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**February 23, 1989**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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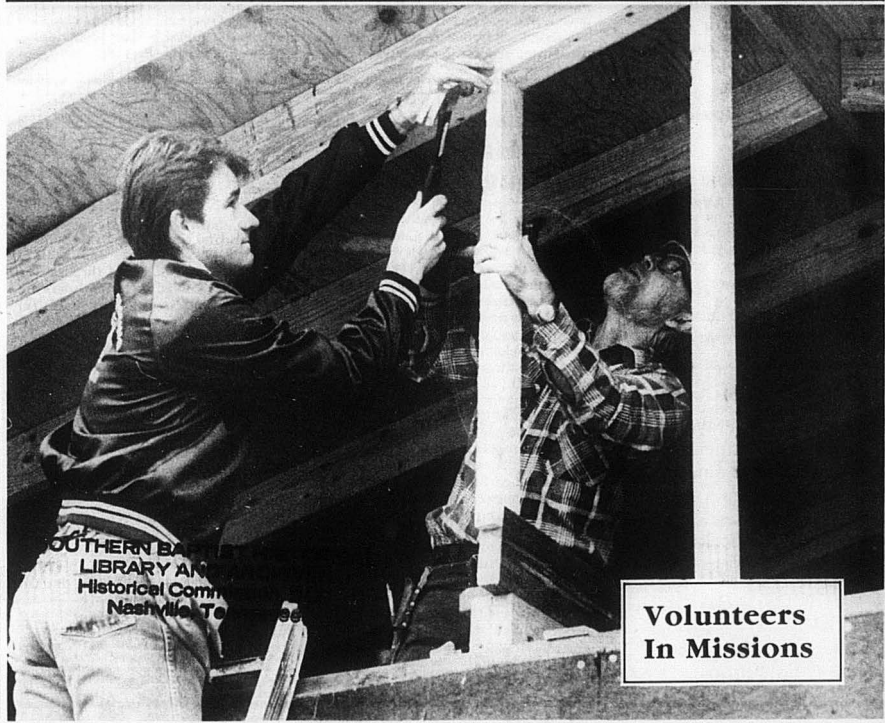
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Depending on Prayer

# Arkansas Baptist

February 23, 1989



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**Volunteers  
In Missions**

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ABN photo / Mark Kelly

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## IT'S UPLIFTING

### 'Glasnost' Spreads To Tennessee

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, Tenn. (BP)—As waves of *glasnost* have swept across the Soviet Union, effects of the new openness have rippled all the way to a quiet corner of East Tennessee.

Since the 1985 debut of Mikhail Gorbachev as U.S.S.R. general secretary, political pundits have analyzed the viability and authenticity of his program for *glasnost*.

In December, a member of Signal Mountain Baptist Church near Chattanooga, Tenn., added his experience to the growing list of developments in Soviet policy.

In 1977, when psychiatrist Ross Campbell wrote *How to Really Love Your Child* based on Christian parenting, its publication in Russian hardly seemed plausible.

But 12 years and thousands of editions in 30 languages later, the Soviet Union has purchased 500,000 copies of the book—uncensored and unabridged.

A recent call from his publisher relaying the Soviet request represented "a real

breakthrough. . . . I can hardly believe it."

The book had been one of only a few hundred from the West at a Moscow book fair in 1987. Campbell's publisher wrote him after the fair, describing a woman who entered "with an air of authority." Browsing through the volumes on display, she seemed intrigued with *How to Really Love Your Child*, subsequently retreating to a corner for several hours to read it.

Upon finishing, she announced: "This is what our people need. I will arrange to have it for our people."

A year later, Campbell received a contract for the requisition of 500,000 copies of his book to be placed in Soviet health centers for the purpose, it stated, of "encouraging Soviet family morals and family living."

"Theoretically," Campbell pointed out, "it has the potential of being in the hands of every Soviet parent."

As an alternative to other Christian child-rearing aids that, he believed, were "so harsh in their presentation of a punishment-oriented" approach, Campbell wanted to emphasize "the other side—a child's need for love and affection."

## GOOD NEWS!

### God Has Come Through for Me

Psalms 116

Connecticut General Life Insurance Company has a catchy television jingle: "Coming through for you. That's what CG people do." Psalm 116 proudly proclaims, "God has come through for me."

There has never been a time when God failed his people. The psalmist wanted everyone to know. "I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people" (v. 14, RSV).

Here was a fired-up poet. Beside himself with gratitude, he proclaimed that there is no way to repay God.

The preacher may develop a possible sermon from the question, How has God come through for me? The psalmist has numerous answers.

*By hearing my prayers (vv. 1-2)*—God comes through for his people because he pays attention to their needs. He listens to their requests. In a world of words, where so few really listen, we have a listening God.

*By healing me from sickness (vv. 3-5)*—Anxiety filled the psalmist's heart. He almost died from an unknown sickness, but God healed him. In a world of sick men, we have a healing God.

*By delivering me from despair (vv. 6-9)*—God delivered him from the pits of depression: "When I was brought low, he saved me" (v. 6, RSV). God blessed him. Anguish, grief, fear of death threatened him and again God came through for him.

Another possibility for the preacher is to ask, "How can we come through for God?" The psalmist gives the following answers: (1) hold fast your faith (v. 10), (2) depend only on God (v. 11), (3) accept God's blessings with gratitude (vv. 12-14), and (4) affirm your loyalty as God's servant (vv. 15-19).

The psalmist makes one theme live again and again. There is simply no way to repay God. God has loved us without conditions. He has come through for us when we did not deserve it.

Under such an obligation there is but one appropriate response: Praise the Lord! James S. Stewart said of praise: "Now that is religion. That is the test of religion. Wherever you have real religion, be sure of this—the dominant note will be praise." When praise is the keynote of our response to God, we will indeed be coming through to him!

Adapted from "Proclaim," January-March 1981. Copyright 1981 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For subscription information, write to Material Services Dept., 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

# How Do I Treat Others?

J. EVERETT SNEED

"Who is my neighbor?" The question is old but its ethical implications are as pertinent today as they were 2,000 years ago. There are several other issues that surround this question. Among these are: Is my neighbor only the person who is like me that lives next door? Is it all right for me to dislike individuals of other ethnic backgrounds? How am I to treat individuals with whom I only have casual contact?

The question, "Who is my neighbor?" was raised by a master of the Old Testament law (Torah). In Jesus' incisive response, he used a Samaritan as the hero of his story (see Lk. 10:25-27).

In the time of Christ, the Jews and the Samaritans would have nothing to do with each other. Their feud had its roots in about 720 B.C. when the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom. The Assyrians transplanted many of the Jews to Media (2 Ki. 17:6). They brought other people to Samaria. The Jews intermarried with the incoming foreigners. According to Orthodox Judaism, those people had lost their right to be called Jews. The Jews of the Southern Kingdom maintained their racial identity even in captivity. When they returned in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, the people of Samaria offered their help in repairing and rebuilding the temple. It was refused. The results were separate places of worship, bitter hatred and no contact whatever.

A person can almost hear the Jews saying, "The Samaritans are not to be trusted. They have compromised our Jewish faith. Let them stay where they belong."

The story most likely was based on events which had frequently transpired. Probably many of the people in Jesus' audience knew someone who had been accosted like the man who traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho. The startling element in the story was that help came from an unexpected source, a Samaritan.

The real point of Jesus' story, however, is not "How am I going to be treated?" but "How do I treat others?" The emphasis Christ always makes is an outer one, not inward. Repeatedly Jesus emphasizes that we are to bind up the wounds of others. We are to care for those who are in need who may not do the same for us.

The attitude of the Jews toward the Samaritans and the Samaritans toward the Jews raises another question. What is the



origin of prejudice? Are we born with prejudice toward certain races or certain individuals? Do we learn prejudice? Is there any relationship between prejudice and sin?

To properly understand the true dynamic of prejudice, it should be defined negatively. It means to prejudice something or someone. It means a prejudgment made with little or no information or facts in hand. Often, the prejudgment may be made on the basis of half truths, gossip, isolated incidents or even invented stories.

Usually we think of prejudice as an individual's attitude toward people of another race. Actually, racial prejudice is only a part of a larger pattern of prejudice. Prejudice can touch almost any area of an individual's life. A person may be prejudiced toward those with education, those

without education, people of the opposite sex, or anything that makes another person different.

The most important question is: How does an individual rid himself of prejudice? Some are more prejudiced than others, but everyone must continually work at the task if he is to be what God would desire him to be. Continual study of the principles and examples of the Scripture will help an individual in formulating proper human relationships.

First, God is the God of all people. God is the creator of every race and nationality (Gn. 1:26-31; Jn. 1:1-4). Every individual is created in God's image. This means that every individual has a sense of conscience and has the capacity to be rightly related to God through Christ.

As one studies the example of Christ and of the early church, he will discover that God is no respecter of persons. The gospel is open to every individual.

The gospel itself, when properly understood, will assist in breaking down barriers. Christ clearly stated that salvation is open to every individual (Jn. 3:16). He further instructed that while Christians are in the process of going they are to present the claims of the gospel (Mt. 28:19). The good news of Christ also is the beginning of reconciliation which eliminates all types of barriers (Ep. 2:14). So as far as one's vision and energy can carry him, he is to present the gospel to any and all.

It is helpful for each of us to ponder the story of the good Samaritan. If we examine it carefully, it will probe deeply into how we relate to others. When we properly deal with prejudice, we will strive to have the same attitude toward others that Christ manifests.

## Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 88

NUMBER 7

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor  
Mark Kelly . . . . . Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. . . . . Editor Emeritus

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## Letters to the Editor

**Established or Asserted?**

Authority is a burning issue for SBC Baptists. The struggle basically began with the authority of Scripture.

A new authority issue has entered the arena: the authority of the pastor. Both the Southern and Arkansas Baptist conventions debated it. ABSC churches and pastors could suffer more from the debate and applications of the pastoral authority issue than that of biblical authority.

Apostolic authority is clearly affirmed by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:6b. A biblical model, however, of "establishing" rather than "asserting" (NASB 2:6) is given in verses 7-12.

