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September 13, 1990

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Lottery on Ballot

Arkansas Baptist

September 13, 1990



Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Oct. 30 - 31, 1990

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Lottery on Arkansas Ballot

The proposed lottery amendment has been certified to be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot. On Sept. 5, the Secretary of State announced that approximately 78,000 valid signatures had been verified on the petition drive. The proposed amendment needed 68,855 signatures of registered voters.

CALL (Citizens Against Legalized Lottery) asks every Arkansas Baptist to make this a matter of prayer and personal commitment to defeat this gambling force.

CALL has a state organization composed of six committees: Media, Finance, Ministers, Speakers Bureau, Education, and Voter Participation. Each county will have the same committees. If you would like to serve on a county committee, please call W. H. Sutton at 370-1574 or Jimmie Sheffield at 376-4791, Ext. 5103.

Churches will be asked to make a contribution to CALL in an amount equal to \$1.00 per member. The campaign will need \$300,000-\$400,000 with most of the amount to be used in the media campaign.

Churches are also asked to use a special Bible Study lesson on Sunday morning, Sunday evening or Wednesday evening. The lesson, "Love Your Neighbor," will provide church members with a biblical basis for defeating this evil force.

CALL requests that every minister make this campaign to defeat the lottery a priority during September and October. The "fight is on," and we have only seven weeks to win the battle.

—W. H. Sutton, General Chairperson, CALL

GOOD NEWS!

On the Way To Victory

Joshua 7:1-26

On July 4, 1983, Buddy Baker was leading the Daytona Firecracker 400 stock car race. A funny thing happened as he was on his last lap. He ran out of gas! He almost lost the race.

On the way to winning the way of the Canaanites, something happened to the Israelites. They were defeated in the battle for Ai. Achan coveted the forbidden spoils, and defeat came. Disobeying the Lord has tragic results.

Disobedience leads to great sorrow—"And the hearts of the people melted, and became as water" (Js. 7:5, RSV). The people became discouraged.

Disobeying God does not produce happy results. Every person who has disobeyed God has learned what heartbreak means.

*Disobedience leads to profound soul-searching (Js. 7:6-9)—*Immediately Joshua began to search the souls of Israel. He looked for the problem.

Disobeying God should lead each one to ask, "Is it I?" The only way disobedience can be discovered in a life is to search one's heart.

*Disobedience leads to severe punishment (Js. 7:10-26)—*God would not let the act of rebellion go unnoticed. He punished in the forms of defeat and reprimand.

Rebelling against God leads to punishment. "The wages of sin is death" (Ro. 6:23).

Israel had a choice. She could choose to obey God and be victorious, or she could choose to disobey and reap the consequences. Those choices have not changed.

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Fire The Pastor?

J. EVERETT SNEED



A quick glance at the managers of last year's baseball and football teams shows how little security some people have. If the team fails to perform up to the standards the owner feels that it should, the manager is out of a job. The same situation often exists for pastors and church staff members. If the attendance hasn't grown as the members feel that it should, the pastor is fired. It is indeed tragic when secular standards are applied to the Lord's work.

Owners of baseball and football teams should remember that the manager is not actively involved in the playing of the game. The manager only trains and conditions the players and calls the plays. In large measure, the success of the team depends upon the players. The pastor is more like a player-coach because he not only instructs the members, but he also is involved in the church's outreach program. Beyond question the members themselves determine, to a large measure, the success or failure of a congregation's growth.

Our contact with pastors and church staff members reveals a feeling of insecurity in a large percentage of churches. Many fine and dedicated pastors are aware of the members who are trying to destroy their leadership. Others have been forced to survive a vote of confidence. Still others have been forced to resign, sometimes with no other place of service in view.

Even the manager or coach of a baseball team has a better situation than does a Baptist preacher or church staff member. A team manager has a contract, and if he is fired, he will receive salary and benefits for the duration of his contract, whether another team hires him or not. A church vocational worker has no such contract or unemployment insurance. When a church votes out a pastor, he is without income. He also faces a difficult task in relocating. Most churches won't consider a person who is not currently serving a church.

It is tragic, indeed, when a pastor faces a vote of confidence. Everyone is harmed. Not only does it hurt the pastor's effectiveness, but it also damages the church's outreach. Most people don't want to be a part of a congregation that is fussing. Normally, some members will leave the church when it becomes divided over a pastor or church staff member. New people will be reluctant to unite with the church.

There are occasions, under the Lord's

leadership, when it is time for a pastor or a church staff member to find a new place of service. Such a decision, however, should not be made by a few individuals in the church who are determined to have their way at all

costs. When it is necessary for a pastor or a church staff member to relocate, time should be given for a new place of service to be found. Everyone will benefit from this approach.

A church vocational worker should continue to give his best, even when he is preparing to leave a church. He should pray that God will bless the congregation and that he may fulfill all of his responsibilities to the best of his ability. He should give every opportunity for the Holy Spirit to lead him to another church. He also should remember that God does not measure success in the ministry in the same way that men measure success in secular pursuits.

While it is true that Baptist churches are governed democratically, personnel matters may be best handled by a committee. If a vote of confidence is taken by a church, usually everyone is harmed. Perhaps the pastor or church staff member's family is personally hurt most of all. Christians may carry scars from such an occurrence for the rest of their lives.

