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### May 2, 1996

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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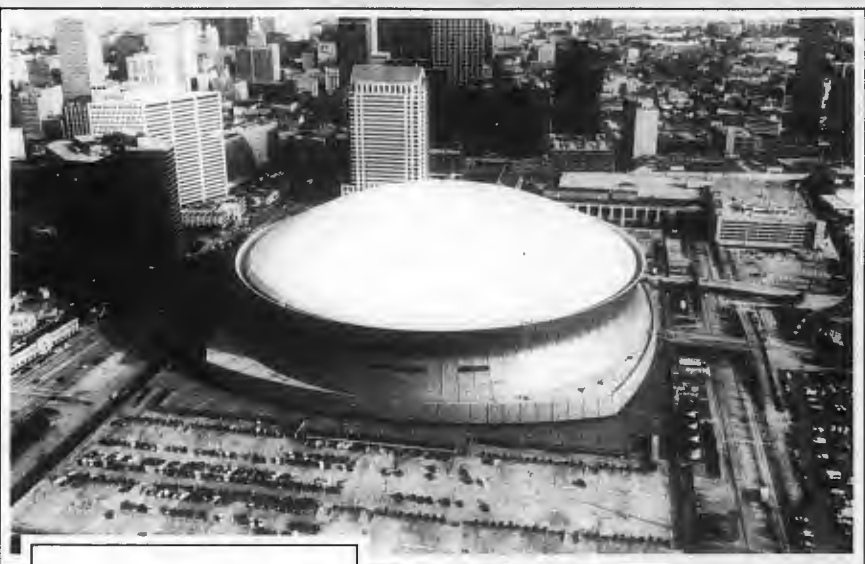
# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 95, Number 9

May 2, 1996

MAY 0 8 1996



SEEK MY FACE

TURN FROM  
THEIR  
WICKED WAYS

HUMBLE  
THEMSELVES  
AND PRAY

IF MY  
PEOPLE...

II CHRONICLES 7:14

## 1996 SBC PREVIEW

Southern Baptists will gather at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans June 11-13 for the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention. The three-day meeting will focus on the theme, "If My People..."

# North Korean famine relief: Arkansas Baptists surpass goal

Arkansas Baptists have successfully responded to an emergency call for 500 boxes of food to aid famine-stricken North Korea, surpassing the goal by 30 boxes.

Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union members joined the Southern

Baptist aid agency Cooperative Services International for the effort. CSI pledged \$500,000 for the purchase of food and was responsible for arranging overseas shipping to North Korea.

Arkansas volunteers filled a 20- by 20-foot shipping container with the food, one of 100 Southern Baptists plan to ship. Each box contained dried beans, powdered milk, corn meal, flour, spaghetti and rice.

"Our CSI personnel have gained permission for us to do humanitarian aid," said state WMU executive director Julia Ketter. "This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate Christian love and concern. This may be the open door for other efforts."

Disastrous flooding in North Korea last summer destroyed thousands of homes and buildings and devastated the country's grain harvest.

ABSC Brotherhood department director Harry Black said that he was "not surprised

at all" that Arkansas surpassed their goal. "I knew that Arkansas Baptists would respond to people in need," he affirmed.

He also noted that the project affected him personally, especially while loading the container April 13 with other ABSC staff and volunteers in preparation for sending the container to the Little Rock River Port for shipping.

Members of South Highland Church in Little Rock, Congo Road Church in Benton and Lake Hamilton Church in Hot Springs provided volunteers for the loading crew.

"The most moving time for me," he said, occurred while the loading crew prayed over the container.

"When it was all packed, but before we shut the doors," he recalled, "fifteen of us climbed up on the trailer, put our hands on the boxes and asked God to take it over and put it where He needed it."

Black, who prayed over the boxes alongside his son, Matthan, said that as the pair put their hands on the boxes, he thought, "I'm a daddy and the next hands that may touch that box will be the hands of a North Korean daddy whose life is out of control - who is seeing his family starve. That was a solemn moment for me."



Photo / Iveta Black

Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood volunteers pack food in boxes as others load the boxes into a shipping container bound for famine-stricken North Korea.

## Cover Story



## SBC Preview 11-17

Southern Baptists will gather at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans June 11-13 for the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention. The three-day meeting will focus on the theme, "If My People..." Officials estimate attendance of 19,000.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# Baptists aid storm victims in Fort Smith area

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

More than 40 Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteers were activated for feeding, cleaning and child care duty following an April 21 tornado that smashed homes and businesses, killed four people and injured scores more in Sebastian and Crawford counties.

Twenty-one members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Unit One disaster relief team were called out April 22 to begin feeding residents in the Van Buren and Fort Smith area, which sustained an estimated \$500 million in damages.

By Wednesday, the number of volunteers had grown to 44 as a chainsaw/cleanup crew from Arkansas River Valley Association and a child care unit were sent to the area to aid in relief efforts.

The mass feeding crew is providing meals through the American Red Cross at Van Buren High School and through Red Cross emergency relief vehicles (ERVs) which transport the meals to victims.

State convention disaster relief director Ronnie O'Neal said Baptist volunteers fed an estimated 1,500 people on April 23. He expected that number to grow to 2,500 a day before decreasing later in the week.

The relief unit is capable of providing up to 20,000 hot meals per day. The unit members work from a 48-foot tractor-trailer rig designed for emergency meal preparation. The unit, commissioned into service last year, is on its maiden disaster relief exercise.

Noting that many of the tornado victims "are very depressed," O'Neal added, "Some of these folks have just lost everything they have — total devastation. Red Cross is estimating some 600 homes destroyed in Van Buren.

"Most of the damage in Fort Smith was downtown and was mainly commercial," he explained. "They had some residential damage, but nothing compared to Van Buren."

Although most of the storm victims "are not real comfortable at taking a hand-out," O'Neal said, "They're very grateful for the disaster relief crew coming in and reaching out to them and feeding them."

Unit member Turk Cunningham, a member of Newark Church, said that in addition to feeding in the high school and sending out food on the ERVs, "we have a lot of folks coming in to get meals and take them home.

"These folks won't leave their homes," Cunningham observed. Although he said looting has not been a problem in affected areas, "there's probably a threat."

O'Neal noted that although the team is



The devastation caused by a tornado that hit Fort Smith and Van Buren prompted Arkansas Baptist disaster relief teams to send feeding, cleaning and child care crews.

providing thousands of meals, "we are not feeding all of the victims. I wouldn't think we are feeding more than 25 percent of them.

"At this point, as far as the organized relief effort, it is strictly Arkansas Baptists doing the feeding, but there are catering services and restaurants that have been feeding some," he said. "We are doing all of the Red Cross feeding and Red Cross has estimated us to be here no more than five days."

## Specialized crews activated

Three days after the storm, state convention Brotherhood leaders activated a 15-member chainsaw and clean-up crew from Arkansas River Valley Association and an eight-member team from the Marjorie Grober Emergency Child Care Unit, made up of members from across the state.

Brotherhood department director Harry Black said the decision to send the additional teams was made following requests from Red Cross and city officials. The chainsaw unit arrived April 25 and supplemented clean-up efforts already under way from the feeding crew.

"They will be cutting up fallen trees and cleaning debris," Black explained. "Basically, helping people get their personal space back together."

The child care unit works in coordination with American Red Cross emergency family services. "While people come to file for insurance and apply for emergency aid, our people give them a secure child care ministry," Black explained.

Emphasizing that "the furtherance of the gospel," is a primary goal of Baptist disaster relief efforts, Cunningham added, "They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. It's about the same way to his soul. When they get hungry and desperate, they will sit down and listen to the Word if you have Christian men serving it."

Black noted that the gospel already is being taken to residents, reporting that crew members led an 18-year-old young man to personal faith in Christ.

"He came through the food line and they got to talking to him about the meaning of life," Black said. "Two of the crew asked him if he had died in the tornado, would he have gone to heaven or hell?"

After the teen acknowledged that he would have gone to hell, Black said the volunteers "had the opportunity to lead him to Christ."

"Victims coming to eat are thankful and appreciative that somebody cares and somebody's here," said Cunningham, a veteran of Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Andrew in 1992, flooding in Missouri in 1993 and a southeast Arkansas ice storm in 1994.

Noting that many other volunteers "are also veterans of other relief efforts," O'Neal said experiences like that make the Baptist volunteers "uniquely qualified" to provide disaster relief.

"We are providing this care to show God's love for the residents of Van Buren and Fort Smith in a tangible way," O'Neal emphasized. "We will stay until our brothers here are back on their feet."

## A PASTOR'S HEART



By EMIL TURNER  
ABCS Executive Director

"Pastor, all the people in my Sunday School class are saved, we don't have any lost members." It never occurred to this Sunday School teacher that her community was full of lost people in the age range of her class. She thought her responsibility was to teach saved people, not reach lost ones. Aren't you glad Jesus did not think that way?

If you are reading this article, you probably don't have many lost friends. The longer we are believers, the fewer unbelievers we know. While understandable, this means we seldom have relationships with lost people that lead them to Christ. We hear rousing messages on evangelism and want to witness, but we don't know anyone to whom we can witness.

What can we do about it? Let me suggest that we befriend some people with whom we may not be as comfortable as we are with our Christian friends. Jesus was called a "friend of sinners." Most of us are not. I am suggesting that we love lost people enough to invite them to our homes, go see their kids play ball, eat lunch with them and find ways to minister to them. If we do this, witnessing to them and winning them to Christ will come naturally.

Some time ago, I bought a ticket to see a famous man and hear him talk about his faith. I had a lost friend who was afraid of me - afraid I'd try to get him to be "religious." I bought him a ticket too. On the day of the luncheon, my friend became ill and could not hear the speaker. I bought a long line and asked the famous man for his autograph. I took the autograph to my lost friend. I led him to Christ that afternoon because I had a relationship with him that enabled him to trust me. Today he is teaching Sunday School and preparing for the ministry. There are lost people in his class, but they don't stay that way.

■ Have you read *We Are the Beloved* by Ken Blanchard (Zondervan, 1994)? Blanchard became famous for his book, *The One Minute Manager*. He became a Christian and chronicles his conversion experience. It is an excellent book to give a lost friend to open the door to witnessing.

BETTY WILLIAMSON

## Woman's Viewpoint

### Don't wander from Jesus!



While attending seminary we had to be creative in finding ways to entertain ourselves on a limited budget. Our family went to the mall to "window shop." On one such adventure, we shopped for typewriters. After working all day I spent many evenings typing my husband's papers on what must have been one of the earliest electric typewriters made. The letter "O" just made a hole in the paper! Therefore, we were very interested in purchasing a new one even if we didn't have the money to do so. A saleslady showed us all the wonderful features of a new electric typewriter and, of course, explained how their easy credit plan would allow us to purchase this state-of-the-art machine. We listened intently.

We had to decline and walked away from the counter. Shortly, we heard an announcement: "Would the parents of Savannah Williamson please return to the typewriter counter?" We hurried back to the department. There she was! Something had attracted the attention of our four-year-old and she wandered away to investigate it. We hadn't noticed. Discovering she was lost, she found her way back to the last place she knew her parents had been.

Isn't this typical of our Christian life? We can become so distracted by our world and the demands it brings that we wander away from Christ and His will for our lives. That much-needed

typewriter took our minds off one of our children...the most important things in the world to us.

Have you substituted pleasure or family or even "church work" for that special personal relationship with the living Christ? Do what Savannah did when she was lost from the safety of her parents. Go back to the last place you were with Jesus and begin again.

I'm not the first mother to lose her child. Mary lost Jesus too! In Luke 2, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Feast of the Passover in Jerusalem. After the feast Mary and Joseph headed for home, but Jesus stayed there. Verse 44 says, "They supposed Him to be with them." Do we sometimes just "suppose" Jesus to be with us?

Remember what Jesus told Mary when she returned to the Temple and found Him there astounding the priests with His teachings? He said, "I must be about my Father's business." Jesus hasn't wandered away from us. We wander. He's right where He's supposed to be... waiting for us to return.

Betty Williamson is the wife of Ron Williamson, pastor of Spradling Church in Fort Smith. She teaches an adult ladies Sunday School class and also is part-time church secretary. She was the 1995 president of the Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Fellowship. She and her husband have two children and two grandchildren.

## Personal perspectives

"Victims coming to eat are thankful and appreciative that somebody cares and that somebody's here."

- Turk Cunningham  
Member of Newark Church and disaster relief volunteer,  
on feeding tornado victims in western Arkansas

"Tolerance has become a kind of virtue. Tolerance is important, but when tolerance blurs distinctions, it becomes a sin."

- Russell H. Dilday  
Distinguished professor of homiletics, Truett Seminary,  
speaking to members of Arkansas Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

# 'Sharing a World of Information'

Where do Arkansas Baptists turn to learn about the latest needs in worldwide mission efforts or to gain updates on pivotal developments in denominational life? What resource do church leaders rely on to provide timely information about statewide training opportunities for church members of all ages? Which publication consistently provides articles which challenge and encourage grassroots Baptists to actively participate in God's great plans for ministry throughout Arkansas and beyond?

The answer to each of the above questions is the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. For more than 90 years, the *Newsmagazine* has sought to inform, inspire and involve Arkansas Baptists concerning countless ministry needs and opportunities. News and feature articles run the gamut from local church building dedications to international gatherings of the Baptist World Alliance.

Considerable space in each issue also is given to promotional articles about the work God is doing through Arkansas Baptists. As the official news journal of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the *Newsmagazine* frequently highlights the efforts of local churches and associations as well as the Baptist Building staff, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Ouachita Baptist University, Williams Baptist College and numerous other projects and programs.

Even amid all the positive, productive promotional pieces produced by this publication, one vital Arkansas Baptist

## Small church blessings

I would like to speak up on behalf of the "small church." There are so many small churches that could bless and be blessed by new members. After all, the small church is just as important as the large church if God's will is the first consideration. Remember, the small church would not remain so small if people would give them a chance.

In a small church members give their all and their 10 percent. But after missions and bills are taken care of, it usually doesn't leave much for "extra" programs that seem to be drawing people these days to the large church. I hope the children coming up now don't get the message that you have to have more than the Word of the Lord. We are here to praise and worship God, not to be entertained.

In a small church it's like family, not a group of families. If a member is ill, it is known by all, and they know personally the one who is mentioned for prayer. I

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

ministry seldom highlighted by the *Newsmagazine* is the *Newsmagazine*. One notable exception, however, is the annual *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Day of Prayer*.