The Thessalonian church became the model of gospel proclamation throughout Macedonia (1 Th. 1:7-10). As the evangelistic model of the church merits study, so does the Thessalonian authority model.

Paul's methods for establishing authority are indicated in 2:7-12 as the following:

- (1) Loving the church members like a mother loves her children (v. 7).
- (2) A willingness to be a "two handed giver" of the gospel and of your own life (v. 8).
- (3) Faithfulness to labor, even suffering hardships, day or night (v. 9).
- (4) Consistent behavior that is holy, upright and blameless (v. 10).
- (5) Exhorting, encouraging and imploring "the brethren" as a good father would (v. 11).

Recently I found four terms placed together. Inspiration, interpretation, inerrancy and intimacy were all applied to Scripture. Intimacy was used to emphasize

the personal closeness of the Biblical text to how I live and walk each day. A pastor must be not only a proclaimer, hearer but also a doer of the word. Every pastor ought to check the source of his authority because verse 13 suggests that the "established authority" model has two direct results. First a constant thankfulness to God on the part of those who accept the message of salvation. Second a belief in the authority of the Word that allows it to perform its divine work in each believer.

The effective ministry of many Arkansas pastors and the harmony and power of the churches may depend on whether pastoral authority is established or asserted.—**Glendon Grober, Little Rock**

**Accurate Picture**

The tone and implications of a recent letter to the editor from Carroll Caldwell greatly concerns me. The letter referred to the director of missions of the association in which I pastor, the Benton County Baptist Association. Brother Joe Atchison is director of that association.

The letter painted a picture of Brother Joe Atchison as a divisive and manipulating-political personality. This is an absolute inaccuracy. We in Benton County Association feel very fortunate to have Joe Atchison as our missionary. Let me share with you an accurate picture of our director of missions.

Brother Joe Atchison is a concerned Southern Baptist. He is a past president of the Executive Board of our state convention. He loves Southern Baptists, serves boldly and faithfully on the national level

through the board of trustees of the Christian Life Commission. When there are hard questions and difficult decisions, Brother Atchison is not afraid to face the heat.

Since Joe Atchison's coming to the Benton County Baptist Association four years ago, our Cooperative Program giving has advanced by 30 percent. The fellowship between pastors is stronger now than any of the previous years that I have been in the association. Our association's participation in the state convention stewardship and Sunday School growth programs exceed most, if not all, associations in the state convention.

Yes, Brother Joe Atchison is active in seeking to point Arkansas Baptists in the direction of church growth and evangelism. His heart and motives are for the advance of the kingdom.

I have read the letter that Brother Caldwell had referred to in his letter to the editor and I did not draw the same conclusions. Yes, Brother Atchison is concerned and active in areas of concern to all of us. The impressions given in the letter from Brother Caldwell were not accurate from my point of view.—**Dale Thompson, Rogers**

**Disappointing**

With the heart of our state convention burdened for Revival In Our Day, your coverage of the Evangelism Conference was terribly disappointing. The magazine could have been on the forefront in calling our state to revival. The Evangelism Conference should have had the highest profile. The 18 cent coverage of the conference did not state the powerful days of challenge received in Little Rock, nor will it stir Arkansas Baptists to seek revival.

I would encourage you to give more exposure, in the future, to the meetings and messages of such an important gathering of Arkansas Baptists. Your report could have easily been entitled "My notes of the (secret) meeting with Dr. Wayne Ward, taken while the rest of the conference was in session." I find it ironic that you would charge pastors with covert political activities and then use space in your evangelism report to reveal your meeting with Dr. Ward, discussing convention issues.

Dr. Sneed, Arkansas Baptists deserve more than cub reporting, unrelated press releases, Wendy's coupons, and letters to the editor of character assassination. We need a paper that rejoices over the victories, weeps over the burdens, and calls us to the high calling of Christ Jesus.—**Delton M. Beall, Forrest City**

**A SMILE OR TWO**

Before you decide to retire, stay home for a week and watch the daytime TV shows.  
—Joan Fontaine

The winner in an argument is the fellow who stays out of it.

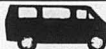
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BOB PARKER

**Today's Issues**



**Anti-Abortion Rally!**

Friday, March 10, 1989! Mark that date on your personal and desk calendar and plan to be present. On that date an Anti-Abortion Rally will be held at First Baptist Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive in west Little Rock at 7:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Dr. Richard Land, recently elected director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Almost two years ago, Aug. 31-Sept. 1, the Christian Life Commission sponsored a national conference in Nashville, Tenn., on the problem of abortion. On April 29-30, 1988, another conference was held in Kansas City, Mo., on the emotional impact of abortion. Dr. Land, in his new position as head of the commission, continues the fight against this tragic national problem.

The following morning, March 11, 1989, a dutch-treat breakfast and reception for Dr. Land will be held at the Baptist Medical Center in west Little Rock. At that time he will speak of other social concerns and problems of our society. Please take advantage of these two days of opportunity to show your displeasure with the national problem of abortion and to meet, get acquainted and lend support to the new leader of the Christian Life Commission.

People from other denominations should especially be invited to the Friday night meeting. It is hoped that there will be a sanctuary filled with people to hear about this crucial issue.

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

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## Once A 'Crack House'

### Florida Church Turns Drug Haven into New Mission

by Greg Warner  
Florida Baptist Witness

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. (BP)—Imagine the surprise of local residents when they found out the "crack house" down the street that harbored neighborhood drug users belonged to a church.

Abandoned by its owner for two years, the small, concrete-block house in Boynton Beach, Fla., had become the target of vandals and a haven for crack and cocaine users who hid behind its dilapidated walls.

Finally, when the city of Boynton Beach cited the church last year for abandoning the property, the absentee landlord knew it was time to take action.

"We would have been judged by God if we hadn't done something," said Richard Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church of nearby Lantana.

Now Walker and other area Baptists are turning the former crack house into a mission, the first black Southern Baptist congregation in Palm Lake Baptist Association.

Several years ago, a First Baptist member who died willed a small house to the church. The house, once the home of the member's gardener, was several miles from the church in the predominantly black community of Cherry Hills, a run-down neighborhood of Boynton Beach with a reputation for its drug traffic.

At first, the predominantly white Lantana church saw little use for the house and planned to sell it, Walker said. Because of a mix-up concerning the property deed, however, the church found the house impossible to sell.

After the church was cited by the city, First Baptist members began to see the house as an outreach opportunity "dropped down from heaven," Walker recalled. "We thought maybe the Lord wanted us to start a mission over there," he said, noting Cherry Hills had only one small church serving its 5,000 residents.

The 25-year-old Lantana church never had started a mission before. But its new pastor, who had been a missionary to Brazil, was more experienced.

Church members committed to raise \$6,900 to renovate the house, the same amount they were spending on a new steeple. Their sentiment was "if we can put money into a steeple for ourselves, we can do something for these people." They later budgeted \$300 a month in support.

But the most critical need, Walker said, was to find a pastor willing to move to Cherry Hills. "If we couldn't get someone to live there, then there wouldn't be any



Photo / Lynne Sladky

Neighborhood youth work on renovation.

need to start the work," he said.

With the help of local Baptist mission leaders, they found Parker Williams, a maintenance worker and ordained minister living 40 miles south in the Hallandale community of Fort Lauderdale. Williams said he wasn't discouraged by the deteriorating condition of the Cherry Hills community. He had reason to believe that could change.

Hallandale "was as bad as Cherry Hills" before he and other Christians helped turn the neighborhood around, Williams said. They worked through the local community association to clean up streets. They successfully sought government funds to renovate housing.

Such a turnaround is possible in Cherry Hills, Williams said, if concerned Christians band together. By reaching out to residents with both a helping hand and the love of Christ, Christians can "show real concern for not only their spiritual souls but the whole person," he said. "This tells them they can get out of their situation."

The Williamses had hoped to move into the house last year, but repairs have not been completed. Damage was so extensive that much of the interior had to be gutted. The ceiling, windows, flooring and some walls had to be replaced. Already more than \$10,000 has been spent on the house, and another \$4,000 will be needed.

But the delays have not kept Williams from getting started. He canvassed the neighborhood for prospective members for a Sunday school, which began meeting in the partially completed house last August.

About a dozen people now attend the Sunday school each week. Most are young people, but some adults are beginning to come, Williams said. During the first month, two people were baptized in the Cherry Hills community swimming pool. Another was baptized in January.

The mission hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for 100 area residents at a community center and delivered Thanksgiving food baskets to 22 families. Christmas toys and food went to 12 families, Williams said, and the mission pastor maintains a food pantry for needy residents.

The mission is "holding its own," but living 40 miles away makes his ministry more difficult and he needs more time on the field to make a real impact, Williams said. The mission is not financially able to hire him full-time, however, so First Baptist of Lantana is looking for another congregation to help sponsor the work.

Meanwhile Williams continues to commute. He admitted he might be able to find a church to serve that's closer to home. But he's convinced starting a church in Cherry Hills is more important because "there are plenty of churches around here," he said from his Hallandale home.

So he spends what time he can meeting residents and sharing Christ door-to-door around the Cherry Hills neighborhood. "That's what's going to make a difference," he said.

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Sunday dinner will be served in  
the Church Fellowship Hall.

*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith  
without wavering (for he is faithful that  
promised)."* Hebrews 10:23

## Videotape Available

A videotape promoting Commission '89, the April 11 Foreign Mission Board missionary appointment service in Little Rock, is now available.

The video, which was produced by Mike Huckabee and Gary Underwood of ACTS of Texarkana, has been mailed to all Arkansas directors of associational missions and to Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College.

The tape consists of two segments, one 11 minutes in length, the other 28 minutes long. Both segments feature interviews with ABSC Executive Director Don Moore, Associate Executive Director Jimmie Sheffield, State Convention President Cary Heard, and Pulaski County Director of Missions Glenn Hickey. Also included are testimonies from Ken and Hope Overton of Arkansas City, recently appointed as mis-

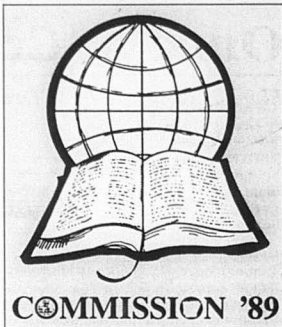
sionaries to Brazil, and Debbie Moore of Hope, missionary to Liberia.