The New Testament clearly indicates that a pastor is the most significant officer of

the church. The three terms that are used to describe the office are "pastor," "bishop" and "elder." In Acts 20, the account of Paul's meeting with the elders of the church at Ephesus indicates that all three terms are interchangeable in the New Testament. The terms "elder" and "bishop" are both used in the passage. The verb translated "feed" means to "shepherd" or to "pastor" the flock. The term "elder" means one who is worthy of respect. It is incumbent upon church members to respect their pastor unless he has given some reason why this respect cannot be shown to him. There are basically two reasons for respect being withdrawn from a pastor. These are immorality and doctrinal unsoundness. To abuse a pastor for no reason is a transgression of the Scriptures.

The work of pastors is not given in detail in the New Testament. It seems that they were to exercise general oversight in spiritual matters, teach the church members, and guide the church's activities.

Churches are composed of imperfect people. God calls imperfect people into the ministry. Pastors and church staff members have the same problems that other members have. They have the same personal problems, tempers, egos and temptations that others have. In spite of this, the pastors and staff workers that this editor knows, almost without exception, are committed and dedicated people. They may not merit better treatment than others do, but they certainly do not deserve worse.

Shall we fire the pastor? It would be much better to use some time to pray about the problem. Most personnel problems can be solved if we stop demanding our own way and do things God's way.

Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 89 NUMBER 25

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Telephone: 501-376-4791.

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



Our scholarship committee has just awarded four more scholarships. That brings the number to 21 students who are receiving scholarships this year from the Harriet Elizabeth Pryor Scholarship Fund. The total amount given for the 21 scholarships is \$7,650. Most of these are for seminary students. Since the Southern Baptist Convention subsidizes our seminaries, the scholarships are not as large as for those attending college. Nevertheless, the \$350 for a semester at the seminary makes the difference between food and no food at times.

All of the recipients are preparing for home mission or foreign mission service. That was the purpose defined when the daughter of Harriet Elizabeth Pryor set up this fund with the Arkansas Baptist Foundation to memorialize her mother.

For the past six years these funds have been producing scholarship assistance to mission volunteers. Until Jesus comes these funds will keep on doing the same, even though both mother and daughter have been gone for several years.

What a grand and glorious way to keep our lives productive even after we are gone. I believe there are literally thousands of our Arkansas Baptists who should exercise the same vision, faith and foresight as Mrs. Pryor's daughter. It doesn't have to be to honor or memorialize someone. It doesn't have to be a large amount of money.

God has placed in our hands as Arkansas Baptists some of the greatest ministries! Frankly, he has entrusted to us more than we can support by normal means. I am talking about our colleges, Siloam Springs, the boys' ranch, the home for unwed mothers, etc. If God were not prompting individuals to give above and beyond their tithes and offerings to their churches, these could not be operated. I hope the Holy Spirit will trigger ideas in many hearts of how they could have an indefinite and perpetual ministry in some great spiritual cause.

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Letters to the Editor

Drop Your Stones!

Where is our convention heading? In the past decade we have seen intense fighting for control of our convention. As a young layman growing spiritually in the Lord, I don't understand all the confusion.

Present leadership states their foundation is based on believing the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God. This sounds good to me. However, I question the actions that stem from this foundation. First of all, who are these men who do not believe in the inerrancy of the Scriptures?

Why have many proven conservative leaders been labeled as "liberals" or "moderates" simply because they refuse to spend their time supporting this movement? Where in the scripture do we find the Lord's work is to be carried out by political rallies, intense campaigning, unproven accusations, boycotting, threatening, etc.? Are we to support such ministers who, although eloquent in speech, partake in such activities? Do we no longer in this convention have the right to personal interpretation of the Scripture as led by the Holy Spirit? Are we no longer to love our

RANDALL O'BRIEN

A Pastor's Perspective

Back to School



It didn't have a thing to do with school. It wasn't because I didn't wanna leave the nest just yet, although I didn't. It wasn't walking every day from 910 Bendat Street to Netterville Elementary on Beech Street. Half-a-mile's nothing. Even for a 6 year old. And it sure wasn't Miss Leblanc, my first grade teacher, because I liked her. Like I said. It didn't have anything to do with school.

What I hated about first grade was Ronald Boyd! He was in elementary school when I got there and he was in elementary school when I left. The creature was 6'1". To me he was. Makes no difference he may have been only five feet tall. He was six feet tall to me.

Ronald was tall, skinny, and mean. Also he was ugly. It was the mean part I hated. The other stuff I figured he didn't volunteer for.

Every day I would walk all 3'7" and 40 pounds of my timid first grade self to school. And every day Ronald Boyd would walk behind me stepping on my heels with his cowboy boots while he beat me across the head with a rolled-up newspaper.

I hated Ronald Boyd. I used to leave early for school intentionally. Except when I would leave late intentionally. No matter. Ronald would wait. Or rise early. Skip breakfast. Whatever it took. Anything to hit my head with his newspaper.

I hated Ronald Boyd. For years I could

still see his greasy black comb in his blue jeans back pocket, his Butch Hair Wax glistening too thick in this flat-top haircut, his tall-heeled cowboy boots with the pointed toes, his evil lanky walk, and of course . . . that rolled-up newspaper.

