms. The afternoon dedicatory message was delivered by Ed Hinkson, ABSC associate Sunday School director. Others participating on the program included Editor J. Everett Sneed, Jack Ramsey, ABSC Missions Department associate, and Centennial Association Director of Missions Lynwood Henderson. Pictured (left to right) are John Allen, Jim Blackwood, Roy Goodwin, Betty Peebles, Raymond McMaster, Homer Horton, and Pastor Michael Hulsey.*

## Sunday School Lesson Change

The *Arkansas Baptist* is now publishing Sunday School lesson commentaries 10 days in advance. To facilitate this change, commentaries for June 17 and June 24 lessons are contained in this issue.

## The Right Reasons

by Don Moore  
ARBC Executive Director

Shirley and I had an unusual experience the other day. We had driven to Smackover early on Saturday to spend the day before Mother's Day with her mother. Strokes and an Alzheimer's type condition has had Mamaw in a condition where there are few if any conscious moments in any given day. The day had been particularly difficult. No recognition. No responsiveness.



Moore

We drove from the nursing home to Children's Hospital in Little Rock where on the other end of the spectrum of life, we spent some time trying to awaken and arouse our prematurely-born granddaughter. Both were equally helpless. With both we were equally helpless. Once again, we had to commit them to a loving heavenly Father who alone holds their present and future in his hand.

Then, I thought of churches. Some are very young. Some are very old. Many have had strokes caused by division in the church. Some seem to have hardening of the arteries. Others have been traumatized by environmental changes, such as shifting of population. Yet, others have seemingly slipped into a comatose condition from which they seem unable to awaken. The conditions spiritually appear to be much like the physical condition of Mamaw and Abby.

Oh, but there is something strikingly different. There was nothing Shirley and I could do for them, but put them in God's hands and in the hands of medical personnel. But in the case of the churches, he has put them in our hands. He knows there are things that we can do. That is not to say that he is not to be depended on, or that he has backed away from the situation. It is to say we are responsible for waking up. We are responsible for gearing up. We are responsible for showing up. We are responsible for firing up. I am telling you that consistent, enthusiastic, well-directed efforts on the part of the pastor and a few lay people can turn these plateaued and dying churches around. I am talking about two-thirds of our churches. Our Here's Hope revivals have proven it can be done.

You will have to stop the bickering, blaming and fighting over every petty thing that comes along. You will have to stop

compromising with every worldly cause that comes along. You will have to determine that God is going to be before your hobbies, recreation, professional clubs, sports, and personal ambitions. God's blessing will not fall on a compromising, carnal Christian. Nor will God's blessing fall on a church that does not carry a burden for reaching all of the lost in her community. Nor will God bless a selfish, visionless church.

It's time to stop trying to fix blame for the mess our churches are in, and go to work doing the right things for the right reasons, and relying upon God to send the blessing to awaken and arouse the church. To throw a limp, lifeless church back in God's hands without having poured out our all to make it viable and vibrant is cowardice, sloth and negligence of the highest order. Who wants to meet God with that blood on his or her hands?

Tradition, fear, costs, negativism, prejudice, change, grudges, pride and arrogance; these are the tools Satan uses to dampen the spirits of a determined preacher, a fired-up youth group, a revival that's trying to be born, or new converts aflame with love and zeal. In most churches there are people who feel obligated to throw water on anything exciting that begins to happen. Its as if their zeal might "show us up." "We might lose control."

My prayer is "Oh God, don't let the 'agginers' kill the spirit of the winners." Even as I say it, I am reminded that the "agginers" where at one time the "winners" who grew cold, stale, callused and bound. So, I pray again, "Lord, keep the winners, winners. Your church must abound with love and life if we are really the body of Christ."

Convention agencies, institutions and programs exists to help trigger growth and sustain life. The month of July holds some special opportunities for doing this.

**Family Enrichment Workshop**—July 23-24. This activity is for those who want to be equipped to help couples, parents and children. I can't imagine the pastor not wanting to be the first and most able leader of family enrichment in the congregation. We preach loud and long about family conditions. This is an opportunity to learn how to do something about it besides talk. The meeting will be at Parkway Place, Little Rock. Woody Parrish from Atlanta, Ga., will be the leader.

**Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers** will have their annual meeting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 19 at Park Hill, North Little Rock. A great time of

fellowship and inspiration will be experienced. Dennis Swanberg, Stephen and Marci Hatfield, and Dr. Daniel Grant will be featured in the day's activities.

**SummerSing III**, July 23-27, provides music camp experiences for senior adults across Arkansas. Music classes, classes for non-musicians, recreation, tours, picnics, creative worship and a talent show will make this our greatest SummerSing ever. Two out of state leaders will be coming to assist. This is for people age 55 and up. It will be held at Ouachita. Call our Church Music Department for early registration (376-4791).

**GA Minis-Camps**—A short camping experience for girls who have finished grades 3 through 6. Two camps are available back to back. The first one begins at 1 p.m., July 9, and concludes at 9:30 a.m., July 11. The second one begins at 1 p.m. on July 11, and concludes at 9:30 a.m., July 13. Two missionaries will be there to encourage spiritual growth and missions awareness.

**Music Arkansas**—Who can forget the exciting and inspiring times at music camp. For those who have completed grades 7-12, this week at Ouachita can be life-changing. Registration begins Monday at 1 p.m., July 23. Camp concludes at 4:30 p.m., July 27. Buryl Red, composer/arranger/conductor from New York will be the choral director. Billy White, excellent communicator with youth, will be the preacher. This should be our greatest camp in years. call church Music Department for more information.

**Siloam Springs**—Four intense weeks of camp will be held at Siloam Springs during July. Eight preachers and eight singers, along with hundreds of volunteer workers, and thousands of campers need our prayers, conversions, call to ministry, rededication and other life-changing decisions need to be made. Some camps still have openings. Call today if you find you can attend or your youth can attend. You might be able to get them in. A year from now will be too late for some young people.

**Need building counsel?** Free technical and practical help is available to you July 23-26. The Sunday School Board architect and Ed Hinkson will come to your church to discuss your building or remodeling needs. You only have to get them scheduled. Call now, because their schedule fills up quickly.



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## Stewardship/Annuity Baptists Part of Health-Care Crisis

Janet Cramer, technical editor for the Annuity Board, turned up figures to illustrate how pastors are caught by the health-care crisis. In 1973 a 35-year-old pastor paid an average of \$51.75 a month for family medical coverage. In January 1990 a 35-year-old pastor paid from \$256 to \$313 a month.

Medical claims for participants climbed from \$17.5 million to \$89.4 million in the last 10 years—a 410 percent increase. If salaries had increased as fast as medical costs during the last 20 years, a person making \$4,500 in 1970 would have made \$54,000 in 1989.