The longer segment also includes scenes from an actual appointment service. Both versions conclude with comments from FMB President Keith Parks.

The videotapes may be borrowed from associational offices or the colleges, or they may be purchased directly at a cost of \$12 each from ACTS of Texarkana, P.O. Box 1469, Texarkana, AR 75504.

The appointment service will be only the second of its kind ever held in Arkansas. More than 6,000 Arkansas Baptists are expected to attend the event, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Statehouse Convention Center.

For more information, contact Jimmie Sheffield, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.



## Revival Sampler Available

*Arkansas Baptist Revivals: A Sampler* is now available from the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The 183-page book is a compilation of reports on 13 outstanding revival meetings held in Arkansas from 1864 to 1987. It also contains a section on revival promotion and, in recognition of the fact that it is not a comprehensive listing of every significant outbreak of revival in the state, also includes a collection of miscellaneous revival reports.

Compiled by Mark Coppenger, former pastor of El Dorado First Church, the "Sampler" recounts unusual revivals which occurred in Arkadelphia, Lavaca, Warren, East End, Malvern, Waldron, Jonesboro, Beebe, and Mountain Pine.

Copies of the book are available for \$5 each by writing the Evangelism Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

## Baptist Nurses To Meet

The Arkansas chapter of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship will hold their semi-annual meeting March 2 at 6 p.m. at the Baptist Medical Center cafeteria.

The meeting will feature Marilyn Wardford, who has recently returned from her second missionary trip to Mexico.

Members are requested to bring a bottle of children's chewable vitamins to the meeting to help missionary nurse Harriette Gibson, who is serving in Iringa, Tanzania.

For more information, contact Frankie Falkner at 455-0243 or Patsy Holster at 664-6988.

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# LOCAL & STATE

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**Greg Stanley** will begin serving Feb. 26 as pastor of First Church in Warren, going there from Beech Street Church in Gurdon, where he has served for seven years.

**Dessa Moore** was honored Jan. 22 at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith in recognition of both her 92nd birthday and her service as a continuing Sunday School teacher and pianist in the Adult Four Sunday School Department.

**Mikel Caywood** began serving Feb. 19 at youth minister at East Side Church in Paragould. A Tennessee native, he came to Paragould from Live Church in Jacksboro, Texas, where he served as minister of youth. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Caywood and his wife, Dana, have a son, David Andrew.

**James D. Fulton** has assumed the position of full-time associate pastor at East Side Church in Paragould, where he has served for four years as youth minister and associate pastor.

**Randy Jones** of Jacksonville is serving as interim music director at Calvary Church in Ward. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Brian Huskey** began serving Feb. 12 as minister of music at Gosnell Church. He and his wife, Shelly, are students at Southern Baptist College.

**Doug Crider and Mark Lewis**, members of Quitman Church, recently made commitments to the preaching ministry.

**Harry Black**, pastor of First Church of England, conducted a revival Feb. 5-9 at the Tucker Unit of Arkansas Department of Correction.

**Rick Smith** recently completed seven years of service as associate pastor and minister of music and education at Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock.

**David M. Tate Jr.** recently completed eight years of service as minister of music and education at First Church, Batesville.

**Sharon Kachelhofer** joined the staff of Lake Village Church Feb. 1 as minister of education and youth. A native of Midfield, Ala., she is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Stanley

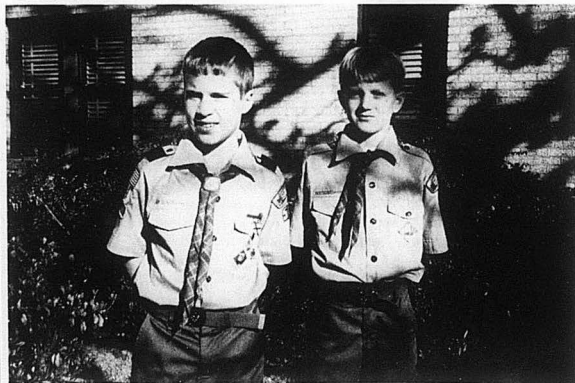


Moore

**Charles Hughes**, a native of Hope and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, was recently named Outstanding Minister of Music of the Southern Baptist Convention. Hughes currently serves as minister of music at Memorial Church in Tulsa, Okla.

**Robert McDougal** has resigned as associate pastor for music and education at Calvary Church in Texarkana to serve on the staff of Lexington Church in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Carl Smallwood**, a member of the video ministry at First Church of Rogers, recently was named 1988 Crew Member of the Year.



**Park Hill Church in North Little Rock** observed Boy Scout Sunday Feb. 5 when Pastor Cary Heard presented the God and Family Cub Scout Award to Ryan Thomas Lasiter (left) and John Taylor Bailey. A seven week course of study by the recipients with their religious advisors, Delores Hovey and Bobby Shous, was required prior to the presentation. Lasiter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Joe Lasiter and Bailey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Bailey, all of North Little Rock.

### Briefly

**Havana Church** recently completed a 7,872 square foot educational building.

**Russellville First Church** recently voted to remain at its present location and to begin an extensive \$2.5 million remodeling program which will include the construction of a 24,000 square foot education building. Stephen Davis is pastor.

**Altus First Church** ordained Pastor Darryl Stevens Jan. 22. Program participants included Andy Verrett, Terry Parks, Harold Oliver, father-in-law of the candidate, Leroy Rogers, and George W. Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association.

**Matthews Memorial Church** in Pine Bluff will observe its 50th anniversary March 5. Special guests will include former pastor Michael Norfleet and former director of music Danny Austin. Edgar W. Bryan is pastor.

**Batesville West Church** ordained Roger Alpers and Terry Caplinger to the deacon ministry Feb. 5.

## Vining Retires; Reynolds Named

ARCADELPHIA—Bill Vining Sr. will retire as head basketball coach of the Ouachita Baptist University Tigers effective Aug. 31.

Vining will remain as athletic director, associate professor of physical education, and golf coach for the university. Mike Reynolds, assistant coach under Vining, will be promoted to head coach.

Vining, now in his 34th year as head basketball coach at OBU, has coached at no other school. He has compiled a record of 555-382, leading the Tigers to six AIC championships and six NAIA District 17 championships, with appearances in the national tournament. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1979 and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.

Vining is a deacon at First Church, Arkadelphia.

Reynolds, a AAAA All-State basketball player while a student at Benton High School, is a graduate of Ouachita and Henderson State University. While playing basketball for Coach Vining during his college years, he earned AIC honorable mention three consecutive years and was awarded the Jody Jones Award in 1977 as the most valuable basketball player.

Prior to coming to OBU as assistant coach in 1985, Reynolds coached high school basketball at Gurdon and Arkadelphia. While at Gurdon, he was named 7AA Coach of the Year.

Reynolds is a deacon at Third Street Church in Arkadelphia.



**Building dedicated**—Twin Lakes Mission south of Hot Springs dedicated its first building unit in an afternoon service Sunday, Feb. 12. The 4,000 square foot facility was built at a cost of \$60,000 and provides five classrooms, a pastor's study, a kitchen, and a 150-seat temporary sanctuary. It was raised in 59 days and is valued at \$156,000. Floyd Tidsworth Jr., director of church extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said during his dedicatory message that the seven-month-old mission had moved from launch to first unit dedication more quickly than any other new work in Arkansas. Garland County Director of Missions Gene Ellis and Twin Lakes Pastor Billy Nail attribute the early success of the project to broad support and strong cooperation. All 16 churches in the Garland County Association are contributing sponsors of the mission. Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, pastored by Clyde Harness, is primary sponsor. The mission launched Feb. 19 a six-week "Gather the People" campaign aimed at locating and involving prospects.

## Youth Music Festival

Life Line Baptist Church, Little Rock  
 April 22, 1989

**Do you know** a junior or senior high youth who sings solos or with an ensemble, plays the piano, plays a band or orchestra instrument, or leads singing?

**Do you have** a youth choir at your church?

**Then tell them** about the State Youth Music Festival.

**It's for them!**

To be eligible they must participate, by April 2, in an area/associational festival and receive a Superior rating. Choirs are not required to attend an area/associational festival to be eligible this year.

Contact your association for dates or the Church Music Department (376-4791) for more information.

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Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

## 'Natural Need' to Help

by Terri Lackey

Baptist Sunday School Board

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Visiting the elderly in nursing homes, taking meals to the homebound or taking cassette tapes of sermons and Sunday school lessons to shut-ins are important ministries for senior adults anxious to serve others, said Horace Kerr, manager of the senior adult section in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

"Volunteerism" is not a word that frightens older adults, a fact that is evidenced by the vast and various ministries taken on by senior adults who make up an important segment of Southern Baptists involved in missions, Kerr said.

"Senior adults are involved in doing things for other people naturally," Kerr said. "They see a need, and they know how to respond out of experience and a long life of giving and receiving help. They have always been sensitive to the needs of others."

While senior adults have traditionally offered help when needed, Kerr said, he is now seeing "a growing phenomenon" of organized volunteer programs among senior adults in Southern Baptist churches.

For example, senior adults are among members at Eastside Baptist Church of

Marietta, Ga., who help find jobs for people in the community who come to their church asking for assistance with food, clothing or money.

Through Eastside's innovative job bank, "people without food who were sleeping on the street" get the long-term help of employment rather than just the instant gratification of a hand-out, said Peggy Lindsey, a volunteer worker for the job bank. Lindsey and several others from Eastside attended a senior adult Chautauqua at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center Oct. 24-28.

Eastside's job bank began in September 1987 as a part of the church's caring ministry, which involves a wide range of benevolent helps to the underprivileged in the community, she said.

Ruby McCormick, a member of College Street Baptist Church of Walhalla, S.C., joins senior adults and other members of her church in baking cakes and other food for choir members to take to prisoners at a state penitentiary about 60 miles from her hometown.

