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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

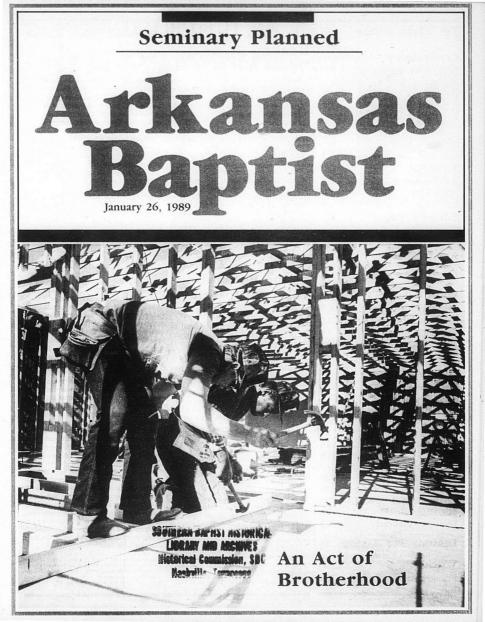
1-26-1989

# January 26, 1989

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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### In This Issue

#### **Cover Story**



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

#### An Act of Brotherhood ..... 6

Fifty Baptist Men volunteer their weekend to put a roof over a congregation's head.

#### Speak Up

A New Record!				.4
Today's Issues				.4
Letters to the Editor				.5

#### Local & State

Arkansas All Over	.8-9
Fall Seminary Graduates	.10
'He Rang the Bell'	.10
SBC Homecoming	.11
Trustee President Elected.	.11

#### Helpline

0770

Her Ministry is BTN.....12 ABSC Updates.....13-16 Next Month in Arkansas...17

#### Nation

New Phone Number	18
Almost \$7 Million Short	18
CP Eclipses Inflation	19
Record Increases	20
BJC Staffers Promoted	20
Young Named Editor	20
FCC Bans Broadcasts	21
Seminary Planned	22

#### Lessons For Living...23

#### World

Evangelization 'Possible'...24

# IT'S UPLIFTING

### Healing 'Jesus' Opens Ministry

AL MOKHA, Yemen (BP)—The medical treatment of a Philippine worker named Jesus began a Christian ministry among Filipinos in the Middle East nation of Yemen, where evangelization of Yemenis is illegal.

Jesus' abdomen was crushed in an accident during construction of the Al Mokha power station. He was taken to Jibla Baptist Hospital, which was three hours away.

Southern Baptist physician Jean Dickman of Daytona Beach, Fla., performed surgery on Jesus' abdomen and stood by him in the long days of recovery that followed. She told him about another Jesus, the Son of God, and gave him a Bible.

A Baptist lay pastor on the Philippine work crew heard about Jesus' accident, visited him in the hospital and met Dickman. A Bible study among the Filipinos, led by the lay pastor and Southern Baptist workers, was established in 1986. Twice each month since then, the Southern Baptists have driven from Jibla to the Red Sea port of Al Mokha to conduct services. The Filipinos also attended an international Easter sunrise service on the hospital grounds in 1987.

Interest waned when the lay pastor completed his contract and went home to the Philippines, but Southern Baptists hope to train others to take his place in leadership. In the meantime, the pastor's daughter has come to work as a nurse at the Jibla hospital.

Yemen is a solidly Muslim country where Christians can spread the gospel only among expatriates. Southern Baptists' primary work in Yemen is at the 75-bed hospital and clinic in Jibla.

# GOOD NEWS!

### At the Bargaining Table with God

Genesis 28:18-22

Jacob probably will be remembered as one of the Old Testament's greatest rascals. Does he deserve it? A look at the facts will help with the answer.

With shrewd cunning, Jacob drove a hard bargain for his brother Esau's birthright (Gn. 25:29-34). Then with his mother's aid Jacob tricked Isaac into giving him the family blessing (Gn. 27:18-29). Later, he spent a number of years in a one-on-one relationship with another unscrupulous businessman, his uncle Laban (Gn. 29-30).

In Genesis 28 Jacob dared to bargain with God in a scene not unlike a negotiating session between labor unions and business leaders. Jacob drove a hard bargain with God. He approached God with this mindset: What's in it for me?

The whole deal hinged on the conditional word if. Jacob said: "I will love you if you bless me. I will serve you if you take care of me. I will give you 10 percent of my wealth if you provide for me" (see Gn. 28:20-22). Jacob brazenly tried to make a deal with God, oblivious to certain biblical principles.

Life is a gift from God—Jacob acted as though he owned the world. He thought he had every right to make deals with God. According to the Bible, life is a gift unearned and undeserved. Life is a gift from God containing no bargaining rights—Jacob's selfishness blinded him to the fact that God has no desire for offerings that are conditional. Jacob tried to bribe God with a pious gift.

Jacob, hiding his desire for wealth in his pious offering, did not fool God. No one likes to be bought. Here is the strange and rather terrible spectacle of a man bargaining with his Creator. There is not a person anywhere with bargaining rights at God's table.

Life is a gift from God to be accepted without conditions—The only response worthy of God is unconditional acceptance of God's gifts, God's terms, and God's will.

The greatest gift is the gift of oneself. This is the response God sought from Jacob. God seeks the total, definite, unreserved giving of our lives to him. Such a gift is unconditional love. Offering to give God worship is an empty promise until we give ourselves. Offering to give God our wealth is a fraudulent bribe until we give ourselves.

Jacob was a rascal. He schemed, cheated, and bribed people. He tried to buy God's favor, a favor not for sale. He was like people today who still sit at the bargaining table with God, forgetting that life is a gift to be accepted without conditions. Modern Jacobs need to remove the "if" from their dealings with God.

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### EDITOR'S PAGE

# An Important Work

#### J. EVERETT SNEED

When the legislature is in session almost every significant group in Arkansas has lobbyists present. If it were not for the Christian Clvic Foundation, Inc., Christians would have no one to represent their interests. But because of the effective work of John Finn, executive director of the CCF, Christians have someone to present their perspective.

The Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas is one of the most important organizations supported by Arkansas Baptists. Baptists have been an active and integral part of this organization designed to combat the evils of alcohol, narcotics, gambling and obscenity, since its inception approximately 30 years ago. Our state is a far better place to live because of the work of the CCF. However the Foundation is now struggling to carry on its work because of tight finances. Your help is desperately needed.

The financial crunch has been produced by continuing increase in cost as well as the loss of some finance that it had previously received. The solution to this financial problem lies in those who support the CCF increasing their giving and in new support being found. Actually Finn has done an excellent job in presenting the Christian Civic Foundation and discovering new money since becoming executive director of the organization.

Most individuals are aware that while the economy is booming in certain parts of our state other areas are having financial difficulty. Because of these financial pressures some of the churches have reduced their support to the CCF. One of the costs that have impacted the CCF dramatically is the increase in postage costs. For example, nonprofit postage has increased more than 1,800 percent in the last few years.

Baptists and others have responded well to the efforts to increase the support of the CCF. Assembly of God Superintendent M. J. Harris is encouraging Assembly churches to place the CCF in their local church budgets. Several Baptist churches have begun taking special offerings or placing the CCF in their budget. Additionally, a number of district Baptist associations have added the CCF to their budgets or increased support to the Foundation. But more is needed.

The Foundation is fortunate to have John Finn as executive director. Finn is well



equipped by background and experience to lead the organization. He is well known to Arkansas Baptists, having served as president of our convention. He has also served as pastor to several churches and as director of missions for the North Arkansas Association. All who are acquainted with Finn know that he is a man of thighest character, integrity and ability.

The CCF is involved in a number of activities, any one of which would be worth the entire cost of the Foundation. Among these are alcohol-narcotic education, legislative information program and local option campaigns.

The alcohol-narcotic program is designed to alert young people to the harm of alcohol and other dangerous drugs. The Foundation is permitted to go into public schools to present its program. It is most unlikely that any program sponsored by one denomination could enter the public schools.

A second area in which the Foundation is engaged is the monitoring of the legislature when it is in session. For the next several weeks much of Finn's time will be spent in this process.

The effectiveness of the Christian Civic Foundation was clearly shown during the successful effort to stop the legalizing of casino gambling in Arkansas. Although another organization was formed, the Christian Civic Foundation worked closely with churches and church leaders in this effort. Fortunately we were able to defeat this terrible menace by a margin of 70-30.

It is extremely likely that the forces of evil will soon mount a campaign to legalize the lottery in our state. If this is to be stopped, committed Christians must be ready to deal with the problem as soon as a campaign is mounted to legalize it. The lottery may be the most insidious form of gambling known to man. It preys on the poor and uneducated like no other form of gambling. It will require significant financial resources to stop this awesome evil.

Personal contacts and countless mailouts are vital if the Foundation is to be effective. Churches, associations and individuals who are interested in the well being of our state are encouraged to assist. All gifts should be sent to the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas. Inc., 8300 Geyer Springs Road, Suite 201, Little Rock, AR, 72209.

Editor's Note: The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention approved the Newsmagazine raising funds for the Christian Civic Foundation in regular session on Dec. 9, 1980.

# Arkansas Baptist

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### SPEAK UP

# A New Record!

Arkansas Baptists have risen to the challenge and set a new record for December Cooperative Program contributions.

Cooperative Program receipts for 1988 totalled \$12,784,660.96. This represents 99.33 percent of budget requirements which were \$12,870,300. The Cooperative Program receipts were given a year-end boost with December receipts of \$1,287,753.18, which amounted to 120 percent of budget requirements. This amount also represented a record amount given through the Cooperative Program in December.

1988 Cooperative Program receipts were 6.46 percent over 1987 receipts. This increase stopped a five-year downward trend in the percentage increase over the previous year. In addition, the percentage of budget reached was the highest since 1983 when 99.84 percent of budget was given by Arkansas churches.

Several reasons can account for the good increase in Cooperative Program gifts. "Missions Advance 87-89" could possibly be one of the reasons. For 21 months trained speakers have gone into churches presenting a challenge to increase Cooperative Program support. This effort has caused many churches to be aware of the need to increase their giving.

Arkansas' participation in the AMAR project with Brazil has involved hundreds of Arkansas Baptists in direct mission work. People have seen first-hand the need for Cooperative Program giving as well as giving through the Lottic Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Direct mission involvement enhances and magnifies the Co-perative Program.

The 1987 Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting and its focus on missions had a tremendous impact on some of our churches, according testimonies from pastors and leaders.

Credit must be also given to pastors and church leaders who remain faithful to God's commission to go into all the world. The Cooperative Program is still the best method of fulfilling this command.

Last, but not least, God has blessed Arkansas Baptist churches in many ways. Faithfulness in giving could be a direct result of churches responding to those blessings.