One cruel difference between memories and actual events, I have discovered, is memories can humiliate you over and over. Ronald gets to hit your head nightly, while he sleeps but you don't. "Now I lay me down to sleep. . ." Bam!!

What about you? Remember your first bully? Still hate the sucker?

I can relate. Then I realized something. . . .

We all walked behind Jesus stepping on his heels. On purpose pushing him down. Humiliating him. Mocking him. Hitting his head with rolled-up newspapers. We all did. Laughing. And sometimes we still do.

Only his memories aren't like my memories. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

His thoughts, not like my thoughts. "If you forgive men their sins your Father in Heaven will forgive your sins, but if you do not forgive men their sins your Father in Heaven will not forgive your sins."

Back to school time for me, I confess. Ronald's friend, Randall.

Randall O'Brien is pastor of the Calvary Church in Little Rock.

brothers in Christ if we disagree slightly in theology (if we do)? Does our convention produce an atmosphere conducive to leading a lost confused world to Christ? In all honesty, is the real controversy 2 Timothy 3:16-17, or is it not power and control? Will God continue to bless such a denomination or is a split inevitable?

Maybe we should all read Ephesians 6:12 again and realize that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but Satan. If we do not battle against Satan, do we not battle

for him? Satan must be overjoyed by the fact our attention is diverted from the Great Commission and is on the Great Controversy instead.

Please don't think of this letter as more fuel for the controversy, because that is not why it was written. It is my sincere prayer that our leadership will lay down their arms and fall on their knees so our convention will again lift up Jesus Christ. We tend to drop our stones when the Master comes around.—Tommy Everett, Hope

WILLIAM J. REYNOLDS

Hymns Baptists Sing



Break Thou the Bread of Life

Mary Lathbury wrote the hymn in the summer of 1877, at the request of John H. Vincent, founder

of the Chautauqua Assembly. Originally a Methodist camp meeting site, this charming setting in western New York among the rolling hills along the shore of Lake Chautauqua provides a beautiful location for spiritual renewal and Bible study.

The daughter of a Methodist preacher, Mary Lathbury became a professional artist. She wrote excellent prose and poetry for children and young people, and served as editor of publications for these age groups for the Methodist Sunday School Union. Each summer she assisted with the work of the Chautauqua.

Vincent suggested that she write a study hymn for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. She wrote two stanzas based on the biblical account of Christ's feeding of the multitude (Mt. 14:15-21). She drew the spiritual lesson from the feeding of the multitude with physical bread.

Alexander Groves wrote two additional stanzas in 1913. Appropriately, Groves stanzas maintain the spirit and theme of Lathbury's stanzas.

William J. Reynolds is professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Classifieds

Needed—Young congregation in need of transportation, van or bus preferably. Will come pick up, if cannot deliver. Contact Carl I. Guy 563-3087. #13

Wanted—Organist wanted. Paid Position. Bingham Road Baptist Church, Little Rock. Call 888-2140. #13

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included.

Last in a series of four articles

Insisting on Baptist Baptism

Well, you may question the decision of Southern Baptist churches about insisting on baptism in a Baptist church for those who want to be members of churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. However, it appears that the local body of believers has a right to make whatever rules for membership it wishes as long as these are not contrary to Scripture. A church must decide many things such as whether or not there will be a Sunday School, mid-week services, offerings—even whether to have a church house or not. Surely the church has as much a right to decide conditions and qualifications for membership as the Masonic Lodge, 4-H Club, or labor unions.

We are not trying to keep people out of our churches. We openly confess that we want new members. We welcome people who come to us from other denominations. However, for the church to fail to maintain its scripturally-based principles would turn it into an organization which would hardly deserve to be called a church. There are real and important differences in denominations. We welcome those who believe like we do and desire to join us in a fellowship of service. We warmly welcome and enjoy worship with those who differ from us if they accept the fact that Jesus is Lord. We respect other Christians and their right to their own beliefs.

For those who take the Bible as their only source of authority, it is necessary to follow scriptural principles in all that we do. Modern day denominations and churches were not in existence in the days when the New Testament was written. Cultures have changed, but God's principles never change. We are following the Scripture when we affirm our adherence to the important truths as we understand them. The Bible says, "Remove not the ancient landmark" (Pr. 22:28). We are trying to maintain the ancient marks of a church. Therefore, we believe that there are five necessary qualifications for biblical baptism.

Qualifications for Biblical Baptism

(1) A proper candidate—one who has repented of his sin and put his faith in Jesus Christ as his only Savior.

(2) A proper authority—the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is necessary for those who have believed in and are following Jesus to approve the baptism of a believer since the church would not accept as valid the immersion of a person by just any casual administrator.

(3) A proper administrator—a person who is approved by the church to baptize the candidate. This does not necessarily have to be the pastor or even an ordained person, but it does have to be someone the church approves since the church acts upon the authority given by Jesus to baptize his disciples.