This year's *Newsmagazine Day of Prayer* is Sunday, May 19. Focusing on the theme, "Sharing a World of Information," the 1996 Day of Prayer offers churches throughout the state an opportunity to highlight the ministry of Christian journalism.

One resource which has been made available to every Arkansas Baptist congregation is a packet of laminated bookmarks which feature the Day of Prayer theme and details about the *Newsmagazine's* work. More than 260 churches ordered in excess of 35,000 bookmarks to use as bulletin inserts during the *Newsmagazine Day of Prayer*. That means thousands of Arkansas Baptists will receive the bookmarks May 19 for use as a prayer reminder throughout the coming year.

Knowing that Baptists throughout the

state will be praying for the ministry of the *Newsmagazine* is both exhilarating and humbling. I am confident that God will faithfully bless the prayers of His people as we seek to strengthen the *Newsmagazine's* impact for the benefit of all Arkansas Baptists.

Other ways to highlight the May 19 prayer emphasis include:

- Enlist a church leader to share a brief personal testimony about the impact of using the *Newsmagazine* to gain "a world of information" about Baptist ministry efforts at home and around the world.

- Schedule a prayer time during the worship service to express thanks for the *Newsmagazine's* communications ministry among Arkansas Baptists and to pray for God's continued guidance in this effort.

- Create a bulletin board display which emphasizes the *Newsmagazine's* role in keeping Arkansas Baptists informed.

- Publish the Day of Prayer date and theme in your church newsletter or bulletin.

- Provide sign-up sheets at the conclusion of the worship service and invite church members to sign up for a subscription to the *Newsmagazine*.

Regardless of how a church chooses to observe the *Newsmagazine Day of Prayer*, the top priority is for God to receive the glory for whatever ministry is accomplished through the pages of the *Newsmagazine*. As the *Newsmagazine* staff seeks to "share a world of information" with our subscribers, we value your prayers on behalf of this ministry effort.

not easy in a small church; you may have to work harder and do double duties, but I know God will bless. Remember that the Lord promises, "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there will I be also."

Teresa Morrison  
Hot Springs, AR



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

realize that large churches are a sign of God's blessing and that needs are being met, but small churches can grow and do the same.

I'm just afraid that our mission has been put aside. It has been suggested that a lot of what is happening is simply membership swapping, instead of bringing in the lost. Could this be true? We have a mission both near and abroad. Perhaps we should be missionaries in our own neighborhoods.

So I say to someone who might be feeling a little empty, look next door, maybe there's a smaller church you could be blessing and they could return the favor. You won't find "perfection" or "good entertainment," but you could just be the one to spark new hope and growth. It's

## Worship vs. entertainment

Our churches used to be a place of prayer and worship. More and more they are becoming places of entertainment, politics and profit.

Churches are selling tickets for concerts, individuals' tapes for profit from the pulpit, T-shirts and other things. What will be next?

Jesus threw out those who were selling in the church. He told us not to make His Father's house a house of merchandise. He said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

Flora Cato  
Little Rock, AR

# 'Answering the call'

## Arkansas senior adults urged to be evangelists, mission volunteers

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Prayer warriors, personal witnesses, church builders and mission volunteers were among the ministry assignments given to senior adults attending the 1996 Arkansas Baptist Golden Age Evangelism Conference.

The April 11-12 conference marked a milestone in state convention history with a record crowd of more than 2,000 "golden agers," representing approximately 200 Arkansas Baptist churches, participating in the event at First Church, Springdale.

Clarence Shell, director of the Arkansas Baptist evangelism department which sponsored the event, stressed in his opening welcome that the primary ministry emphases in the coming year for senior adults will center around personal witnessing, prayer and missions involvement. "We still have more than one million in our state who need to come to know the Lord as their personal Savior," he said. "I challenge you to plan more senior adult revivals to try to reach these."

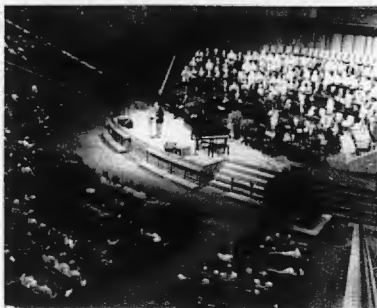
He also encouraged them to become involved in the Arkansas-European missions partnership, highlighting the need for retired pastors and laypeople to be involved in short-term missions ministry.

Floyd Tidsworth affirmed senior adults as one of the greatest forces for starting new churches, noting that 52 million people or 21 percent of the U.S. population is age 55 years or older.

Tidsworth, who serves in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's new church extension division, said "Start Something New" will be the HMB's church planting theme for the next two years. "We now have Southern Baptist work in all of our states and territories," he added. "However, that does not mean we have all the churches we need because currently there are over 120 million people whose names are not on a church role."

Tidsworth thanked Arkansas senior adults for their 1995 participation in the Arkansas-Iowa missions partnership, noting that their efforts resulted in the establishment of a new congregation in Jackson County. He also issued an invitation for conference participants to attend a Friday morning breakfast where they could register to become involved as "Senior Partners" in church planting.

Seventy-six people attended the break-



Senior adults attending the Golden Age Evangelism Conference April 11-12 at First Church, Springdale, heard a 200-voice choir made up of volunteers and directed by guest musician Dick Baker, minister of music for Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas.

fast and formulated plans to continue participation in helping plant new churches in Iowa as a part of the Arkansas Senior Partners State Fellowship. The group was organized last year in Benton following a Missions Training Institute.

Raymond and Agnes Coppenger of Arkadelphia, who are serving as president and secretary of the new organization, said the state group is seeking to expand its eight-member council to 10 members. They requested individuals or senior adult groups interested in the fellowship to contact them at 501-246-4025.

### Seniors as 'prayer warriors'

Senior adults' role as prayer warriors was emphasized by Vicki Lloyd, a member of University Church in Fayetteville. "My guess is there are people in every church who need prayer warriors," she remarked. "I believe we have churches who are growing and ministering because there are people like you who have prayed for both the staff and members. I challenge you to go back home and strengthen your prayer ministry."

In humorous monologues, Lloyd portrayed Sarah as a 99-year-old senior adult mother-to-be, worrying about how she would care for a newborn at age 100, but at the same time praising God for His blessings and His promises to her and Abraham.

As a cleaning woman, she reflected on what senior adults could accomplish if rather than meeting and eating, they loaded on church buses and went out to start new churches. "As the 'golden agers' of our

state, you need to reflect on what you can do for God to help start churches and win the lost to Him," she urged.

"Look at what you have in your hand, if it is a dustcloth, a hammer or the Word of God, you need to use it for the glory of God," she declared. "It is a big world out there where God has told you in His Word to use what's in your hand to tell others of Him."

"I have good news for you, you live in the greatest age in history," proclaimed Bill Cox of Nashville, Tenn. "The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and state conventions are now planning an evangelism thrust, 'Celebrate Jesus 2000,' that will climax in 2000 with an emphasis on sharing Christ with every lost person in the nation. You as senior adults are going to be a part of that because God didn't say He was with you to a certain age but to the end of the age."

Cox, a volunteer working with senior adults in evangelism through the HMB, said he certainly didn't plan to quit because he is a senior adult. "God has called me and He has called you to be a witness. You can do this in a unique way as you tell people what He has done for you."

Conference coordinator Paul McClung, an associate in the state convention evangelism department, presented Senior Reach as a new opportunity in Arkansas Baptists' senior adult evangelism program. McClung said he designed and wrote the program "to assist in reaching the 465,000 adults in Arkansas, 60 years of age and older, who have never made a decision for Christ."

He challenged the Arkansas seniors to acquire a seven-step senior adult evangelism packet as a guide for evangelism efforts, discovering the lost and unchurched, prayer strategy, witness training, ministry-based evangelism, revivals and assimilating senior adults into the church.

"We are averaging about 380 senior adult baptisms annually," McClung explained. "The reason for this is because the older we get the less we take the gospel to them. One out of four will let you share the gospel with them and one out of three will pray to receive Christ if we will share."

"You are a mighty army for God and could turn the state upside down for Him," McClung concluded. "I challenge you to use this tool and march forth to win souls for Him."

## Whooooo! Clower shares ministry of clean humor

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptists

Jerry Clower, a popular country humorist, is quick to praise East Fork Church in Amite County, Miss., for the role it played in his Christian conversion.

Clower, who enthusiastically entertained 2,000 senior adults attending Arkansas Baptists' 1996 Golden Age Evangelism Conference, said he was saved at age 13 in a revival meeting. "I thank God for my religious heritage," he noted. "East Fork Church, founded in 1810, always held summer revivals that began following the fourth Sunday in July and it was at the 1939 revival I became a Christian.... This is the background that allowed me to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Clower, who serves as a deacon in the 100-member church, recalled that his wife, Homerline, was saved and baptized on the same day he was. "Since the first time I saw this blonde-haired girl there has never been another woman in my life."

The entertainer, who continues to live within a mile of where he was born, remembers his childhood days with fondness. Reared in a single parent home, Clower said the influence of his Christian mother still plays a vital role in life. "I thank God for my momma who taught me high moral standards, right from wrong and that you gave a hard day's work for a full day's pay," he said. "I am afraid in today's society our moral standards are so low that animals care more for their young'uns than the human race does."

Clower is grateful not only for his religious heritage but also for his country. Serving with the U.S. Navy in World War II aboard the USS Bennington, he earned three battle stars and a presidential citation. "I love this country because I know what it took to keep it free," he declared. "It was



there I learned about God's provision of guardian angels for those who love and serve Him."

Following his military service, Clower determined he would gain a college education and work as a 4-H Club leader because of the influence the organization had on his life while growing up. He first attended a junior college in Summit, Miss., and then transferred to Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Following his graduation with a degree in agriculture, Clower served for two years as an assistant county agent, working with 4-H clubs.

During that time, Clower was asked to become a fertilizer salesman by Owen Cooper, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "I told Mr. Cooper of my commitment to work as a 4-H leader and that I wasn't interested in selling chemicals," he said. "However, Cooper convinced me I could move to Yazoo City and do both, which I did for 17 years."

An entertainment career opened for the humorist as a result of a chemical meeting in Lubbock, Texas. "I had been asked to share...chemical information with a group of salesmen there," Clower

recalled. "While speaking, I realized I must try a new approach because the whole lot of them were about to go to sleep."

"I soon had their interest as I began relating humorous events which had occurred in Mississippi between me and some of my friends." MCA Records contacted Clower after a Lubbock farm director taped the session and submitted it to the recording company.

Clower's first record, released 30 days later, became the first of his 29 gold label hits. Encouraged by record officials to add risqué language to his act, Clower said, "I told the company I was a Christian who never had or never would use that kind of language and therefore the language would stay the same if they wanted me to continue recording for them." The only Grand Old Opry member with so many gold label recordings, he also is the author of four books.

In addition to maintaining his positive humor, Clower has included serious Christian segments on each of his records. He said another record company recently invited him to combine his Christian segments on one record. Clower said he has agreed to the request because he feels the greatest thing he can do in life is to be a witness for Christ in any way he can.

"I am an heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown and you are too," he told Arkansas Baptist senior adults. "There are enough of you in this auditorium to turn the state of Arkansas upside down for Him if you will only tell others of His saving grace."

Urging fellow Christians to quit worrying and learn to lean on God, Clower concluded, "I am so appreciative of what God has done for me that wherever I am I let the blood of Calvary speak for me. You too should let His blood speak for you rather than tarnishing your witness with personal worries."

## Robinson: 'God is up to something marvelous in our world'

"Be available and sensitive to lost people," Darrell Robinson urged Arkansas Baptist senior adults. "God wants to use Southern Baptists to reach out to all kinds of people and touch them with His love."

Focusing on the theme, "Seniors Answering the Call," Robinson encouraged participants at the 1996 Golden Age Evangelism Conference to answer the call "by serving as volunteers to take America for Jesus Christ." Robinson is the Home Mission Board's vice president for evangelism.

"America at one time was sown down with the Word of God, but no longer is that true," he declared. "Therefore we must sow down this nation once again with the gospel of Jesus Christ so that every community is saturated with Him."

Robinson said that Christians can almost listen people into the kingdom of God, especially if one listens and witnesses to individuals at the point of their needs. "Be available and sensitive to lost people and touch them with the love of God," he urged.

Emphasizing that senior adults must be faithful witnesses

"because God told you to go," Robinson added, "Before you go get on your knees, requesting to be filled with the Holy Spirit. When you do this He will fill you with boldness, flowing freely unhindered out to others."

Suggesting that "these are the most exciting days in Christian history," Robinson told conference participants, "I believe the name of Jesus will be on the tongue of every man as the 2,000th anniversary of His birth approaches."

"God is up to something marvelous in our world," he continued. "He wants to give revival. He wants to use everyone as a witness, whether 18 or 89, putting them on a mission that will bring revival to every place and to every person."

Robinson said revival is needed across the nation because churches are disrupted, pastors are discouraged and members are disgruntled. "God cannot use a quarrelsome, fractured body but will perform miracles when that body becomes one of totally broken people, overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual needs...and looking for the best in others," he concluded.



## Staff changes

**Randy Maxwell** began his ministry as pastor of Mount Olive Church in Crossett April 21, going there from South Highland Church in Little Rock. He previously was pastor of West Church of Batesville, Hillside Church of Camden and First Church of DeValls Bluff. Maxwell, who currently is moderator of Pulaski Association, has served as vice president of the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board. He also has been vice president of the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference and a trustee of Williams Baptist College. A native of Paragould, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Maxwell and his wife, Nan, are parents of one son, Scott Randal, a student at the University of Arkansas.

**Larry Killian** joined the staff of First Church of Warren April 21 as minister of music and youth, coming there from Immanuel Church in Paris, Texas. He previously served churches in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and North Carolina. A native of Forrest City, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Shanna, also is a graduate of OBU. They are parents of a son, Zach.

**Wes Pruitt** will begin his ministry as pastor of St. Charles Church May 5, coming there from First Church of Hardy. He pre-



## ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

viously was pastor of churches in Arkansas, Arizona, Texas, Alaska, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Pruitt is a graduate of Grand Canyon Baptist College, Phoenix, Ariz., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Barbara, are parents of four adult children.