What caused this tremendous increase? Probably, the answer can be found in a combination of all the above factors. Regardless, our response to this victory should be: "To God be the glory!"— Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

### BOB PARKER

### Today's Issues

### As Government Convenes

Years ago, the late renowned Peter Marshall, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, prayed that those elected to public office "come to understand the real source of their mandate—a mandate given by no party machine, received at no polling booth, but given by God; a mandate to represent God and truth at the heart of the nation; a mandate to do good in the name of him whom this country was established."

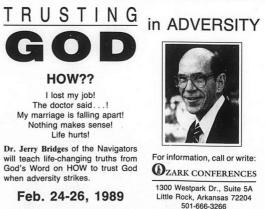
As our national, state and local legislative bodies begin their deliberations, we are obligated as Christian citizens to pray for those who represent us. We need also to pray for their family members from whom there is often separation because of long hours of deliberation in committee meetings and sessions.

The Apostle Paul stated after speaking of government being power ordained of God, that we should 'pay tribute... for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing' (Ro. 13:6). We can best 'pay tribute' by praying that God might grant wisdom to people in government that laws enacted will reflect doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God (Mi. 6:8). We ought also to pray for lobbying groups, the "unofficial arm of government" that seeks to provide information and influence. Pray especially for John Finn, director of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation, as he represents the thinking of countless evangelical Christians regarding the issues of alcohol and other dangerous drugs, gambling and obscenity (pornography).

Other issues that profoundly affect the lives of countless Arkansans such as abortion, law enforcement, AIDS and education also need people in government to have God's wisdom and leadership.

The poet Leonard Wagner stated that the world needs men (and women) who, among other things, 'cannot be bought... who will make no compromise with wrong... who are not ashamed to stand for the truth when it is unpopular... and who can say 'no' with emphasis, though the rest of the world say 'yes'.' Pray that God will find this type of legislator representing us in 1989 and beyond!

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





### Letters to the Editor

### National Revival?

Could we be on the edge of a national revival? Why not? Many signs are appearing each day. Will Southern Baptists lead our nation into revival or be totally left out? In many churches an overwhelming deadness is very evident. What is even worse, our elected administrators, seminary professors, and some pastors seem to take delight in this, and will fight to the death to keep from losing their control over God's people.

Three letters in this magazine (Shed Biblical Light, Oct. 17, 1988; Pastoral Authority and Arrogant Doctrines, Nov. 17, 1988) have confirmed (to me) what I have already observed while visiting many churches during lay renewals and revivals. The majority of Southern Baptists truly desire revival, but they feel that they will be labeled "rebles" if they question their pastor in any way or if they question the unscriptural practices that exist throughout our denomination.

I have no doubt that our Father is in the process of cleaning up his church, because I know he will not pour out his Spirit in revival through an unclean vessel. If we truly have a heart for God, we will drop these unscriptural practices (alien immersion and closed communion), stop worrying about how much authority the pastor has or how many noses we had on Sunday morning, and allow God's Spirit to conform us and our churches to the image of Jesus. While many are starving, unborn children are being murdered, pornography and drugs are stealing our children, and many lost souls slip off into hell, we are worrying about which public figure will head which committee

God in his merciful and patient love is waiting on our decision. Will we turn to him or will we die on the vine?—Jerry Edgar, Bono

#### Questioning the Basis

Since I have been properly rebuked, by name, in this forum, by Brother Allred of Jonesboro (ABN, Dec. 22), and since my own reputation and integrity are at stake, please permit me to respond.

Bro. Allred has quite accurately stated four conditions for valid baptism: (1) The candidate must be a believer; (2) The method is immersion; (3) The purpose is symbolic; (4) The authority is the local New Testament Church. I wholeheartedly agree. I have never advocated receiving anyone into membership apart from valid baptism. But why do we continue to insist on rebaptizing those who have been scripturally baptized? Allow me to illustrate my position by two actual cases.

As an 11-year-old boy I was saved in an area wide tent meeting at Mansfield. A few days later, under the authority of a local New Testament Church (not SBC) my conversion was symbolized by immersion in Luke's Branch just above its intersection with the Petit Jean. It was a beautiful and memorable experience that cannot possibly be equaled by indoor plumbing! I don't know how it could have been more scriptural if I had been baptized in the River Jordan. Ten years later I joined a Southern Baptist church and was rebaptized. I concede that that local church had every right to determine the basis for receiving me as a member. Was (is) there a biblical basis for the practice?

The second case concerns a man who has faithfully attended and supported the church I pastor for well over 20 years. Years ago he presented himself as a candidate for membership. He withdrew his request, however, when he was told he would have to be rebaptized. By our four conditions for valid baptism he has been scripturally baptized. If we were to receive the dear brother as a member it is quite likely that the state convention would refuse to seat our messengers. Is there a biblical basis?

I do not agree with Bro. Allred's position on baptism and the Lord's Supper. However, that is the business of his local church. I would have no problem seating him as a messenger to conduct the business of our state convention. Why would he deny me that same freedom?—Donald Cochran, Fort Smith

#### Not Involved in Fussing

It was such a thrill back in junior high school when I felt the call of God in my life for full time Christian service. I never had much support growing up from Christian leaders toward my development as a minister. God has overwhelmed me in the fact that he even chooses to use me in the service of his church.

As I have gotten in the full swing of the pastorate I have never questioned what denomination I would pastor in. Southern Baptist churches are all I have ever known. Because I am relatively young in age, relatively new to this vocation, I have only in recent years begun to understand the controversy in our convention. There is still a lot that I do not understand and a lot I still do not know, and frankly hope I never do.

In light of my inexperience, there are

some things I do know: God called me to preach his Word, to be a shepherd to his people, to witness to the lost destined for hell, and to help those with physical and spiritual hurts. Because of all that is expected of me by God, I really do not have the time to be involved in fussing with my peers. Hopefully I will keep my eyes on my call and not be swayed by the game plan of our adversary—Scott Neathery, Hope

### Raising Questions

My name has been mentioned in one of a series of political letters mailed across Arkansas by the director of missions in Benton County Baptist Association. He labels me and five others as "moderate" leaders who oppose his political agenda for our state convention. It is an honor to be included with these men of impeccable character and integrity. Two are pastors in this association. One is my pastor whom I deeply respect and love.

The letter raises questions. Should a director of missions initiate secret political meetings and mailings? Do the pastors and people in Benton County know who pays for the stationery, postage, and secretarial time? Does the associational executive board approve of his political activities?

The writer implies that he is the leader in Arkansas for "conservative" causes. Who elected him? Was he appointed by Pressler and Patterson or does he presume that leadership because of his success in forcing the resignation of the director of the Christian Life Commission?

The letter celebrates "conservative" victories at our state convention after six months of hard work. Maybe his victories were the election of the pastors' conference president and the two convention vice-presidents along with the vote to change the time of the annual sermon.

The writer boasts of putting together a state wide political network composed of district and associational leaders for the purpose of electing the next state convention president. He's attempting to enlist 125 pastors to bring a full allotment of messengers to the state convention to elect his candidate so that a 'difference' can be made in our state. What difference? We have an excellent convention staff from Don Moore across the board.

Above all, he wants to "hammer down" the "moderates." What is a "moderate?" The term has nothing to do with theology. I've never discussed theology or anything else with the man. A moderate must be a "conservative" who is aware of and disapproves of deceptive political activities.

The letter attempts to divide us. But Arkansas Baptists are too wise to be misled or manipulated by any person or group.—Carroll D. Caldwell, Texarkana

### FAITH AT WORK

#### A CHURCH IN A DAY

# **An Act of Broth**

#### by Mark Kelly Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

EUDORA, ARK.—Saturday dawned clear and cold. The frostcovered ground was strewn with stacks of building materials. Piles of lumber and sheet rock and rolls of fiberglass insulation stood over against the ready-made cabinets and counter tops.

The work crew picked over the piles of material in the halflight, gearing up for the challenge ahead of them: raising and outfitting a 3,000 square foot church building in the course of a single day.

A sign near the road proclaimed "See what God can do... A church in a day," and the people of Eudora took up the invitation. They parked along the highway and stood around the con-



Lots of cooperation was required to keep the work flowing smoothly and still meet the goal of "a church in a day."

struction site, watching as the crew of 50 Baptist Men, most of them from Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Mountain Home, swarmed over the skeleton, framing walls, setting trusses, running electrical wire, and hanging sheet rock.

In September 1988, an electrical fire leveled New Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Eudora, a black congregation affiliated with the Regular Missionary Baptist Convention. When they heard about the tragedy, Baptist Men at Eudora First Church asked their pastor, Jimmy Wallace, what they could do to help.

Wallace immediately called Glendon Grober, director of Baptist Men for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and told him about the situation.

He was pleasantly surprised to learn that Grober had recent-





(Top) The sign out front was both invitation and testimony. (Bottom) Complete strangers, but brothers in Christ, they joined forces in an act of brotherhood.

# erhood

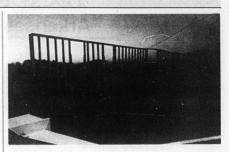
ly organized a new Baptist Men's committee composed of construction experts and dedicated to one-day church raisings.

The committee had been organized because several men felt there were a large number of Baptist Men in the state who could give a day or a weekend to a construction project, but were unable to volunteer for longer-term assignments like the ones handled by Arkansas' Nailbenders for Jesus group.

New Zion Church provided \$35,000 in insurance proceeds to purchase materials, and local men joined the out-of-towners to raise the building. Although they did not manage to reach their goal of having the building finished for worship the next day, it was suitable for use, and the remaining work was mopped-up the following weekend. All photo/ Mark Kalv and Glendon Grober



(Above) Fifty Baptist Men volunteered their weekend to belp put a roof over another congregation's bead. (Right, top to bottom) Daybreak set off a feverish race against the clock to raise "a church in a day."









### LOCAL & STATE

# Arkansas All Over



Everett Wheeler recently was recognized by First Church of Mountain Home for 30 years of service as treasurer. Allene Perry was recognized by the church for 10 years of service as receptionist and secretary.

John Bradford Belken, an Arkansas Baptist chaplain, has been selected for inclusion in the 1988 edition of *Outstanding Young Men of America*. Belken serves with Arkansas Department of Corrections at the Cummins Unit.

Mark Williams has resigned as minister of youth at Highland Heights Church in Benton to continue his education.

Jerry Hogan resigned Jan. 8 as pastor of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. He and his wife, Linda, were recently appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as missionaries to Ecuador.

Faron Rogers will begin serving Feb. 5 as pastor of First Church, DeQueen, coming there from Pocahontas where he has served for as pastor of First Church since February 1986. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rogers has pastored churches in Texas and Oklahoma. He and his wife, Ann, have two daughters, Rachel, and Emily.