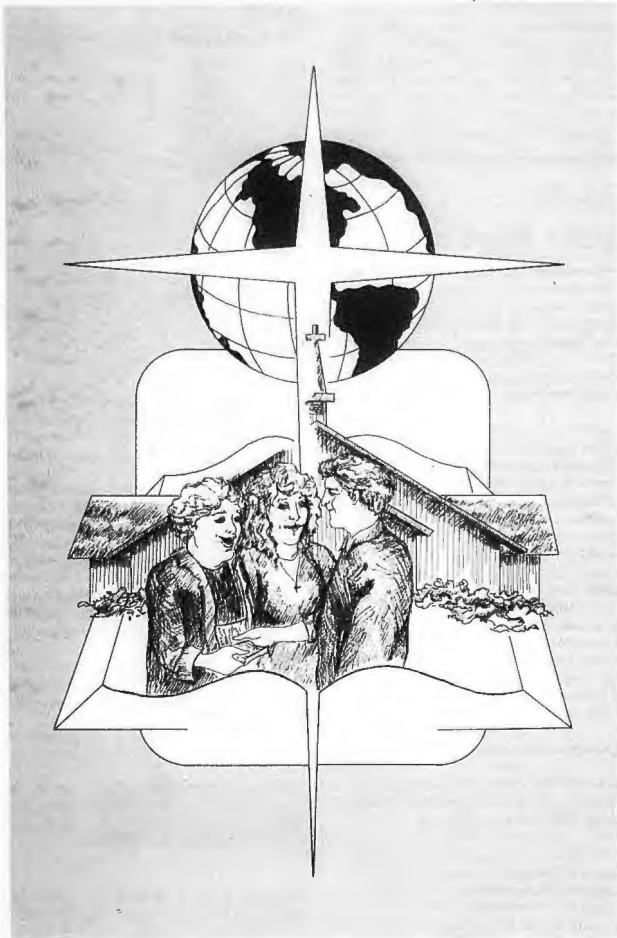
(4) A proper method—immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(5) A proper purpose—to demonstrate that the believer has died to the old way of life and has been given new life through God's election and call and the candidate's response in repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of his life.

We invite all to join us who are in agreement with our understanding and commitment to the Word of God.

W. Trueman Moore, pastor, East Side Church, Fort Smith

Building God's Family



Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Oct. 30 - 31, 1990

Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

Welcome to Little Rock

Immanuel Baptist Church will be celebrating her centennial in less than two years. Across the years Immanuel has served as host to numerous meetings of our state convention. We are delighted to host the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention this year.

Our staff and members welcome you to Immanuel. We want you to be at home with us during the convention. We will extend our best hospitality to you as we stand ready to serve our convention and you.

We join you in praying that this convention will set the pace for this new decade. Thank you for allowing us to serve as hosts this year. Welcome, Arkansas Baptists, to Little Rock and Immanuel Baptist Church.



Horne

Rex M. Horne Jr.

Rex M. Horne Jr., Pastor

In This Section

- *Credentials and Committees*
- *Pastors Conference*
- *Ministers' Wives*
- *Alumni Meetings*
- *Other Interest Groups*
- *Program and Personalities*
- *Budget and Recommendations*

Child Care

Immanuel Church, Little Rock, will provide child care for children birth through five years during the Pastors Conference and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Please assist the church in its planning by making reservations through the church receptionist at 376-3071.

Proper Credentials

Membership and messengers to the 1990 Convention are determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of the *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their findings and recom-

mendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization similar to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. —**Dillard Miller, chairman, Credentials Committee**

Registration

Messengers elected by Arkansas Baptist churches who are planning to participate in the annual meeting Oct. 30-31 in Little Rock must bring messenger registration cards approved by their churches and signed by their moderators or church clerks.

Messengers who present themselves for registration without properly certified credentials will be sent to the Credentials Committee.

Balloting

In accordance with the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and in keeping with previous policies and procedures, the following guidelines have been established for voting at the annual meeting.

All duly-elected messengers who register

at the convention will be given an official book of numbered ballots. Messengers are encouraged to print their names on the front of the ballot book as soon as they register.

A ballot is considered the property of the person to whom it is issued. Therefore, a ballot can be used only by that individual. Ballots are not to be exchanged or used by any other messenger or nonmessenger, even with the owner's consent. When ballots are used, instructions will be given designating which ballot is to be cast. Ballots which do not bear the appropriate number for a specific vote will be considered invalid. Ballots which are not legible or which are submitted blank will be considered invalid.

Messengers who lose or find ballot books should notify the registration desk. An owner may claim a lost ballot book only if the book bears his or her name.—**James Guthrie, chairman, Tellers Committee**

Resolutions

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Mike Huckabee has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Oct. 10, 1990. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to Clyde Jones, 1605 Wisconsin, Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

We would like to express our appreciation in advance for your cooperation in this matter.—**Clyde Jones, chairman, Resolutions Committee**

Convention committees

Parliamentarian

Hal Bass, Arkadelphia
Monty Murray, Texarkana

Credentials Committee:

Dillard Miller, Mena, chairman
Charles Womack, Pea Ridge
Gary Fulton, Paragould
Bob Parsley, Dardanelle
John McAnally, Amity

Tellers Committee:

James Guthrie, Gurdon, chairman
Scott Neathery, Hope
Dennis Davis, Jonesboro
Duaine Blackmore, Foreman
Jackie Fendley, Mountain View
David Ray, Grannis
Denny Wright, Bradley
Terry Eaton, Decatur
Lyle Koone, Floral
Gary Turner, Arkadelphia

Resolutions Committee:

Clyde Jones, Pine Bluff, chairman
Marilyn Simmons, Little Rock
Hess Hester, Smackover
Dennis Swanberg, Hot Springs
Richard Maness, Fayetteville

Order of Business:

C.A. Johnson, Paragould, chairman
Jerre Hassell, Stuttgart

STATE CONVENTION

ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Interest Group Plans

In addition to the regular sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, a variety of special interest groups will offer programs for messengers.