Mac H. Perkins, a director in the Insurance Services Division at the Annuity Board, called the statistics "alarming."

Insurance companies, health-care providers, employers, employees and public officials must find ways to address the health-care crisis, Perkins said. Health care costs could reach \$5,550 per person by the year 2000.

Churches and ministers see increasing costs as a pocket-book issue. Even with cost containment, premiums continue to increase. Some churches have to make the choice between paying additional premiums or a salary increase. The Annuity Board works diligently to provide the needed insurance benefits at competitive prices.—James A. Walker, director

## Church Music

### Ahoy, Children's Choir Lubbers!

Join our voyage to discover buried treasure: the secrets of successful (effective) children's choirs! Our state Preschool/Children's Choir Leader Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 11. The location is Life Line Church in Little Rock.

Our clinicians at the helm are Betty Woodward, Shawnee, Okla.; Janet Williamson, Huntsville, Ala.; Sarah Odum, New Orleans, La.; Gwenn Fitzpatrick, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock; and Kathy Williford, Woodland Heights Church, Conway. These ladies have stored away many treasures which they will share to help you lead children's choirs more effectively.

One treasure you'll receive is study course credit toward a children's choir leader diploma. We will offer "Using Kodaly and Orff in the Church," "Teaching

Children to Sing," "Developing Tone Matching & Singing Skills," "Teaching Harmony & Part Singing to Children," and "Leading & Accompanying Children's Singing."

We will begin boarding at 8 a.m. and the first session will begin at 8:45 a.m. We'll disembark at 4:30 p.m. The cost for early birds (postmarked by July 30) is \$7.50 per leader; after July 30 the cost will be \$8 per leader. Child care is provided for preschoolers at \$5 each.

Call the Church Music Department for clarification on further information at 376-4791, ext. 5121.—Peggy Pearson, associate/office manager

## Family Ministry Leadership Workshop

A Family Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop (FELTW) will be held July 23-24 at the Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. The workshop will equip church leaders to help their church implement an effective family ministry project.

Woody Parish, minister of education at the Peachtree Church in Atlanta, Ga., will be the workshop leader. He is an experienced leader of family ministry training and has led workshops for several state conventions.

Family enrichment programming is designed to meet the needs of couples, parents, and children for fulfilling family relationships. A broad range of family enrichment methodologies, models, and resources will be interpreted in the FELTW. Workshop participants will experience a variety of learning methods to enhance their own leadership skills.

A registration fee (\$12.50) will be charged to cover the cost of resources used in the workshop. Each participant will need a personal set of materials.

The workshop will benefit any church leader interested in improving their churches' ministry to families. It is designed for pastors, church staff, church and associational family ministry leaders, and other interested church and associational leaders.

Parkway Place Church is located about two miles west of I-430 and two blocks south of Markham in Little Rock.



Parish

FELTW is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist Discipleship Training Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department. For additional information, contact Gerald Jackson, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.—Gerald Jackson, associate

## Church Music

### M & M and R & R Clinics

What in the world is an M & M and R & R Clinic? I'm glad you asked, because there will be three of them in Arkansas: Aug. 27 at First Church, Hope; Aug. 28 at Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith; and Aug. 30 at Olivet Church, Little Rock.

Now, to answer your questions, M & M stands for music and magazines and R & R stands for resources and recommendations. For the first time, new music from *The Baptist Hymnal* 1991 and from new periodicals for youth and adults will be performed. It will be a time of celebration! The M & M and R & R Clinics will provide and interpret these new music magazines and other resources, and offer recommendations to enhance your music ministry. Gerald Armstrong, church music department consultant and Arkansas' regional representative at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be the clinic leader.

Youth and adult choir directors, companions, choir members, ministers of music and anyone interested in youth or adult music ministry should attend one of these clinics. Each clinic will begin at 7 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Samples of the new periodicals will be given to each church represented. Registration is requested. See your music director for a registration form or contact the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5121.—Lester McCullough, director

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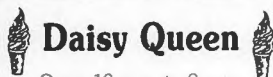
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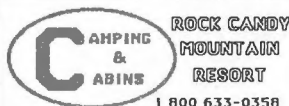
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## Discipleship Training Training Opportunity

Pastors and Discipleship Training Directors will have a unique training opportunity on Aug. 3-4 at the annual Pastor-Director Conference. This conference is offered at this time in preparation for the launch of a new year of Discipleship Training in October.

DiscipleAll, the 1991-95 emphasis on Discipleship Training, will be introduced along with the brand new DiscipleAll leadership manual. A complete overview of all discipleship resources will be given along with helps for discovering, enlisting, and training Discipleship Training leaders for the coming year.

The location of the conference is the Community Conference Room at the University Mall on South University Avenue in Little Rock. The sessions begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, and conclude by noon on Saturday. Lodging, parking, and food service are all conveniently located near the shopping center. Make this event a major part of your church's preparation for the new year. Watch for your brochure with all of the details.—**Rolander Holley, director**



Holley

leaders, and Mission Friend leaders.

Day sessions will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Age-level conferences will be offered from 10 a.m. to 12 noon with special interest conferences held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Those topics include: Dealing with Stress, Managing Your Time, Promoting/Publicizing Missions, Meeting Emotional Needs of Children, Missions Prayer Experiences, Adult Foreign Mission Study, and EMPOWERED!

Night sessions are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and age-level conferences only will be offered. During both day and night sessions a nursery for preschoolers will be provided. A Baptist Book Store display is also

available to enable leaders to purchase necessary materials for the new year.

Listed below are the dates, places and times of IMPACT '90. Choose the one that best suits your needs.

- Aug. 27—Immanuel, Little Rock (am/pm)
- Aug. 28—Calvary, West Memphis (pm)
- Aug. 29—Calvary, West Memphis (am)
- Aug. 30—Eastside, Paragould (am/pm)
- Sept. 10—Grand Ave., Ft. Smith (am/pm)
- Sept. 11—First, Prairie Grove (pm)
- Sept. 12—First, Prairie Grove (am)
- Sept. 13—Eastside, Mountain Home (am/pm)
- Sept. 24—First, Arkadelphia (am/pm)
- Sept. 25—Central, Magnolia (pm)

## CHURCH MUSIC

### God Moves Us Frequently?

Moving surely must be enjoyable, we seem to be doing so much of it.

The other day I was cleaning out a notebook and included was a Music Ministers' Directory that the Music Men had decided to compile in 1985 with information about each person who responded. I decided to do a little research on the paper before it was discarded. You may ask why I was discarding this information that had been compiled. I think its uselessness will become apparent.

Of the 76 who had responded only 20 of them were still serving at the same church. The other 56, or 74 percent, had moved or left the state and some had even left the music ministry. This is over a five year period.