**Michael Farren** has accepted the call to join the staff of First Church of Fouke as minister of youth. He will come there from First Church of Downtown in Texarkana, Texas.

**Bobby Biggers** is pastor of Wilmot Church. He previously was interim pastor of Temple Church of Crossett. He also has served as a youth minister of churches in Arkansas and Texas. Biggers is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Tricia Murphree.

**Tommy Jones** began serving April 7 as pastor of Refuge Church in Story. A native of Mount Ida and a graduate of Arkansas Tech University, he has served as recreation director for Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs. Jones is married to the former Deanna Noles.

**Charles Scantling** is pastor of Evening Shade Church in Buckner Association. He previously was pastor of Concord Church in Aly.

**Jimmy Martin** began serving March 31 as pastor of First Church of Eureka Springs. He previously was pastor of eight churches in Mississippi. Martin is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary. His wife, Carole, is manager of a Christian book store and director of Ozark Mountain ministries.

**Morris S. "Trey" Lewis III** has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Church of Cove. He will come there from Grand Prairie, Texas. Lewis and his wife, Jill, have two children, Anna and Andrew.

**Bill Fleming** of Benton, who has served as pastor of Southern Baptist churches for 30 years, has entered the field of full-time evangelism. He and his wife, Sharon, are both graduates of Ouachita Baptist University and are members of Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. Fleming may be contacted at 16493 Deerrun, Alexander, AR 72002; phone 501-794-0341.

**Jerry A. Gay** will join the staff of First Church in Camden May 5 as associate pastor of music and education. He will go there from First Church of Stuttgart where he has served since 1988. Gay previously served in interim positions at Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock and Congo Road Church of Benton. He also was minister of music for Spring Creek Church in Benton. Gay, who currently is serving on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's 150th anniversary committee, has been chairman of the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association. He is a graduate of Arkansas Bible College in Hot Springs and the University of North Alabama in Florence. Gay and his wife, Rebecca Ann, have two children, Jared Chadwick and Jennifer Rebecca, both students at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Danny Joe Burroughs** has joined the staff of First Church of Beebe as minister of youth and college. He previously served as minister of youth and education at Indian Springs Church in Bryant. Burroughs is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Mary Lil, have two children, Nathan and Austin.

**Rod Mays** recently joined the staff of Fairdale Church in Hot Springs as bivocational music minister. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he is a faculty member in the Arkadelphia School District. Mays also has served on the staff of First Church of Strong.



The main building of Remount Church in North Little Rock, including the 300-seat sanctuary, library and offices, burned early March 31 after being struck by lightning. The congregation is meeting in the church's education building. "We don't know why God allowed this to happen," said pastor Victor Coleman, "but He's still in charge and He promises to see us through any problem." Members plan to begin rebuilding this summer and complete it before Christmas.

**Doug Hibbard** has joined the staff of Central Church in North Little Rock as youth assistant. A native of Jacksonville, he currently is attending Ouachita Baptist University.

**John and Sarah Maddox** of Maumelle recently returned from Portugal where they served in the absence of furloughing Southern Baptist foreign missionaries Norman and Gunita Harrell. While in Portugal, Maddox preached four times each Sunday in both English and Portuguese in the cities of Portinao and Lagos. He previously has preached revivals in 19 foreign countries.

## Church news

**Caddo River Association** launched a new church April 14 in the Sims community and is currently in the process of buying property for a permanent location for the church. Ronny Noles is director of missions.

**Yarbro Church** held revival services March 24-28 that resulted in 23 professions of faith and six additions by letter, according to pastor Jim Owen. Gene Ellis of Hot Springs, director of missions for Garland County Association, was the evangelist and Mike Wells of Blytheville directed music.

## Ordinations

**Corning First Church** ordained Danny Moore to the deacon ministry April 14.

**Wilson First Church** ordained B.J. Chipman, Phillip Forrester and Ronnie Smith as deacons March 31.

**Correction:** Incorrect information was published in the April 18 issue concerning deacon ordinations at Farmington Church, according to pastor Preston Beeks. Farmington Church ordained Bill Moore and Lanny Samples to the deacon ministry March 24.

## Obituaries

**Roma H. Sims**, 86, of Stamps died April 1 at her home. She was a longtime member of First Church of Stamps where she had served as library director since its founding in 1969. She also was teacher of the Dorcas Sunday School class for 32 years and had taught a total of 43 years in various classes. Sims was the recipient of the 1983 Arkansas Governor's Volunteer Award. Survivors include two sons, Tom Sims of Las Vegas, Nev., and Bill Sims of Overton, Texas; one brother, John Barringer; and six grandchildren.

ABN photos / Mike Gill



*Trish Landers of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leads praise and worship sessions with the assistance of Acteens from First Church, Mansfield.*

## Acteens challenged to 'change world'

Arkansas Acteens attending the 1996 Acteens Encounter April 12-13 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock were told by Dorcas Byrd they could "Change Your World" if they would let the light of God so shine that others could see His love acting through them.

Byrd, a Southern Baptist home missionary in inner-city Houston, challenged the 800 in attendance to let the Bible be their guide for bringing changes to today's world of turmoil, pain and hurt. "Remove self totally and take seriously the fact that God wants to use you as His representative to bring change through your time, and the talent and gifts He has given you.

"You must remember to not care what the world says about you as you

become a transformed representative for Christ," she declared. "Not being measured by the world but living for Christ, not yourself, is what is important."

The Company, a drama and musical group from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, led Change Your World theme interpretations for the Encounter which was coordinated by Angela Lowe, state Acteens director, and sponsored by Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union.

Other encounter features included StudAct and Acteens leaders recognitions led by Lowe and Sandra Kemmer of Brinkley. Arkansas Activator teams were commissioned for summer volunteer mission efforts.



*More than 800 Acteens and leaders attended the '96 Acteens Encounter.*

## HMB trustees propose new process for executive search

By David Winfrey

SBC Home Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP)—Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustees have voted to support the use of 13 "incorporators" to establish a new missions agency but objected to authorizing that group to nominate the new agency's president and board officers.

At their April 17 meeting, HMB trustees offered their own proposal for a presidential search committee which would double HMB representation in selecting the North American Mission Board's first leader.

The Southern Baptist Convention restructuring, approved by messengers at last year's SBC sesquicentennial meeting in Atlanta, calls for dissolving the HMB, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission and assigning their duties to a newly created North American Mission Board.

The SBC Executive Committee's Implementation Task Force (ITF) proposed naming 13 "incorporators" (including two HMB representatives) to help establish the North American Mission Board, nominate a president and propose officers for the agency's board of directors. (See page 16 article in April 18 issue.)

Outgoing HMB chairman Steve Swofford praised ITF members for their attitude during meetings with HMB leaders. "We have been very, very well received by the ITF," he said after the board meeting. "But nobody likes change, and when change is brought about in strange and new ways, it's very hard for us to deal with."

### Alternative process

The task force asked HMB board members to ratify a resolution that would have positioned them as supporting nomination powers for the incorporators. Instead, directors passed three resolutions related to restructuring, including one that proposed an alternative structure for a president search committee.

"I think they're frustrated," Swofford said of the HMB trustees' action. "They just to some degree have felt left out of the process."

The first resolution affirmed using incorporators, but added, "We do not endorse the incorporators serving as a presidential search committee or as a nominating committee for the board officers."

The second resolution appointed board members John Avant, a Brownwood,

Texas, pastor, and Charles Fuller, a Roanoke, Va., pastor, as the two HMB representatives to the incorporators.

RTVC trustees also recently elected two incorporators, including Gary Underwood, a member of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana and executive vice president of Beech Street Communications Corp., a FamilyNet affiliate.

The third HMB resolution recommended forming a presidential search committee separate from the incorporators.

That committee would be composed of four board members each from the three existing agencies who will serve as directors for the North American Mission Board. One representative would also come from the Implementation Task Force.

HMB trustee Walt Carpenter said the resolution better represents the intent of SBC messengers who voted to restructure the denomination "than the interpretation of the Executive Committee."

Avant encouraged board members to pursue "positive diplomacy" rather than the motion. The NAMB trustees can reject any candidate the incorporators recommend, he pointed out.

Ron Meyers of Illinois said board members have a responsibility to express their views about the proposed structure. "I don't think they're jiving us, but I sure would like them to hear our heart and know it officially," he noted.

Also during the meeting, directors voted to close the HMB Caribbean office and to eliminate the office's position of executive director.

The closing represents a shift in the board's strategy to evangelize and congregationalize that area, which includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance.

Missionaries in that region will be categorized as national missionaries, reporting to their respective HMB office, after the office closes June 30, he said.

Also during the HMB meeting, board members:

- Established a department of ethnic evangelism. That position would be similar to an existing position for the office of black evangelism, Kelley said.

- Elected Benjamin F. Kelley Jr. to be director of HMB development. Kelley currently serves as development director for the Brotherhood Commission.

- Learned the board's administrative committee will employ Missouri author James Hefley to write a history of the Home Mission Board. Hefley's wife, Marti, is an HMB trustee.

## FMB trustees okay survivor benefits, computer upgrade

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, meeting April 18-20 in Cape Girardeau, Mo., approved a major upgrade in home office computer technology and heard a report on a change in support for missionary families who have suffered the death of a spouse.

The meeting culminated in the appointment of 37 missionaries in a Saturday afternoon session on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. The appointments bring the total number of missionaries serving in 129 countries to 4,173.

The trustees received a report on a significant change in missionary support in cases where a missionary's death leaves behind a spouse with dependent children.

Previous policy reduced salary and benefits to the rate for a single missionary—a 40 percent decrease—three months after the spouse's death, said Carl Johnson, the FMB's vice president for finance. The new policy will continue to support the surviving spouse at the married couple level until the family's youngest child is no longer eligible for dependent benefits, Johnson said. Financial support will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1996.

That change will immediately affect five missionary families. Among them are the recently bereaved families of Lynn Davidson, who died Feb. 29 in a plane crash, leaving behind her husband, Dennis, and three children, and Holly Larm, who died Oct. 14, 1995, during a bout with malaria, leaving behind her husband, Allen, and two children.

Trustees also approved spending \$2.5 million to complete the second phase of an upgrade to computer systems in the board's Richmond, Va., offices. The system eventually will provide network access to mission offices around the world, said Bill Nance, director of the board's management information office.

The trustee public relations committee watched a demonstration of the board's new "home page" on the World Wide Web. The site offers immediate electronic access to information about missions needs and opportunities for service. The site is accessible at <http://www.imb.org>.

# IF MY PEOPLE...

II CHRONICLES 7:14

## PREVIEW of the 1996 SBC Annual Meeting June 11-13

### NEW ORLEANS

## Restructuring, presidential vote to highlight SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention returns to the Superdome in New Orleans June 11-13 with the election of a new president and reports on a major restructuring of the denomination.

It will be the 139th session of the SBC — which is in its 151st year — and will mark the ninth time it has met in New Orleans. The first was in 1877 when 164 messengers were registered and the last was in 1990 when 38,403 messengers were in attendance. Last year in Atlanta for the SBC's 150th anniversary celebration, 20,654 messengers attended.

The theme for the 1996 meeting is "If My People..." taken from II Chronicles 7:14, with a different person each session sharing a subject from the familiar Old Testament revival passage.

Messengers will elect a president to succeed Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., who finishes a second one-year term. The only announced candidate is Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla. If elected, Elliff is expected to continue the SBC's "conservative resurgence" begun in 1979.

Messengers also will get to see the first blueprints of the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan which was approved at last year's annual meeting. A second vote on SBC Bylaw 15, which lists the 19 agencies of the convention, will be taken and, if passed, will reduce the number of agencies to 12 through dissolution or merger of several entities. SBC officials hope to provide messengers with some of the transition plans for the restructuring and some indication of the financial impact of the new structure.

The annual meeting will convene June 11 at 8:30 a.m. and conclude June 13 at noon.

During the three-day meeting, messengers and guests will hear reports from all the SBC agencies and vote on a range of business items and resolutions.

Major addresses will include Henry's presidential message; the convention sermon by Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark.; and the final message by Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers, the fast-growing men's renewal movement across America.

The Wednesday evening session will feature presentations by the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board followed by a "commitment invitation." A special evangelistic blitz of the metropolitan area, called Crossover New Orleans, will precede the convention.

Also preceding the annual meeting are a host of related meetings, including the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

The Superdome will feature a unique configuration for the meeting, with a large curtain, from roof to floor, separating the dome's main seating area. Half of the floor will be the exhibits area, with the other half for the meeting itself. SBC officials said the configuration has been used by other religious groups in the cavernous Superdome and proven effective.

Moderating the six sessions of the annual meeting will be Henry; first vice president Larry W. Wynn, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.; and second vice president Gary L. Frost, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church, Youngstown, Ohio.

## Arkansas Baptists to fill leadership roles at SBC

Arkansas Baptists will fill key leadership roles during next month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Ronnie Floyd, Ronnie Rogers and Jim Richards will be among Arkansas Baptists featured during the June 11-13 meeting in New Orleans.

Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, will preach the annual convention sermon at 11:20 a.m. on Wednesday. As chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, he also will be involved in presenting Executive Committee recommendations during Tuesday business sessions.

Floyd also will preach during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference prior to the SBC annual meeting and will be nominated as Pastors' Conference president. Floyd's message at 2:20 p.m. on Monday will mark the fourth consecutive year he has preached during the Pastors' Conference.

Prior to Floyd's message at the SBC,

Buster Pray will direct the Awaken America Singers and Band, a musical group from First Church, Springdale. Pray, who is associate pastor of worship ministries at the Springdale church, also will lead congregational praise and worship prior to Floyd's message during the Pastors' Conference.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is serving as chairman of the 1996 SBC Committee on Nominations. The Committee on Nominations is responsible for recommending members to serve on the SBC Executive Committee, as well as trustees of convention boards, institutions and commissions. Rogers, the immediate past president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will present the committee's report at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday. Also serving on the committee is Wesley Kluck, a member of Second Church, Arkadelphia.

Jim Richards, director of missions for Northwest Association, is serving as chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business. He will share committee reports throughout the three-day annual meeting. Richards is a former trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Also during the SBC annual meeting, Rob Hewell will lead congregational singing during the convention's Tuesday evening session. Hewell is director of the Arkansas Baptist church music ministries department.