Pastors

Arkansas Baptist pastors will convene their annual preconvention conference at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 29 at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. Three sessions will be conducted, concluding at 9 p.m.

This year's conference theme will be "The Pastor as a Person, a Partner, Parent and Prophet." Rex Holt, pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro, is president of the Pastors Conference.

Speakers will include Darrell Gilyard from Victory Church, Richardson, Texas; Fred Wolfe of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala.; Cliff Palmer from Church Growth Concepts in Rogers; Paul Burleson, Bible Truth Ministries, Broken Arrow, Okla.; David Miller, director of missions from Little Red River Association, Heber Springs; and Sam Cathey from Briarwood Church in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Registration fee is \$13; a check made payable to ABREA can be sent to Angela Lowe, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Alumni Meetings

Ouachita Baptist University fellowship for alumni and friends will be held on Tuesday evening, Oct. 30, at the conclusion of the evening session in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Williams (formerly Southern) Baptist College Alumni reception will be held Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

New Orleans Seminary alumni will meet for lunch at 12 noon on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. The featured speaker will be Don Stewart, vice-president of the seminary. For more information, call George Sims, Arkansas alumni president, at 568-2615.

Southern Seminary alumni are invited to a luncheon at noon on Oct. 30 in the snack room of Immanuel Church, Little Rock. The luncheon will include an address by

Wade Rowatt, dean of D.Min. Studies and professor of psychology and religion. Tickets are \$7; make checks out to Jerry L. Davis, 602 E. Beverly Road, Sherwood, AR 72216.

Midwestern Seminary alumni will hold a fellowship luncheon Oct. 30 at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn City Center, Sixth and Broadway, in Little Rock. There is no registration; alumni can pay at the door.

DOMs

The Arkansas Baptist Director of Missions Fellowship will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 29, at the Western Sizzlin, 9210 N. Rodney Parham Road for a fellowship time.

Retirees

Retired pastors, staff members and employees of Southern Baptist churches, agencies and institutions are invited to a fellowship dinner Oct. 30 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

For reservations, contact the ABSC Annuity/Stewardship Department at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5114. Reservation deadline is Oct. 19.

Ministers' Wives

This year's Ministers' Wives Conference will be held on Monday, Oct. 29, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock, from 12 noon to 4:45 p.m., beginning with a luncheon.


The conference theme, "Faithful to the Finish," will be interpreted by keynote speaker Esther Burroughs from the SBC Home Mission Board. Other seminars will be conducted by June Hines Moore, Marguerite Burgin, Helen Parman and Baptist Medical System.

Registration for the luncheon is due by Oct. 22. Send a \$5 check made out to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, along with name and address to: Kay O'Brien, 94 El Dorado, Little Rock, AR 72212. Child care is provided for pre-schoolers by Immanuel Church by reservation only; send request with luncheon reservation.

Religious Educators

The Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 1990 meeting Monday, Oct. 29, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the banquet will be held from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Bob Ed Shotwell of Hyde Park Church in Houston, Texas, will be the featured speaker.



Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference


Monday, October 29, 1990
Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

Theme: *Faithful to the Finish*
 Luncheon 12 noon - 1 p.m.

Seminars 1 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

"Going for the Gold" *Esther Burroughs*
 "Improving Our Serve" *June Hines Moore*
 "Jumping Hurdles" *Marguerite Burgin*
 "Running the Distance" *Helen Parman*
 "Healthy Lifestyles for Women" *Baptist Medical System*

Keynote Speaker:



Esther Burroughs
Home Mission Board

Luncheon Pre-Registration

Enclose \$5.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Registration for luncheon due by **October 22, 1990 (Monday)**
 Make check payable to **Arkansas Baptist State Convention**
 Mail to **Kay O'Brien, 94 El Dorado, Little Rock, AR 72212**

Child care provided for pre-schoolers by Immanuel Baptist Church by reservation only.
 Please send childcare request with luncheon reservation.