Stafford Kees is serving as education director at South Side Church in Heber Springs.

**Duane White** announced his medical retirement as pastor of First Church, Lockesburg, Jan. 1. He will make his home in Pearcy.

**Ron Nease**, a member of Fairdale Church in Hot Springs, made a commitment to the preaching ministry Dec. 4. He resides on Highway 290 in Hot Springs.

Linda Reagan and Diane Howell have joined the staff of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock as interim children's coordinators for the church's childhood education ministry. Reagan will coordinate the preschool area and Howell will coordinate the children's work.

J.L. Weaver is serving as pastor of Denmark Church near Bradford. MILLIE GILL

John Davey has resigned as pastor of El Paso First Church to serve as pastor of Northside Church in Bernie, Mo.

Jo Garner has resigned as nursery coordinator at First Church of Jacksonville.

**Roger Margason** of Springfield, Mo. is serving First Church of Mountain Home as interim music director.

**Charles Martin** is serving as pastor of Toltec Church at Scott, having previously served for three years as pastor of Buie Church, Prattsville. He is a graduate of Boyce Bible School.

**Doug Huskey** was ordained to the preaching ministry Jan. 22 at Lone Rock Church where his father, Paul Huskey, serves as pastor.

**Eldon Hellums** is serving as pastor of Pyatt Church. He and his wife, Shirley, are from the Melbourne area.

Jeff Root of Arkadelphia has been selected as one of the 1988 Outstanding Young Men of America. A member of First Church, Arkadelphia, he is a social studies and journalism teacher at Arkadelphia High School.

Eugene F. Irby has announced his retirement as pastor of Oak Grove Church at Austin. Irby has pastored Arkansas churches for 34 years.

Bill Webb will join the staff of Immanuel Church in Little Rock in February as minister of education, coming there from Sulphur Springs, Texas, where he has served on the staff First Church for five years. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received the R. Othal Feather Award given to the outstanding student in education administration. He and his wife, Sharon, have a son.

John Stricklan of Dallas has accepted a call to join the staff of First Church, Beebe, as minister of music and youth.

Lloyd A. Sparkman of Pine Bluff died Jan. 14 at age 90. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he began his service in 1924. He also served as president of Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1952-53. Funeral services were held Jan. 16 at South Side Church in Pine Bluff where he was a member. Survivors are a son, Alfred Sparkman of Crossett; two daughters, Maurine Sorensen of Raleigh, N.C., and Joyce Turner of Carthage, Miss; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



A deacon recognition service at the close of the Jan. 8 morning worship hour at South Highland Church in Little Rock involved (left to right) Alice and Amos Ryan, L.A. and Arbie Callis, Clyde Smith, chairman of deacons, and Pastor Mark Tolbert. Ryan and Callis were named as life-time deacons. Ryan, baving served the church for 36 years, was ordained by Douglasville Church where be served for one year. Callis, baving served for 32 years, was ordained by South Highland.

Mike Donahou has resigned as minister of youth at Dover Church to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Larry Pless is serving as interim pastor at Kelley Heights Church in Russellville.

Ernest V. Cooke Jr. has joined the staff of Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village as minister of education and administration. A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he previously served at First Church of Sanford, Fla. Cooke and his wife, Beverly, have two adult children.

**Charles Chesser** began serving Jan. 18 as interim pastor of First Church in Ward. He retired Sept. 30, 1988, as pastor of Carlisle First Church following more than 22 years of service there.

Eric Barbaree is serving as pastor of Mount Zion Church, Arkadelphia.

Richard Brown is serving First Church of Emmet as interim pastor.

Mildred E. Lene of Jasper died Jan. 11 at age 78. Survivors include her husband, Vernon Odelle Lene, pastor of Deer Church; a son, Allen O. Lene of Evansville, Ind.; a brother; and two sisters.



Blytheville First Church ordained Bob Brandt, Steve Westbrook, and Allen Edwards to the deacon ministry Jan. 8. Marvin Reynolds, director of missions for Mississippi County Association, preached the ordination message.

Watson Chapel Church at Pine Bluff observed a Spiritual Encounter Week Jan. 22-25 with Rick Caldwell and Alan Daniels



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Call for information: 501-439-2224 P.O. Box 196, Pindall, AR 72669 Little Rock Immanuel Church will sponsor a DiscipleNow youth retreat Feb. 3-5. The Praise Singers from Ouachita Baptist University will be leaders, sharing through music and Bible study.

Little River Association is in the process of building an associational office on property provided by First Church of Nashville, located on Highway 27 in the southern section of Nashville. The present associational office is a portable building, located beside the associational director of missions' home in Lockesburg.

Pleasant Valley Church near Trumann ordained Richard Woodruff to the deacon ministry Jan. 15. Pastor Frank Bufford preached the ordination message. Jimmie Garner, director of missions for Trinity Assocation, also participated in the service.

Arkadelphia Third Street Church Jan. 8 morning worship service featured W.O. Vaught, pastor emeritus of Little Rock Immanuel Church, as speaker, according to Pastor Gary Turrer. BJ. Sams, a member of Immanuel Church, was guest soloist.

Jonesboro First Church will ordain Bruce Poleet, Warren Skaug, Todd Williams, Brinn Williford, Bruce Venable, Ralph Waddell, and James McCauley III to the deacon ministry Feb. 5.

Reynolds Memorial Church in Little Rock will celebrate its 75th anniversary May 20-21 when former members and pastors, who are being asked to provide historical information, are special guests. Benson Wayne Edwards is pastor of the church located at 7111 Fourche Dam Pike, Little Rock, AR 72206.

Beebe First Church has begun construction on a new educational building.

Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs

### HEART OF EUROPE TOUR June 21-July 4 \$1939

Host: Dr. Ronald M. Ford, Pastor Central Baptist Church, NLR, dr.

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5200 fairway, H. Liffle Rock, Ar 7206 501-771-1125; 753-4585 Village has granted Pastor Tim Reddin a four-month sabbatical leave to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Norman First Church ordained Clayton Sheets, pastor of Concord Church in Aly, to the preaching ministry Jan. 22.

Bentonville First Church has launched two new monthly outreach ministries which include Parents' Night Out and a Sunday Night fellowship hour in the Family Life Center.

### Church and Community Ministries Workshop

Leadership Training for Guiding Volunteers in Church/Community Ministries

or

church staff and lay leaders with responsibilities for church or associational ministries, such as food pantries, clothing closets, literacy ministries, weekday ministries, multifamily housing ministries.

### Thursday, Feb. 16, 1989

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Baptist Building, Little Rock Lunch provided

Leaders

Tommy Goode and Diana Lewis State Missions Department

Agenda Program management Volunteer supervision Volunteer ministry models Ministry resources available

> Registration deadline Friday, Feb. 10

	tration for Feb. 16 Church and munity Ministries Workshop
Name _	
Address	
City/Zip	
	Send to: Tommy Goode P.O. Box 552 Little Rock. AR 72203

### Fall Seminary Graduates

James E. Bryant of Little Rock was among the 215 December graduates at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Bryant received the doctor of ministry degree.

Four Arkansans were among the 134 December graduates at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La.

Receiving the doctor of ministry degree was Emil Turner, pastor of Mount Olive Church in Crossett. He is married to the former Mary Moore of Crossett.

Receiving the master of divinity degree was Joal A.A. Ajayi of Kisi, Nigeria, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Receiving the associate of divinity degree in pastoral ministry was Michael Routon of Marmaduke. He is married to the former Patricia White of Marmaduke. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. P.C. Routon of Marmaduke. Routon's home church is First Church of Marmaduke.

Receiving the master of religious education degree was Michael K. Keen of Crossett. He is married to the former Mary Beth Minor of Brinkley. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Keen of Crossett. Keen's home church is Magnolia Church in Crossett.

### **Helen McGriff Dies**

Helen Perry McGriff of Little Rock died Jan. 17 at age 59 following a lengthy illness. She was the wife of Glen D. McGriff, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Ministry of Crisis Support.

Her memorial service was held Jan. 19 at First Church of Little Rock where she was a member. Burial was in Gadsden, Ala. Jan. 21.

Other survivors include a son, Lamar McGriff of Huntsville, Ala.; two daughters, Glenda Eskridge and Donna McGriff, both of Little Rock; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Church of Little Rock.

### **Volunteers** Needed

Arkansas Children's Hospital needs volunteers to serve as hospital guides and to work in nursing units, playrooms, and recovery rooms.

Volunteers must be 18 years old and have graduated from high school. They must contribute a minimum of one three-hour shift per week in an assigned area for six months.

For more information, contact Volunteer Services at 370-1882.

# LOCAL & STATE 'He Rang the Bell'

Youth evangelist Buster Soaries "rang the bell" for a record crowd at Joy Explo, the Arkansas Baptist State Youth Evangelism Conference Dec. 29-30.

An estimated 3,700 persons—a record attendance for the fourth year in a row packed the Hot Springs Convention Center for the two-day event which has become increasingly popular with the state's Baptist youth.

According to Jim Lagrone, coordinator of the event and associate in the ABSC Evangelism Department, an estimated 1,000 youth responded at each of the two invitations. An accurate accounting of the number of decisions was complicated by the sheer size of the response and the fact that many entire youth groups came to the front to pray together, Lagrone said.

In addition to Soaries' preaching, Salvadoran-born evangelist Jamie Mayorga shared his testimony about struggling with physical abuse and drug addiction prior to his conversion. Former rock musician Michael Haynes offered a revealing analysis of the satanic and occult forces which young people in Arkansas face.

The program also featured music from the All-State Youth Choir, All-State Band, and Christian musician Al Denson.

ACTS of Arkansas videotaped portions of the program for a one-hour highlight program which will be broadcast at a date to be announced.

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.

\$10,000,000 Series D Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention Church Loan Collateralized Bonds

Proceeds from the sale of the bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Interest on the bonds will be payable semi-annually. The bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from six months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 8.5% to 10.5% depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by calling or writing the Home Mission Board.

Home Mission Board, SBC Attn: Church Loans Division 1350 Spring St., NW Atlanta, GA 30367 1-800-HMB-BOND (462-2663)

Please send a copy of the Prospectus for the Series D issue of Home Mission Board Church Loan Collateralized Bonds.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_



### DATING TODAY A Live Teleconference for Parents and Teens February 6, 1989 6:30-8:30 PM (CST)

Jimmy Hester, editor of Living with Teenagers, hosts this live teleconference dealing with such topics as

- Boy-Girl relationships
- When to start dating
- Curfews

- Dating non-Christians • Why wait for sex?
- Teen pregnancy

A panel of experts on adolescent issues will be on hand to take your questions by phone.