I consider this a crisis in effective ministry. If there is any merit to a general statement that I have made for many years that it takes at least three years at a church before you begin to minister effectively, I must assume there is a crisis.

It seems that in most churches a new staff member experiences a period of cooperation, sometimes referred to as the honeymoon, and then a period of challenge to their leadership sets in, and if they survive this period then they begin to minister effectively with long term results. During the period of challenge is when most moves occur. We all well know that challenges to leadership come throughout our ministry and it is expected, for we know the devil is not a passive being.

What can be done to at least diminish this crisis?

First, be sure you have called God's person for your church and don't be fickle about the search for that person.

Second, if you have called God's person, then make a commitment to him and to God that you will support him through prayer and action. If he is God's person he expects no less and if he is not, then what possessed you to call him?

Third, as a congregation don't expect the person to do the program. That is the responsibility of the church body. They should be allowed to lead and not spend their energy trying to get the people involved. This is usually evidence that the church has not identified what their objectives are before the person was called.

Fourth, the pastor should encourage the music minister, pray with him, listen to him, and respect his expertise.

I appreciate so much a statement my administrator made to me when I was a public school teacher. He said, "I'm not going to tell you how to run your band because we thought you knew how to do that. That's why we hired you." I have great respect for that man because of his respect for me. Don't misunderstand me, we had many conversations concerning the program and sometimes disagreements, but respect and friendship prevailed and the result was a wonderful eight years. He also prayed for me and I for him.

I believe it is time we removed some of the causes of short tenure and concentrated on the task that God has set before us by prayer and encouragement of those who God has given the call to be his ministers.—**Glen E. Ennes, associate**

## Woman's Missionary Union WMU Leadership Training

Training is the key to effective leadership. It provides not only basic information concerning job responsibilities but also is a source of encouragement, motivation and commitment to the task.

Associational WMU leaders are encouraged to attend the Associational Officers Retreat, Aug. 17-18 at Camp Paron. Helps for planning, conducting events, and developing strategies will be provided.

IMPACT '90 provides training for current WMU leaders. Conferences for the following will be provided: WMU officers, Baptist Women presidents/secretaries, Baptist Women mission study officers, Baptist Women/BYW mission action/personal witnessing officers, Baptist Women/BYW mission support officers, BYW presidents/secretaries/mission study leaders, Acteen leaders, Girls in Action

Sept. 26—Central, Magnolia (am)

Sept. 27—First, Monticello (am/pm)

For more information concerning these meetings, contact the State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director

### Church Music

## Combined Retreat

The ninth annual Volunteer/Part Time Music Leader Workshop at Southern Baptist College, August 17-18, has been expanded this year to not only provide training for the music leaders and accompanists but

also an in depth study for pastors. Pastors will spend five hours in the study of "The Small Sunday School at Work" led by the ABSC Sunday School Department.

The volunteer/part time music leader has never had it so good. The materials that are available to help in their program are unsurpassed and it is the privilege of the Church Music Department to provide opportunities for awareness of these materials and assist in training the leaders to educate their members in the use of music in worship.

This is a great opportunity for the pastor, music leader and accompanists to come together for combined study in worship as well as independent in depth study in their particular interest and need. Sessions begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Meals and lodging are

provided. Registration is required, deadline Aug. 6. Registration fee is \$5.

The staff of the Church Music Department and Sunday School Department of the ABSC, and Southern Baptist College Music Department look forward to seeing you there. Contact the Church Music Department for more information at 376-4791, ext. 5121.—Glen Ennes, associate

### Sunday School

## WEE Workshop

The annual Weekday Early Education Workshop will be held on Aug. 2-3 at First Church, Little Rock.

The workshop is designed for directors and teachers of day care, nursery school, kindergarten, and mother's day out programs; pastors, ministers of education, other church staff; and Wee committee members. It is sponsored by the Sunday School and Missions Departments.



Ratton

On Thursday morning the schedule begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration. A general session begins at 9 a.m., and special interest conferences begin at 10 a.m.. The last conference ends at 5:15 p.m..

Friday's session begins with registration at 8 a.m., a general session at 9 a.m., and special interest conferences at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The workshop ends at noon.

Special interest conferences include: day care directors, mother's day out directors, licensing, meal planning, new teachers, bulletin boards, using the Bible, nature/science, art, cooking with preschoolers, developmental discipline, music, puppets/finger play/poetry, using books and stories to help preschoolers deal with crises, relating to parents, special needs children, physical movement, after-school care for school-age children, reading readiness, and infants/toddlers.

A workshop fee of \$15 per participant is due by July 25. The fee includes lunch on Thursday, workshop program, conference handouts, and a tote bag.

Workshop training will apply to the 10 hours required by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

For additional information and a registration form, write: WEE Workshop, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call 376-4791, extension 5128 or 5249.—Pat Ratton, associate

### Brotherhood

## Conference Needs Every Church

Every church in the Southern Baptist Convention ought to have a missionary at some time. It is possible through World Mission Conferences for this to take place. Establish this as a goal in your mind. Those of us who know the smallest churches and even some larger churches in an association will be the first to acknowledge that several churches will not plan to participate in a World Mission Conference on a full scale, but we can get a missionary in every one of our churches for one or more services.

Let us set out to plan a way to make this work for each or our associations. Begin by getting every possible church committed to total involvement in the World Mission Conference. Follow guidelines in grouping churches and scheduling the speakers for the total number of churches which are enlisted. This is the first goal and nothing should be done that would take away from getting all of the churches committed for the total number of services planned.

When this phase is complete and everything has been done that we consider possible on enlistment, then start a second phase. Look at your associational map and see each non-committed church in relationship to the participating churches. Could a missionary do two services one or more times and get into a church that would be willing to have a speaker one time? This would necessitate consideration of travel distance and starting times for meeting schedules. Another possibility is that in grouping churches and speakers in the full schedule you

might have a missionary that has a time when not speaking and he would be available to a non-committed church. Further, consider having an extra missionary who would go to churches having only one speaker.

The focus on non-committed churches would be a study for the director of the World Mission Conference and key associational leadership. When the possibilities are seen, go to the pastor of each non-committed church on an individual basis and tell him it is possible to schedule his church with a missionary for one service and give him a suggested time. The obligation of the church would be to plan this in their schedule for one of their regular services or to set up a special week-night service. They might have a speaker during the Sunday School hour, Discipleship Training Hour or even starting an evening service at an adjusted time. Emphasize the value of inspiration and the value of mission information to the members of the local church. Express the value of inspiration and the value of mission information to the members of the local church. Express that the desire is to let them know how important their local church is to our world mission work.