ABSC Tentative Program *Building God's Family*

Tuesday Morning Oct. 30, 1990

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 8:30 | Congregational Singing | Charles Vance |
| 8:35 | Prayer Emphasis | Esther Burroughs |
| 8:45 | BIBLE STUDY | William Tolar |
| 9:15 | Call to Order | Mike Huckabee |
| 9:20 | Welcome | Rex Horne |
| 9:25 | Appointment of Committees | Mike Huckabee |
| | Enrollment of Messengers | Dillard Miller |
| | Adoption of Order of Business | C.A. Johnson |
| | Tellers Committee Instructions | James Guthrie |
| | Resolutions | Clyde Jones |
| | Constitution Amendment | Jim Pate |
| 9:45 | Congregational Singing | Charles Vance |
| 9:50 | Announcements and Recognitions | Mike Huckabee |
| | Baptist Hospitals | |
| | Former Presidents | |
| | Retired Baptist Workers | Ray Branscum |
| | New Arkansans | Don Moore |
| 10:10 | Foreign Mission Board Report and Recognition of Missionaries | William O'Brien |
| 10:30 | Guatemala Mission Report | Glendon Grober |
| 10:45 | Congregational Singing | Charles Vance |
| 10:50 | Special Music | Young Adult Ensemble Beech Street, Texarkana |
| 11:00 | PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | Mike Huckabee |
| 11:30 | Benediction | Jimmy Shults |

Tuesday Afternoon Oct. 30, 1990

| | | |
|------|---|------------------|
| 1:30 | Arkansas Music Men Brass | Glen Ennes |
| 1:35 | Prayer Emphasis | Esther Burroughs |
| 1:45 | BIBLE STUDY | William Tolar |
| 2:15 | Williams Baptist College Report | Jack Nicholas |
| 2:30 | Miscellaneous Business | |
| 2:40 | Congregational Singing | Rick Hunt |
| 2:45 | Special Music | Mike Bedford |
| 2:50 | Arkansas Baptist Foundation Report | Harry Trulove |
| 3:00 | Nominating Committee | Ben Rowell |
| 3:10 | EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT | Jim McDaniel |
| 3:30 | Congregational Singing | Rick Hunt |
| 3:35 | Report of Seminaries | Phil Roberts |
| 3:45 | Christian Civic Foundation Board Report | |
| | | John Finn |
| 3:55 | Recognition of Denominational Guests | |
| | | Mike Huckabee |

| | | |
|------|---------------|---------------|
| 4:00 | Special Music | Christi Freel |
| 4:05 | MESSAGE | Paul Powell |
| 4:35 | Benediction | Rick Hyde |

Tuesday Evening Oct. 30, 1990

| | | |
|------|---|------------------------|
| 6:15 | Congregational Singing | Joe Francis |
| 6:20 | Ouachita Baptist University Concert Choir | |
| | | Charles W. Wright |
| 6:35 | Prayer Emphasis | Esther Burroughs |
| 6:45 | BIBLE STUDY | William Tolar |
| 7:15 | Ouachita Baptist University Report | Ben Elrod |
| 7:30 | Cooperative Program Awards | Jimmie Sheffield |
| 7:40 | Congregational Singing | Joe Francis |
| 7:45 | Special Music | Arkansas Singing Women |
| 7:55 | Baptist Sunday School Board Report | Jim Williams |
| 8:15 | Bold Mission Prayer Thrust | Carolyn Porterfield |
| 8:30 | Congregational Singing | Lester McCullough |
| 8:35 | Special Music | Arkansas Music Men |
| 8:45 | MESSAGE | Don Moore |
| 9:15 | Benediction | Trueman Moore |

Wednesday Morning Oct. 31, 1990

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| 8:15 | Congregational Singing | David Oliver |
| 8:20 | Prayer Emphasis | Esther Burroughs |
| 8:30 | BIBLE STUDY | William Tolar |
| 9:00 | ELECTION OF OFFICERS | |
| 9:10 | Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Report | Johnny Biggs |
| 9:20 | ELECTION OF OFFICERS | |
| 9:30 | Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Report | |
| | | Everett Sneed |
| 9:40 | ELECTION OF OFFICERS | |
| 9:50 | Congregational Singing | David Oliver |
| 9:55 | Witnessing Giving Life | Jimmie Sheffield |
| 10:05 | Special Music | Geyer Springs First Choir |
| 10:20 | CONVENTION SERMON | Paul Sanders |
| 10:50 | Congregational Singing | David Oliver |
| 10:55 | Resolutions | James Guthrie |
| 11:25 | Miscellaneous Business | |
| 11:45 | Presentation of New Officers Benediction of New President | |

Organist: Lyndon Finney

Pianist: Mariba Rosenbaum
Tuesday Night—John Dresbach

Program Personalities

William B. Tolar, of Southwestern Seminary, will bring the Bible study.

Paul Powell, president of the Annulity Board, will bring the message on Tuesday afternoon.

Esther Burroughs, of the SBC Home Mission Board, will bring the prayer

emphasis for each session.

Don Moore, ABSC executive director, will bring the message on Tuesday evening.

Paul Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, will bring the Convention Sermon on Wednesday

morning.

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Texarkana Beech Street Church, will bring the President's Message on Tuesday morning.

Jim McDaniel, pastor of Brinkley First Church, will present the ABSC Executive Board report on Tuesday afternoon.