Members of the College Street Church choir go once a month to the correctional facility to sing and deliver letters to prisoners, McCormick said.

While she does not go to the prison,

McCormick said, she enjoys baking cakes for the choir's trips there. Many senior adults write letters to the prisoners.

McCormick also is involved in the church's ministry of taking meals to the homebound. College Street also sends a van out to round up underprivileged senior adults in the community, church members or not, and feed them a noontime meal Monday through Friday, she said.

College Street is one of the most active churches she has ever joined, she said, noting her involvement in its various ministries makes her feel "good inside."

"It's fun to see people less fortunate than you get a blessing out of life," she said.

Mildred Cate, a member of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., enjoys taking cassette tapes of the upcoming week's Sunday school lesson and the previous week's sermon to homebound senior adults.

"One of our senior adults, John Watts, makes a tape of the Sunday morning service and next week's Sunday school lesson, and about five or six of us deliver them," Cate said. About 35 homebound members receive the tapes.

"They think it's just great. You just don't know how much they appreciate those tapes," she said.

Almost 1,000 senior adults from 15 states registered for the Chautauqua sponsored by the family ministry department.

### Ethics Biblical Principles

Teen suicide  
Pornography  
Hunger



### Temptations Real Life Dilemmas

Secularism  
Family problems  
Abortion

## Life in the Balance

The annual national seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission

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- George Gallup, Jr.
- Gary L. Bauer
- Thomas E. Elkins
- Richard J. Foster
- Graham "Galloping Gourmet" Kerr
- Charles Lowery
- Calvin Miller
- Thomas Parker
- Paul Warren, M.D.
- Kenneth S. Kantzer

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# March Ministries

by Don Moore  
ABSC Executive Director

**Pastors' Retreat**—Wives, a special feature on the Pastors' Retreat program this year is entitled "What the Pastor's Wife Needs From Her Husband." My pastor's wife, Kay Sanders, will be making this presentation. Now, don't call Kay to coach her on what to say. Just get your husband to the retreat and pray the Lord will lead her as we try to learn how to be better family men.

Great music will be under the leadership of John Dresbach. Five Arkansas pastors and one pastor emeritus, Dr. W.O. Vaught, will be featured on the program. The retreat is always anchored to strong Bible teaching. Dr. Jimmy Millikin will be leading in five Bible studies.

Pastors have to have some times like these. Burnout continues to take its toll. Pastors are giving out, giving in, and giving up. The emotional and physical drain accompanied by spiritual attack and spiritual demands are taking their toll. A man who tries to make it without times of renewal and retreat is almost certain to end up disillusioned, cynical, bitter and burned out. Don't let it happen. Keep healthy by taking advantage of this hope building



experience.

March 13-14 at Camp Paron. Cost is \$35. Please call by March 1, to make your reservation.

**WMU Annual Meeting**—Northwest Arkansas WMUs get a break. This year's WMU Annual Meeting will be at First Church, Rogers on March 21-22. A great program of missionaries and missionary features will serve to kick off their second century of ministry. Most churches can and should have WMUs. The secret to mission support through prayer and giving is having an informed church membership. WMU can help your church. Why not consider sending some ladies from your church who could come back and start a WMU? If you have an active WMU, help their members get to this annual meeting. God will bless.

**Home Missions Week of Prayer? Offering?**—Who will take the lead? Who should take the lead? Who could help make it happen? Those are good questions that relate to your church and its responsibility for reaching our nation—home missions. We can't do it alone. We have to do it together. Our Home Mission Board has been set up to help us do it. They are doing a great job, but can do much more. It will take greater prayer. It will take greater financial support. Our goal for Arkansas' part is \$835,000. The entire church needs to be involved. Who will take the lead? Who should take the lead? If every church would take this Annie Armstrong offering, we would go over our goal.

**Anti-Abortion Rally**—Arkansas Baptists will have an opportunity to learn more about what someone has called "our nation's greatest shame," the murder of millions of babies at various stages of development. Disregard for the sacredness of life at any level is a threat to life at every level. If destruction of life at the pre-born stage accommodates our desires to stay free from accountability and responsibility, why would not the taking of life at the other end of the life span do the same? Where are we headed with this run-away immorality? The rally will help us find some answers and will allow Arkansas Baptists to make a strong statement of our opposition to this spiritual crisis.

This rally, which will be held at First Church, Little Rock, at 7:30 p.m., March 10, is sponsored by the Christian Life Council and the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Dr. Richard Land, director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, will be the featured speaker.

**Another great Youth Convention!**—Junior and senior high youth, their leaders

and pastors will converge on the Statehouse Convention Center March 24 for another great convention. Dean Finley, an effective youth evangelist, will be the featured speaker. Harbor, a Christian music group, will provide the music. More details may be found elsewhere in the *Arkansas Baptist*, or may be secured from Bill Falkner, 376-4791.

**Who cares about the minister's marriage?** It may not appear that anyone besides the minister and his wife care, unless the marriage falls apart. Then everyone cares, or should we say, everyone knows and everyone talks like they cared. The more visible a person's life, the more fierce is Satan's attack upon them. This is why every minister and his family needs your love and prayer support. It is also the reason every minister's family should do what they can to protect and strengthen their relationships.

It's hard for me to believe this. We have one of the nation's foremost Christian counselors coming to help us in a Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat. Dr. Lewis McBurney, director of Marble Retreat Center, Marble, Colo., will be with us March 30-31, to lead us. The place is Horseshoe Bend. You should make reservations for this event immediately if you expect to get in on this. Call Gerald Jackson, 376-4791.

**Need building advice?** The week of March 13-17, Harold Smith of the Church Architecture Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, will be available to come with Ed Hinkson to do on-site consultations for churches contemplating building or remodeling. Since they have to do this in an orderly fashion to cover as much of the state as possible, you will need to make an appointment for this free consultation. Ed Hinkson is your contact person for the appointment—376-4791.

**Church Arkansas Rallies**—Dr. John Sullivan, of Shreveport, La., and Dr. James Chavis, of Tallahassee, Fla., will be the featured speakers. Dr. Sullivan will speak at First Church, Hope, March 7, and Dr. Chavis will speak at First Church, Benton, March 9. To maintain a difficult work, those involved need times of "re-inspiration" and rededication. Celebrating the joys and victories in these rallies will fire us up to keep on keeping on. Those contemplating the sponsoring or co-sponsoring of a new mission church should try to make one of these rallies. God is surely blessing these efforts in a wonderful way.

**Two Handbell Events**—The State Handbell Festival will be held at First Church, Little Rock, March 3-4.

A Leadership Training Seminar for Handbells will be conducted March 13-16, at the Church Program Training Center, Nashville, Tenn.

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# HELPLINE

## Church Administration Still Time For Secretaries

There is still time for secretaries to register for the National Conference for Southern Baptist Secretaries to be held in Nashville, Tenn., April 26-29. The conference is for church and associational secretaries and secretaries who serve in state and SBC agencies and institutions.

The registration fee for the conference is \$135 after Feb. 1. This covers all materials and some meals. Arrangements have been made for a charter bus from Arkansas and a block of rooms has been reserved at the Hermitage Hotel within walking distance of the Sunday School Board where most sessions will be held. Cost of transportation round trip is \$45. Lodging at the Hermitage is \$28.50 per person per night (double occupancy) or \$57 for a private room.

Registration for the conference should be mailed to the Baptist Sunday School Board, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN, 37203.

Reservations for the charter bus and rooms at the Hermitage should be requested through the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. The bus will leave from the Baptist Building at 8 a.m. on Wednesday and return by 6 p.m. Saturday.

For additional information, contact Robert Holley or Mary Wright at 376-4791, ext. 5160.—**Robert Holley, director**

## Brotherhood

### Building Projects, Jericho Week

The Nailbender For Jesus are gearing up for the 1989 season. The first building project will be north of Morrilton at Center Ridge beginning March 6. God has used this group of men and Grandmas On The Go in a wonderful way; but we still need more people.

If you have an R.V. unit and are willing to spend some time working at a mission/church construction project in Arkansas, we need you. The coordinator is Frank Allan. He can be reached at 966-4982.

The Nailbenders already have seven church/mission construction projects for 1989. They include Millwood Baptist Chapel near Ashdown; Diamond Head near Malvern; New Hope, Jonesboro; Harmony, Paragould; and Dove Circle Baptist Chapel on Holiday Island.

Why not call 966-4982 and talk with Brother Frank about how Nailbenders For

Jesus may be a part of God's ministry for you?

The sights and sounds of Southern Baptist home and foreign missions will be offered at Ridgecrest and Glorietta this year. The Brotherhood Commission, along with the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and the Sunday School Board is promoting a week of world wide missions.

'Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival 1989' will be a program to help families and churches identify their gifts and find ways of personal involvement in missions.

Some have said that Jericho will be one of the most exciting missions learning experiences in the history of Southern Baptists.

Wouldn't it be exciting to take a caravan of Baptist Men and their families to Glorietta July 29-Aug. 5, 1989. Some might prefer the Jericho week Ridgecrest in July 8-July 14, 1989.—**Glendon Grober, director**

## Church Music

### Volunteer Music Workshop

Music leaders (directors and accompanists) in southwest Arkansas who serve in volunteer or part-time positions and find it difficult to attend the overnight retreat at Camp Paron can take advantage of training closer to home by attending the Saturday workshop at First Church, Murfreesboro, March 18.

You will have opportunity to read through new music from several publishers, study directing and music fundamentals as well as discuss the needs you have in planning worship services.

The accompanists will be able to sharpen their skills in hymn playing and find resources for use as offertories and

### Interested in a Ministry of Love?

Arkansas Baptist Home is looking for dedicated Christian singles, or couples (with two or less children) to live and work with children in a home-like setting. Salary, fringe benefits, and training are provided. Call or write Royce Aston, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 501-367-5358.

preludes. Bookstore materials will also be available for your convenience.