The missionary speaker will need to know the unique nature of this assignment and to realize in presentation that he will be representing our total mission program to that local church.

Go for 100 percent participation. You can do it this time!—Glendon Grober, director



## Looking Ahead

### July

- 2-6** Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 9-10** Student Suumer Missionary Mid-Summer Retreat, *Ouachita Baptist University (Mn)*
- 9-11** GA Mini-Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
- 9-13** Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 11-13** GA Mini-Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
- 16-20** Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 19** Fellowship of Retired Workers in Arkansas of Southern Baptist Churches, Institutions and Agencies, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)*
- 23-24** Family Enrichment Workshop, *Parkway Place, Little Rock (DT)*
- 23-27** Arkansas Baptist Assemblies, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 23-27** SummerSing III, *Ouachita Baptist University (M)*
- 23-27** Music Arkansas, *Ouachita Baptist University (M)*
- 28** Associational Brotherhood Directors Meeting, *Little Rock Woodlawn Church (Bbd)*

### August

- 2-3** Weekday Early Education Workshop, *Little Rock First Church (SS/MS)*
- 3-4** Pastor-Deacon Retreat, *University Mall Conference Room (DT)*
- 9-11** Junior High Jamboree, *Southern Baptist College (Ev)*
- 10-11** Associational Discipleship Training Leadership Conference, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (DT)*
- 11** Children's Choir Leader Workshop, *Little Rock Life Line Church (M)*

- 13-15** BWR Seminar, *Camp Paron (Ev)*
- 13-16** Church Secretary's Basic & Advanced Certification Seminar, *Little Rock Life Line Church (Ev)*
- 17-18** Associational WMU Officers' Retreat, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
- 17-18** Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat, *Southern Baptist College (M/SS)*
- 18** Southeast Arkansas Sunday School Conference/Smaller Membership, *Monticello Second Church (SS)*
- 18** Southwest Arkansas Sunday School Conference/Smaller Membership, *Nashville Ridgeway Church (SS)*
- 20** State Growth Spiral Workshop, *North Little Rock Central Church (SS)*
- 23** Directors of Missions Update Meeting, *Little Rock First Church (Ad)*
- 27** Impact 90 Meeting, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (WMU)*
- 27** M&M and R&R Clinics, *Hope First Church (M)*
- 28** M&M and R&R Clinics, *Fort Smith Windsor Park Church (M)*
- 28-29** Impact 90 Meeting, *West Memphis Calvary Church (WMU)*
- 30** Impact 90 Meeting, *Paragould East Side Church (WMU)*
- 30** M&M and R&R Clinics, *Little Rock Olivet Church (M)*

### September

- 6-8** National Smaller Membership and Vocational Evangelism Conference, *Little Rock Life Line Church (Ev)*
- 7** Furloughing Missionaries Orientation, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (S/A)*
- 8** Baptist Youth Day, *Magic Springs (DT)*
- 10** Impact 90, *Fort Smith Grand Avenue Church (WMU)*
- 11** Impact 90, *Fayetteville First Church (WMU)*
- 13** Impact 90, *Mountain Home East Side Church (WMU)*
- 14-15** Adult Choir Members' Retreat, *Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock (M)*

**16-23** Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Dixie Jackson Offering (*Ms/WMU*)

**21-22** State Sunday School Conference, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (SS)*

**24** Impact 90, *Arkadelphia First Church (WMU)*

**25** Impact 90, *Magnolia Central Church (WMU)*

**27** Impact 90, *Monticello First Church (WMU)*

**27-28** Large Church Evangelism Conference, *DeGray Lodge (Ev)*

**29** Northeast Arkansas Sunday School Conference/Smaller Membership, *Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (SS)*

**29** Northwest Arkansas Sunday School Conference/Smaller Membership, *Farmingington First Church (SS)*

#### Abbreviations:

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

## Family Ministry Senior Adult Chatauqua

October is a beautiful time of the year for senior adults to spend some time in the mountains of North Carolina. The week of Oct. 8-12 has been designated "Arkansas Senior Adult Chatauqua" at Ridgecrest. Arrangements have been made for a group of 45 persons to travel by chartered bus to experience the worship, fellowship, training and beauty of Ridgecrest.

The departure date for the group is Saturday, Oct. 6, from the Baptist Building in Little Rock. The group will return by noon on the following Saturday, Oct. 13. They will stay overnight in Nashville and in Gatlinburg enroute to Ridgecrest, with Monday morning will be free for sightseeing in Gatlinburg.

The theme for the Chatauqua is "Senior Adults Reaching Senior Adults." Each day's program offers worship opportunities, Bible study, interest conferences and leadership conferences. For more information about registration write: Senior Adult Chatauqua, Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; or call 376-4791, ext. 5160.—Robert Holley, director

# Top of the List

## Election, BJCPA Head Concerns

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Election of a new president and the question of who will speak for Southern Baptists on religious liberty concerns top the list of issues facing messengers at the 1990 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers also will hear challenges to some of the people nominated to be trustees of the 24 national entities of the 14.9-million-member denomination; consider motions, resolutions and other business; as well as listen to missions presentations, preaching and singing during the June 12-14 meeting in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

President George Bush, who initially indicated a desire to address the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination, in mid-May announced he would not speak at the convention. As with most things concerning the annual meeting, opinions differ as to whether his schedule would not permit his address or whether controversy over his inviting gay and lesbian groups to the White House caused the cancellation.

Although predictions of messenger registration have ranged upward to 70,000—nearly capacity for the cavernous Superdome—SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville realistically expects registration to be "somewhere between 35,000 and 37,000."

If he is right, it would make the 1990 annual meeting the third-largest in the history of the 145-year-old denomination. The all-time record for participation was set in 1985 in Dallas, with 45,519 messengers. Second was Atlanta in 1986, with 40,987; third was San Antonio in 1988, with 32,727.

"The emotions as we head for New Orleans this year are just as intense as they were in 1985 but just not as broad," said one veteran convention watcher. "Therefore, there will not be as many people as we first thought."

"Moderates" and "conservatives" have squared off politically, and each group has its standard bearer. Political activity has been intense during the past six months, with each candidate appearing in numerous places around the convention drumming up support.

"Moderate" Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, announced in September he would again seek the presidency. He was nominated in 1989 against incumbent Jerry Vines, but lost 8,248 to 10,754.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, was presented in February as the "conservative" candidate to succeed Vines, who has served his allowed two consecutive one-year terms.

Although running mates for Chapman have not been announced, Vestal has unveiled a full slate. Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, the recently retired executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, will be nominated for first vice president; Steve Tondera, a Huntsville, Ala., layman, for second vice president.

In conjunction with announcing Chapman as the candidate, "conservatives" also unveiled a "new coalition" to bring peace to the troubled denomination, which would include "enlarging the tent" of SBC leadership to include all who could embrace "a perfect Bible from a perfect God."