Plan now to view this important teleconference with your teenagers. Presented by



#### **Baptist Telecommunication Network**

BTN is a satellite telecommunications network operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

For information on subscribing to BTN, call (615) 251-2283.

"Dating Today" is a joint production of the Family Ministry and Church Administration departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board.



**Copeland Bus Sales and Service** Quality pre-owned school buses Many sizes, makes, models, and price ranges 314-265-7408

#### St. James, Mo.

### **SBC Homecoming Features Holm**

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark-A concert by contemporary Christian musician Dallas Holm will be among the highlights as Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge celebrates its annual homecoming.

Holm is best known for his hit songs. "Rise Again" and "I Saw the Lord." His most recent album, entitled "Against the Wind," deals with everyday problems people face and includes "He'll Dry the Tears." Waiting," and the title song, "Against the Wind."

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17, in the Southerland-Mabee Center on the Walnut Ridge campus. A \$2 donation will be accepted at the door to help defray costs. In addition, persons attending the concert are asked to contribute a can of food or other non-perishable item.

For more information about homecoming activities, contact the school at 886-6741.

### Sulcer Elected **Trustee President**

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark.-Kenneth Sulcer of Osceola has been elected president of the board of trustees of Southern Baptist College in Walnut

Ridge.

A former state representative with business interests in Osceola and Ionesboro. Sulcer has served on the SBC board for 10 years. He previously served as vice-president and secretary of the board and recently was



Sulcon

chairman of the trustees/former trustees committee of the school's New Horizons fund raising campaign.

### **Faculty Added**

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark .- Rose Mary Weaver of Pocahontas has been employed by Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge as chairman of the education department and assistant professor of elementary education.

The elementary education degree will be a new baccalaureate degree offered beginning in the fall semester of 1989

Weaver is a graduate of Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is presently engaged in writing a dissertation for a Ph.D. degree.

# HELPLINE Her Ministry is BTN

#### by Jim Lowrey

#### Baptist Sunday School Board

HORSESHOE BEND. ARK .- Pauline Typer is the soft-spoken BTN coordinator and chief motivator who translates messages into ministries at Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church in Horseshoe Bend, Ark,

For the past two years. Typer has given her time to tape messages transmitted on the Baptist Telecommunication Network and then recommend them to church members. BTN is the education and training network of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Every month, approximately 30 church leaders and members in the tiny northern-Arkansas town use at least one BTN tape. Tyner said. Deacons. Sunday school teachers in all age groups, children's choir directors, deacons' wives, the church training director and WMU members all have used BTN tapes.

With an average of 140 attending Sunday school, the participation level is impressive-but no accident.

"The Lord called me to ministry in BTN," Tyner said, "As I share BTN with others, it makes us a better church and better Christians as we reach out to the unsaved."

Typer works 20-25 hours each week as the volunteer BTN coordinator, taping messages and recommending them to church members and leaders who she believes could benefit from the training.

David Johnson, pastor of the church, said, "BTN energizes and equips a church in direct proportion to the degree of use."

He said through BTN members of Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church have learned how to visit, how to be effective witnesses and many details such as proper ways to teach learning activities and how to structure a classroom for learning

'BTN puts names and needs together." Johnson continued. "Our church members can see missionaries on a missions teleconference, hear their needs and see their places of service. This has helped increase our missions giving.

"A tool for education is available through BTN," he said. "If churches will begin using the materials immediately, they will profit immediately.

At Horseshoe Bend, Tyner used BTN to answer a need her church faced. There was no child care on Wednesday nights during the time adults visited, so parents with elementary-age children could not participate.

She watched the tapes on children's choir, invited the children and started a choir, which she led for six months, Another church member, Delynn Smith, recognized the need so she watched the tapes, then decided she could serve the church as leader of the children's choir. which now averages 10-12 children each Wednesday night.

Gary Wallace, former chairman of deacons and now church training director at the church, used BTN tapes each month in deacon meetings with the pastor, and in another session each month for deacons and their wives to provide guidance in areas where the wives were likely to be called for help.

Wallace said the church started a church training program the first of September and now has some 75 enrolled and an average attendance of 40-45. He said BTN tapes have provided the basis for much of the work done to begin the church training program and the content for several of the sessions.

BTN is further integrated into the life of the church by encouragement to all Sunday school teachers to watch the lesson preparation tapes each week, according to Roxanne Johnson, wife of the pastor and Sunday school director.

Whatever the area of ministry or responsibility at Horseshoe Bend, Pauline Tyner is always looking for help for church members who have accepted a responsibility and might need help. She is the one who does the taping, watches the program, then goes to one of her friends with a recommendation, an offer of help and a word of encouragement.

Wallace said he believes a key ingredient in success for BTN in a local church, after the support of the pastor, is a motivator. showing church members how to use the materials and encouraging them in their roles.

Pauline Tyner has decided to minister in her church with the talents God has given her, to try and enhance the talents others are developing

None of the members at Horseshoe Bend can say they don't know about BTN ... or Paulin. If you're willing to accept a job, she'll be talking to you real soon.

BUILDING . . . BUILDING . . . BUILDING . . . **Church Pews & Pulpit** Furniture, Cushions, Refinishing and **Giberglass** Specialties Stocking Distributo BAPTISTRIES & BAPTISTR STEEPLES lanufacturing Co. P.O. Box 695 - Fifth and Vine North Little Rock, Arkansas 72115 (501) 374-6008

(BSSB) photo / Jim Lowrey



Pauline Tyner has been called to a special ministry.

175

# What A Month!

by Don Moore ABSC Executive Director

My, what a month! The opportunities

we are offering for the month of February are just tremendous! Some of them are first time events.

Before I get into the particulars of these rich opportunities, I want to make a request. Many of you have now experienced the grief of



studying, preaching and serving a people an entire year without seeing anyone come to Christ and follow up with baptism. If yours is a baptismless church, we would like to help you. No embarrassment, reflection or reference will be made that would make the church feel bad. The convention exists to help churches-all of our churches. Here are some of the ways we can help. (1) Provide trained college age students in the summer to help with surveys, Bible Schools or backyard Bible Clubs. (2) Provide a gifted evangelist to assist in a revival. (3) Provide scholarship assistance in getting the children and young people of the church to Siloam Springs Assembly. Surely, with a good Bible School, revival meeting and camping experience. there will be lost people involved who will be ready to be saved. Call Clarence Shell immediately if you would let us to help you (376-4791). We'd like to be your partner in making a differince.

Look at this! A first! The Pulaski and North Pulaski Associations are joining with the state convention and the three National Baptist Conventions to sponsor a great Pastoral Ministries Conference. Since deacons are very much involved in ministering to the people of their churches, they need to be involved in this. Staff members also help in pastoral ministries. This is a comprehensive, practical conference that will provide great inspiration, information and fellowship. The three major emphasis will be on preaching, ministering and leadership. If possible, you will want to make these meetings Feb. 20-21 at Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Small Membership Church Assistance—Another first! Feb. 11, Sunday School workers from churches with 150 or less enrolled in Sunday School should gather at Ouachita Baptist University. Special help will be provided that will improve teaching skills, increase the excitement, and inspire a new thrust of effective outreach and Bible teaching in the small membership church. We hope this will be such a blessing that we can do it every year. Call Freddie Pike (376-4791) and let him know you are coming.

Lay Renewal breezes blow-lesus said the work of the Holy Spirit is like the blowing of the wind. You can't see where it comes from nor where it goes, but you can't mistake the effect of it having been there. And so it is with Lav Renewal. Some of the greatest moments our churches have been experiencing have been through Lay Renewal weekends. Churches are never the same. There remains an openness, freshness and spiritual vitality following these weekends that usually far outreach the typical revival. This Feb. 10-11, Lay Renewal Fellowship will bring together the people from over the state God has been using so greatly. Others of you who would like to be involved should meet with these and learn of the blessing you can be and the blessings you can receive from Lay Renewal ministries.

"Pleasant words"—According to Scripture, "pleasant words promote instruction, pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" (Pr. 16:21b,24).

The WMU, with its age group organizations, has done more than any group of people to try to help our churches stay close to the heart of God in concern for world missions. Every church who has an active WMU owes them a great deal. While we do not do all we should about world missions. I shudder to think of where we might be without their steadfast and ongoing efforts. Let me suggest that the week of Feb.12-18, would be a great time for them to hear some "pleasant words" as the scripture advises. Couldn't you highlight their officers, their work, their history, their membership, their purpose and times of meeting? No, you couldn't do all of that. But you can find some way to recognize them and express appreciation and encouragement.

Then, you could encourage those who are not members to join in the Home Mission Study, "Many Paople, One Mission" that will likely be held sometime during the week of Feb. 19-22. They could help you have a church-wide study on Home Missions.

Everyone likes to hear "pleasant words."

Two vital Bible teaching links—Five Sunday School consultants can't make it to 1,283 churches. Right? Then, they must develop a network to reach to the 1,283 churches if at all possible. They have done that.

One link is the ASSISTeams in each association. ASSIST stands for Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team. We have a high percentage of our associations with ASSISTeams. Your annual gathering for refreshing and update is Feb. 6-7 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. We count on you to help the churches in the associations. Let us help you. That is our purpose and our joy. See you there!

The other link in this Bible teaching chain is the associational Bible school leadership. These five people conduct associational clinics for people in the churches who work with the various agegroups. If you are one of the associational VBS workers, we want to equip you as best we can for your big job. Our clinic for helping you is February 6, in conjunction with the ASSISTeam Conference at Immanuel in Little Rock.

Are you involved in community ministries? Another first! Our director of Church and Community Ministries would like to meet with all of you who are responsible for these ministries locally. The range of ministries may be from crisis closets to pregnancy centers. The first gathering together of such leaders is sure to be a blessing. You will meet at the Baptist Building, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m. You will be able to glean some valuable information as well as sharing your experience with others.

Single Adult Get-together—Feb. 24-25, at Markham Street Church, is the date and place for the annual gathering of single adults. Single adults are a large number. They not only have needs, but have great ministries to perform. While enjoying excellent fellowship, you can find out how to improve your own ministry in your church.

Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat-All who carry some responsibility for the music in our small membership churches could benefit from this retreat. It has proven to be a great blessing to a group of people who haven't had a lot of encouragement. Excellent leaders have been enlisted to help you become more confident and effective in your important role. The dates are Feb. 24-25. Camp Paron is the place. Call Lester McCullough for more information (376-4791).

### A SMILE OR TWO

The need for good communication was brought home to me recently when I told my teenage daughter, "There are two words I'd like you to drop from your vocabulary. One is 'awesome' and the other is 'gross.'"

"Okay, she said, "what are they?"