STATE CONVENTION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1 1991 Budget

I. State Causes

| | 1990 requests |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Administration | \$273,609 |
| 2. Business Services | 267,628 |
| 3. Annuity | 16,847 |
| 4. Baptist Student Union | 645,800 |
| 5. Brotherhood | 134,569 |
| 6. Christian Life Council | — |
| 7. Church Music | 168,935 |
| 8. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists | 120,629 |
| 9. Discipleship Training | 206,474 |
| 10. Evangelism | 240,237 |
| 11. Ministry of Crisis Support | 97,441 |
| 12. Missions | 508,251 |
| 13. Church Leadership Support | 89,931 |
| 14. Stewardship | 91,291 |
| 15. Sunday School | 281,203 |
| 16. Woman's Missionary Union | 289,546 |
| 17. Media Services | 57,550 |
| 18. Arkansas Baptist Assembly | 193,078 |
| 19. Camp Paron—Operating | 55,843 |
| 20. Camp Paron—Improvement Fund | 25,504 |
| 21. Expanded Church Annuity Plan | 332,500 |
| 22. Baptist Student Union—Buildings | 124,000 |
| 23. Convention | 83,908 |
| 24. Historical Commission | 8,387 |
| 25. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes | 263,952 |

Total Executive Board Programs \$4,576,911

26. Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries 390,833

27. Arkansas Baptist Foundation 230,795

28. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine 199,216

(1) Ouachita Baptist University 2,086,780

(2) Williams Baptist College 628,509

(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund 112,641

Total State Programs \$8,225,685

II. Southern Baptist Convention \$5,835,315

Total Budget \$14,061,000

Recommendation No. 2

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1991 Priority Projects related to Building God's Family and the 1991 department goals and projects.

In 1991, the Building God's Family priority emphasis is Supporting Missions. The priority projects related to this emphasis include:

- Witnessing Giving Life
- Simultaneous World Mission Conferences
- Multi-Family Housing
- Baptist Student Union Supporting the Guatemala Arkansas Partnership
- Bold Mission Prayer Thrust
- One for All—A Cooperative Program Promotion Plan

Each department has goals and projects that relate to Building God's Family and to the departments assigned programming responsibility. The departments have written 114 goals with supporting projects to reach these goals.

Recommendation from Arkansas Baptist Foundation

The Foundation Board recommends that . . .

. . . in view of the staff's responsibility to prepare for the annual meeting and,

. . . with the change in the program of the Convention's annual meeting, that, Article V, Section 1 of the By-Laws that now requires one of the four board meetings to be in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention be amended to read,

"The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times each year."—Larry Kinard, chairman

Constitution and Bylaw Change


The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will recommend to the State Convention in its annual meeting a proposed change in Article XI.—Parliamentary Authority which presently reads:

"*Kerfoot's Parliamentary Law* shall be the standard for deciding questions of parliamentary procedure."

The committee recommends the following change:

"The current addition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the standard for deciding questions of parliamentary procedure."

Jim Pate, chairman; Betty Harp; John Maddox; J.W. Green; Roy Buckelew; Raymond Higgins.




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Supporting Church Growth

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"I believe that every church should work to carry out the Great Commission to its fullest ability, regardless of the size of the church," declared Eddie Combs, consultant for Church Support Services. "In order to assist middle size and smaller churches in developing strategies for carrying out this biblical mandate, I have developed a new ministry."

Combs' ministry is designed to assist churches in utilizing the information they receive in conferences and materials which are sent from the Sunday School Board in Nashville and the Baptist Building in Little Rock. He serves as a one-year consultant to help churches develop strategies for reaching more people and discipling them.

In developing the strategy, Combs counsels with the pastor, observes the Sunday School, has a questionnaire filled out, and talks with the church leadership. The church also elects a leadership committee to provide guidance in carrying out the strategy.

The strategy plan is designed to encompass Sunday School, outreach, discipleship, worship, administration and stewardship. All of these areas must be a part of the strategy in order for a church to have true lasting growth and development.

After the strategy plan has been developed, Combs serves as a resource to assist the congregation in carrying out the actions called for in the plan. He also is present for at least four major events during the year. These include such things as revivals, Bible conferences, and weekend leadership training.

Every strategy is different because each church is unique. Combs believes that it is vitally important for him to be present for periodic evaluations. He also contacts the pastor at least once each week to see the direction the church is moving. Stable growth must come about on a long term basis, as quick growth often is not lasting.

Combs is well qualified for the ministry. In addition to his college degree, he has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has served both as a pastor and as a minister of education. Each of the



(L to R) Ron Williamson, Eddie Combs, and Grant Ettridge

churches which he has served has experienced growth during his ministry.

Currently Combs is serving five churches. These are: Spradlin Church, Fort Smith; First Church, Lavaca; First Church, Booneville; Rye Hill Church, Fort Smith; and Trinity Church, Fort Smith.

The Spradlin Church is located in a transitional community in Fort Smith. The church had averaged over 300 at one time, but reached a low of 54 prior to the ministry of Ron Williamson. The Sunday School average was 119 in October of 1989 when Combs began his ministry with the church. Since that time the church is

averaging 142 in attendance.

Both Williamson and Combs will serve as church growth consultants in the Fort Walton Beach, Fla., area in the near future. Williamson recently was interviewed by the SBC Sunday School Board on Spradlin's success in using the "Great Commission Project."

First Church, Lavaca, was averaging 310 in Sunday School when Combs began his ministry with the congregation. Sunday School average attendance 25 weeks later was 357. Since February the church has averaged 372 in Sunday School attendance. The church offerings also have substantially increased. For the 1988-89 budget year, the church received \$122,000. The projected income for 1989-90 budget year is in excess of \$168,000.