Several pastors of large churches who previously had not taken overt political stands endorsed the proposal—presented by John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston—and "conservatives" generally promoted the "new coalition." "Moderates" however, are skeptical of Bisagno's proposal, the supposed "non-alignment" of the endorsers, and believe the "enlarged tent" does not include "moderates."

The sharpness of the division appears to continue the polarization which has afflicted the denomination for more than a decade. Each side appears to view events in a drastically different manner; each also shows little willingness to compromise; both appear to believe the political party which turns out the most votes will prevail.

Messengers also will be asked to make a decision on who will have the primary responsibility to represent Southern Baptists' concerns on religious liberty, particularly as it relates to separation of church and state.

Controversy has swirled around the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs since 1982. The BJC, a coalition of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada, has been Southern Baptists' primary watchdog for more than 50 years. However, the agency has been the object of at least two efforts to reduce funding and of three special SBC Executive Committee study committees.

Last year, a proposal to create a new SBC entity, the Religious Liberty Commission, was withdrawn before the convention session. Later, the Executive Committee rescinded the proposal and proposed that

primary religious liberty responsibilities be given to the SBC Christian Life Commission, the denomination's moral and social concerns agency.

The proposal includes a shift in budgeted funds going to the agencies, reflecting the change in responsibilities. In the 1989-90 budget, the CLC received \$897,508; in the 1990-91 budget, it would receive \$1,262,836. In contrast, the BJC received \$391,796 in 1989-90, but would receive only \$50,000 in 1990-91.

Sixteen members of the Executive Committee disagreed with the action to shift the program assignment and revised the budget allocation, and have asked for permission to submit a minority report to the convention.

Vines caused some controversy when he ruled portions of the proposed minority report were out of order and will not be printed in the Book of Reports and the daily SBC Bulletin. The Executive Committee report, titled "Some Reasons for the Southern Baptist Convention 1990-91 Budget Allocation to Support Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State," will be printed in full.

Vines said he ruled portions of the proposed minority report out of order because they deal with the inner workings of the Executive Committee, which the convention's parliamentary authority, Robert's Rules of Order, deems inappropriate for inclusion.

Messengers also will confront a challenge to the report of the 1990 Committee on Nominations, which nominates people to serve as trustees of the 24 entities affiliated with the SBC.

This year, committee member David Montoya, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gravette, Ark., announced he would challenge some of the nominees because they are "conservative loyalists." He later announced a list of 32 alternates.

Even if Montoya does not introduce his alternate slate, others have indicated they will challenge at least the three nominees.

They are Lee Roberts, a Marietta, Ga., businessman, who was in the spotlight with his challenge to Mercer University and its president, Kirby Godsey, in 1987, who is being nominated to the Executive Committee; Robert M. Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Baptist Church in Morganton, N.C., and editor of the "conservative" *Southern Baptist Advocate*, who is being nominated to a new term on the Sunday School Board even though he rotated off after serving eight years only one year ago; and Curtis Caine, a medical doctor from Jackson, Miss., whose remarks on Martin Luther King Jr., and apartheid caused controversy, to a second term on the Christian Life Commission.

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(BP) photo / Sarah Zimmerman



Catbryn Harrelson (left) and Paulina, one of the Soviets, have become fast friends even though they don't speak the same language.

## Circus Befriended

### Russian Troupe Stranded in South

by Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—The ministry of a Georgia Southern Baptist church became a circus when it befriended 128 Russian circus performers.

The troupe's two-year tour of peace and goodwill ended in Atlanta after the first two performances were not well attended. The promoters backed out, leaving the artists stranded. Kay Bryant, director of the Care Ministry at Eastside Baptist Convention in Marietta learned of the performers' plight on the morning of May 11. By 1 p.m. she had arranged lunch for 150 people. She spent the rest of the month calling area restaurants and grocery stores to secure food for three meals a day.

Though Bryant does not know all of the details concerning the group's finances, she said, "I saw that they were without food due to circumstances beyond their control, and I don't want anyone to go hungry."

In addition to providing food, Bryant enlisted the volunteer services of seven dentists and other medical specialists. One performer underwent a heart catheterization and now seems to be doing fine. Others have had wisdom teeth pulled, root canals done and bridges repaired.

One man who speaks minimal English has accompanied each person needing dental work. With sarcasm he said, "This is my dream: Come to America and go to

the dentist every day."

Another couple has a 2-year-old son who is blind. The toddler was taken to a specialist who determined that a cornea transplant is the only way to restore his sight. But that would require staying in America. The boy's mother, who didn't seem to understand everything the doctor told her, did understand that staying here would result in "many problems," including she and her husband's lack of English skills and jobs.

The Russians have already faced many problems in the United States. On May 29 the group was evicted from the motel where it had stayed for more than two weeks. Bryant said the manager was very cooperative, but when the bill reached \$10,000, he could not permit the group to continue its stay.

Proceeds from a benefit tournament and a corporate donation from a local miniature golf company will be used to pay the motel bills.

When police officers began evicting performers, Bryant received a frantic phone call. She went to the motel and helped them move across the street to another motel.

By that time, the Russians "had just about had all they could take," Bryant said. Their animals, costumes and equipment were in other locations, some as far away as New York, and the group heard varying

reports on their condition. People who were used to wrestling bears and swinging from a trapeze were growing restless of sitting in a motel room and depending on donations.

By the end of the month, a contract was pending for the performers to return to the big top. If the contract is not signed, the entertainers probably will return to Russia, Bryant said.

In any case, the troupe will leave Atlanta with a knowledge of Jesus and evidence of his love. The movie "Jesus" in Russian was shown on the motel's cable channel. Bryant said most of the group watched the evangelistic film, if only to hear something in their native language.

After the movie, one man told Bryant there was "too much talk of this Jesus." Since then he has questioned her about her faith. Another person asked for a copy of the film, which Bryant was able to provide. When people asked about her faith, Bryant shared a copy of the Four Spiritual Laws tract printed in Russian and said, "This is what we believe."

The film and the tracts were donated by a Presbyterian church preparing to make a trip to Moscow. One family, whom Bryant does not know, delivered 100 New Testaments in Russian to be given to the performers.

During lunch one day, Bryant wondered how to distribute the New Testaments. One man saw the books and began reading. Soon virtually all the New Testaments were being read.

Most of the Russians have a concept of God, but they do not know about Jesus, Bryant said. "They have been able to see the love of Jesus as we share food and our time in taking them to the doctor and to our homes," she said. "They may leave without knowing Jesus personally, but at least we've introduced them to Jesus for maybe the first time."