Tom Cox, a vocational evangelist from Mountainburg, is serving as president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. Cox will be among the featured speakers during the conference's Wednesday afternoon session at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. He and his wife, Kay, also will share special music during the conference.

# 1996 SBC PREVIEW

## Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13 ■ Superdome ■ New Orleans

### Tuesday Morning

### '...Called by My Name'

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration – Adult Choir and Orchestra, John Walker, director, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.
- 8:30 Call to Order  
Congregational Singing – John V. Glover Jr., convention music director, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Atlanta  
Prayer – Bobby D. Brewer, layman, First Baptist Church, Quito, Miss.
- 8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention – Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) – Jim Richards, chairman, director of missions, Northwest Baptist Association, Rogers, Ark.
- 8:45 Welcome – Leon Hyatt, Pineville, La.
- 8:50 Response – Tony Rengifo, foreign missionary, Costa Rica
- 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:00 Theme Interpretation: "If My People...Called by My Name" – Larry D. Nail, pastor, First Baptist Church, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
- 9:10 Prayer for Revival – Tim Lafleur, BSU director, Nichols State University, Thibodaux, La.
- 9:15 Crossover New Orleans – Darrell W. Robinson, vice president, evangelist, Home Mission Board
- 9:20 Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 9:35 Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary Report – Stephen P. Carleton, secretary-treasurer
- 9:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) – Morris H. Chapman, president
- 10:40 Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report – Larry L. Lewis, president, Home Mission Board
- 10:45 Denominational Press Report – Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, Executive Committee
- 10:55 Woman's Missionary Union Report – Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director
- 11:05 Congregational Singing – Ragan M. Vandegriff, III, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 11:10 Music – Lightshine, Ragan M. Vandegriff, III, director, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.  
Kitty Henry Campbell, soloist, Nashville, Tenn.
- 11:20 President's Address – James B. Henry, SBC president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 12:00 Benediction – Joe Gebhardt, layman, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.

### Tuesday Afternoon

### '...Humble Themselves'

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration – The Centurymen, Buryl Red, director
- 1:20 Congregational Singing – Price Harris, music evangelist, Shreveport, La.
- 1:25 Theme Interpretation: "If My People...Humble Themselves" – Ron Dunn, evangelist, Irving, Texas
- 1:35 Prayer for Revival – Danicl Gage, evangelist, Houston

- 1:40 Business  
Committee on Order of Business (Second Report) – Jim Richards  
Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 1:50 Annuity Board Report – Paul W. Powell, president
- 2:00 Christian Life Commission Report – Richard D. Land, president
- 2:10 Congregational Singing – Danny Martinez, minister of music, Immanuel Baptist Church, Highland, Calif.
- 2:15 Committee on Nominations Report – Ronnie W. Rogers, chairman, pastor, Lakeside Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark.
- 2:25 Messenger Information Survey – David W. Atchison, SBC recording secretary
- 2:35 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:50 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) – Morris Chapman
- 2:50 Bold Mission Thrust Report – Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president, Executive Committee
- 4:00 Congregational Singing – Dick Thomassian, minister of music, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 4:05 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:15 Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 4:30 Election of Officers (Second)
- 4:45 Benediction – Larry D. Reagan, pastor, Hill Station Baptist Church, Goshen, Ohio

### Tuesday Evening

### '...Pray'

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration – Marshall Kellam, music evangelist, Louisville, Ky.  
Friends IV, gospel quartet, Nashville, Tenn.
- 6:20 Congregational Singing – Mark Blankenship, director, music department, Baptist Sunday School Board
- 6:25 Theme Interpretation: "If My People...Pray" – Donald Whitney, assistant professor of spiritual formation, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 6:35 Prayer for Revival – David Clark, layman, South Oaks Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.
- 6:40 Brotherhood Commission Report – James D. Williams, president
- 6:50 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:00 Sunday School Board Report – James T. Draper Jr., president
- 7:10 Sunday School Board Presentation
- 7:50 Congregational Singing – Rob Hewell, director, church music ministries, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock
- 7:55 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) – Jim Richards
- 8:00 Theme Interpretation: "If My People...Seek" – Don McMinn, professional associate, Intimate Life Ministries, Irving, Texas
- 8:10 Previously Scheduled Business and Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 8:15 Denominational Calendar Committee Report – Wade Bursleson, chairman, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Enid, Okla.
- 8:25 Benediction – Richard Vera, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church at Riverside, Denver


### Wednesday morning

### '...Turn'

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Chorus, H. Leroy Yarbrough, director, professor of choral conducting, New Orleans Seminary

# 'IF MY PEOPLE...'

SEEK MY FACE



TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS

HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY

## IF MY PEOPLE...

II CHRONICLES 7:14

### 1996 SBC ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 11-13 NEW ORLEANS

- 8:40 Congregational Singing – Byron Johnson, music director, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans
- 8:45 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee – Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, Executive Committee
- 8:50 Theme Interpretation: "If My People...Turn" – Paul Pressler, layman, First Baptist Church, Houston
- 9:00 Prayer for Revival – Joe Strahan, pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss.
- 9:05 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Radio and Television Commission Report – Jack B. Johnson, president
- 9:20 Congregational Singing – H. Leroy Yarbrough
- 9:25 Seminary Presentation and Reports – SBC seminary presidents
- 10:25 Congregational Singing – William J. Reynolds, distinguished professor of church music, Southwestern Seminary
- 10:30 Business  
Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) – Jim Richards
- Introduction of Motions (Last Time)
- 10:40 Previously Scheduled Business
- 11:00 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 11:05 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:10 Music – Awaken America Singers and Band, Buster Pray, director, associate pastor of worship-ministries, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
- 11:20 Convention Sermon – Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
- 12:00 Benediction – Barbara O'Chester, director, Great Hills Ladies Retreat Ministry, Austin, Texas

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### Wednesday Evening

### World Missions

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration – Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, Larry Black, director, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
- 6:25 Congregational Singing – Bill Cox, coordinator of volunteers in evangelism, Home Mission Board
- 6:30 Business  
Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report) – Jim Richards
- Election of 1997 Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director
- 6:35 Home Mission Board Report – Larry L. Lewis, president
- 6:45 Home Mission Board Presentation
- 7:05 Congregational Singing – John S. Conrad, Foreign Mission Board, music ministry, Korea
- 7:10 Baptist World Alliance Report – Denton Lotz, general secretary
- 7:20 Foreign Mission Board Report – Jerry Rankin, president
- 7:30 Zambian Acapella, singing ensemble, Zambia
- 7:40 Foreign Mission Board Presentation
- 8:55 Commitment Invitation
- 9:00 Benediction – June Cosby, layperson, Woodland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

### Thursday Morning

### '...Then I Will'

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration – Tim Kaufman, music evangelist, Winter Springs, Fla.
- 8:50 Gwen "Ms. Chocolate" Williams, soloist, New Orleans Congregational Singing – Carlo Sciara Jr., bivocational music director, Faith Baptist Church, Clayton, La.
- 8:55 Theme Interpretation: "If My People...Then I Will" – John Avant, pastor, Coggins Avenue Baptist Church, Brownwood, Texas
- 9:05 Prayer for Revival – Clark Fooshee, bivocational pastor, Sweet Spirit Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
- 9:10 Historical Commission Report – Slayden Yarbrough, interim executive director
- 9:20 Memorial Service – W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Dallas
- 9:25 Education Commission Report – Stephen P. Carleton, executive director
- 9:35 Southern Baptist Foundation Report – Hollis E. Johnson, president
- 9:45 Stewardship Commission Report – Ronald E. Chandler, president
- 9:55 American Bible Society Report – Eugene Habecker, president
- 10:05 Congregational Singing – Jim Watson, minister of music, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, Tenn.
- 10:10 Introduction of Past SBC Presidents – Jim Henry
- 10:15 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers – Morris Chapman
- 10:20 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers – Jim Henry
- 10:25 Previously Scheduled Business
- 10:35 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:50 Congregational Singing – John V. Glover Jr.
- 10:55 Music – Greater Vision, gospel trio, Morristown, Tenn.
- 11:05 Testimony – Rick Scarborough, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pearlard, Texas
- 11:20 Message – Bill McCartney, founder, Promise Keepers, Denver, Colo.
- 12:00 Prayer for Revival and Benediction – Frank Whitaker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lake Wales, Fla.

# RELATED MEETINGS

## Church musicians

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—A program of choirs and other musical groups, hymn singing and dramatic vignettes will be featured during the 1996 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

The conference, which is marking its 40th year, will meet June 9-10 at First Baptist Church, New Orleans. The theme for this year's conference will be "Come Together with Joy."

Conference president Bill Green said the evening worship services will be "times of praise and inspiration through music," featuring musical presentations, hymns and drama. The event begins at 1:45 p.m. on June 9 and will conclude the following day with a 7 p.m. worship service and concert.

## Baptist World Alliance

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The Baptist World Alliance's "Window on the World" breakfast will be held at 7 a.m., June 12, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans. The program will include comments from BWA general secretary Denton Lotz and others on the work of Baptists around the world.

The BWA is a fellowship of 187 Baptist conventions and unions, with a membership of more than 40 million believers. Tickets, at \$15 each, may be ordered from the BWA at 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101-6005; phone 703-790-8980.

## African American Fellowship

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Gary Frost, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be the guest speaker during the African American Fellowship's June 9 worship service. The service will be at 5:15 p.m. at New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

A business meeting and luncheon will begin at 10 a.m. June 10 in the Court of Two Sisters, 613 Rue Royale, New Orleans. The meeting will include a discussion of expanding the number of state-level fellowships across the country.

Ticket information for the luncheon may be obtained by contacting Ethel Williams at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, phone 804-219-1423.

## Hispanic Fellowship

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Baptist World Alliance president Nilson Fanini and Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry will be among the featured speakers during the National Southern Baptist Hispanic Fellowship Conference.

The June 8 conference will be conducted in Spanish in the chapel of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Hispanics account for 3,800 churches in the SBC, encompassing more than half a million members.

In addition to Fanini and Henry, featured speakers will include Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board; and Bob Sena, director of the Home Mission Board's office of Hispanic ministries. The 7 p.m. worship celebration's theme will be "Agents of Missions, Instead of Objects of Missions."

A proposed constitution will be discussed during the conference's 2 p.m. business meeting, also on June 8.

## Campus ministers

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Alabama pastor Alan Furr will address "Discernment, Conflicts, and the Baptist Quest for the Will of God" during the 1996 annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers. The June 7-9 sessions will be at New Orleans' Holiday Inn West Bank.

Furr is pastor of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and co-editor of the book, *Ties that Bind: Life Together in the Baptist Vision*.

Registration information is available by contacting Bob Ford, ASBCM vice president for membership, P.O. Box 151, Jacksonville, AL 36235.

## Directors of missions

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—"Resourcing the Association" will be the theme of the June 9-10 meeting of the Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the Radisson Hotel in New Orleans.

Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, La., and an adjunct professor of Old Testament at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead Bible studies during conference sessions at 1 p.m. June 9 and 9 a.m. June 10. Dennis Swanberg, a humorist and special assistant to the president for seminary relations at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be featured during the conference's 10:30 a.m. session June 10.

## Evangelists

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin will be among the featured speakers at the 38th annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 12.

The Wednesday afternoon program will begin at 1 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency's French Market Exhibit Hall in New Orleans.

Three keynote speakers will address various aspects of the conference theme, "Share His Love." Evangelist Eddie Martin of Lancaster, Pa., will speak on "Through Witnessing;" conference president Tom Cox, an evangelist from Mountainburg, Ark., on "Through the Preached Word;" and Rankin on "Proclaimed Around the World."

The organization also will host "Afterglow" sessions, titled this year "A Celebration of Gospel Singing," following the evening session of the SBC Pastors' Conference June 10 and the evening SBC session June 11. Both Afterglow programs will be held at the Hyatt French Market Exhibit Hall and will last until midnight.

## Researchers

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Research Fellowship's annual meeting will begin at 1 p.m., June 8, at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Growth. The fellowship's banquet and evening program will begin at 6:30 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The researchers' program will include an address on "Effective Evangelistic Research" by Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a presentation on "Helping Churches Make Wise Decisions" by Glenn Akins, director of research and consulting services for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Banquet tickets at \$15 each may be ordered from Clay Price at the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 333 N. Washington St., Dallas, TX 75246.

## Computer users

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—"On the Cutting Edge with SBC" will be the theme of this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association.

The June 7-8 meeting will be at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Growth. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. each day.

Topics to be addressed include "Avoid Being Road Kill on the Information Superhighway," "Homepaging with the WMu" and "Winning Habits." The group also will be given an overview of New Orleans Seminary's video teleconferencing facility.

The association's meeting is open to all interested individuals. Further information may be obtained by contacting Jamie Cooke at 770-410-6411 or John Hocking at 770-410-6419.



# 'FRUIT THAT REMAINS'

## SBC Pastors' Conference June 9-10 ■ Superdome ■ New Orleans

### Sunday Afternoon '...in Evangelism'

- 1:50 Pre-session Musical Praise — Choir, Metropolitan Baptist Church, John Mark Benson, Houston  
 2:00 Musical Praise — Becky Smith  
 2:05 Welcome — Johnny M. Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.  
 2:08 Scripture/Prayer — Walter Davidson  
 2:13 Musical Praise — Newsong  
 2:20 Message — Mack Brunson, pastor, Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, N.C.  
 2:45 Congregational Praise & Worship — Scott C. White  
 2:50 Message — Herb Reavis, pastor, North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 3:15 Choral Praise — Choir, Metropolitan Baptist Church  
 3:18 Message — Ike Reighard, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta  
 3:43 Prayer/Offering — John Dobbins  
 3:46 Testimony — Sunday School Board Report  
 3:56 Musical Praise — Michael Combs  
 4:00 Choral Praise — Choir, Metropolitan Baptist Church  
 4:03 Message — Rick Amato, evangelist, Lincoln Park, Mich.  
 4:30 Benediction — Shane Craven  
 Postlude — Metropolitan Baptist Church

### Sunday Evening '...In the Family'

- 6:10 Pre-session Musical Praise — Choir, Celebration Choir/Orchestra, Scott C. White, minister of music  
 6:20 Musical Praise — Jim Bob Griffin Family, Brad & Bekki Cox, Gold City Quartet  
 6:35 Welcome — Johnny Hunt  
 6:40 Scripture/Prayer — Norman Hunt  
 6:45 Congregational Praise & Worship — Dan Liles  
 6:50 Musical Praise — Gold City Quartet  
 7:00 Message — Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 7:25 Congregational Praise and Worship — Jerry Evans  
 7:30 Testimony — Paul Negrut, Second Baptist Church, Oradea, Romania  
 7:45 Musical Praise — Tyrone Adams/Newsong  
 7:55 Message — Fred Lowrey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.  
 8:20 Prayer & Offering — Jerry Spencer  
 8:25 Musical Praise — David Riddle, Brent & Erica Murray, Becky Smith  
 8:40 Choral Praise — Celebration Choir/Orchestra  
 8:45 Message — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.  
 9:15 Benediction — Eddie Rhodes  
 Postlude — Celebration Choir/Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

### Monday morning '...In the Church'

- 8:15 Pre-session Musical Praise — First Baptist Church Choir, Bossier City, La., Jerry Ables, minister of music  
 8:30 Musical Praise — Wings  
 8:35 Scripture/Prayer — Bruce Cooke  
 8:40 Congregational Praise & Worship — George W. Puckett  
 8:45 Musical Praise — Greater Vision  
 8:50 Message — Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.