The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with lunch provided by the Church Music Department. Registration is required. Contact the Church Music Department at 376-4791 for more information.—**Glenn E. Ennes, associate**

## Administration Youth Issues Institute

Pornography, suicide, drug abuse, alcohol, and pre-marital sexual choices will be the topics of discussion during the



Youth Issues Institute, April 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

The institute will help local church youth workers, volunteer and paid, to understand those five issues. In addition, teaching suggestions will be shared as well as how to conduct a study of these issues

### Attention RA Counselors!

You may remember during the RA Counselor Fellowship on Jan. 14, it was suggested that we ask our RAs to name the primitive camp in Cotter. Please submit your suggestions for a name by April 1.

*Brotherhood Department*



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in a local church.

Every person attending will receive a notebook with materials dealing with the five issues. These materials have been prepared by Arkansas youth leaders. These leaders will teach the content of the materials during the Institute.

Two special features of the institute include Rick Caldwell, who will speak twice, and Vicki Harrell, who will sing and give her testimony. Rick Caldwell is a gifted communicator and knows how to relate to young people. He will share his insights with those attending.

Vicki Harrell is the former Miss South Carolina and New York model. She has shared her testimony and music with over 500,000 teens in a year.

Registration is necessary. Every pastor should receive a leaflet with a registration form by the end of February. Registrations are due April 1.—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

### Church Music

## Youth Music Festival

An exciting new approach is being made to the Youth Tournament and Choir Festival this year.

The two events are being rolled into one festival for youth. The State Festival is April 22, at Life Line Church, Little Rock.

Except for youth choirs, all other entries must qualify through an Area/Associational

Festival. These festivals must be completed by April 2. Areas of participation include: vocal solos and ensembles, instrumental solos and ensembles, keyboard hymn playing, handbell solos, and song leading, plus youth choirs.

This event brings together the complete youth music program and provides an opportunity for evaluation, encouragement, and listening.

Enlist your youth now for your associational festival. Contact your associational office for the date. For more information contact the Church Music Department, 376-4791.—**Glen Ennes, associate**

### Church Training

## MasterLife Workshops

Two MasterLife Workshops are planned for Quachita this year. The first will be on the Ouachita campus May 15-19. The second workshop will be held on the Southern Baptist College campus Aug. 7-11. Each workshop will begin on Monday evening and conclude by noon on Friday. The workshops are designed primarily for pastors, staff and other persons who will lead MasterLife groups in their churches.

MasterLife continues to be a very meaningful spiritual growth experience for many who have participated. A certified MasterLife leader is required to lead MasterLife in a church. The MasterLife Workshops provide the training and the

certification required for conducting this training and growth experience.

The leaders of the workshop in May on the Ouachita campus will be Val Prince and Ken McMillan. Prince was director of Church Training and Church Administration in California before his retirement. McMillan is pastor of First Church, Byhalia, Miss.

The leaders of the workshop in August on the Southern Baptist College campus will be Val Prince and Charles Sharp. Sharp, a native Arkansan, is executive director of the Colorado State Convention.

The registration fee for the MasterLife Workshop is \$82.50 (\$72.50 for an accompanying spouse). Lodging is available on both campuses at a nominal cost.

To register or request additional information contact your state Church Training Department.—**Bob Holley, director**

### Church Administration

## Minister of Education Retreat

Ministers of Education and other educational staff members will gather at DeGray State Park for an annual retreat on Thursday and Friday, April 20-21. Sessions on personal and career development will be led by Will Beal, consultant to ministers of education, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board. The retreat will provide personal growth opportunities

as well as fellowship and relaxation in a beautiful setting on Lake DeGray. All educational staff persons are invited to attend along with spouses. A late afternoonARGE tour of Lake DeGray is planned for Thursday afternoon before dinner.

The Minister of Education Retreat is scheduled concurrently with the Youth Ministry Seminar at the same location. Some activities will be planned jointly for the two groups.

The registration fee for the Minister of Education Retreat is \$20. The room rate at DeGray Lodge is \$22 per person, double occupancy, or \$37 for a private room.

For reservations or additional information, contact Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203 (376-4791).—**Robert Holley, director**



Beal

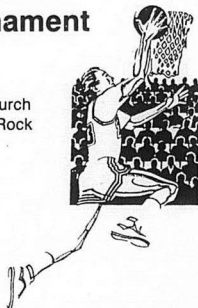
## High School Baptist Young Men State Basketball Tournament

March 10-11, 1989

Immanuel Church  
Little Rock

Park Hill Church  
North Little Rock

All-Star Selection will be made at the close of the tournament for the Guatemala/Arkansas mission trip.



For more information  
or to enter, contact:

Glendon Grober  
ABSC Brotherhood Dept.  
P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
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# HELPLINE

## Family Ministry Minister and Mate Retreat

"The Minister, His Mate and His Marriage: Stresses and Strategies" is the theme of the Minister and Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat March 30-31 at Horseshoe Bend. The retreat will provide ministry couples a unique opportunity for marriage enrichment focusing on distinctive needs and opportunities of the ministry marriage.

Louis McBurney, director of Marble Retreat Center, Marble, Colo., will lead the retreat. McBurney and his wife, Melissa, co-host the Marble Retreat, where they minister exclusively to clergy couples. McBurney is author of the book, *Every Pastor Needs a Pastor*, and is uniquely equipped to lead this retreat. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor School of Medicine.

The retreat begins at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 30, and adjourns at 4 p.m. Friday, March 31. Lodging will be at the Hillhigh Lodge and retreat sessions at the Horseshoe Bend Church. Hillhigh Lodge is newly renovated and remodeled. Horseshoe Bend is about 55 miles north of Batesville.

Retreat costs include registration, lodging, meals and travel. Each couple will receive a copy of the marriage enrichment resource *Models for Marriage Enrichment*. This resource will be interpreted during the retreat and suggestions provided for leading marriage enrichment in the local church.

The retreat is sponsored jointly by the Rocky Bayou and Independence Associations, the Arkansas Baptist Church Training Department, and Ministry of Crisis Support, Sunday School Board Family Ministry Department, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. An optional Marriage Enrichment Sampler Retreat will be held Friday night and Saturday, March 31-April 1. This event is for couples who cannot attend the retreat led by Dr. McBurney and for couples that want to experience a retreat described in *Models for Marriage Enrichment*, which will be interpreted in the main retreat. There is no registration fee for the sampler retreat. Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR, 72203, for additional information about the retreat, costs and registration.—Gerald Jackson, associate



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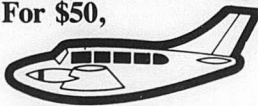
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# Looking Ahead

## March

- 1-3 DOM Retreat, *DeGray Lodge (Mn)*  
3-4 State Handbell Festival, *Little Rock First Church (M)*  
3-4 State Church Recreation Conference, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (CT)*  
5-12 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU)  
7 Church Arkansas Rally, *Hope First Church (Mn)*  
9 Church Arkansas Rally, *Benton First Church (Mn)*  
10-11 HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bbd)*  
13 Northwest Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Huntsville First Church (CT)*  
13 Southwest Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Hope First Church (CT)*  
13-14 Statewide Pastors' Retreat, *Camp Paron (Ad)*  
13-16 Handbell Leadership Seminar, *Nashville, Tenn. (M)*  
13-16 Senior Adult Choir Leadership Seminar, *Nashville, Tenn. (M)*  
13-17 Church Building Tour (SS)  
14 Westcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Booneville First Church (CT)*  
14 Southeast Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Warren First Church (CT)*  
16 Northcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Mountain View First Church (CT)*  
16 Northeast Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Jonesboro Central Church (CT)*  
17 Central Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Little Rock Olivet (CT)*  
17 Eastcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Wynne Church (CT)*  
18 Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat, *Murfreesboro First Church (M)*  
21-22 WMU Annual Meeting, *Rogers First Church (WMU)*  
24 State Youth Convention, *Statehouse*

## Convention Center, Little Rock (CT)

- 27-28 Here's Hope Association Steering Committee, *Camp Paron (Ev)*  
30-31 Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat (CT)  
31-April 2 BSU Leadership Training Conference, *Camp Paron (BSU)*

## April

- 8 Youth Issues Institute, *Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock (CLC)*  
11 Commission '89, *Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (Ad)*  
14-15 BSU Volleyball Tournament (Stu)  
15 Young Musicians Festivals, *Jonesboro First Church, North Little Rock Park Hill Church, Magnolia Central Church, Pine Bluff South Side Church, Fort Smith First Church (M)*  
17-18 New Pastor/Staff Orientation, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ad)*  
20-21 Minister of Education Retreat (CT)  
20-21 Minister of Youth Conference (CT)  
22 Youth Music Festival, *Little Rock Life Line Church (M)*  
25 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)*  
26 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (CT)*  
26-29 National Southern Baptist Secretaries Conference, *Nashville, Tenn. (CT)*  
27 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (CT)*  
28 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *to be announced (CT)*  
28-29 Church Building Conference, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (SS)*  
28-29 Royal Ambassador, High School Baptist Young Men Congress, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Bbd)*  
28-29 Acteens Encounter, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)*

## May

- 1-2 Parenting in the Minister's Home Workshop (CT)  
1-3 Church Music Excellence Conference, *Little Rock Immanuel (M)*  
5-6 State Pastor-Deacon Conference (CT)  
6 Backyard Bible Club/Mission Vacation Bible School Clinic, *North Little Rock Levy Church (SS)*  
8 Adult Choir Festivals, *Benton First Church, Cabot First Church, Fort Smith South Side Church (M)*  
9 Adult Choir Festivals, *Warren First Church, Harrison First Church, Texarkana Beech Street First Church (M)*  
11 Adult Choir Festival, *Paragould East Side Church (M)*  
12 Golden Age Evangelism Conference, *Hot Springs First Church (Ev)*  
15-16 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, *Camp Paron (Mn)*  
15-16 Church Planting Conference, *Camp Paron (Mn)*  
15-18 MasterLife Workshop, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)*  
18-21 Arkansas Musicians on Mission, *Dove Circle Mission, Holiday Island (M)*  
18-21 Campers on Mission Rally, *Petit Jean State Park (Mn)*  
19-20 GA Mother-Daughter Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*  
19-20 DiscipleYouth Workshop, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)*  
22-24 Senior Adult Celebration, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)*  
25-28 Royal Ambassador University, *Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn. (Bbd)*  
30-June 2 Summer Missionary Orientation, *Mills Valley (Mn)*

### Abbreviations:

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



## HOME MISSIONS EMPHASIS

## Depending On Prayer

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

Home missionary Carolyn McClendon believes prayer kept her from slipping while making a 150-foot banana split.