### A SMILE OR TWO

A road salesman stopped at a fancy hotel for the night and went to register. "What are the rates?" he asked.

"A room on the first floor," said the clerk, "is \$50. On the second it's \$40, and on the third floor, \$30."

As the man shook his head and turned to leave, the clerk said, "Aren't you going to register? Don't you find our hotel attractive enough?"

"Oh," said the man, "It's attractive enough. It just isn't tall enough."

A leading politician is accusing the opposition of smear tactics. They published his voting record.

## Convention Uniform

### *Even Wise Men Die*

by Harrison Johns, retired pastor, Harrisburg

Basic passage: Psalms 49:1-15

Focal passage: Psalms 49:15

Central truth: God offers confidence and peace concerning death.

The certainty of death is declared both in Scripture and by observation. The anticipation of personal death is viewed with a variety of opinions, attitudes and emotions. It can be a settling experience to determine a satisfactory philosophy of death. This psalm offers some beneficial ideas.

The "parable," "proverb" or "riddle" (v. 4), as it is variously translated, perhaps refers to death. Each of these terms may describe an attitude or opinion of death. Death will probably always remain a mystery, to some degree.

"Why should I fear" (v. 5) may be a brave declaration. Honestly, however, fear is a natural response to death. Life is a gift from God and is to be guarded as a trust from him. Fear is a self-preserving emotion. It becomes harmful if it becomes a dominant influence. Someone has suggested: "The opposite of fear is faith, and the opposite of faith is fear," as if to make fear and faith mutually exclusive.

"Both low and high, rich and poor, together" (v. 2); all experience death. Though wealth may claim much influence (vv. 11, 12), it cannot redeem (v. 7) life. It is too costly (v. 8).

In many places the Bible warns against the temptation of man to make material possessions a god. It is certainly foolish to do so, but it continues to be done.

It is like a fresh breath of air to a suffocating person to read and believe (v. 15). "God will redeem me from the grave;" spirit, soul and body. "He will receive me" (v. 15).

The thrilling truth is that God will receive any person by faith in Christ. He will receive us here and now. He will receive us forever! Jesus said, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" (Jn. 10:28).

The truly wise person puts his faith in God. With confidence in God, we can both live and die in peace. For the believer, death transports us from life on earth to life in heaven. The final triumph over sin, death, hell and the grave is in Jesus Christ. "He that hath the Son hath life" (1 Jn. 5:12).

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## Life and Work

### *Living with Circumstances*

by Emil Williams, First Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14

Focal passage: Jeremiah 29:4-7

Central truth: Life can be lived for God even in adverse circumstances.

It is important to know the background of this passage. It is written in the face of a very real life situation.

The passage is from a letter Jeremiah wrote to Judeans who were living in exile in Babylonia. We may assume he wrote the letter a few years after the exile began in 598 B.C. Separation from one's homeland is always painful. It was doubly painful for the Jews, however, because such separation meant being cut off from access to the Temple, the holy place and the holy land. For most of them being in a foreign land meant being separated from God.

Another factor concerned Jeremiah: the people were told by certain leaders that their days would be short, that they could expect an immediate return. Jeremiah, then, had the difficult task of informing them that their's was a false hope. The verses before us bring us one of life's hard—but essential—lessons: "Make the most of circumstances and don't fool yourself with false hopes." The letter was written by Jeremiah, but he was convinced it was God's Word he spoke (v. 4).

But then God revealed his plans for them. They were to get on with living normal lives (vv. 5-6). Circumstances were not ideal, but there was no reason for despair. The circumstances did not prohibit the experience essential for family living—marriage, children, work. These were not controlled by their circumstances. The people were to plan for the long term. They were not only to marry, but they were to give their children in marriage—and expect grandchildren there!

The exiles also were told to seek the welfare of their captors and even pray for them (v. 7). A new and refreshing thought emerges: Life and true religion did not depend on living in the land of the Temple. The circumstances were undesirable, but God was there and he still had a purpose for them, so life could go on. Over 600 years later Paul was to write, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content (Ph. 4:11). He knew, as Jeremiah did, that life is not determined by circumstances.

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## Bible Book

### *Keys to Success*

by Verne Wickliffe, First Church, Des Arc

Basic passage: James 4:1-17

Focal passage: James 4:1-4, 7-10, 13-17

Central truth: Victorious living requires being close to God.

Being a Christian can be painful. The early Christians were persecuted and killed, we suffer some rejection and cynical remarks. Jesus knew being his disciple would have painful moments in this world and he told us to count the cost. Perhaps the most painful part of being a Christian is coming face to face with our own failure. Even though we know God's goodness, we sin. In the glory of God's righteousness our failure is clearly seen.

James 4:1-4 points out Christian failure in the spiritual warfare taking place within us. The warfare is between God's will and our desires for pleasures that tempt us (Ja. 1:14). As a result we are full of wants that we do not have and cannot obtain and we cannot have because we don't ask. Even when we ask, we do not receive because we have asked what is out of God's will. In such a case, we have committed spiritual adultery by turning from our love for God to love the world.

God is the illuminator of our failures and the source of future success. The key to success is found in James 4:7-10, submit to God, draw near to God, be sorrowful for your failure, and humble yourself before God. Then we will be able to resist the devil, be cleansed of our failures, God will draw near to us, and lift us up. The spiritual battle is not winnable by our resources.

A part of accomplishing the keys of James 4:7-10 is the attitude we have about the future. Make a list of your dreams, goals, and plans for the future. What is your attitude about God's part in those dreams, goals, and plans? An honest answer might be, "God can help if he likes," or "this is what I'll do if God doesn't stop me." A successful attitude for spiritual battle considers God's will in your future. This attitude is also open to God making changes and assuming the changes will benefit us.

It is arrogant for a Christian to plan today and tomorrow without allowing God sovereignty. Such arrogance displays itself in a refusal to do good. The key to winning the spiritual battle is to humble ourselves in total loyalty, obedience, and love for God.

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## Convention Uniform

### God and Knowledge

by Harrison Johns, retired pastor, Harrisburg

Basic passage: Proverbs 1:1-9, 20-23

Focal passage: Proverbs 1:5

Central truth: God can provide knowledge for man.

"Have you ever heard this exchange of greeting: 'What do you know?' 'Not much. How about you?'"

The request for information comes to all people of all ages. "What is your name?" "What is your address?" "What is your age?" We casually assume that everyone has this basic knowledge. We can glorify God by remembering that God has created man with the ability to acquire, retain and recall information.

Solomon "sought out, and set in order many proverbs" (Ec. 12:9). Whether Solomon composed or collected these proverbs makes them no less inspired of God, one way or the other. Divine inspiration caused them to be included in the Bible.