- 9:15 Musical Praise — Ernie Haase  
 9:20 Choral Praise — First Baptist Church Choir, Bossier City  
 9:25 Message — Ken Hemphill, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
 9:50 Congregational Praise & Worship — Jim Van Matre  
 9:55 Testimony — Bull Bramlett, evangelist, Memphis, Tenn.  
 10:10 Prayer & Offering — Harold Hudson  
 10:15 Musical Praise — Jeff & Joy Earle, Greater Vision  
 10:25 Message — Tom Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.  
 10:50 Musical Praise — Ernie Haase  
 10:55 Choral Praise — First Baptist Church Choir, Bossier City  
 11:00 Message — James Merritt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Snelville, Ga.  
 11:30 Benediction — Randy Kilby  
 Postlude — FBC, Bossier City, Choir

### Monday Afternoon '...In America'

- 1:10 Pre-session Musical Praise — Champion Forest Baptist Church, Dick Hill  
 1:25 Scripture/Prayer/Testimony — Rick Gage  
 1:35 Musical Praise — Larnelle Harris  
 1:45 Message — Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Hixson, Tenn.  
 2:10 Congregational Praise & Worship — Buster Pray  
 2:15 Choral Praise — Champion Forest Baptist Church Choir  
 2:20 Message — Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.  
 2:45 Musical Praise — Eddie Middleton  
 2:50 Election of Officers — Johnny Hunt  
 3:00 Musical Praise — Greater Vision  
 3:05 Message — Bailey Smith, evangelist, Atlanta  
 3:30 Prayer & Offering — Larry Wilson  
 3:35 Congregational Praise & Worship — Richard K. Forbus  
 3:40 Testimony — Steve Hale, evangelist, Evansville, Ind.  
 3:50 Musical Praise — Michael Combs  
 3:55 Choral Praise — Champion Forest Baptist Church Choir  
 4:00 Message — Phil Hoskins, pastor, Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn.  
 4:30 Benediction — David Beecham  
 Postlude — Champion Forest Baptist Church Choir

### Monday Evening '...In the World'

- 6:10 Pre-session Musical Praise — First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.  
 6:25 Musical Praise — Johnny Hall  
 6:30 Scripture/Prayer/Testimony — Steve Flockhart  
 6:40 Welcome — Johnny Hunt  
 6:45 Congregational Praise & Worship — R. Todd Bell  
 6:50 Introduction of 1997 Pastors' Conference Officers  
 7:00 Choral Praise — First Baptist Church, Woodstock  
 7:05 Message — Jay Strack, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.  
 7:30 Presentation — Home Mission Board  
 7:30 Musical Praise — Michael Combs  
 7:45 Prayer & Offering — John Cross  
 7:50 Musical Praise — Larnelle Harris  
 8:00 Message — Henry Blackaby, director, Prayer and Spiritual Awakening, Home Mission Board  
 8:25 Musical Praise — Becky Smith  
 8:30 Testimony — Bruce Schmidt, Southern Baptist foreign missionary, Uganda  
 8:55 Choral Praise — Celebration Choir/Orchestra  
 9:00 Message — John Bisagno, pastor, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 9:30 Benediction — Larry Wilson



# 1996 SBC PREVIEW

All six Southern Baptist seminaries will host annual alumni luncheons June 12 in conjunction with next month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

## Midwestern Seminary

Two distinguished alumni awards and two honorary alumni awards will be presented during Midwestern Seminary's annual alumni luncheon at noon, June 12, in the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. The luncheon also will feature comments from seminary president Mark Coppenger.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$15 in advance or \$20 at Midwestern's booth at the Southern Baptist Convention. Advance reservations may be made by calling the seminary relations and alumni office at 816-453-4600.

## Southwestern Seminary

Four Southwestern Seminary alumni will receive the 1996 distinguished alumni award during the seminary's June 12 alumni luncheon. The luncheon will be held in the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, immediately following the Wednesday morning session.

The keynotespeaker will be seminary president Ken Hemphill, J.W. "Jack" MacGorman, distinguished professor of New Testament, emeritus, will share seminary highlights.

Tickets will be on sale at the convention or in advance by sending \$10 to the Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122.

## New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be held June 12 on the seminary campus beginning at noon.

In the style of an old-fashioned church "homecoming," the reunion will begin with a dinner on the grounds in the quadrangle area of the campus, featuring an all-you-can-eat barbecue lunch.

Tickets are on sale now by mail. Tickets ordered by May 24 will cost \$5 each; tickets ordered after May 24 and those purchased at the NOBTS exhibit at the SBC will cost \$7.50 each. Ticket sales at the SBC will end at noon on June 11.

The homecoming meeting will be held in the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel and begin at 1:15 p.m. with a pre-service concert featuring a choir of music alumni. The service will begin at 1:30 p.m., featuring a report from the seminary's new president, Charles S. Kelley Jr. The service will include the annual presentation of the distinguished alumni awards.

## New Orleans registration forecast: 19,000

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptists will return to the Louisiana Superdome for their 1996 annual meeting—the ninth time the SBC has met in New Orleans—but the attendance is expected to be only about half that of the previous SBC meeting there, according to SBC registration secretary Lee Porter.

The June 11-13 annual meeting is expected to attract an estimated 19,000 messengers, Porter said. In 1990, the last time the SBC met in New Orleans, 38,403 messengers registered. The largest SBC registration was in 1985 in Dallas when 45,519 registered. Last year in Atlanta, for the SBC's 150th anniversary, there were 20,654 registered messengers.

Porter, a retired Baptist Sunday School Board official, has had an impressive record in predicting convention registration totals since his election as registration secretary in 1978.

Porter said registration will open in the Superdome at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday and Tuesday. It will close each day at 9 p.m.

The registration area is located at Gate C, 100 level, the first level above the floor of the dome. Gate C is the entrance facing the convention hotel, the Hyatt Regency.

Porter urged messengers to request messenger cards from their state convention office. He said messengers should "properly fill them out and bring them to

the meeting." If a messenger comes to the meeting without a properly filled-out card, Porter said the person must go before the convention's Credentials Committee in order to register.

## Southern Seminary

Southern Seminary's annual Alumni and Friends Luncheon will be held June 12 at 1 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. The event will include the presentation of the school's distinguished alumni awards, an address by seminary president Al Mohler and music by Lloyd Mims, dean of the seminary's school of church music.

Tickets for this year's luncheon are \$17.50 each if an advance reservation is made and \$19 each if purchased in New Orleans without a reservation. Reservations are available by calling the seminary at 1-800-626-5525, ext. 4700.

## Southeastern Seminary

Alumni and friends of Southeastern Seminary will enjoy Cajun cuisine during the school's national alumni luncheon June 12 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans.

The program will feature an address by seminary president Paige Patterson and presentation of the school's distinguished alumnus award, "Faithful Men," a vocal ensemble from the seminary's men chorale, will provide music for the luncheon.

Adult meals are \$12 each. Reserved tickets may be purchased at Southeastern's alumni office prior to May 20. A limited number of luncheon tickets will be available at the seminary booth in the convention exhibit hall. Further information is available by calling the alumni office at 919-556-3101.

## Golden Gate Seminary

Golden Gate Seminary will host its alumni and friends luncheon June 12 following the morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention. The luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans.

President William Crews will provide a "state of the seminary" report and address issues of leadership and change. He also will make several award presentations from the alumni association.

Luncheon tickets are \$18 each and may be purchased in advance from the Office of Institutional Advancement, 201 Seminary Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941. For more information, call 415-388-8080, ext. 296.

Convention manager Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee, said previously reserved rooms in some New Orleans hotels have become available for the SBC. He said individuals needing rooms should call the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau Housing number, 1-800-345-1187, before May 8.

After May 8, all reservations and change requests must be handled directly with the individual hotels, Wilkerson said.

## Woman's Missionary Union June 9-10 ■ Marriott Hotel ■ New Orleans

### Sunday Afternoon '...To People in the Homeland'

- 2:30 Prelude/Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller, national WMU president, Huntsville, Ala.  
Hymns – "God of Mercy, God of Grace,"  
"I Bless the Christ of God,"  
"Thou, Whose Almighty Word"  
Meditation – Christine Anderson, handbells, Houston  
Prayer  
This Is Home Missions – Video Presentation  
Missionary Dialogue – Herbert Martin, New Orleans;  
Carol Zimmerman, Baltimore  
Hymn – "Reach Out and Touch"  
Recognition of Home Missionaries  
Special Music – Doris DeHaney, Pike Road, Ala.  
Message – Larry Lewis, president, Home Mission Board  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Benediction

### Sunday Evening '...To People Overseas'

- 7:00 Prelude  
Hymns – "We Have a Gospel to Proclaim,"  
"People Need the Lord"  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Prayer  
Listen to the World – Video Presentation  
Missionary Dialogue – Vivian Boyle, Tanzania;  
Susie Edworthy, Poland  
Hymn – "Let Your Heart Be Broken"  
Recognition of Foreign Missionaries  
Special Music – Doris DeHaney  
Message – Jerry Rankin, president, Foreign Mission Board  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Benediction

### Monday Morning '...To Women through Ministry'

- 9:30 Prelude  
Hymns – "The Servant Song,"  
"Tell the Good News"  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Prayer  
Ministering in His Name – Video Presentation  
Executive Board Report – Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director  
Offertory Prayer – Richard Carnes, Birmingham, Ala.  
Offering  
Hymn – "Freely, Freely"  
Ministry Opportunities through the Church – Jane Ferguson, Montgomery, Ala.  
A Reason to Give Thanks – Martha Hawkins, Montgomery, Ala.  
Special Music – Doris DeHaney  
Ministry Opportunities through the Association – Camille Simmons, San Antonio, Texas  
Hymn – "People Need the Lord"  
President's Address – Carolyn Miller  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Benediction

### Monday Afternoon '...To Youth and Children'

- 2:00 Prelude  
Hymns – "I'll Tell the World That I'm a Christian,"  
"To the Work"  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Prayer  
Ministering in His Name – Video Presentation  
Message – Diana Garland, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Hymns – "Jesus Loves the Little Children,"  
"Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands," "Jesus Loves Me"  
Acteens Panelists – Sarah Groves, Birmingham, Ala.;  
Andrea Aldridge, New Johnsonville, Tenn.; Michele Banks, Jacksonville, Texas; April Grigg, Moweauqua, Ill.; Kristin Henson, Washington, Okla.; Kate Van Horn, Herndon, Va.; Kellie Williams, Murray, Ky.  
Hymn – "Do You Really Care"  
Special Music – Doris DeHaney  
Address – Lyle E. Schaller, research associate, National Evangelical Association  
Hymn – "Love Is the Theme"  
Election of Officers  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Benediction

### Monday Evening '...Celebrate Christ'

- 7:00 Pre-session Music – Oklahoma Baptist Symphony  
Hymns – "I Will Sing of My Redeemer,"  
"Share His Love," "Reach Out and Touch,"  
"Glorify Thy Name"  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Missions is Celebrating Christ – Video Presentation  
Concert – The Centurymen  
Message – Leonard Sweet, dean of theology,  
Drew University, Madison, N.J.  
Hymn – "Lord, Here Am I"  
Meditation – Christine Anderson  
Benediction

### SBC Ministers' Wives Luncheon

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The 1996 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will feature Jeannette Henry and Gwen "Miss Chocolate" Williams.

Highlighting the theme "Stepping in the Light," the 41st annual luncheon will be held at noon Tuesday, June 11, at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, according to conference president Betty Baggott.

Henry, wife of Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry, will tell of her role as "preacher's wife" and as the mother of three "preacher's kids."

Williams has been ministering through music in New Orleans and throughout the nation since the 1970s. She developed the first inner-city children's choir while serving as a home missionary in New Orleans.

Tickets ordered by May 20 are \$18 per person and are available by sending a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Betty Jean Billingsley at Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, 3751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL 33021. After May 20, tickets will be \$20 per person and may be purchased at the Southern Baptist Convention near the messenger registration site through June 10. Baggott said husbands are welcome to attend the luncheon.

## Dilday urges Arkansas CBF to affirm historic principles

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Declaring that "faithfulness is like music in the ears of God," Russell Dilday highlighted the urgency of "faithfulness to our task, to our heritage and to our Lord."

Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the featured speaker for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas' 1996 General Assembly. The fourth annual event, held April 19-20 at Calvary Church in Little Rock, attracted 135 registered participants. CBF of Arkansas is affiliated with the national CBF, a fellowship of individuals and churches displeased with the current philosophy and direction of Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

Dilday served 16 years as Southwestern Seminary president before being fired two years ago by conservative trustees. He currently serves as distinguished professor of homiletics at Truett Seminary.

Interpreting the assembly theme, "Proclaiming the Way, Telling the Truth, Living the Life," Dilday said, "We serve a faithful God who has been faithful to us and we must never be ashamed of Him.... We must wholeheartedly commit ourselves to Him."

### 'Priceless heritage'

Affirming that "Baptists have been given a priceless denominational heritage," he lamented that Baptists also "have turned bickering into an art form."

Historic Baptist principles of soul competency, freedom of conscience, separation of church and state and voluntary cooperation "are very crucial today. They need to be kept alive," Dilday said.