The huge banana split opened the door for McClendon to share the gospel with 250 children and their families one summer. She used 30 gallons of ice cream and 200 bananas in a 150-foot section of house guttering to generate interest in the summer program at Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans.

McClendon said she planned this strategic event on June 6, her birthday, because she knew thousands of people would be praying for her that day. She is a Southern Baptist home missionary supported by gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

HMB photo / Paul Obregon



Carolyn McClendon, a home missionary to New Orleans, teaches a literacy class at the Washington Correctional Institute.

The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which co-sponsors the missions offering with the Brotherhood Commission, also publishes monthly prayer calendars with missionary birthdays. "I know that people pray for me on my birthday," McClendon said. "So if I'm going to do anything wild and crazy, I plan it for that day."

"Had Southern Baptists not been praying, we might never have had a 150-foot

banana split in the 96-degree heat. And knowing that people were praying for me to keep my ice cream from melting was just as affirming as knowing they are praying for me when I go to get kids out of jail or sit down to share the gospel with them," she said.

"Pray That They May Believe" is the theme of the 1989 Week of Prayer for Home Missions which precedes the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

McClendon said that theme expresses the need she faces every day in her ministry. Baptist Friendship House is located in a transitional neighborhood near New Orleans' French Quarter. Poor blacks, elderly people, and homosexuals make up the largest part of the community.

"My 10 years here have been one crisis after another," McClendon said. Her own car has been stolen twice.

"I depend strongly on prayer. It's the corporate prayers of all our people around the nation that makes my ministry a little less stressful and less difficult," she said.

Other missionaries share McClendon's reliance on prayer for their work.

Ray Allen, now director of evangelism and stewardship for the Baptist Convention of New England, recalled how prayer helped him start a church in Cape Cod, Mass., 10 years ago.

Allen was a church planter appointed by the Home Mission Board at the time. While surveying a community in hopes of starting a new congregation, he came to a home where a group of women were meeting for their weekly Bible study and prayer time.

"When I told them I was planning to start a church in their area, they sat there almost flabbergasted," he said. "They had been praying for two years for a gospel-believing church in their area."

Most of those women became a part of Chatham Baptist Church, which is a strong Southern Baptist congregation today.

Mission pastor Rob Pengra has a similar testimony about prayer. Pengra and his wife, Lori, started Scappoose Baptist Fellowship in Scappoose, Ore., one year ago.

Previous attempts to start a Baptist church in this community had failed. The sponsoring church held five initial worship services. No one came.

When Pengra arrived, he determined to use a telemarketing approach that uncovered 360 people interested in a new church. At the first service, 40 attended.

A couple of months later, Pengra said, he discovered the reason the church finally got started. "One of the elderly gentlemen

who joined the church came to me and told me that he and several others had been praying for two years that God would start a new church in their community.

"As sure-fire as telemarketing seems, it wasn't so much all the canned things we knew how to do as the prayer that made a difference," Pengra explained. "It definitely had to do with the amount of prayer."

Pengra said he has discovered many ministry needs in his community. "It's an old principle but I'm finding it's true: The only way to use our time more valuably is to spend more time in prayer."

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**Martin Thien**, a native of Omaha and formerly a pastor in Arkansas, is editor of *Proclaim* and *The Deacon* magazines, The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

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# Record Appointments

by Joe Westbury  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists appointed the largest number of home missionaries and endorsed the most chaplains in their 144-year history in 1988, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis reported.

Lewis announced the record figures during the board's February executive committee meeting of the Atlanta-based missions agency.

Lewis told the board a record 733 new missionaries were appointed or approved during the calendar year, up 8.5 percent from the 1987 total.

The new figure pushed the total to a record 3,827 missionaries serving across the United States and assigned territories, an increase of 81 missionaries, or 2.1 percent. Lewis tempered the announcement by saying 97 additional candidates who

qualified for placement were unable to serve due to a lack of funding.

Lewis also announced that a second record had been broken in the number of chaplains endorsed by the agency. A total of 568 endorsements pushed the total number serving to 2,014. That marked an increase of 67 endorsements, or 12 percent, from the previous year.

"I am pleased to report that these chaplains led more than 20,000 individuals to Christ in 1988," he said.

A total of 41,581 volunteers also ministered through the agency in 1988, an increase of 7,112 from the previous year. Although the number of volunteers surged by 17 percent, it was not a record year, since 1987 had registered a decline because of a change in the way volunteers are counted.

Nearly 900 groups of adults involving 13,500 volunteers nearly doubled the

number of adults serving in the previous 12-month period. But applications for summer missionaries are down and may fall below the 1,500 requests for help from the field, he added.

Due to a surge of late-year catch-up contributions, the board received a record \$30.8 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Although Lewis expressed appreciation to Southern Baptists for their giving, he noted that the offering reached only 82 percent of its goal.

Gifts to the Home Mission Board through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program rose 5.9 percent, to \$26,198,000—an increase of \$189,795.

In looking to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., Lewis reported 80 churches will be participating in statewide revivals prior to the June 13-15 meeting. Eleven churches already have been established toward the goal of 25, and he said at least 20 would be operational by June.

In addition, 6,089 Southern Baptists have pledged to pray for residents of the city by name and have been assigned pages from the Las Vegas telephone directory, Lewis reported. A total of 1,160 Southern Baptists have volunteered to arrive early to participate in a door-to-door witnessing event.

In staff appointments, directors employed Benny Hugh Clark of Conyers, Ga., as associate director of the special ministries department, and Harold Henry Hime, a national missionary with the board since 1987, as associate director of the church and community ministries department.

## Migrant Workers Harvest Souls

WESLACO, Texas (BP)—As they move north gathering the nation's harvest this year, Southern Baptist migrant farm workers can reap a harvest of souls as lay missionaries, according to speakers at the first-ever conference for Texas-based migrant workers.

Pastors of five lower Rio Grande Valley churches and lay leaders of other area congregations met with Southern Baptist Home Mission Board representatives from 10 states during the conference Jan. 29 at Grace Hispanic Baptist Church in Weslaco, Texas.

The conference was sponsored by Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association, the Home Mission Board and the church ministries section of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"If a person has Jesus in his life, he is a missionary. If he does not, he is a mission field," said Nathan Porter, HMB national consultant for migrant ministry. "We are either a target for missions or a people on mission."

Pointing out that every Christian believer is called, gifted and sent out to be a witness, Porter encouraged the South Texas church leaders to carry a message to migrant workers who are members of their congregations: "We need you desperately as lay missionaries. Whereas you are now non-resident church members for about six months of the year, you could be missionaries during that time."

Bob Gross, director of the migrant mis-

sion center in Hope, Ark., said 2 million legal migrant workers are in the United States, along with anywhere from 3 million to 10 million undocumented workers.

Gross added he envisions a network of Southern Baptist migrant workers sharing Christ with unchurched fellow workers, starting home Bible studies along the way and sharing the names and addresses of their contacts with Home Mission Board state representatives.

He encouraged migrant workers traveling through Arkansas to stop at the migrant mission center, a ministry sponsored by the Home Mission Board, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southwest Arkansas Baptist Association, noting that about 100 migrants accept Christ each year at the center.

Jerry Johnson, director of Rio Grande Valley Association, encouraged the migrant farm workers to realize that many people they encounter in their work will not be Christians, that Jesus is their only hope of salvation and that God wants to use willing Christians as instruments to bring others into fellowship with himself.

Although some people traditionally have been reluctant to come forward and identify themselves as migrant workers, Robert Sowell, Texas Baptist Christian social ministries consultant, said he believes the conference was a first step at helping Baptist migrants to recognize the important role they can play in home missions.

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# Seminary Centers to Open

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—The Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry plans to open this fall, providing seminary education through centers in Pittsburgh and Boston.

The centers will offer two master's degrees and two diplomas under the auspices of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The centers are awaiting state licensure and approval of accrediting agencies, school officials reported.

The goal of the Northeastern school is to provide more accessible training opportunities for ministers and more trained ministers for Southern Baptist churches in the Northeast, according to leaders who

have been instrumental in starting the school.

The school of ministry is the result of a partnership in theological education involving the five Baptist conventions in the Northeast related to the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the six SBC seminaries.

The school was proposed by the Northeast Task Team on Theological Education, created in 1984 by the five Southern Baptist conventions in the region: New England, New York, Maryland-Delaware, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and the District of Columbia.

Funding for the program is to come from student fees, individual donations, the five

Baptist conventions, the Home Mission Board and the SBC Seminary External Education Division. SEED, through the presidents of the six SBC seminaries who comprise its governing board, also will assist in planning the centers' programs.

Southern Seminary, one of those seminaries, has been designated as the "lead" seminary through 1993. Southern Seminary will offer two degree programs, the master of divinity and master of arts in Christian education. Also, diploma programs in theology and Christian education will be offered for students without college or university degrees.

Admission requirements and standards are the same as those for students who study on Southern Seminary's campus, seminary administrators said.

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## Elderly to Pay More

DALLAS (BP)—Medicare rules now require people 65 and older employed by churches or related organizations to receive primary medical coverage through a private carrier, such as the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's Church Comprehensive Medical Insurance Plan, board trustees learned during their Jan. 30-31 meeting in Dallas.

Medicare will provide secondary coverage. "This is another way the federal government is shifting costs from the drain on Medicare funds to the private sector," said board President Darold H. Morgan.

Of 2,107 people participating in the board's church Medicare supplement insurance, an undetermined number will be affected by these changes and may see premium increases effective April 1.