There are people who read a chapter of Proverbs each day for wisdom and knowledge from God. It is exciting to observe how current, down-to-earth and practical Proverbs is found to be by the careful reader. Such is the nature of truth from God.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jr. 33:3).

The stated purpose of Proverbs is that the reader may "know wisdom and instruction" (v. 2). "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels," (v. 5) our focal passage declares. A person is certainly unwise who will not avail himself of the knowledge God offers in his word (vv. 22-23).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us to pray to God for knowledge with the promise that it will be granted by the Father (Mt. 7:7,8).

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 P. 1:3 NIB). Helpful knowledge can be ours from God by faith.

We have a stewardship responsibility to God to obtain knowledge and share it. We also have an accountability to God to "rightly divide the Word of truth" (2 Ti. 2:15).

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## Life and Work

### New Heart for a New Life

by Emil Williams, First Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Focal passage: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Central truth: A new heart is God's gift for the living of a new life.

The passage we look at this week is one of the most significant in the Old Testament and is Jeremiah's unique contribution to understanding of religious experience. A central question in all religion is, "How shall we live the life that God calls us to live?" Jeremiah faces that issue in this passage and answers it.

First, there is the promise of better days to come. This includes "reseeding" the land with both man and beast. The land that had become sparse would be repopulated (v. 27).

A second part of the promise is broader, indicating God's own part in what had been the prophet's mission. Jeremiah was called to perform the two-fold task of tearing down and building up, uprooting and planting. Now God himself would be the one to do the building and planting personally (v. 28), indicating that what follows would be the work of God, not of man.

In a kind of prelude to the presentation of the new covenant, the principle of individual responsibility is introduced. Every person is accountable—and judged—for his own action (vv 29-30).

Jeremiah's insight reaches a climax in verses 31-34 and moves toward the New Testament. Reading the words, we remember our Lord saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood (1 Co. 11:25). This passage does not mean Jeremiah believed there would be a new law. The covenant is new in that it presents a new understanding—or reclaiming—of the inward nature of all real religious experience—an inward power and motivation for fulfilling the moral law.

And, keeping this covenant is not a matter of simple human effort (Israel had tried that and failed). Rather, it is a matter of personal relationship with God, opened up by the forgiveness of sin and the gift of a new heart. It is God's doing!

Christians read Jeremiah's words in light of their experience of God's forgiveness which they have received by grace, through faith in Christ. That is the new covenant—a relationship with God, established by God, that issues in a new power for living life.

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## Bible Book

### Established Hearts

by Verne Wickliffe, First Church, Des Arc

Basic passage: James 5:1-20

Focal passage: James 5:7-18

Central truth: We establish our hearts with faith and prayer.

Eagerness for Christ's return seems to be tied to the amount of suffering we perceive. When our minds are filled with personal suffering and the abundance of suffering in the world, we express more eagerness and more certainty that Jesus will come quickly. When suffering is not so prevalent, it is easier to patiently wait on the Lord's return.

Like the farmer of James 5:7 who patiently waited on the rain and the crops to produce, we are to patiently wait on Jesus' return. When we are suffering, or are impressed by suffering around the world, we can endure until Jesus comes because we have the promise of God working on our behalf. How God works is seen in those who have suffered before us (Ja. 5:10-11). We are to endure and look forward to God's present and eternal blessings. In suffering, we are to establish our hearts (5:8) with steadfast faith because we know Jesus is coming.

The greatest difficulty may be establishing our hearts in the absence of personal suffering or impressions of others suffering. A steadfast faith is just as important when our lives are full of cheer because the time of Jesus' return is still approaching.

An important part of establishing our hearts in suffering and in the absence of suffering is prayer. James 5:13-18 gives some instruction for prayer. If we are suffering we are to pray. When we are cheerful we are to pray. James says to sing Psalms. Praising God is prayer, whether we praise him privately or in the worship service. We should not neglect including praise as part of prayer. If we are sick we should pray for ourselves and call on the church to give intercessory prayer on our behalf.

In addition to praying in sickness we are to seek medical attention. Oil and wine were the medical treatment of the day.

"The effective, fervent prayers of the righteous man avails much" (Ja. 5:16). Notice the qualifier of prayer; effective, fervent, or a righteous man. We are not righteous except through confession and forgiveness of sins.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

## Centennial Launched

by Jim Lowry  
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Historian Leon McBeth characterized the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as the "shaper of a denomination" during the May 25 launch of the board's centennial celebration.

"Sundayschoolandchurch" were described as "one word and one experience" for McBeth as he grew up in Cross Roads Baptist Church in Fisher County, Texas. McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, also is the author of "Celebrating Heritage and Hope," a historical account of the board's first 100 years.

"No other agency or organization has done as much, I am convinced, as the Sunday School Board in shaping Southern Baptist activities and outlook," McBeth told employees gathered for the annual Anniversary Day Celebration.

"You have helped mold what we think and how we feel," he continued. "You have shaped our worship, our convictions, even our social lives."

McBeth said Southern Baptists "are to a large degree the collective result of your ministry over the past century. You have determined what we read and what we sing. You taught us what the Bible is and what it teaches."

He said his Sunday school quarterly provided "glimpses of how to draw out from the Bible a message for today," long before he had ever heard the term Bible commentary.

In fact, McBeth said he had never been to Nashville or heard of the Sunday School Board when it was affecting him so profoundly through use of quarterlies, hymnals and training materials.

"No other Southern Baptist board or agency directly touched the rural church where I grew up," he said. "The Sunday School Board was our only direct line with the larger Southern Baptist family."

"No Southern Baptist missionary ever spoke in our church, nor did anyone from the state convention or any agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, including the Sunday School Board," he said. "But, in that one-room church, we had our quarterlies, the 'Sunday School Builder' and a Standard of Excellence banner for Sunday school."

"What the board did for me individually, it did for millions of Southern Baptists," he said. "What the board did for our rural church, it did for thousands."

"Sunday School Board quarterlies blanketed the South, taking careful pains to discover and explain what the Bible says and what it means for our daily lives," he continued.

"Every president from J.M. Frost to Lloyd Elder has been firmly committed to the authority of the Bible, and not one of them has ever wavered about keeping the Board and all its publications true to the Bible," he added. "We often hear Southern Baptists described as a Bible-believing people. I believe that description is accurate, and as a historian I credit the Sunday School Board for helping make it so."

"The Sunday School Board shaped the educational ministry of our churches and our denomination," McBeth explained. "Independent programs were tested, honed, streamlined, restructured, and 'baptized' to sharpen the focus, develop suitable literature and train needed leadership."

He said the board took an eighteenth-century Sunday school and changed, molded and adapted it to a new shape, reinventing it for Southern Baptists. In the process, an independent parachurch appendage inherited by the board was converted into a church school for all age groups "firmly anchored to the denomination."