A wise man thinks about all he says; a fool says about all he thinks.

# HELPLINE

### Church Training Baptist Doctrine Study Preview

There's still time to make your reservations for the 1989 Baptist Doctrine Study Preview to be conducted next week in connection with the State Evangelism Conference. The Preview Study will be conducted immediately following the Monday afternoon session of the Evangelism Conference and will be completed before the evening session.

The Doctrines Baptist Believe is the 1989 Baptist Doctrine Study. The book was written by Roy Edgemon, director of the Church Training Department, BSSB. The study focuses on the basic doctrines of our faith. This is the first major overview of our basic doctrines to be published since 1956. The 1989 Baptist Doctrine Study offers our churches an excellent opportunity that will strengthen, encourage and uplift Baptists from the newest to the most experienced among us.

The Preview Study on Jan. 30 will be led by Glenn Smith, a consultant in the Church Training Department in Nashville. Smith's long experience in teaching and pastoral background will be a blessing to those who attend.

The registration fee for the conference is \$7.50 per person. This includes a copy of the book, a packet of teaching/promotional helps and the evening meal served by the host church.

Phone your reservations in today! Call 376-4791. It isn't too late!—Robert Holley, director

developed in a hodgepodge fashion. The volunteer is to help the new camp director missionary plan to organize the present facilities and future development. The job will consist of a site study of present facilities, planning to landscape the property and planning for future facilities at the retreat center. The date is negotiable. Call our office if you are willing to do this.

(3) China—A group of Arkansas businessmen, some with their wives, will go to China. The dates are April 30-May 14, 1989. We will seek to explore business opportunities in China, share our Christian witness as well as tour the most exciting, beautiful and historic places. The tour price from San Francisco will be \$2,989. If you might be interested in participating, our office will gladly provide you further information.

(4) Minnesota—Several summer opportunities will be available for men and boys to help in sawing timber for new missions in northwest Minnesota. If you would like more information please let us know.

(5) Church construction in Arkansas— The Nailbenders need some more retired men and women for the six or more projects for 1989. Call or write Frank Allan, Rt. 1 Box 25, Williford, AR 72482; phone 966-4982.

The one-day construction was a thrilling experience for the 50 men who worked at Eudora. During 1989 could you give a Saturday to help build a mission, a church or associational building? We can involve you if we know you are willing to work for him. Call us or send your name and address.—Glendon Grober, director

### Woman's Missionary Union WMU Annual Meeting

Sometimes after great accomplishments we are tempted to let down. But we must press on! Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union begins her second century of service determined to Launch Forward. On March 21-22, 1989, WMU members and others interested in missions will gather from across the state for the WMU Annual Meeting at First Church, Rogers. They will be challenged to Launch Forward in mission study, action and support.

All aspects of missions will be featured. Wana Ann Fort (Zimbabwe) and Charles Carroll (Singapore) will focus attention on foreign missions. Beverly Hammack (Home Mission Board) will paint a picture of the home mission field.

State mission and volunteer in missions segments will further help participants know of mission opportunities. Bible study, theme interpretations, age-level promotions and much more is planned. A very special program guest will be Marjorie McCullough, national president of Woman's Missionary Union. Mrs. McCullough has served in a variety of mission positions and you will want to hear her.

A new state WMU president will be elected. After the Tuesday evening session, there will be a reception honoring the new president, out-going president Katsy McAlister, and other program guests. A nursery for preschoolers is provided dur-

### Brotherbood Mission Volunteers Needed

During 1989 many Arkansas Baptist Men can be involved personally in state, home and foreign missions.

These are some of the mission opportunities for 1989.

(1) Sao Gabriel da Cachoeira—A city some 400 miles north of Manaus, Brazil on the Rio Negro. The need is for men to do construction of a new church's building. The trip will take two weeks. Dates will be announced later. The approximate cost for travel, expenses and meals is \$1,500. We need 10-12 men.

(2) Santa Eulalia, Peru—The need is for a Landscape Architect. The volunteer will help by preparing and designing a master plan for the Baptist Retreat Center. The retreat center is 34 years old and has been

### Bible Teaching Gathering for Smaller Sunday Schools

February 11, 1989

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Berry Bible Building Chapel Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia

FOR: pastors, Sunday School directors, and teachers in churches with 150 or less enrolled in Sunday School.

Purpose: to help teachers improve their skills and use curriculum material designed for smaller Sunday Schools; to motivate teachers and leaders to reach people through the Sunday School.

#### Conferences General Officers Adults Youth Children Preschool

**Conference** Leaders

Freddie Pike, ABSC, Little Rock Ed Hinkson, ABSC, Little Rock Becky Martin, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn. Linda Miniard, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn. Peggy Ward, Vickburg, Miss.



ing each of the four sessions. The session times on Tuesday are 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. The Wednesday morning session begins at 9:30 a.m.

Lots more is planned but space prevents great detail. If you have more questions, please contact the State WMU Office, PO. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director

### Sunday School State Building Tour

The week of March 13-17 will be the date for our Spring Building Tour. If building, renovation, space study or long range plot planning is in your future, give us a call.

Why should you use the services of the Church Architecture Department? That is a very good question, in light of the fact that they do not provide plans and specifications for your building. The Church Architecture Department does have a limited number of floor plans with detailed drawings which are available for a small fee. These are to be used by the local architect and/or engineer. They do not supervise nor superintend your building project. They do not provide elevation drawings, let alone do them in color.

Why, then, use their service? Because they do understand the program of our churches. They do understand the educa tional and worship space needs of our churches. They will provide (free) a tailormade floor plan for your building needs which will permit optimum use of your program within the building itself. They will provide (free) a space utilization study of your present buildings and make suggestions for future use. They will do (free) a long range plot plan for your property which will address parking, traffic flow, placement of future buildings. tet.

Note: The Church Architecture Departmeant does provide two cost-recovery services relating to interior design and master planning and landscape design.

If we may be of service to your church please give us a call at 376-4791.

Theses services provided by the Church Architecture Department of the BSSB and the Sunday School Department of the ABSC.—Ed Hinkson, state building consultant

### Church Administration Secretaries' Conference

Over 1,500 secretaries are expected to attend the National Conference for Southern Baptist Secretaries in Nashville, Tenn., April 26-29. The conference, to be held at the Sunday School Board, is sponsored by the Church Administration Department., Church, associational and Southern Baptist agency and institution secretaries are

invite	ed to att	end the conf	erenc	e, h	eld ev	ery
four	years.	Secretaries	will	be	able	to
choo	se from	45 conferen	ices re	elate	d to p	ro-
fessio	onal ski	lls, vocation	al spe	cial	ities a	ind
perso	onal en	richment.				

The registration fee for the conference is \$120 (due before Feb. 1), \$135 payable on or after Feb. 1. The registration should be sent to: BSSB National Secretaries Conference, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203. The fee will cover all materials and some meals.

Arrangements have been made for transportation by charter bus for Arkansas secretaries. The cost of transportation, round trip from Little Rock, is \$45. A block of rooms has also been reserved at The Hermitage Hotel within walking distance of the Sunday School Board. The rate is \$57 per night (single occupancy) or \$28.50 per person, per night (double occupancy). Arrangements for transportation and rooms must be made through the Church Training Department, PO. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Reservation for rooms and transportation must be accompanied by a check for the first night's lodging.

For additional information, contact Robert Holley, phone 376-4791.—Robert Holley, director

### Missions Bi-Vocational Conference

Thirty-six percent of Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches are pastored by bi-vocational ministers. Many others serve as bi-vocational ministers for music, youth, education and outreach. These ministers provide the churches essential staff leadership while working in secular employment either full or part-time. Bi-vocational ministers provide ministry often for churches which could not afford to employ fulltime persons or a full-time minister is not needed. Some are called to bi-vocational ministry. Some have to work at a secular job to supplement their income. All fill a vital role in ministry in Arkansas.

Training and conferences especially geared to bi-vocational ministers demonstrate an understanding of this unique Christian service. Churches can affirm and encourage their ministers by providing conference and travel costs for them and their spouse to attend personal growth and ministry training events. The South-Central Regional Bi-Vocational Ministry Conference is just such an event. It is scheduled for March 17-18 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.—Tommy Goode, Church and Community Ministries

South-Central Regional Bivocational Ministry Conferen March 17-18, 1989 Pre-Registration Form	
Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Place of service and position	
My spouse will attend the conference with me: $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No	
Enclose \$10.00 registration fee per person and mail to:	
Office of Continuing Education	

Office of Continuing Education New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary 3939 Gentilly Boulevard New Orleans, LA 70126-4858

Cancellation policy: If a registrant cancels prior to two weeks before the conference, all money will be refunded. No refund will be given to persons not attending the conference without prior cancellation.

### HELPLINE Missions Advance 87-89 Speakers Still Available

"Missions' Advance 87-89" officially ends in April. Your church still has plenty of opportunity to enlist a speaker who will come to your church at no cost to do two things. These are: (1) challenge your church to adopt a plan of advance in Cooperative Program support, and (2) interpret the crisis we are facing in Cooperative Program support.

If you would like to have a speaker, call 376-4791 and ask for Jimmie Sheffield.

April 16 is Cooperative Program Day. This presents a great opportunity to use a "Missions Advance 87-89" speaker. If your church already has something scheduled on this date, plan Cooperative Program Day for another Sunday.

Over 300 churches have had or requested a "Missions Advance 87-89" speaker. Your church can benefit for years to come, and mission work in Arkansas and around the world will feel the impact of "Missions Advance 87-89."

What is most important, however, is that God will be glorified and his church will be built up. Call now to enlist a speaker.— Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

### Single Adults 'Committed And Free'

"Singles: Committed and Free" will be the theme for the 1989 state single adult conference Feb. 24-25 at Markham Street Church in Little Rock.

Two Little Rock pastors will be featured speakers. Billy White, Second Church, Little Rock, will speak Friday night and Brian Harbour, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, will speak Saturday afternoon.

Tim Cleary, a single adult consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead a conference for single adult ministry leaders. Cleary coordinates the annual Single Adult Labor Day Weekends at Ridgecrest and Glorieta.

The annual conference will provide single adults and single adults leaders an opportunity to experience fellowship, inspiration, testimonies, personal growth, leader training, through times of worship, growth/interest conferences, and informal fellowship.

Sessions are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, and 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. There will be a registration fee to cover the conference expenses. Markham Street Church is located at 9701 West Markham, approximately one mile east of I-430. There are convenient motels and restaurants are located at the interchange of highways I-430 and I-630.

Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, for additional information.—Gerald Jackson, associate

### Stewardship/Annuity Changes in Church Medical Plan

A new feature and several changes in benefits were effective Jan. 1, 1989, in the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan.