Up to 100 other participants with dependents age 65 or older also will be impacted by the change in Medicare benefit rules, he added. The board now is notifying individuals who could be affected by these changes, he said.

Rate increases range from 30 percent to 300 percent per month, he reported. New rates will be reflected on the statements mailed in March for April's coverage.

In the past, Medicare was the primary medical coverage for people 65 and older. Morgan noted. Medicare coverage resulted in a major reduction in monthly insurance premiums for people who turned 65, whether they were employed or retired.

Under the new federal rules, if a person is working 20 or more hours per week for a Southern Baptist church or related organization, Medicare considers that person as actively employed and Medicare becomes secondary insurance coverage for all family members.

# Model Morality

by Jim Lowry  
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Parents who want to influence their teenagers' attitudes about dating and sexuality have a responsibility to model lifestyles equal to their expectations, according to experts participating in a live teleconference Feb. 6.

"Dating Today," a two-hour teleconference for parents and workers with youth, offered help for parents as they seek to understand problems encountered by youth in the areas of dating, sexuality and teen pregnancy.

Each of the four half-hour segments of the national teleconference transmitted live on the Baptist Telecommunication Network featured questions from viewers seeking advice on concerns about relationships. The teleconference was sponsored by the family ministry and church administration departments of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Subjects covered in the question-and-answer times included AIDS, limits for physical contact while dating, abortion, proper age for dating, involvement of parents in dating life of teens, responsibility of churches in sex education and communication between parents and youth.

Experts who responded to the 38 questions answered on the air included Wayne Grant, a pediatrician and layman from Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, who specializes in adolescent medicine; Lane Powell, associate professor of family life at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Richard Ross, youth ministry coordinator in the board's church administration department and part-time youth minister at Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Nashville. Jimmy Hester, editor of Living with Teenagers magazine in the family ministry department, was host of the program.

A total of 193 questions were called in from 92 viewing sites in 21 states. Trinity Baptist Church in Cayce, S.C., had 200 people watching the teleconference, which was one of the largest groups reported.

A common theme for the evening was honest, open communication between parents and teenagers.

Ross encouraged parents to talk about how their sexual values were formed, particularly in light of moral expectations parents hold for teens.

As an example, Ross said, "I guarantee a teenager will listen to you as a parent, if at the end of a situation comedy on television, the parent turns to the teen and says, 'I'd like to tell you why I decided that I would never sexually cheat on your mother (or father).'"

While teens might be embarrassed to engage in a conversation about sexual expectations, personal insights from a parent about how he or she arrived at a decision is likely to make a lasting impression.

Grant encouraged parents to be involved in programs at church and provide opportunities for teenagers to be with peers there. Teenagers who attend church

regularly will be less likely to experiment sexually because of the strong moral and Christian values they hear while at church, he said.

Parents need to "reaffirm the self-worth of teens and their ability to make decisions," Powell said. "Most teens are shy to talk about sex, but don't wait until they ask; provide information at different points, like books and other materials."

Concerning dating and proper conduct, the panelists agreed that maturity and a solid set of values are vitally important. For instance, they warned one questioner about the danger of a seventh-grade girl dating a high school senior.

Parents also were urged to encourage teenagers to make decisions about limits of physical contact before they begin dating, so decisions will not be made during a time when emotions are high.

Churches have responsibility to provide a setting for discussion between parents and youth, and to minister to youth who have made wrong decisions, the panelists agreed.

Particularly in the area of teen pregnancy, churches must provide caring and friendship to a girl who has become pregnant out of wedlock. Too often, they warned, the girl and her family are shut off from contact with church members. The result often is that the girl and her family drop out of the church because of a lack of support.

A videotape of the teleconference may be ordered by calling the Sunday School Board's toll-free telephone number, (800) 458-BSSB.



Wayne Grant answers questions about teens and dating.



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# Conference Cancelled

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—The Conference on Biblical Imperatives, planned by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries for April 24-27 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center has been cancelled.

The conference was to be the third of three planned by the seminaries as part of the Gloria Statement issued to the SBC Peace Committee in 1986. The first, on biblical inerrancy, was held in 1987, and the second, on biblical interpretation, was held in 1988.

According to the two seminary presidents who were co-chairmen for the cancelled conference, a May 1990 conference is being planned to focus on many of the issues of biblical imperatives as well as the need for renewed commitment and cooperation among all Southern Baptists.

After high attendance at the first conference and reduced interest in the second, there had been no advance registrations for the third. Planners added the decision was made to cancel the meeting after two key speakers cancelled around the first of the year and to reschedule a 1990 conference focusing on many of the same themes.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., said: "We're facing a serious crisis in confidence, commitment and cooperation within our Southern Baptist

family. Our 1987 and 1988 conferences focused on the inerrancy and interpretation of the Bible as the word of God.

"Our challenge now is to restore trust and confidence within our Southern Baptist family. We can do so by reaching out to include all members of that family and by revitalizing our covenant of commitment and cooperation...."

Ferguson and the other co-chair, William O. Crews of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., have invited fellow SBC agency executives to join them in the 1990 conference. Ferguson added the response of the other leaders was "positive and enthusiastic."

"It is our intention to focus on the topics we were going to use in the 1989 conference," Ferguson told Baptist Press. "But whether we call it a conference on biblical imperatives remains to be seen. But we will focus on the lordship of Christ, the urgency of world mission, peace with justice, the cry of human needs, the spiritual authority of the churches.

"These are at the heart of who we are as Southern Baptists."

He also noted the seminary presidents were concerned with the erosion of trust in the SBC, and said: "The real issue is no longer the Bible, but whether or not we can and will find ways to re-establish trust among ourselves.

## SBC Computer Users to Meet

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association will be March 22-23 in Dallas, Texas. It is open to all computer users through the Southern Baptist Convention.

Conference registration should be made immediately. The registration fee is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. To register, include the following for each person: name, address, name of organization or employer, and a check. Mail checks to Mike Overcash, SBCUA Treasurer, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue, N., Nashville, TN 37234.

Detailed program information can be obtained from: Patricia Moore, WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283.

## Media Library Seminar

NASHVILLE—A seminar for church media librarians is scheduled for March 16-18 at the Sunday School Board's Church Program Training Center.

The annual seminar will feature a study of *The Media Library in a Church*, written by Jacquelyn Anderson and Mancill Ezell.

Registration may be made by sending a \$53 fee for each participant to Church Program Training Center, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203.

## Las Vegas Handicap Info

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—Information about facilities and services for handicapped messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev., may be ordered from the SBC Executive Committee, announced Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist.

The packet—for people with mobility, sight or hearing handicaps—is available by writing to Handicap Information, c/o SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, Tenn. 37203. It also will be available at the information booth in the convention center during the annual meeting.

"I really believe the time has come for us to reach out to one another with understanding and forgiveness. I believe it is time to listen and hear one another. I believe many of our people are weary of this choosing up of sides. Southern Baptists are ready for their agency leaders to band together with pastors and leaders of all persuasions to call for a renewal of our cooperation.

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## Convention Uniform

### *Salvation Experienced*

by Norene A. Reed, Warren

Basic passage: Luke 19:1-10

Focal passage: Luke 19:1-10

**Central truth:** Salvation through Jesus is real and can be verified by the changes in a person's life.

A wealthy chief of tax-collectors in a tree was not a common sight to Jesus or the people of Jericho. Most of the followers of Jesus were considered poor. He walked among them as they moved from place to place rather than being carried on their shoulders as many leaders of the day.

Zaccheus had a curiosity: he had heard about this Jesus and wanted to see him. The desire must have been very strong for a man of his dignity to make a spectacle of himself by climbing a tree in order to see over the people.

In the position of chief of the publicans or tax-collectors, he probably had the added responsibility of receiving monies the other publicans collected and sent them on to Rome. He was a Jew, but not accepted by the Jews. His fellow countrymen called him a sinner. It was the practice for publicans to collect more money than the people owed with this extra going into their personal funds.

Imagine Zaccheus' surprise when Jesus spoke to him saying that he was going home with him. The people murmured at Jesus entering the house of a sinner.

The Scripture does not tell us how long Jesus was in the house nor the content of the conversation. The words of Zaccheus in verse 8 give evidence that there was definitely a change in this tax-collector. He stood before Jesus and the people and vowed to give of his wealth to help the poor. Further, he would repay four times the amount gained by false accusations. This was much beyond the amount required in the Levitical law. How different from the rich ruler in the previous chapter. The willingness of Zaccheus to use his wealth was not his salvation. Salvation is only in Jesus. It was evidence of his salvation.

The visible signs of salvation continue to be witnessed today. There is the life that makes a radical change toward the Lord. In another person it may be more subtle, but the evidence is there that there has been a spiritual experience within. Individuals are different. Jesus still seeks the lost and is anxiously waiting for each person to accept forgiveness.

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

## Life and Work

### *Spiritual Gifts*

by Don Moseley, Sylvan Hills First Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: I Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-31a

Focal passage: I Corinthians 12:4-7

**Central truth:** Every member of Christ's church has been given spiritual gifts through which the Holy Spirit desires to minister both to the church and to the lost.

Because of some extreme views, some groups, Baptists included, for many years said very little about spiritual gifts. That extreme is no more pleasing to the Lord than the other.

In chapters 12-14, the Apostle Paul addresses problems brought about by misunderstandings and misuse of spiritual gifts. One major difficulty was that the Corinthians had confused the issue by dragging over into the church some of the pagan practices which had come out of the mystery religions. Their perversion and misuse of the gifts had created great disunity and was ruining their testimony to the lost.

Paul makes clear that the spiritual gifts have been given to every believer that the church may greatly "profit" (v. 7). One translation says, "for our common good." Spiritual gifts have not been given for private use. This teaching on the gifts shatters once and for all the mistaken idea held by some that religion is purely a private matter. The gifts manifest God (v. 7).

The Trinity is evident in this whole process. The variety of gifts are given by "the same Spirit" (v. 4). Disunity comes when there is abuse and misuse. There are "differences of administrations" (v. 5) or ministries, "but the same Lord." Speaking of himself, Jesus said, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mk. 10:45).