"The most important question," he continued, "is will we be found faithful to our Lord? Tolerance has become a kind of virtue. Tolerance is important but when tolerance blurs distinctions, it becomes a sin. We can become too tolerant. God demands intolerance in our relationship to Him. We must never be guilty of being ashamed of Jesus in an attempt to popularize the faith."

During an earlier message on "Telling the Truth," Dilday emphasized the need for Christian integrity and authenticity. "You can't play it safe in following Christ," he insisted. "You don't play politics; you don't sell out for the popular side. Follow Christ in truth, take risks no matter what the cost."

"We're not to let ambition rob us of

integrity," he warned. "Let success be measured by how totally we surrender to His will."

"How can you tell a follower of Christ is real?" he asked. "You can tell genuine Christian faith if it has deep spiritual roots. Our deep spiritual convictions must be deeply rooted in the Word of God."

During a Saturday business session, Randy Hyde, pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, was named moderator-elect of Arkansas CBF. Fred Ball, pastor of Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock, succeeds Diane Swaim, minister to singles at Second Church, Little Rock, as moderator. Hal Bass, a member of First Church, Arkadelphia, and a professor at Ouachita Baptist University, was elected to the National CBF Council.

A 1996 state CBF budget of \$38,000 was adopted, including \$12,000 for missions, \$11,700 for education and \$14,300 for administration.

Participants also heard a mission statement committee report which will be voted on during next year's general assembly. The proposed mission statement reads: "The purpose of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas is to enable every Christian to carry out the Great Commission under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to preserve and propagate individual and historic Baptist freedoms and distinctives, including the priesthood of all believers, the acceptance of the authority of the Bible without the aid of creeds, the autonomy of each church, and the separation of church and state in the interests of religious liberty."

In addition to the worship and business sessions, the conference featured small-group "breakout sessions" on topics ranging from "Issues and Options in Baptist Theological Education" to "The CBF Global Missions Program."

Layne Smith, pastor of Rolling Hills Church in Fayetteville, led a workshop about "Developing CBF in Arkansas."

"CBF, as I see it, is a tool, not an end in itself," Smith said. "It is an enabling organization to help churches be more faithful in their contexts.... Personally, I think the last thing we need is a new denomination in a post-denominational age."

Noting that some Baptists view CBF "as a threat," he acknowledged, "By our existence that's a strong political statement that all is not well in Zion." He added, however, that the group's primary goals are to determine "what we can do positively for the Kingdom of God" and to "get on with the Lord's work."

## CBF study group examines options for the future

ATLANTA (ABP) — A committee appointed last summer to study whether the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should form a national Baptist body outside the Southern Baptist Convention is completing its work and will report in June, a member of the committee said April 18.

Findings of the study commission will be available at the Fellowship's general assembly this June, said Eileen Campbell-Reed, a minister from Cartersville, Ga.

The full report "will probably be close to 200 pages of summaries, reports and papers," Campbell-Reed said in a report on the study committee's work during an April 18-20 meeting of the Fellowship's Coordinating Council.

The commission was appointed by CBF moderator Pat Anderson after a motion at last summer's general assembly that the Fellowship start a new "denomination" was ruled out of order. The commission is chaired by Randall Lolley, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

While some are calling for the Fellowship to form a new national Baptist body separate from the SBC, the committee's task is not to recommend either for or against a formal schism, Campbell-Reed said.

Instead, the committee's purpose "is to raise our level of conversation and understanding about issues involved in CBF becoming or not becoming a separate convention," the report stated.

Letters to the committee from Fellowship constituents ran the gamut from those advocating a new convention to those opposing the idea and others calling for the Fellowship to "try something new," Campbell-Reed said.

In an informal survey of current and past members of the Coordinating Council, Fellowship leaders disagreed by a more than 2-1 margin with a statement that the Fellowship should become a separate convention as soon as possible.

Responding to another question, however, only 14 leaders said the CBF should never become a convention, compared to 51 who disagreed and 27 who were undecided.

Campbell-Reed said she believes the commission's research will help shape the Fellowship's future.

## Prayer, fasting for Tibet set for May 24

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptists have set aside a 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. May 24 to pray for the people of Tibet, the region of Asia famous for its rugged Himalaya Mountains and home to the highest peaks in the world.

Each spring, Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians devote one day to prayer for a specific group of people who have little or no access to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. The 1996 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focuses on the nearly 5 million Tibetans worldwide.

Tibet lost its brief independence as a Buddhist state in 1950 when China invaded the country. Tibetans have stubbornly defended their culture and ethnic identity against communist efforts to integrate them into Chinese society. There are no more than a handful of Christians in Tibet, and no known congregations.

A resource kit to support the prayer emphasis is available free of charge from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The kit includes a video about Tibetans, news coverage on Tibet adapted from *The Commission* magazine and a prayer guide. To order, call 1-800-866-3621 or write Customer Services, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

## Baptists to feed devastated North Korean city

LONDON (BP)—North Korean officials have asked Southern Baptists to help feed a flood-ravaged city for the next six months.

"We were asked to help from now until October in the rescue of a city. We would supply one meal a day to about 50,000 people," explained Bill Cashion, a member of a team sent in April by Cooperative Services International (CSI).

CSI is a Southern Baptist overseas relief and development organization. The six-member team included representatives from CSI, Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Mission.

North Korean officials appealed to the team to provide food to one of any number of cities or villages in the nation's disaster area. Food shortages in flood-stricken areas have affected up to 5 million North Koreans.

"This is one of the highest priorities for Southern Baptist relief work," Cashion said. "From what we saw, literally thousands of people will starve this winter without our help. God has given us a wonderful opportunity to help others in the name of Christ."

Southern Baptists have already sent several shipping containers of food, plus tons of wheat flour and corn, with much more on the way. In January CSI announced it would spend \$500,000 in Southern Baptist hunger relief funds to send food aid into the isolated communist country.

## Giving decline forces cuts in hunger aid

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—A steady decline in Southern Baptist giving to hunger and relief has forced dramatic reductions in human needs ministries around the world. Giving dropped from \$7.2 million in 1991 to \$5.7 million in 1995 — a 20.5 percent decrease. As reserves have dwindled, ministry spending has been pared back — from \$10.2 million in 1991 to \$5.8 million this past year, a 42.4 percent reduction.

Ongoing ministries are being funded at half-level, reported Bill Cashion, a former missionary to Venezuela who directs the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's human needs program. Cashion said some of the best opportunities for ministry are being lost for lack of funds and new requests are discouraged, except in the case of dire catastrophes like the current famine in North Korea.

Southern Baptists ought to be enlarging, not retrenching human needs ministries because they represent a strategic opportunity to share God's love with 1.7 billion people who've

never had a chance to hear of it, said Avery Willis, the FMB's senior vice president for overseas operations.

The 225 ministry projects conducted in 62 countries during 1995 touched refugees and victims of flood, drought, disease and famine in the name of Jesus. Points of ministry ranged from southern Asia and the Pacific to Brazil and the Caribbean. The \$5.8 million spent taught people how to farm and fish and build — and told them about a God who can meet all their needs.

But if the giving trend continues, even those ministries will have to stop, Cashion warned.

"People need to see that when they give to human needs ministries, they are sowing seeds that will result in a great harvest of souls," he said. "When we approach people with a cup of cold water in one hand and the bread of life in the other, God's going to open the doors."

## Volunteers serve in South African camps

MOUNTAINBURG, AR (BP)—More than 250,000 people — sometimes as many as a half-million — camp outside South African cities, building homes of tin, dirt or whatever they can find. They are literally in the dark without electricity and spiritually in the dark without the gospel of Jesus Christ.

More than 3,000 South Africans were given medical care by 22 volunteer Southern Baptist medical professionals from 12 states in a two-week trip focusing on squatters' villages. About 800 of the patients accepted Christ through the team's witness, according to Tom Cox World Ministries, a partnership evangelism organization from Mountainburg, that organized the trip. The volunteers donated medicine and 3,000 pairs of eyeglasses.

"There weren't any doctors with us, so we couldn't diagnose," said Teresa Littles, an assistant in a physician's office in Sarcoxie, Mo.

"We just did what we could," said Littles, who worked in a tent in an Erwatwa village. The nurses and nurses' aides distributed vitamins and antibiotics while an optometrist distributed the eyeglasses.

The nurses and optometrist provided patients with primary health care while other volunteers preached and counseled those waiting to be seen. South African pastors assisted in ministering to underprivileged people in the Ivory Park squatter camp near Johannesburg and the Jubilee Hospital near Pretoria.

Tom Cox, who works with the the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in soliciting volunteer medical teams, declared the South Africa trip a success. "Because of the people we took and because of the cooperation between whites and blacks, it was a milestone in race relations," he said.

## Luis Palau featured on FamilyNet, ACTS

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Over the past 30 years, almost 12 million people in 63 countries have heard international evangelist Luis Palau in person. That number has been multiplied many times by those who have heard him on radio and television.

His call-in TV program, "Night Talk with Luis Palau," is now aired on FamilyNet, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission broadcast television service that reaches into more than 33 million homes, and on ACTS, the RTVC's cable television service that reaches into more than 25 million homes through the Faith and Values Channel. Both FamilyNet and ACTS broadcast the program on Sundays at 10 p.m.

"Luis Palau brings a very vibrant, inspirational program to our weekly ministry mix," said Deborah Key, RTVC vice president of network operations and general manager of FamilyNet and ACTS. She said Palau addresses "genuine needs in the lives of people who are lost and seeking the saving power of Christ in their lives."

## Perry: Agency residents 'suffer from broken hearts'

The head of Arkansas Baptists' children's homes said during a recent interview that the ministry is in the business of "providing the material, physical and emotional needs of children" to "fix broken hearts."

David Perry, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, said that residents at any of the agency's nine residential programs "suffer from broken hearts and have been physically, emotionally or sexually abused, often by someone they love or trust."

Perry emphasized that each child has a unique background that requires unique care. He said some of the stories told by the children in the agency's care "break my heart, too."

He told of residents such as 12-year-old Carl at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home at Monticello, whose needs often stem from poor care at home.

"His physically abusive father attempted to murder Carl's mother," said Perry, who added that Carl was recently recognized as an honor student.

He also pointed out the situation of 11-year-old Sharon, who told Perry that before coming to the Home, her parents "beat me and locked me in the trunk of car over and over," he said. "Finally, I ran and ran and never went back."

While most of the Children's Homes residents are placed there for long-term care needs, Perry said that the agency's six Emergency Receiving Homes provide immediate, 24-hour-a-day care to children in short-term emergency situations, servicing 374 last year alone.

Perry noted that ERH residents illustrate some of the most graphic forms of abuse or neglect.

"There was six-month-old Becky, who was abandoned on a street corner one night and found only wearing a diaper," he recalled, "Or nine-year-old Casey, whose scarred neck was caused by being chained to a bed."

He also reported on the ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch near Harrison, noting that, "Although we don't easily see the preciousness of teenage boys with chemical and drug addictions, the Lord still sees potential for changed lives."

He said that boys like Jake, 15, who he described as an "aggressive six-foot, 230-pounder," were among other former residents successful in breaking their dependency on drugs.

"Jake began stealing drinks from his alcoholic father at age seven," said Perry. "At nine, he was using marijuana and...by age 12, he was a regular user of cocaine."

"When Jake entered our program," he said, "his first report from the Ranch stated

that, 'Jake refuses to follow rules and is defiant to his houseparents.'

"We planned to release him, but gave him one more chance," said Perry. "Jake's last report indicated that he was serious about his program to maintain sobriety, participated actively in church activities and won the Citizenship Award, the highest honor given by the Ranch."

Churches are observing the Mother's Day Offering for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries May 12. For more information on how your church can observe the offering or help support the agency, which relies on special gifts for nearly half of its budget needs, contact Perry at 1-800-838-ABSC in state in Little Rock at 376-4791, ext. 5167.



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Tuesday Night  
7:00 p.m.



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BSU

## BSU directors named for West Memphis, Magnolia campuses

Two campuses in Arkansas have new Baptist Student Union directors. Ben Phillips has been elected as full-time Baptist Student Union director for the Southern Arkansas University campus at Magnolia, effective June 1 and Hubert Jarvis is the new volunteer BSU director at Mid-South Community College.

An Illinois native, Phillips is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, where he served on the BSU council and was BSU president. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has served as associate pastor and youth minister on church staffs in Texas and Georgia. He most recently was a dorm supervisor at Texas Christian University.



*Phillips*

"I'm excited about making a difference with Christ to the students and then they in turn can make a difference in the lives of others," Phillips said.

Jarvis, pastor of Ingram Boulevard Church in West Memphis, recently had become aware of the need to start a BSU on campus. "I saw the college and made inquiries," Jarvis noted. "I knew the state student ministries office wanted to start BSUs at all the campuses in the state, so I wanted to see what I could do..."

Referring to the need for more volunteer BSU directors, George Sims, an associate in the state student ministries department, said, "Volunteers are some of the most highly motivated people I work with."

A native of Mississippi, Jarvis has been preaching for 39 years, and has been serving as pastor in Arkansas since 1989. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College in Mississippi, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Trinity Theological Seminary in Indiana. He and his wife, Daphne, have a daughter, Jessica, who is a junior at Marion High School.

### Correction

Printed material furnished by the Christian Civic Action Committee contained an incorrect phone number which was published in the April 18 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. The correct number is 1-800-665-6883. Individuals interested in assisting the CCAC's anti-gambling campaign may call the toll-free number for more information.



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## Foreign Mission Board appoints two couples with Arkansas ties

The Foreign Mission Board appointed couples with ties to Jonesboro and Rogers during a commissioning worship service April 20 at the Show Me Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Gary and Mary Jo Merkel and Scott and Sandra George were among 37 people appointed during the service. The couples join more than 4,200 missionaries working in 129 countries through the FMB. They help Southern Baptists move closer to their goal of 5,000 missionaries by the year 2000.

The Merkels will live in Germany, where he will work as pastor of International Baptist Church in Stuttgart and both will be involved in outreach ministries.

He has served as associate pastor of Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, since 1992. He previously has served as pastor of Russell Park Baptist Church in Fort Myers, Fla.

She is the former Mary Jo Richey and was born in Jonesboro, the daughter of the late Paul and Lela Mae Richey. She was recently a secretary for the Amarillo Independent School District and has served as an administrative assistant at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock.

The Georges will live in Portugal, where he will work as a national youth ministry consultant for the Portuguese Baptist Convention and both will be involved in various outreach ministries.