Healthline, the new cost-saving feature, helps reduce unnecessary hospital stays and surgery and also can be a valuable source of general health-care information.

Participants in the church plan will receive a packet of materials with complete information about Healthline.

Participants who are considered "Medicare primary" are not subject to Healthline requirements.

Other changes and additions to the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan were effective Jan. 1.

Participants who need further information on their medical insurance may call 1-800-262-0511 or their state annuity representative at 376-4791.—James A. Walker, annuity representative

### Church Music Music Leader Retreat

Volunteer/part-time music leaders have a great opportunity to get together for a time to improve their skills and just generally have a good time at Camp Paron each year.

This year the date is Feb. 24-25. You can even bring your whole staff. The pastors will have Bible study with Bud Fray, OBU, in the book of Acts. He has titled the study "The Church Alive."

The whole staff will participate in the session on worship planning and there will be separate sessions in music fundamentals, plano and organ, reading new music, sharpening your directing skills and much more. We begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and conclude on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Registration is only \$5 per person. Plan now to bring your pastor, music leader, pianist, and organist for this great time together.—Glen Ennes, associate

### Church Administration Pastoral Ministries Conference Set

Joe Stacker, director of the Church Administration Department, Nashville, Tenn., will be the keynote speaker at the opening

session of the State Pastoral Ministries Conference to be held Feb. 20-21, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. The conference will focus on each of the three aspects of pastoral ministries: (1) proclaiming the Word, (2) caring for members of the



Stacker

church and community, and (3) leading the church to accomplish its objectives. Stacker's message at the opening session on Monday afternoon will set the stage for the four remaining sessions.

The conference will begin with the Monday afternoon session at 1 p.m. and conclude with the Tuesday night session, with sessions planned for Monday afternoon and evening and Tuesday morning, afternoon and evening. Each of the five sessions will begin with worship, inspiration and messages followed by practical, how-to conferences dealing with various aspects of pastoral ministries.

The conference has been designed especially for pastors, church staff members, deacons and wives. Conferences will be offered to meet the needs of staff members and a special conference for wives of pastors and staff members will be offered.

Other speakers for the conference include Cary Heard, pastor of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock; Jerry Black, pastor of Greater Paradise Baptist Church, Little Rock; Jack Kwok, director of Cooperative Ministries Department, ABSC; and Sid Smith, Special Ministries Department, BSSB.

The conference is a Church Administration project sponsored jointly by the Arkanasa Baptist State Convention, the National Baptist Conventions in Arkansas (Consolidated, General and Regular Missionary Baptist Conventions) and the North Pulaski and Pulaski Associations.

Registration for the conference is \$10 per person and covers materials and breaks. Registrations should be addressed to Pastoral Ministries Conference, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—Robert Holley, director

# Next Month in Arkansas: February

February 1-4, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Director Conference, Nasbville, Tenn. (M) February 6, State Vacation Bible School Clinic, Little Rock Immanuel Church (SS)

February 6-7, ASSIST Training, Little Rock Immanuel Church (SS)

\* February 10-11, Lay Renewal Fellowship, North Little Rock Levy Church

February 11, Bible Teaching Gathering for Small Sunday Schools, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (SS) February 12-18, Focus on WMU February 16, Leadership Training for Guiding Volunteers in Church and Community Ministries, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Mn) February 19-22, Home Mission Study (WMU)

February 20-21, Pastoral Ministries Conference, Little Rock Immanuel Church (CT)

February 24-25, State Single Adult Conference, Little Rock Markham Street Church (CT) February 24-25, Volunteer/Part-Time

Music Leader Retreat, Camp Paron

March 1-3, DOM Retreat, DeGray Lodge (Mn)

March 3-4, State Handbell Festival, Little Rock First Church (M) March 3-4, State Church Recreation Conference, Little Rock Immanuel

Church (CT) March 5-12, Week of Prayer for

Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU) March 7, Church Arkansas Rally,

Hope First Church (Mn) March 9, Church Arkansas Rally, Benton First Church (Mn)

March 10-11, HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bbd)

March 13, Northwest Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Huntsville First Church (CT)

March 13, Southwest Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Hope First

### March

Church (CT)

March 13-14, Statewide Pastors' Retreat, Camp Paron (Ad) March 13-16, Handbell Leadership Seminar, Nashville, Tenn. (M) March 13-16, Senior Adult Choir Leadership Seminar, Nashville, Tenn. (M)

March 13-17, Church Building Tour (SS)

March 14, Westcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament,

Booneville First Church (CT)

March 14, Southeast Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Warren First Church (CT)

March 16, Northcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Mountain View First Church (CT) March 16, Northeast Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Jonesboro

Central Church (CT)

March 17, Central Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Little Rock Olivet (CT)

March 17, Eastcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, Wynne Church (CT)

March 18, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat, Murfreesboro First Church (M)

March 21-22, WMU Annual Meeting, Rogers First Church (WMU)

March 24, State Youth Convention, Statebouse Convention Center, Little Rock (CT)

March 27-28, Here's Hope Association Steering Committee, Camp Paron (Ev)

March 30-31, Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat (CT) March 31-April 2, BSU Leadership

Training Conference, Camp Paron (BSU)

April 8, Youth Issues Institute, Little Rock (CLC)

April 11, Commission '89, Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service, Statebouse Convention Center, Little Rock (Ad)

April 14-15, BSU Volleyball Tournament (Stu)

April 15, Young Musicians Festivals, Jonesboro First Church, North Little Rock Park Hill Church, Magnolia Central Church, Pine Bluff South Side

# April

Church, Fort Smith First Church (M) April 17-18, New Pastor/Staff Orientation, Baptist Building, Little Rock April 20-21, Minister of Education Retreat (CT) April 22, Youth Music Festival, Little Rock Life Line Church (M) April 26-29, Area Summer Youth Minstry Conferences (CT) National Southern Baptist Secretaries Conference, Nashville, Tenn. (CT)

April 28-29, Church Building Conference, Little Rock Markham Street Church (SS)

April 28-29, Royal Ambassador, High School Baptist Young Men Congress, Ouacbita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Bbd)

April 28-29, Acteens Encounter, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)

#### \* Date change

Abbreviations: Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotberbood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; SS - Sunday School; S/A - Stewardsbip/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

### NATION

# New Phone Number

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board began operations in 1989 with a new telephone number, a new logo, a new identity statement and a new staff structure.

The new telephone number is (404) 898-7000 and is operative now for a limited number of calls. The board's current switchboard number, (404) 873-4041, will continue to handle most calls until March, when a recording will notify callers of the new number.

The board's toll-free customer services number, (800) 634-2462, and the Home Missions Intercessory PrayerLine, (800) 554-PRAY, will remain unchanged.

Most "direct inward dial" numbers assigned to staff members on a 24-hour basis will remain the same, HMB leaders said. Callers who know a staff member's extension any dial (404) 898-7 plus the extension and reach the staff member at any time, even after the switchboard closes at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

The board will publish a new direct inward dial directory of staff members later this year, after staff affected by/reorganization move to new offices. The reorganization went into effect Jan. 1, but not all staff

Passilia -

Churches—Reach Vietnam veterans. Contact VVCM, Box 1132, Searcy, AR 72143

Buses! Buses! Buses! — 1-800-367-4845. American Transcoach. An authorized Champion distributor.

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For Sale—Twelve 11-foot oak pews. Padded seats. Pulpit. Baptistry. \$2,000. Call Oak Bowery Baptist Church, 796-2118 or 229-6880. 2/16

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days pirot to the date of publication dealerd. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 55 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 beccuse of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a spacevariable basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied. members with new positions will move to new offices.

Tied to implementation of the board's reorganization, Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis announced the board would begin using a new logo and identity statement on all letterheads.

The new logo features the letters "HMB" in a bold typeface. The symbol of a cross

### Almost \$7 Million Short

#### by Jim Newton

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Catch-up contributions in November and December pushed total Southern Baptist gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions to a record \$30.8 million at the end of 1988.

Even though the \$30,854,398 was a record for the offering, total gifts fell short of the \$37,5 million goal for 1988 and did not keep pace with a 4.5 percent inflation rate, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis noted.

Lewis announced the final tabulations during a meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board in Birmingham, Ala., in early January.

The \$30.8 million is an increase of \$611,192, or 2.02 percent, over the \$30.2 million given through the offering in 1987. Lewis said he was pleased that Southern

is superimposed on the middle of the "M." Under the HMB logo are the words, "Home Mission Board, SBC," and the new identity statement, "Christ for Our Nation."

Lewis said the logo design has strong symbolism. "It is significant that the cross of Christ is central to our mission."

The new identity statement, "Christ for Our Nation," embraces everything the Home Mission Board does in evangelism, church starting, church growth and ministry—the four priority areas of the board, Lewis added.

Baptists responded to an appeal in September to dig deeper into their pockets and catch up on the offering.

In september, Lewis said that if contributions continued at the same rate for the rest of the year, the board would receive an estimated \$30.4 million, an increase of only \$151,000, or 0.5 percent. That amount would have been the lowest percentage increase in Annie Armstrong Offering giving since 1970, when the offering dropped 1.6 percent, he said.

Instead, when final 1988 figures were tabulated, the 2 percent increase ranked the third-lowest in the last 25 years. Offering gifts decreased in 1970, and increased only 1.37 percent in 1967.

During the past 15 years, gifts through the special offering have increased an average of 11.3 percent each year, or 5.15 percent when adjusted for inflation, Lewis noted. The annual offering for home missions has not reached its goal since 1981.

Southern Baptist College **HOMECOMING 1989** 

#### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, Feb. 17 Dallas Holm Concert - SMC

Cost: \$2 and a canned good	
Saturday, Feb. 18	
Open House in the Dorms	
Alumni Registration Continental Breakfast - SMC 0:20 a m	

Alumni Registration, Continental Breaklast - SNC9:30 a.m	1.
Campus Tours9:45 a.m	n.
SBC vs. Mississippi County2:00 p.n	
Coronation of Royalty between Women's and Men's Games	
Southern Showboat	n.
Sponsored by Delta Psi Omega	

A Time, to Remember,

7.20 nm

# **CP Eclipses Inflation Rate**

### December Receipts Up, But Lag Behind Goal

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists' unified ministry budget finally eclipsed the inflation rate in December. But at the end of the first quarter of its fiscal year, the Cooperative Program still lags almost 12 percent behind the pace needed to reach its goal.

The national Cooperative Programreceived \$12,151,002 in December, a 26.5 percent increase over December 1987, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

December receipts brought the budget's year-to-date total to \$32,158,188, or 6.78 percent over the first quarter of 1987-88, Bennett said. The U.S. inflation rate currently is about 4 percent.