McBeth gave much credit to the "Broad-

man Hymnal" for affecting the quality of worship in churches, because it was the first standard worship guide for Southern Baptist churches. He said this was the first introduction to worship aids for many churches and it brought the element of commonality.

"I really believe this board created the great consensus among Southern Baptist in the basics such as allegiance to the Bible, commitment to evangelism and commitment to missions," McBeth said. "I respect state conventions, universities, state papers, seminaries and other agencies, but when the Sunday School Board speaks it has the ear of the denomination."

"Churches that are large and famous or remote and small, the Sunday School Board speaks to them all," he continued.

"We need to get back to those basics and build a new consensus," he said, because that consensus has been fragmented over the past few years.

"Your great challenge as you enter your second century of service is to shape a new consensus for the twenty-first century," he added. "Help us rediscover a common outlook, a cooperative spirit and a compassionate outlook upon a lost world."

"Celebrating Heritage and Hope," the historical account of the board's centennial, will be available in October 1990. McBeth spent a one-year sabbatical from his post at Southwestern Seminary to research and write the book.

## Beer Cans and Fast Cars

WASHINGTON (BP)—Race cars have become like beer cans hurtling at 200 miles per hour around a race track, said spokespersons for The National Coalition to Prevent Impaired Driving.

At a news conference May 21 in Washington, the coalition announced it has launched its summer safe-driving campaign by calling for an end to beer sponsorship of motor sports.

The organization said it is offering "symbolic sponsorship" to two professional motor sports drivers who have refused to accept promotional funding from alcoholic beverage companies.

"We believe that a broad policy agenda—one that looks at the drinking environment as well as law enforcement—is necessary to combat the staggering human and economic toll of drunken and drugged driving in this country," said Alexander Wageneer, chairperson of the coalition.

About 24,000 persons lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes last year—an average of one every 22 minutes. More

than 500,000 suffer injuries from alcohol-related crashes—an average of one every minute.

Edward T. Popper, a professor of marketing at Bryant College in Smithfield, R.I., told reporters, "Through the sponsorship of motor sports events, drivers and teams, the beer companies create an indelible image—that beer and high-speed, aggressive driving go together." He said that when these combine off the track, the result is thousands of needless deaths and injuries.

At the news conference, a new report entitled "Beer and Fast Cars: How Brewers Target Blue-collar Youth through Motor Sport Sponsorships" was released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety in Washington.

The report said, "Young males from blue-collar backgrounds are particularly likely to die in alcohol-related crashes. They tend to drink beer and drink to the point of intoxication more often than peers in other demographic groups."



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## WORLD

### LIBERIA

## Missionaries Evacuate

by Donald D. Martin  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—About half of the 25 Southern Baptist missionaries remaining in Liberia evacuated at 2 p.m. June 4 on a U.S. Embassy-chartered flight to Freetown, Sierra Leone, according to missionary Robert Bellinger.

Passengers included 12 Southern Baptist missionaries, about 65 other U.S. citizens, about 15 Japanese embassy personnel and about 30 Africans. The embassy will try to arrange additional charter flights.

Twelve missionaries remained in Liberia—three couples in Monrovia, capital of the West African country, and three couples in other towns in northern Liberia.

Previously, 28 other Southern Baptist missionary personnel had departed Liberia as fighting between government and rebel troops intensified.

Missionaries staying in Monrovia are Bellinger and his wife, Pat, of Carbondale, Ill.; Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky.; and Fred and Mary Lou Levrets of Abilene, Texas.

The missionaries outside of Monrovia are staying in towns that have remained quiet through most of the six months of fighting. They are Ed Laughridge of Rock Hill, S.C., and Fran Laughridge of Clinton, S.C., who remain in Mano River; Kenneth Nicholson of Magdalena, N.M., and Joyce Nicholson of Seaside, Calif., in Voinjama; and Chris Wilkinson of Gainesville, Fla., and Gwen Wilkinson of Ardmore, Tenn., also in Voinjama.

Missionaries remaining in Monrovia hope to continue working at the Baptist mission as much as possible and help with refugee work in the city, Bellinger said. The missionaries also are helping with food preparation and transportation for about 700 refugees who are staying at a Lutheran church in the city. The Baptist mission also is supplying funds for the food, he said.

The Southern Baptist missionaries who evacuated changed their minds about staying in Liberia after the U.S. Embassy "strongly urged" them to go, Bellinger said. Once the missionaries are in Sierra Leone they will make plans to travel to Togo, Ivory Coast and the United States.

Bellinger said he and the others staying in Monrovia still feel safe and do not believe they are in danger. They are staying in contact with mission officials in other African countries and with mission directors at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. They receive most of their news from British Broadcasting Corporation and Voice of America on short-wave radio, he said.

Monrovia is still fairly calm, although tension is high as rebel troops move toward the city, he said. Press reports place the rebels within 30 miles of the city.

Electricity is off during most of the daylight hours, but telephone lines are still open, Bellinger said. All commercial flights into Robertsfield International Airport, 20 miles southeast of Monrovia, have been canceled, he said.

According to the Associated Press, the only significant government military presence in Monrovia was around President Samuel Doe's executive mansion, where 2,000 Israeli-trained troops were stationed. It was not clear what has happened to the remainder of Doe's 5,300-man army.

Missionaries who left Liberia June 4 are Dale and Nancy Allison of Dallas; Brian Barlow of Pensacola, Fla., and Vicki Barlow of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Bret Brown of Amarillo, Texas; Mary Katherine Campbell of Abilene, Texas; Daryl Cox of Lake City, Tenn., and Glenda Cox of Atlanta; Rachel Dubard of Carrollton, Miss.; Margaret Fairburn of Tyler, Miss.; and Lawrence and Alice Hardy of Savannah, Ga. Dean Ekberg of Rockford, Ill., drove out from Fahnja to Sierra Leone on June 2.

## Vandals Damage Seoul Church

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—Difficulties continue to mount for Seoul Memorial Baptist Church, the site of a kindergarten fire last Oct. 16 that killed six children and left seven others critically burned.

Thugs broke into the church May 26 and vandalized the auditorium and other facilities. Nearly every pane of glass in the building was broken. Damage to furniture was extensive. Police reportedly were slow to respond to a call for assistance because of political protest demonstrations elsewhere in the city, but took the gang leaders into custody. Later two of the vandals were released.

The next morning several people blocked the driveway of the church building, preventing worship services from being held there. Services were held outdoors on an athletic field in the area.

Han Myung Guk (David Han), pastor of the church, expressed concern for the injured children and their families. "We understand their pain and sorrow and we are doing all we can to help them," he said. "This situation has exhausted our financial resources."