Recently the Georges were FMB International Service Corps workers in



Gary and Mary Jo Merkel



Scott and Sandra George

Scotland. He has served as minister of youth at First Baptist Church in Carrollton, Ky., and a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Alberta.

She is the former Sandra Fruland, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fruland of Rogers. While growing up she lived in Rogers and Centerville.

Both the Georges and the Merkels will attend a seven-week orientation session in August in Rockville, Va., before leaving for the field.



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## MISSIONARY NOTES

**Stephen and Susan Bowers**, missionaries to Ecuador, are on the field (address: Casilla 328, Cuenca, Ecuador). He was born in Blytheville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1988.

**Robert and Nancy Calvert**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 30405, Nairobi, Kenya). He is a native of Little Rock. They were appointed in 1990.

**Jeffery and Nell Glinn**, missionaries to Colombia, are on the field (address: Apartado Aereo 6613, Cali, Colombia). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Forrest

City and considers West Memphis his hometown. They were appointed in 1991.

**Kenneth and Shelly Izzard**, missionaries to Togo, are in the States (address: 605 Ash, Conway, AR 72032). The former Shelly Ellenburg, she was born in Helena and considers Marvell her hometown. They were appointed in 1992.

**Danny and Cheryl Johnson**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 7506, DAPO LOCK B, 1300 Domestic Rd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines). He is a native of Monticello. The former Cheryl Fitch, she

considers Monticello her hometown. They were appointed in 1988.

**Dee Oliver**, missionary to the Philippines, is on the field (address: Barrio Sainz, 8200 Mati, Davao Oriental, Philippines). A native of Hampton, she was appointed by the FMB in 1958.

**Ed and Greta Pinkston**, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, are in the States (address: 211 East BSt., North Little Rock, AR 72116). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Camden and grew up in Crossett. The former Greta McFerrin, she was born in Hill Top and lived there and in Harrison while growing up. They were appointed in 1966.

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### MK prayer calendar

■ May 5: Joel Gaddis, OBU Box 4188, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; junior from Malaysia.

■ May 12: Amber Bryant, OBU Box 3806; freshman from Thailand.

■ May 15: John Davidson, OBU Box 3098; junior from Nigeria.

■ May 25: Joanna Newton, OBU Box 4147; sophomore from South Korea.

■ May 25: Joanna Bruce, OBU Box 3836; freshman from Guatemala.

■ May 26: Nathan Cartwright, OBU Box 4158; freshman from the Philippines.

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## Southern to transfer social work school, Garland resigns

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has set the process in motion to phase out its Carver School of Church Social Work and transfer it to another institution.

In a related development, former Carver dean Diana R. Garland submitted her resignation from Southern Seminary's faculty, effective July 31.

Garland has been a social work faculty member since 1983 and was dean of the Carver school from 1993 until March 1995 when she was dismissed from the position by seminary president Al Mohler in a dispute over the hiring of a new faculty member.

In her letter of resignation, Garland said, "Given faculty and administrative losses and the institutional constraints we are currently experiencing, the Carver School cannot continue to offer quality graduate social work education an additional year, regardless of my efforts."

Paul F.W. Kim, a social work professor at Louisiana State University, will serve as dean of the Carver school for the 1996-97 academic year. Meanwhile, the trustee committee studying the Carver school announced that the seminary administration and Campbellsville University president Ken Winters had "agreed in principle" to transfer the Carver school to Campbellsville.

Campbellsville, a Kentucky Baptist Convention-supported school, has been negotiating with the seminary for several months. The 1,300-student institution offers a bachelor's degree program in social work and with the acquisition of the Carver school will implement a new master's program.

Mohler said the seminary has submitted documents to the Council on Social Work Education outlining its plans for the final year of the school. CSWE has indicated accreditation will continue if the seminary meets CSWE standards.

Approximately 25 students will remain in the Carver school following May graduation. The seminary has offered financial assistance to students who want to transfer to another school.

In October, seminary trustees voted to transfer the Carver school to another institution. The Carver school study committee recommended the school be transferred, noting that "considerable differences exist in the structures, processes and issues of social work education and theological studies."

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## Coppenger inaugurated as Midwestern Seminary president

KANSAS CITY, MO (BP)—The Christian world desperately needs "an array of stalwart institutions" to provide direction in a "stunningly disoriented world," declared Mark Coppenger in his inaugural address April 22 on the campus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"What shall the name Midwestern Seminary signify? Shall it bring to mind an institution wholly committed to the things of God, or shall it be known as just one more place where they played at consecration?" Coppenger asked. "Forbid the latter. Let us resolve that Midwestern

Baptist Theological Seminary demonstrate to the world what one school wholly committed to God might mean.

"God, grant us a school which stays with the stuff through the years for His name sake," he declared.

"I think of Midwestern as a youth meeting, for we are a school in its adolescence. We've had our share of follies of youth, the starts and stops of a budding institution. And it is now time to set our course for effectual Christian maturity."

The inaugural ceremony concluded a weekend of activities held in a 1,200-seat

tent pitched on the seminary campus. Other activities celebrating Coppenger's inauguration included a community rally with Adrian Rogers and a 24-hour prayer vigil.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., preached on the necessity of the seminary being "the fountainhead of a great soul-winning movement that will reach this nation."

Emphasizing that "the business of this seminary is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring souls to heaven," Rogers added that "any seminary that does not teach soul-winning is guilty of high treason."

Evangelical theologian and author Carl F.H. Henry provided the keynote address of the inaugural ceremony.

Alluding to the imagery of "prairie fire" advocated by Coppenger in his first months in office to promote revival in the Midwest/Great Plains region, Henry said, "Sometimes it is hard to get a fire going, but God can fan the dying embers to flame, and He promises to do so for a people eager for the Holy Spirit's warmth and glow.

"Playing with fire is a risky venture," Henry warned. "Our God is a consuming fire. You had best be sure that you bear God's full armor and walk with Christ who can quell the flames at their height."

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## Consulting firm to help participants choose Annuity Board investments

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has teamed with the Frank Russell consulting firm to assist annuity participants in making savings and investment decisions. An educational program called LifePoints has been customized for the Annuity Board and licensed for use by the board and its plan participants.

A new 13-fund investment structure will soon replace the Annuity Board's four current retirement investment funds. To help each participant select an appropriate investment strategy, each participant will receive the LifePoints investment education program.

### Free seminar offered

A free investment education seminar, which will include an overview of the LifePoints program, is scheduled in every geographic area of the country and at Baptist institutions and agencies. Participants who cannot attend a seminar will receive a LifePoints kit by mail in late summer.

Curtis Sharp, vice president in fiduciary services at the Annuity Board, is spearheading the communications effort. Officers and staffs in the member services and fiduciary services divisions, state annuity representatives and others trained by the Annuity Board will conduct dozens of seminars.

"The educational seminars will help participants select an investment strategy that they feel is right for them," Sharp explained. "The program's ultimate objective is to help each one act on what he or she learns. The exercises will lead our people through a process to reallocate their retirement account accumulations from current plan investments into one or more of the 13 new Annuity Board fund choices. The new funds will be available in 1997.

"The program presents four general investment strategies, ranging from conservative to aggressive, using four of the 13 new Annuity Board fund choices," Sharp added. "These four investments are 'pre-mixed,' well-diversified, blended funds."

A series of exercises will help each person determine where he is in the retirement planning process and which LifePoints profile is most representative. A short quiz will help each participant determine a personal investment risk tolerance.

Once one determines a risk tolerance and a "life point" profile, the individual will have the opportunity to select an investment strategy using the new fund choices. A written election will authorize the Annuity Board to reallocate account accumulations and contributions to new fund choices on Jan. 1, 1997.

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## Sadness overcomes missionary as he evacuates Liberia

By Marty Croll

SBC Foreign Mission Board

DAKAR, SENEGAL (BP)—As the shoreline of Liberia faded into the distance underneath a smoky haze, Bradley Brown's insides wrenched with grief.

Brown, a Southern Baptist foreign missionary, knew the helicopter airlifting him to safety April 12 was swiftly putting distance between him and the place he called home for more than three decades.

How he left crushed him the most. "We

left so many dear people almost in a state of shock. It was just almost more than I could take," Brown said after evacuating to Dakar, Senegal, with his wife and six other missionaries.

"You can't be in a place for 33 years and leave it like that, and just say to yourself, 'Well, that's the way it is. You can't expect it that way.'"

Mission board policy leaves the decision of whether to go or stay to the discretion of each missionary.

Relief at barely escaping death didn't

figure in his memories as he recalled the ordeal he and colleagues lived through after civil war violence began in the wee hours of April 6 and degenerated into bloody anarchy.

Relief, no. Sadness, yes. Sadness for the place where he and his wife, Carolyn, reared their four children. Sadness for the Liberian friends they left behind.

In Senegal, the veteran missionary told of a country they had never known before, not even in other days of Liberia's six-year civil war. Still fresh were images of death witnessed in a U.S. Embassy vehicle speeding along the streets of Monrovia.

The group had planned to leave in a convoy. But just moments before their embassy escort was to arrive, they were told by two-way radio to abandon their cars. They piled in with an embassy security officer and sped away — just as armed troops broke into their compound. "The very time we were rushing out our back gate, fighters were coming in the front to get our vehicles," Brown said.

The officer who rescued the missionaries negotiated their evacuation with a general of the faction who controlled the surrounding territory, Brown said. Brown had felt protection from this faction and from the U.S. military and embassy since shelling first began.

Through it all, he knew it was God, ultimately, who was protecting him and the others. "We had the Lord and His angels," Brown said.

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## Senior adults to gather for 'Celebration'

"In God's Presence" is the theme of the 1996 Senior Adult Celebration set for May 30-June 1 at Ouachita Baptist University.

Bob Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, said the program "will feature inspirational music, messages, fellowship, testimonies and conferences on a wide range of topics of interest to senior adults."

Greg McNece, senior adult specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead a workshop on senior adult ministry for leadership, and Ralph and Nell Bobo of Atlanta, Ga., will speak on missions and ministry opportunities for senior adults in their churches and communities. They serve as Mission Service Corps volunteers for the Home Mission Board.

A senior adult musical, "Somebody Needs Your Love," will be presented in the opening session on Thursday night by the senior adult choir of First Church in Arkadelphia, under the direction of minister of music Will Thompson.

Friday conferences will include topics on grief recovery, housing and living issues, stewardship and money management and "Living in God's Presence."

The celebration will begin Thursday at 7 p.m. and conclude at 11 a.m. Saturday. The cost for the celebration is \$10 per person. Housing is available on campus for \$9 per person per night.

For more information or to register, call the ABCS discipleship and family ministry department at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791, ext. 5160.

## Music Camp features 'instrumental emphasis'

"The Word of God is Alive" is the focus of the 1996 Young Musicians Camp June 24-27 at Ouachita Baptist University. The event is designed for children who have completed grades 4-6.

Church music ministries associate Peggy Pearson said the emphasis of this year's camp will be on instruments. "Doug Moore of First Church, Newport, will coordinate classes that open the wonders of band and orchestral instruments for campers," she said. "Billy Williams of First Church, Malvern, will direct a band as the emphasis for those who have been in beginning band."

As part of the emphasis, the program will offer a chime choir directed by Carrie

Taylor of First Church in Mena.

The camp also will feature the division of campers into four choirs, each preparing for different children's musicals.

The cost for the camp for those registering prior to May 28 is \$70 per camper or counselor. Campers without counselors must add an additional \$5 per camper. After May 28, the cost is \$80 per person, with an additional \$15 per camper for campers without counselors.

For more information or to request a required registration form, contact Pearson at the ABCS church music ministries department, phone 1-800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791, ext. 5121.

**New Orleans SBC Convention** — Downtown hotel rooms, affordable hotel packages with shuttle, discount roundtrip airfares: Little Rock: \$130. Christian Travelers: 1-800-972-8952.

**Seeking volunteers** — The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana is seeking a recently retired couple to accept a two-year commitment as full-time Mission Service Corps volunteers. The volunteers serve as statewide church music and childhood education coordinators. Housing, travel expenses, and a small stipend provided. For more information, contact Gary Beare, Church Development Director, at 317-241-9317.

**Minister of worship and singles sought** — The church is located in a growing western suburb of Chicago offering marvelous opportunities for ministry. The church offers both a traditional and "blended" worship. The church will enter a new sanctuary in the fall. The applicant must lead a multi-faceted worship ministry and develop a singles ministry. If interested, please send resume to: Flick Ezell, Naperville Baptist Church, 29W771 79th Street, Naperville, IL 60564 or fax 708-420-7296.

**Accepting resumes** — for full-time music and youth minister or part-time music minister and part-time youth minister. Send resumes to: Hardin Baptist Church, 300 Todd Lynn Drive, Pine Bluff, AR 71602.

**Houseparents needed** — For homes in Camden, Monticello and Harrison. Package includes salary, insurance, living quarter, meals, training and paid vacation. Call Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes, 1-800-838-2272, ext. 5167.

**Seeking resumes** — for minister of music, bivocational. Send resumes to: East Side Baptist Church, 1605 Wisconsin, Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

**Accepting resumes** — full-time minister of music. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, 322 West First, DeWitt, AR 72042. Have questions, contact Becky Black 501-946-3477.

**Accepting resumes** — Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Day Care is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Minister of Daycare. (We are among the top 25 largest daycares in the state.) Send resumes: Personnel Committee, c/o Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1210, Cabot, AR 72023.

**Now accepting** — Resumes for full-time youth minister. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Yellville, AR 72687.

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# Supreme Court rejects religious-liberty claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Returning to the bench April 15 following a two-week break, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear three disputes involving religious-liberty claims. Left standing were lower court rulings that:

■ Chicago officials have the right to refuse to permit worship services in a commercially zoned area.

■ Ohio may exempt religious organizations from charitable solicitation regulations without violating the First Amendment's ban against government advancement of religion.

■ The First Amendment prevents courts from ruling on a lawsuit by a Texas Pentecostal minister seeking to challenge the

cancellation of his minister's license.

In the Chicago dispute, Celestial Church of Christ challenged the city's refusal to let the church conduct religious services in an area zoned for commercial and business purposes. The church argued that the refusal violated its free-exercise rights under the First Amendment.

An Illinois appeals court, in a decision the state's Supreme Court refused to review, rejected that claim. The court noted that the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which requires government to show a compelling reason before it can substantially burden religious practice, applied to this case retroactively.