We must realize that spiritual gifts are not given by God for privilege or prestige or that we might be seen as super spiritual, but as tools to be used in ministry as servants. There are "diversities of operations" or effects, "but it is the same God which worketh all in all" (v. 6). Just as gifts are given supernaturally they are also energized supernaturally. If we are obedient and faithful, God will bless our gifts, but if we fail to use his gifts the church will suffer as well as we. We are stewards of God's gifts. They belong to him.

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## Bible Book

### *People God Uses*

by Timothy L. Deahl, Olivet Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 9:1-31

Focal passage: Acts 9:1-6, 10-18, 26-28

**Central truth:** God uses those who are willing to follow his leadership.

Many lessons may be learned from studying the conversion of Paul the Apostle, not the least of which is an understanding of the kind of people that God is able to use in carrying out his work.

Unquestionably, Paul (here called by his Hebrew name, Saul), is the central character of this chapter. The fact, however, that God was willing to call such a man as Saul of Tarsus teaches us that God will use the sinner who is repentant. Several New Testament passages testify to Saul's sinful character (Ac. 8:1-3; 22:4-5; 26:9-11). Although he had acted in ignorance (1 Ti. 1:13), Saul repented of his sin and recognized that God demanded the same of everyone who would be used by him (Ac. 17:30; 26:19-20). A person is not disqualified from effective service to Christ because he has a sinful past, but because he has an unrepentant present.

The second individual named in Acts 9 is Ananias. What is recorded concerning him (vv. 10-18) reminds us that God is willing to use someone who, although skeptical at first, is obedient to his leadership. Ananias had heard the reports about Saul, reports which are not denied. Under such circumstances, his skepticism would appear to be justified. However, God revealed to Ananias that Saul was now ready to become his messenger. Certainly, it must have required as much obedience on Ananias' part to go where Saul was, as it did for Saul to remain where he was until help arrived (vv. 8-9, 12).

That Barnabas (vv. 26-28) was used of God is no surprise to any student of Scripture. However, this "man of comfort" did not exercise his gift of encouragement without cost; he carried out his mission alone. In doing so, his example teaches us that God is willing to use the person who acts alone (or risks popularity) if that person is committed to trusting God. Suppose Barnabas had been wrong about Saul and the other disciples had been right? Barnabas was willing to take the risk, to step out in faith, to put his own reputation (and safety) on the line in order to help this new convert.

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# Overseas Baptisms Down

## But Church Starts Increase Eight Percent

by Eric Miller

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Baptisms related to Southern Baptist work overseas dropped almost 3 percent in 1988, but the number of churches grew 8 percent, according to Foreign Mission Board statistics.

Overseas baptisms totaled 197,863 in 1988, compared to 203,824 in 1987. The 1987 total topped 200,000 for the first time in the mission board's 143 year history.

Baptist churches overseas grew from 17,769 to 19,199 in 1988. Missionaries and overseas Baptists started about four churches per day, compared to nearly three per day the previous year. More than 3,800 Southern Baptist missionaries were working in 113 countries last year.

Despite the decrease in baptisms, the overall picture looks good, considering that 2 million Baptists overseas are baptizing almost half as many people as 14 million Southern Baptists in the United States, said FMB President R. Keith Parks.

An average of one person was baptized for every 10.6 Baptist church members overseas in 1988. In the United States, 43 Southern Baptists were required to produce one baptism.

"We would love to get it down to eight or nine members for every baptism" overseas, said researcher Jim Slack, a missionary to the Philippines and scholar-in-residence at the mission board.

Another concern is that overseas church membership dropped from 2.15 million in 1987 to 2.1 million last year.

However, the declines in baptisms and church memberships can be blamed partly on uneven statistical reporting because of economic, political or internal problems—especially in major countries such as Brazil, South Korea and the Philippines, noted Clark Scanlon, FMB director of research and planning.

"I'm disappointed any time we don't show growth in every area," Parks said. "We try to learn from it and go on."

Highlights in the just-completed 1988 overseas report include:

—Brazilian Baptists finished the year with 4,071 Baptist churches, the highest of all countries. Nigeria was second, with 3,027, while Kenya had 1,351; Korea, 1,334; and the Philippines, 1,239. Of 106 countries reporting, 58 counted a net increase in churches; 48 reported losses or no gains.

—Brazil also led baptisms, with 52,763, followed by Nigeria, with 27,960. Kenya, 16,089; and Tanzania, 16,001. Fifty-six countries reported increases in baptisms,

while 50 reported downturns or no gains. Thirty-eight countries reported 50 or fewer baptisms.

—Southern Baptist missionaries began sharing the gospel with 22 new people groups in 15 countries. Baptist work moved into 110 new cities in 41 countries.

—Southern Baptists appropriated a record \$10.9 million for overseas relief and world hunger last year, surpassing the amount received in 1985 during the Ethiopian crisis. The money supported a record 245 projects in 50 nations.

—The Nigerian Baptist Convention's total of almost 28,000 baptisms in 1988 exceeded the 1987 record by 17 percent. Nationwide simultaneous revivals helped produce the increase.

—The partnership between Kenyan and Kentucky Baptists resulted in numerous converts, with more than 25 percent culminating in baptisms. Church membership in Kenya increased by 32 percent to 75,334.

—Bangladesh, a Muslim country, witnessed a 37 percent increase in Baptist churches when 23 joined the Baptist convention. Much of the progress occurred among the Hindu minority.

—The Central Baptist Association of Mexico City saw seven churches, 20 missions and 58 preaching points organized through "Evang-Mex-'88," an eight-month evangelism effort.

—Medical missionaries and workers treated almost 1.56 million patients in 1988, a small increase over the previous year.

—Through electronic media, missionaries and Baptists reached an estimated audience of 446 million in 1988, up from 250 million the year before. They distributed 8.8 million Christian periodicals, 2.8 million books and 11 million tracts.

An "alarming" part of the report is the low number of Baptist "preaching points" and mission congregations that constituted as churches overseas last year, researcher Slack said.

Baptists overseas began the year with 18,872 preaching points and mission congregations, but only 5 or 6 percent of them matured into churches, Slack reported. The rate should be at least 25 percent, he said.

An average mission congregation overseas organizes as a church in three years, he explained. In South Korea and Brazil, the birth-to-organization period takes between nine and 18 months. But in Japan it takes five to seven years.

Factors such as literature shortages and

doctrinal misunderstandings hamper maturation of missions into churches.

The Foreign Mission Board appointed 358 new missionaries last year, down from 407 in 1987. The net gain in the mission force was 28 in 1988—compared to 83 in 1987—after subtracting retirements, resignations and deaths, bringing the total force to 3,867 for 1988. Southern Baptists still are on target to meet the revised Bold Mission Thrust world evangelization goal of 5,600 missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000, Slack said.

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# Freed From Soviet Prisons

## Baptist Prisoners of Conscience Released

by **Kathy Palen**

Baptist Joint Committee On Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—Government and other sources have reported that all Baptist religious prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union have been released.

During a briefing for human rights advocates in early February, U.S. State Department officials confirmed reports that all Soviet religious prisoners have been released. Similar confirmation came from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—known as the Helsinki Commission—and Keston College in Kent, England, which monitors religious freedom in Eastern Europe.

During 1987, 265 prisoners, including 116 Baptists, were held in the Soviet Union because of their religious beliefs, reports indicated.

"Baptists and other believers everywhere should rejoice in this major victory for religious liberty," said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, who attended the State Department briefing. "All who worship him who came 'to preach deliverance to the captives' have a visceral identification with those who are prisoners for the sake of their faith.

"Great joy and satisfaction is ours in their release. We praise the Lord for answered prayer and pledge anew to dedicate ourselves to the free exercise of faith in all lands."

The Baptist Joint Committee, which since its founding in 1936 has brought pressure on numerous governments to recognize religious freedom as a fundamental human right, has worked for the last two years for the release of the Soviet religious prisoners.

Dunn and another Southern Baptist—Olin Robison, president of Middlebury College in Vermont and one of the country's acknowledged experts on the Soviet Union—met in September 1987 with then-Secretary of State George P. Schultz to discuss amnesty for the prisoners. They continued working with Schultz and his staff to advance negotiations with the Soviets for the prisoners' release.

Another BJC staff member, Victor Tupitza, spent a six-month study leave in Germany and England researching the issue. Since his return, Tupitza has been a member of the Ad Hoc Religious Freedom Committee in Washington, working toward release of the religious prisoners.

The BJC also has worked closely on the issue with the Helsinki Commission and its chairman, Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md. Hoyer is a Southern Baptist layman.

Last October, members of the BJC adopted a position statement on religious liberty in the Soviet Union. The BJC commended that nation and its leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, for making "progress toward religious freedom," including an increase in the number of prisoners granted amnesty or prison term reductions.

## Crusades Win 800

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (BP)—Eight hundred people committed their lives to Christ during a week of evangelistic crusades in Uruguay involving Baptists from three other nations, including Southern Baptists from Texas and Georgia.

The late 1988 crusades, held at 43 churches and mission points, brought Baptist preachers from Brazil, Argentina and the United States, reported Southern Baptist missionary Wally Poor.

The crusades were the largest in the 77-year history of Uruguayan Baptists, Poor said.

The effort's success spurred many of the 29 Brazilian pastors participating to say they would link their own churches in fraternal relationships with Uruguayan churches. One Brazilian pastor said he planned to seek missionary appointment.

Edgar Barreto Antunes, vice president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, said mission efforts like the one in Uruguay will continue "until we will win the world to Christ."

## Italian Church Seeks Pastor

The Aviano Baptist Church, a congregation of 75 people located in Aviano, Italy, about 40 miles northeast of Venice, is in need of a pastor. The English-speaking congregation is mainly people connected with the American military. If interested, please contact Mrs. Dorothy H. Bates, PSC Box 1209, APO New, NY 09293-5360.

## BWA Solicits Choirs for Korea

The Baptist World Alliance will convene in Seoul, South Korea, Aug. 14-19, 1990. Choirs wishing to assist with the music are requested to contact Dr. Leroy Yarbrough at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gently Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.