The December contributions came following two months in which Cooperative Program receipts were lower than totals for the same period the previous year. In fact, November's \$9,055,571 total was the lowest in 37 months and pulled year-to-date receipts to almost 2.5 percent below the amount recorded for the first two months of 1987-88.

However, December receipts followed predictions made by observers from some of the 36 state Baptist conventions, who said the month would be a catch-up time for the budget. The \$12 million-plus total was the fourth-best in Cooperative Program history, following January of the three previous years.

"I am absolutely pleased with the level of giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program in December," Bennett said. "I am gratified by the year-to-date increase of 6.78 percent.

"However, the first three months do not necessarily establish a trend, and the December receipts taken alone absolutely do not establish a trend. I hope for faithfulness during the remaining nine months of the fiscal year, that we might reach our Cooperative Program goal," he added.

That goal is \$145.6 million, allocated to support evangelistic, missionary, church-

starting and educational ministries worldwide. It includes a first-phase basic operating budget of \$137.61 million, a capital needs budget of almost \$6.9 million and a second-phase basic operating budget of abou \$1.1 million.

The Cooperative Program's first-quarter total is 11.65 percent, or more than \$4.2 million, behind the pace needed to reach the total budget. It is 6.52 percent, or more than \$2.2 million, behind the pace needed to reach the first-phase basic operating budget.

Southern Baptists must contribute an average of \$12,604,646 each month for the balance of the fiscal year if they are to reach the \$145.6 million overall goal. They must contribute an average of \$11,716,868 each month if they are to reach the \$137.61 million first-phase goal.

Cooperative Program funds originate from church members, and they pass through congregations to state conventions and on to national and international causes.

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### State WMU Annual Meeting

March 21-22, 1989 First Baptist Church Rogers, Ark.

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### NATION

# **Record Increases**

#### Foundation Sets Records in Asset Value

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foundation set records in asset value and income production during the 1987-88 fiscal year, SBF trustees learned during their annual meeting Dcc. 6-7 in Nashville.

Market value of SBF assets climbed \$6,413,023, to a record \$67,816,478, reported President Hollis E. Johnson III.

The market value increase represented a 10.46 percent gain, compared to a book value increase of 15.66 percent, Johnson said. The difference was caused by "the tremendous decline in stock prices during the first month of the year," October 1987, when the stock market crashed, he explained.

<sup>SBF</sup> policies and practices enabled the financial institution to thrive, despite the "Black Monday" crash, he noted: "The large cash position and policy of owning top-tier quality growth stocks enabled the foundation to successfully weather the unprecedented market decline. In fact, the growth fund operated to pool investments of many accounts actually increased in value during the year, due to investment in real estate, which appreciated."

The SBF's record income of \$4,645,582 marked the highlight of the year, Johnson said. That amount was an \$855,975—or 22<sup>9</sup>59 percent—gain over the previous year.

He cited Baptist support as the reason for

the banner year: "The record of achievement is made possible by increased confidence by Bapisi institutions and agencies in the foundation as investment managers. The ability to produce competitive investment performance results and above average income with monthly availability has attracted additional funds. Without the capacity to adequately account for the increased assets of the various accounts, all of these results would not be possible."

The SBF aided nine Baptist state foundations during the year, he said. It provided help with investment management, investment' counseling, trust accounting, disbursement of income to clients and filing tax returns.

Southern Baptists' return on their investment in the SBF operating budget also set a record, Johnson noted. The convention's \$283,800 allocation produced a return of \$16.37 per \$1 allocated, compared to \$8.94 to \$1 a decade earlier.

Trustees elected officers during the meeting. They are Chairman Gorman J. Roberts, an investment banker and member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky, Vice Chairman Clarence Edmonds, an accountant and member of Brentwood Baptist Church in the Nashville area; and Recording Secretary Osta Underwood, an attorney and member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville.

### Young Named Beacon Editor

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)—Elizabeth Young has been promoted to editor of the *Baptist Beacon*, newsjournal of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, effective Jan. 1.

Young had been managing editor of the publication since 1987. She joined the paper's staff as newswriter and journalistic consultant in June 1980 and subsequently was promoted to assistant editor and then associate editor.

Throughout her tenure, Young has been responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Arizona paper.

Young, 30, is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. Her final project for her master's degree was a readership survey of the *Baptist Beacon*.

During her undergraduate days, Young served as a summer intern with the Rocky Mountain Baptist, newsjournal of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, and as a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Long Beach, Calif, A Baptist Standard scholarship, awarded by the Texas Baptist newsjournal, helped provide for one year of her college education.

A California native, Young's initial contact with state Baptist papers came at an early age. Her father, J. Terry Young, is a former editor of the California Southern Baptist newspaper and currently is professor of theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

### **Two BJC Staffers Promoted**

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs staff members received promotions effective Jan. 1.

Kathy Palen was elected acting director of the office of information services, and Oliver S. Thomas was named associate executive director, announced Executive Director James M. Dunn.

The Baptist Joint Committee is a Washington-based religious liberty organization comprised of nine Baptist denominations in the United States and Canada.

The two veteran staff members have assumed responsibilities previously held by Stan Hastey, a 15-year Baptist Joint Committee staffer who left his post to head the Southern Baptist Alliance, Dunn said.

Palen has been assistant to the director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee and the congressional correspondent for the Washington bureau of Baptist Press since 1985. Her new post calls for her to continue to report on Congress, as well as the White House and the Supreme Court, for Baptist Press. She also directs public relations activities for the Baptist Joint Committee.

Thomas has been general counsel and director of research for the Baptist Joint Committee since 1985. His new position calls for him to continue with those responsibilities, and now he also serves as spokesman in the absence of the executive director and shares a policy-making role with the executive director.

A search committee comprised of the Baptist Joint Committee's officers is seeking a permanent director for the office of information services, Dunn said. That position must be approved by the full exceutive committee, and Baptist Joint Committee leaders hope to fill the post during the executive committee's March 6-7 meeting, he added.



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Sexually Explicit **Broadcasts Banned** 

NASHVILLE (BP)-Opponents of pornography received a long-overdue Christmas present when the Federal Communications Commission Dec. 21 extended its ban on indecent communications over radio and commercial television airwaves to 24 hours a day.

Larry Braidfoot, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission watchdog on pornography issues, said the FCC previously had not banned sexually explicit broadcasting on late night broadcasts.

"The FCC's decision on the eve of the Christmas holidays caps a struggle which has been going on throughout most of the 1980s," Braidfoot said. Anti- porn groups have long sought the FCC's cooperation in keeping indecent communications off these airwayes, he said.

Congress had instructed the FCC to take such action against pornographic broadcasts. The FCC's annual appropriations package contained that congressional mandate.

The ban highlights a year of increased federal legislative tightening of restrictions on the pornography industry, said Braidfoot, of Nashville. "Early in 1988, Congress overwhelmingly passed a bill aimed at the nation's burgeoning 'dial-a-porn' industry."

Dial-a-porn refers to services in which a member of the public calls a published number and either hears a pornographic recording or engages in explicit sex talk with whoever answers the call.

"As Congress faced adjournment in October, it added a major obscenity and child pornography amendment to the omnibus drug bill," Braidfoot said. "Both bills set forth new sanctions and gave new powers of enforcement to federal law enforcement officials to use in the war on obscenity and pornography affecting children.'

In mid-year, the FCC also embarked on a series of indecency enforcement actions, Braidfoot said.

"The FCC initiated investigations to restrain the proliferation of 'shock radio' programs in which decency standards involving sexual and bodily functions have been disregarded," he said.

Obscene broadcasts generally are regarded as those that appeal to the prurient interest and lack serious artistic, literary, political or scientific value.

With the new federal legislation in place and the FCC's pre-Christmas action, the federal government may have reached the limit of what it can do with the program of pornography, Braidfoot said.

'Now, as never before, pornography will be an evil to be contested at the state and local level," he said.

### NATION

# **Seminary Planned**

#### by Marv Knox Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A committee of Southern and American Baptists and Presbyterians agreed to develop plans for a new seminary in Richmond, Va., during a meeting in that city Jan. 3.

The meeting involved four leaders of the Southern Baptist Alliance, a two-year-old organization of 40,000 Southern Baptist moderates: Executive Director Stan Hastey, former Acting Executive Director Allen Neely, theological education committee Chairman Tom Graves, and Morris Ashcraft, professor of theology and former academic dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Other committee members are an administrator from Colgate-Rochester Diviniity School in Rochester, N.Y., representing some American Baptist seminaries; representatives from the American Baptist Board of Education; and representatives from the three members of the Richmond Theological Center: the School of Theology of Virginia Union University, an American Baptist school; the Presbyterian School of Christian Education; and Union Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian school.

The committee agreed to four statements, reported Graves, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., who was selected to speak for the group:

— "We recommend that the Southern Baptist Alliance proceed toward the establishment of a school for preparation of ministers in Richmond."

The Alliance voted in November to allocate \$250,000 of its 1989 budget to finance a divinity school or seminary in Richmond and urged its representatives to meet with educators from other denominations to consider starting the school.

— "We hope that such a school would be a cooperative venture involving the Southern Baptist Alliance and other theological institutions in Richmond and elsewhere."

The schools in the Richmond Theological Center already relate through a consortium arrangement that allows students to study at all three institutions.

— "We have requested Morris Ashcraft, former dean at Southeastern Seminary, to draw up specific scenarios and proposals to be presented to the parties of this ongoing consultation.

— "It is understood that our discussions are still preliminary and tentative, yet moving ahead pending the approval of each of the participant institutions."

Graves outlined procedures for moving forward: "When our proposals are firmly stated and agreed upon by our committee, they will be submitted to the Southern Baptist Alliance convocation, which meets March 1-3. Then appropriate and formal requests will be made for cooperation with the other Richmond-area institutions.

"We are seeking close cooperation with the other Richmond-area institutions, but no institution has made any commitment to us of support as of yet."

The new "free-standing" seminary would apply for accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Graves said.

Planners hope to open the school next fall, he added: "We would begin with no more than 50 students. There would necessarily be a cap on the number of students we could accommodate so that we would not outweigh the other Richmond-area schools in any effort we might undertake."

The Alliance spearheaded the Richmond effort last fall, with its \$250,000 commitment to the project and the initiation of discussion with the other schools and educators.

At that time, Alliance members talked about an arrangement that would strengthen Virginia Union, a predominantly black school, to take in Southern Baptist ministerial studenis. As outlined at that time, Colgate-Rochester and two other American Baptist seminaries, Andover-Newton and Eastern, would provide two professors per year to Virginia Union on a rotating basis, and the Alliance would finance support for three more professors, probably from the Southeastern Seminary faculty. They also talked about using library, dormitory, apartment and dining facilities at Union Theological.