Allowing the church and other religious

groups "to locate where they will in Chicago would clearly destroy the city's development plan," the court said, noting that 40 percent of Chicago is zoned residential, where churches may worship. "Consequently, we feel Celestial Church is not substantially burdened," it said.

Three Ohio non-profit organizations challenged portions of the state's charitable solicitation law, which requires covered organizations to register with the attorney general, providing financial reports and other information. Among other challenges, the groups argued that the law's exemption of religious organizations unconstitutionally favored religion.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, applying a test that requires government actions involving religion to have a secular purpose, to neither advance nor inhibit religion and to avoid excessive entanglement with religion.

The appeals court said the charitable solicitation statute serves the "secular purpose" of protecting the state's citizens from abusive solicitation practices.

The exemption helps avoid entanglement between church and state by eliminating any need for the state to examine the financial records of religious bodies.

In the Texas dispute, the Supreme Court declined to disturb lower-court rulings dismissing a complaint by Homer Green, who sued the United Pentecostal Church International after his license was revoked. The courts said the First Amendment prevents them from deciding church matters.

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## Convention Uniform

### *Loving the unlovable*

By William H. Sutton, attorney;  
member, Immanuel Church,  
Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 5:28-48;  
Luke 10:25-37

Focal passage: Matthew 5:44-45

Central truth: God's love breaks the mold.

In the eyes of Jewish observers, nobody had a better claim to the Kingdom of God than the Pharisees and teachers of the law. It must have shocked the many who heard Jesus say that unless their righteousness exceeded that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, they could not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:20).

With thoroughness, Jesus moved to show how the law had been manipulated to justify mean-spirited conduct far short of the standards of a loving God. Compliance with technical laws prohibiting murder do not satisfy God's commandment not to be angry (vv. 21-22). Refraining from physical adultery does not prove the purity of mind standard (vv. 27-28). The legality of divorce does not make it right (vv. 31-32).

Jesus climaxed His sermon on the contrast between what was being done in society with universal approval and God's way with a stunning attack on the law of "eye for eye and tooth for tooth." Then as now, failure to subscribe to that inspirational battle cry brought charges of unmanliness, cowardice or disloyalty.

In place of the tribal slogan to "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy," Jesus commanded, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (vv. 43-44).

In Luke 10:30-35, Jesus illustrated another commandment outside the legalistic comfort zone when He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." He then expanded the term "neighbor" through the story of the good Samaritan to include strangers and racial enemies.

Jesus' commandments of love were impossible standards for the legalist as they are for all except those who have been given a new spirit in a new birth.

## Life and Work

### *The story's other side*

By Suzanne Dilday, member,  
First Church, Benton

Basic passage: II Thessalonians 1:2-12

Focal passage: II Thessalonians 1:2-12

Central truth: There are two sides to every story.

We've all heard the saying before: "There are two sides to every story." We are born egocentric humans, thinking that our viewpoint is the right one and the only one, so it's a valuable lesson in life to learn how to view a situation from another angle, to see someone else's perspective. Sometimes seeing the other side of the story causes us to change our own minds or take a different course of action.

In this passage, Paul picked up on a subject he mentioned in his first Thessalonian letter — Christ's second coming. The last time Paul wrote of Christ's return, he reassured the believers that it would happen. This time, he spoke of rewards and punishments given by the Lord.

On one hand, Paul's words are a great comfort to Christians everywhere. When Christ comes, He will give relief to His followers suffering for His Kingdom (vv. 5, 7). Even though today we may not face death for our faith, we may find life more difficult because we try to live like Christ. It's especially discouraging when there's so much meanness in the world. We hope for "divine retribution" to fall on those who don't live by the law, much less Christ's standards. Paul promised that when the Lord returns, He will "repay with affliction those who afflict you" (v. 6). Divine retribution will come.

On the other hand, that retribution is a frightening thing to think about. Paul said it will be dealt out to "those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel" (v. 8). It's easy to think that such people deserve what they have coming and to say, "That doesn't apply to me." But it's also not hard for me to imagine myself as a black-hearted sinner, deserving of any punishment God should choose to give me — in this case "eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord" (v. 9). If not for God's grace, that's exactly what I would receive. And that scares me.

Looking at the other side of the situation ought to give every one of us a compassion and concern for those who don't know our Lord, no matter how deserving we think they are of His punishment. It's only God's gift and our faith that separates us from that side of the story.

## Bible Book

### *My servant the BRANCH*

By Bill Steeger, chairman,  
department of religion,  
Ouachita Baptist University

Basic passage: Zechariah 1:1-6:15

Focal passage: Zechariah 3:8-10;  
6:12-15

Central truth: Jesus is an awesome Savior.

Zechariah echoed Haggai's call to rebuild the temple. An angel interpreted Zechariah's visions, assuring the nation that "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit" the work will be accomplished and the people kept secure (v. 4:6). Twice in Zechariah a special word for "BRANCH" is used (vv. 3:8, 6:12).

This term appears elsewhere only in Isaiah 4:2 and Jeremiah 23:5-6 (repeated again in Jeremiah 33:15-16). "Branch" is capitalized in most Bibles because these are four visions of the Messiah:

■ *"David's righteous Branch...a king."* Jeremiah identified the Messiah as a "king." His prosperous reign will be just. His special royal name is "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:6).

■ *"My servant the BRANCH."* Zechariah 3:8 declared the Messiah a servant (or slave) in dramatic contrast to king above. Ancient rabbis wondered how the Messiah could be both king and servant.

■ *"Behold the man whose name is the BRANCH."* Zechariah 6:12 called the Messiah a "man." He builds the temple of the Lord using people from afar (v. 6:15) — perhaps the Messiah's new temple made of believers (the "lively stones" of I Peter 2:5).

■ *"The Branch of the Lord...beautiful and glorious."* Isaiah's use of "branch" equates the Messiah with the "Lord." This forms another pair of contrasts — "man" and "Lord." The Messiah would be both God and man.

Four distinctly different pictures of Jesus are in the New Testament. Matthew painted the picture of a King, whom wisemen come seeking. Mark told the story of a Servant, who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Luke introduced Jesus, the Man, born in humble surroundings, visited by lowly shepherds, and dedicated by a humble man and women in the temple. John proclaimed Jesus Lord and said: "...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14), an awesome Savior.

## Convention Uniform

### *Trust God for daily needs*

By William H. Sutton, attorney;  
member, Immanuel Church,  
Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 6:19-21,  
24-34; Luke 12:13-21

Focal passage: Matthew 6:33

Central truth: Don't worry about the things that God promises.

In the masterful Sermon on the Mount, Jesus drew the blueprint for life for those born of a new spirit. Having struck down illusion after illusion which had dogged the spiritual lives of the people in the name of the law, Jesus made His point that the real issue was not the letter of the law but a pure mind controlled by a new spirit. The great struggle is over what occupies the mind.

Jesus illustrated that goals determine mindset and warned against the goal of storing up treasures on earth (v. 19). Treasures are lost to decay, thieves and other ironies. More importantly, where the treasure is, there the heart is also (v. 21).

Jesus used the specific example of worry to make His point clearer. Worry captures the mind. A person cannot serve two masters. A mind worried about money serves money and cannot serve God (v. 24).

Some translations convey the idea that we're to give no thought to provisions of food, shelter or clothing. This is not what is being said. We are to provide, especially for our own households (1 Tim. 5:8).

The crux of the matter is the positive command to "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (v. 3). It is a grave sin to burden our minds with worry about things that God knows we need and has promised to provide.

Luke 12:13-21 portrays the lesson to its ultimate. Only a fool given to eating, drinking and making merry could believe that he is rich when he has abundant earthly treasures and none in heaven. At death there is only one account. Great, single-minded devotion should be given toward the things that matter on that day.

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## Life and Work

### *Stand firm in your faith*

By Suzanne Dilday, member,  
First Church, Benton

Basic passage: II Thessalonians 2:1-5,  
8, 13-17

Focal passage: II Thessalonians 2:2,  
8, 15

Central truth: Basic lessons are best.

When I was small, going to Sunday School was great. Not only did you get to make art out of styrofoam cups and macaroni, but you got to sing fun songs. One of my favorites was, "I've Got the Joy Down in my Heart," and especially the verse, "If the devil doesn't like it, he can sit on a tack." I also enjoyed the song about the wise man building his house on a rock. Of course, the rains came down and the water came up. The foolish man's house fell down with a loud splash, provided by us, but the wise man's house stood firm.

Paul continued to write of the second coming of Christ in this passage and mentioned signs of His return. While these verses are difficult to pin down to a single interpretation, one theme in Paul's message is clear: He consistently encouraged believers to stand firm in their faith.

Paul put it simply: I'm not going to fool you, so don't let others fool you. He told them not to put any stock in false messages allegedly sent by him, saying the "day of the Lord" has come (v. 2). In order that their faith would not be shaken, he reminded them of the things that will happen prior to that day, culminating in Christ's unmistakable appearance (v. 8). There are still those today who would have us believe the Lord has returned, usually in the form of some modern "prophet," but Paul assured Christians we won't be able to miss it.

In the meantime, Christians are to "stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught" (v. 15).

Many have read Robert Fulghum's essay, "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," which tells how life's most valuable lessons are sometimes the most basic we teach to children. Perhaps the traditions Paul referred to were basic ones such as what we were taught as children.

I've heard a thousand Sunday School lessons in my life, yet the ones that I remember most are the ones I learned the earliest, in stories and songs. These are the "rocks" of our faith that we can confidently build on, knowing that when the water comes up, our house will always stand firm.

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## Bible Book

### *A threefold promise*

By Bill Steeger, chairman,  
department of religion,  
Ouachita Baptist University

Basic passage: Zechariah 7:1-8:23

Focal passage: Zechariah 8:1-8

Central truth: God's people must live in truth.

Our age is one of imitations. We bake cookies with imitation vanilla, spread butter with imitation butter and use imitation fingernails. Sometimes imitations are appropriate, but not in matters of faith. God's people must be authentic, genuine and true. Our focal passage calls for genuine worship.

An artificial nation with an artificial faith went into exile in Babylon. God had turned them over to their own passions and desires. They abandoned Him and, with reluctance, His glory left the temple in Jerusalem shortly before the destruction of the city (see Ezek. 8-12). Now Zechariah challenged the returning exiles to rebuild the temple and worship in truth and righteousness.

From the days of Abraham, God gave a threefold promise to His people: I will be your God, you will be my people, I will dwell with you. More than 125 times in the Bible this threefold promise is repeated in whole or in part (Lev. 26:12; Ezek. 36:28; Hos. 2:23; Rev. 21:3). Our focal passage emphasizes this threefold promise.

■ *"I will dwell in the midst"* (v. 3). The exile is over. God called His people home and promised to dwell in their midst once more. He promised to be with them. The "promise of the presence" was our discussion theme in Haggai (May 5th).

■ *"And they shall be my people"* (v. 7). Singled out for a special task, the people of God are characterized by His presence. They seek to be holy for He is holy (Lev. 19:2). They grow up unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13). They follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

■ *"And I will be their God"* (v. 7). This solemn commitment by God set believers apart. Zechariah adds: "in truth and in righteousness," a call to be authentic, genuine and true.

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## Christian Coalition offers reward in church arson cases

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The Christian Coalition is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a rash of arsons targeted at black churches in the South. There reportedly have been 23 arsons at black churches in eight states since January 1995.

Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, said the fires are an "attack upon the entire faith community" and that white evangelicals "will not look the other way," as many did during the civil rights movement, *Associated Press* reported.

Others who have called for stepped-up investigations into the arsons include the National Council of Churches. Rewards offered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and others total at least \$100,000, according to *USA Today*.

## S.C. names denominational transformation consultant

COLUMBIA, SC (BP)—Citing an emerging obligation to share what they are learning about church and denominational growth, the South Carolina Baptist Convention's executive board has elected George W. Bullard Jr. as national consultant for denominational transformation. The position is unique among Baptist state conventions because it crosses both state and denominational lines.

Bullard, currently director of the convention's strategic development and associational growth team, will assist churches and denominations across the nation with strategies for increasing membership, developing disciples and expanding ministries. The new assignment, which began May 1, is for three years.

Since 1991 the South Carolina convention has been involved in a sharply focused effort to assist the state convention's 1,880 churches with intentional processes to support growth. The emphasis, called "Empowering Kingdom Growth," was conceived in response to state and national trends of stagnant and declining church memberships.

## Texas CLC leaders propose family intervention ministry

DALLAS (BP)—The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission has endorsed a comprehensive proposal to enhance family life in Texas.

Pledging to "boldly go where no state convention has gone before" in the area of family life, the CLC approved a broad-based family ministry proposal that could result in Texas Baptists helping 5,000 families get off welfare and providing parenting mentors to 29,000 at-risk families for one month when their children are born.

Implementing the plan would require about \$200,000 in its first year, with the amount increasing each of the following four years. The proposal will be submitted to the BGCT administrative committee for consideration in planning the 1997 budget. The CLC also will explore possible foundation grants and other funding sources.

## Land, Mitchell to teach ethics at Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission will be strongly represented in Christian ethics classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary beginning this fall. CLC president Richard D. Land has been named distinguished visiting professor of Christian ethics at the Louisville, Ky., seminary for the 1996-97 academic year and C. Ben Mitchell, a consultant on biomedical and life issues for the CLC, has been named visiting professor of Christian ethics.

Land will commute to Louisville one day a week during the fall and spring semesters. Mitchell will teach a full course load and maintain an ongoing role as the CLC's consultant on biomedical and life issues. He will be named assistant professor of Christian ethics upon completion of his doctoral studies, according to seminary president Al Mohler.

## Southern breaks ground on \$3.9 million building

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary officials broke ground for the final phase of the school's Honeycutt Campus Center two hours after an April 16 trustee vote approving its construction.

The \$3.9 million building will house a 300-seat cafeteria, private dining and conference rooms and a 500-capacity banquet hall. It is a part of a comprehensive complex that contains the seminary bookstore, health and recreation facilities, post office and student-related administrative offices. The seminary has \$2.7 million in hand or pledged for the final phase and plans to designate the remaining \$1.2 million from internal funds.

In other action, trustees elected Jerry Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Aurora, Colo., as board chairman. Orman Simmons, a physician from Little Rock, was elected second vice chairman.