Current discussions indicate the new school will be independently accredited and autonomous, rather than a division within Virginia Union, Graves said: "The format of the institution is free-standing, that it would seek accreditation on its own, but not as a subsidiary of another institution. That in no way undercuts the desire to cooperate with Virginia Union."

The idea of a new seminary that would join the other three schools in the Richmond Theological Center is similar to patterns for theological education in other parts of the country, Hastey said, noting, "This idea follows a recent trend in theological education, especially in urban centers, where several institutions cluster together to share their resources."

Both Hastey and Graves said the talks still are preliminary and stressed that specific commitments—by the Southern Baptists or by the others— have not been made.

The Alliance has two primary motivations for starting the new school, Graves said. "First, we desire to provide alternatives to the seminary training that has been offered in Southern Baptist institutions.

The Alliance representatives also met with about 50 Richmond pastors Jan. 4. "We wanted to brief them on our progress, and we wanted to solicit a sense of support or lack thereof," Hastey said. "The degree of enthusiasm of pastors present was very gratifying to us."



#### A Great Book for Senior Adults and Their Leaders!

Senior adults are laughing and sharing in the fun while reading Bonham and Gulledge's book, The Treasury of Clean Senior Adult Jokes.

The book begins with "You know you're about to become a senior adult when ..." jokes and continues with jokes relating to seniors: accidents/ mistakes, courting, epitaphs, gossip, memories, travel, wills, vacations, and fifty other categories.

Paperback, \$3.95

Tal D. Bonham, known for his seven other clean joke books, is executive director-treasurer of the Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Jack Gulledge is editor of Mature Living, Family Ministry Section, The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.



### LESSONS FOR LIVING

#### **Convention Uniform**

### There Is Hope

by Norene A. Reed, Bartholomew Association, Warren

Basic passage: Luke 8:41-55

Focal passage: Luke 8:41-55

Central truth: With Christ there is always hope.

One of the most frustrating times in a person's life is to be facing a hopeless situation. It may be in regard to health, work, family problems or even church relationships. The feeling of hopelessness is all around.

The same was true in Jesus' day. The two incidents described in Luke 8 give us a guideliness to cope with such occasions. First, the need must be recognized. Jairus' need was very evident—his daughter was dying. The woman had dealt with a physical problem for 12 years and no one could help her. The need is not always of a physical nature.

Second, one needs to know where to go for help. The woman had gone to many people for help before she had the opportunity to seek Jesus. Jairus was one of the rulers of the synagogue and this was a time when religious leaders were opposing Jesus. Regardless of this, Jairus came in complete humility to ask Jesus to help. The help of Jesus is available to all. The first step is asking.

Third, the element of faith (confidence and trust) must be present. Jesus knew that someone needing help had touched him in the throng of people. When the woman stepped forward in fear, Jesus said her faith had made her whole. Jairus received the word that his daughter had died. Jesus met his despairing thoughts with simply believe.

Fourth, God's help should be accepted. The woman came to Jesus in humility then told all the people what the power of Jesus accomplished in her life. She had secretly reached out and touched him, now she could go openly with his blessings of peace. Thankful Jairus and his wife watched in astonishment as Jesus brought their daughter back to life.

The solutions to problems will probably differ. There may be times when the Lord will point the way to another individual to fulfill a need. At times the answser may be the strength to carry on regardless what happens. Jesus demonstrated his ability to ehlp in extremely difficult times. He is able, ready to hear, and help today.

#### Life and Work

### Sex and Marriage

by Don Moseley, Sylvan Hills First Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: I Corinthians 7:1-12

Focal passage: I Corinthians 7:7

Central truth: God has not left us without specific instructions regarding our sexuality and marriage.

Some suggest that Paul is just giving his personal opinion (vv. 12, 25, and 40) and since their personal opinion may differ they can ignore his advice. Not so! In verse 10 Paul says he is quoting the Lord's words as recorded in Mark 10:11 or Matthew 5:32.

Some Corinthians saw celibacy as the height of spirituality, some were demanding celibacy in marriage, and some were leaving their mate to opt for celibacy. Paul says, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (v. 1). To "touch a woman" is a euphamism for having intercourse. Paul was simply saying that it was good and acceptable to remain single and celibate, because the Jews felt it was one's duty to marry and have children.

Since celibacy may be very tempting Paul says, "to avoid fornication," "let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband" (v. 2). This verse also prohibits polygamy.

Celibacy has no place in marriage except it be by mutual agreement for some special spiritual purpose (vv. 3-5). The husband and wife should render to each other "due benevolence" (v. 3). This term actually means "the debt" or "what is owed." Paul does not say, "Demand what is rightfully yours." Why "render?" In verse 4 Paul explains that each is to release power over his or her body. He reiterates the need to "render" by commanding them to stop depriving one another (v. 5).

In verses 7-9, Paul highly recommends celibacy, but admits all do not have that gift. Then in verses 10-11 he addresses the married who are both Christians. We know that because verse 12 addresses those who are married to an unbeliever. Some emphasize the exception clause (Mt. 19:9), but whatever one's belief, this is not what Paul is dealing with here. No adultery is involved. Paul says if one insists on divorce because of incompatibility or for spiritual reasons (some had chosen to be celibate) there are only two options: (1) "remain unmarried," (2) "be reconciled." If one becomes a Christian but their mate does not, they should not divorce (v. 12).

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

#### **Bible Book**

### Responsible Stewardship

by Timothy L. Deahl, Olivet Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 4:32-5:11

Focal passage: Acts 4:32-5:11

Central truth: Godly stewardship requires commitment to divine leadership.

The passage under consideration dramatically illustrates the extreme potential in circumstances surrounding possibilities of Christian service. Acts 4:32-37 demonstrates the potential for unity and blessing. Acts 5:1-11, on the other hand, reveals the potential for discordant activity and divine judgment.

The church today would benefit enormously by learning the spirit of caring illustrated in Acts 4. Think of a congregation where each person willfully dedicated all his possessions to meeting the needs of fellow believers! What this passage teaches is that those who possessed material goods made those things available when a need arose. If necessary, property was sold in order to meet personal needs.

This sharing, caring attitude was notnot could it have been-mandatory, it was voluntary. Nor should one get the impression that intelligent people foolishly and without necessity sold everything just because it was the thing to do. Ownership demands responsible stewardship of that which God has entrusted to us. That stewardship, however, recognizes that all which is under my care belongs to him and should be available at his bidding.

The lesson of Ananias and Sapphira is one of mishandled opportunity. Scripture does not tell us at what point this couple fell to temptation. Was it their intent from the beginning to draw, attention to themselves or was their motivation right until the money was in hnad? Perhaps the land brought more than anticipated, or a financial need arose. Scripture does not state that they made a pledge to give all the money received from the sale nor that God necessarily required as much. The sin was publicly sealed when Ananias and Sapphire agreed to lie by saying that they were giving the full payment for the property. Notice Peter's statement in verse three and his pointed question to Sapphire (v. 8).

What God has entrusted to us does not constitute an occasion for pride or personal exaltation. That which we possess is from him and is to be used for his glory.

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# **Evangelization 'Possible'**

#### by Art Toalston

SBC Foreign Mission Board

SINGAPORE (BP)—"We believe that it is possible to bring the gospel to all people by the year 2000," world mission leaders meeting in Singapore declared Jan. 8.

But they added an admission of past failures, noting, "We humbly confess our pride, prejudice, competition and disobedience that have hindered our generation from effectively working at the task of world evangelization."

Their statements were among the declarations in a "Great Commission Manifesto" adopted by more than 300 Christian leaders from 50 countries. Their unanimous vote came during the Jan. 5-8 "Global Consultation on World Evangelization by AD 2000 and Beyond" in Singapore. More than half of the 300-plus participants were mission leaders from the Third World.

"We see afresh," the consultation's manifesto stated, "that cooperation and partnership are absolute necessities if the Great Commission (Christ's command to share the gospel with all peoples) is going to be fulfilled by the year 2000."

Four basic aims were listed in the manifesto:

- "Focus particularly on those who have not yet heard the gospel."

— "Provide every people and population on earth with a valid opportunity to hear the gospel in a language they can understand. It is our fervent prayer that at least half of humanity will profess allegiance to the Lord Jesus."

— "Establish a mission-minded churchplanting movement within every unreached people group so that the gospel is accessible to all people."

— "Establish a Christian community of worship, instruction in the word, healing, fellowship, prayer, disciple making, evangelism and missionary concern in every human community."

The manifesto noted that Christian compassion must extend to "those who live under the bondage of sin and... victims of poverty and injustice." And it acknowledged that "only in the power of the Holy Spirit" can the world be evangelized. Christians "must be more impressed with God's great power than any force arrayed against us."

"The AD 2000 movement has now laid a foundation," said Thomas Wang, chairman of the consultation's steering committee, an international director of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

The consultation reflected a new era when Christians are expanding their efforts beyond institutional structures "to a task, a common task," said Bill O'Brien, the consultation's program chairman and executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Through its openness to mission leaders from a wide range of Christian traditions and its focus on world evangelization by the year 2000, the consultation enabled "a much broader scope of the body of Christ to come to a plateau where we can meet without other encumbrances," O'Brien said.

Expectations were high during the meeting's final session until Wang unexpectedly announced that the consultation's steering committee would not seek to form an implementing task force, observers said. The action left unclear whether any continuity for the movement would be established.

The steering committee decided to disband, Wang explained, to give consultation participants "total freedom to decide what they want to do for the future."

Just before dismissal, however, Ralph Winter, general director of the U.S. Center for World Mission, rose to ask for a meeting with participants wanting a means of follow-up—a 'meek and mild information office'' to allow participants to maintain contact with each other.

About 100 participants who stayed for the meeting adopted Winter's proposal. Several Christian organizations and 85 individuals expressed interest in covering start-up expenses.

Winter said he appreciated the steering committee's efforts and its humility in placing the movement's future in the hands of consultation participants. But he said the absence of communication following the meeting would have been disastrous.

Months before the consultation, Winter declared it could be "the meeting of the century" and "the most important meeting Christian leaders have ever proposed" if it resulted in world evangelization. About 1.3 billion of the world's 5 billion people are untouched by Christian evangelistic efforts, according to mission researchers. After the meeting, Winter said his assessments of the consultation's potential significance had not changed.

Several points of tension emerged during sessions, however. Latin American participants, in a "statement of concern" about Roman Catholic participation in the consultation, said "the religious-political force of the Roman Catholic Church is using all means available and is in fact the most fierce opponent to all evangelistic efforts on our part."

Only six Catholics were present, but one segment of the program focused on the Catholic plan for world evangelization.