The church has had two high attendance days. On Easter Sunday, the congregation had a goal of 527, which was one more than the church had ever had in attendance. Actual attendance was 586. A summer high attendance goal was 425, the highest attendance for any summer Sunday. Actual attendance was 502.

Pastor Grant Ettridge noted that the two needs of his congregation were teacher training and better records. He observed, "Records are vital. If a congregation doesn't have proper records, it won't know who to focus on during a given week."

Combs' goal is to have a ministry that will serve churches of almost every size in carrying out the Great Commission. He believes "Church Support Services" can minister to virtually every congregation.

HMB

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People

Arvin and Luella Massengale of Harrison were honored Sept. 1 with a reception at Alpena Community Center in recognition of their 60th wedding anniversary. Their eight children and their families hosted the event. The Massengales are members of First Church in Harrison. He was licensed to the gospel ministry by Bear Creek Springs Church on Feb. 10, 1985.

William Jay Wells, a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been called to serve as pastor of Phoenix Village Church in Fort Smith.

Al Green began serving Sept. 2 as pastor of First Southern Church in Bearden. He was a member of First Church in Camden.

Alan Vest has resigned as minister of youth at Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro.

Jim Greenslade is serving as pastor of Hill Top Church in Oakland.

Tom Wideman was recognized Aug. 19 by Second Church in Little Rock for six years of service as minister of music.

Ann Payne has been named as interim part-time children's director for First Church in Springdale.



The Massengales

Scott Tollett has been named as interim part-time youth minister for First Church in Springdale.

Kimma Harper has accepted the position of youth ministry coordinator for First Church in Glenwood.

Bill Webb has resigned as associate pastor of education/outreach at Immanuel Church in Little Rock to serve as minister of education at First Church of Richardson, Texas.

Glen Pool has resigned as associate pastor and music director at Second Church in West Memphis to go into full-time music evangelism. He may be contacted at Route 2, Box 268, Wynne, AR 72396; telephone 501-238-8838.

Troy Bush is serving as pastor of Lakeshore Church in Hughes, going there from First Church in Crawfordsville.



Wells

Mamie Nell Holloway was honored Aug. 26 by First Church in Des Arc in recognition of her retirement as a nursery worker, following 20 years of service.

Sonny Simpson recently observed five years of service as pastor of Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff.

Mitchell King Jr. is serving as pastor of Crossroads Church near Blytheville. He and his wife, Kara, have a son, Mitchell III.

Carter Shotwell has resigned as minister of education at Second Church in Hot Springs to serve as minister of education/administration at First Church of Humble, Texas.

Harold Davis has resigned as pastor of Hatton Church and is residing in Scotland.

Joe Denton is serving as interim pastor of Hatton Church.

Duane Hamby has resigned as pastor of Bethel Church, Potter.

A.C. Lyles is serving as pastor of Bethel Church, Potter, going there from Calvary Church, Mena.

Franklin Haygood has resigned as pastor of Lower Big Fork Church, Mena.

Jim Munas began his fifth year of service Aug. 17 as minister of music at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Viola First Church dedicated a new church plant Sunday, Aug. 12. The 9,000 square foot facility includes a 276-seat sanctuary with overflow capacity for 100, 12 classrooms, a fellowship hall, and kitchen. The congregation sold its old building and relocated to three acres of land donated by Gene and Fern Beaver. The construction project cost \$154,000. David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, brought the dedication message. John Hodges is pastor.



First Church in Wilson celebrated its 65th year of service Aug. 5. Pastor Delton J. Cooper (left) welcomed the capacity crowd of 300. Ben M. Elrod (center), president of Ouachita Baptist University, was speaker. Others on program were Marvin Reynolds (right), director of missions for Mississippi County Association; John Dresbach of Osceola, guest musician and a former music director; Polly Cash, church organist; and Cathy Cox, church pianist.

R.L. Dorman, who has actively served in the ministry for 34 years, retired Aug. 26 as pastor of First Church, Petit Jean. He may be contacted at Box C, Cass, AR 72023, telephone 501-233-6360.

Randy Hogan is serving as pastor of Concord Chapel at Van Buren, coming there from Davis Boulevard Church, North Richland Hills, Texas. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville. He and his wife, Lisa, have a son, Joshua.

James D. Wallace will begin serving Sept. 9 as pastor of Lonoke Church, coming there from Budora Church, where he has served as pastor for 15 years.

Randy Smith, chairman of the department of psychology at Ouachita Baptist University, has won a Sears-Roebuck Foundation "Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award." Smith and OBU will each receive a \$1,000 cash award from the foundation.

Michéy Anders resigned as pastor of First Church in Sherwood, effective Sept. 9, to begin serving Sept. 16 as pastor of Pataski Heights Church in Little Rock.

Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro began serving Sept. 2 as interim pastor of Wynne Church, going there from a three-month tenure at First Church, Lepanto.

Randy Magar is serving as pastor of Old Austin Church, Cabot.

Phil Spigner joined the staff of Immanuel Church in Little Rock Sept. 1 as associate pastor for youth and recreation. A native of Tupelo, Miss., he is a graduate of Clarke Memorial College, Nesson, Miss., Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Wanda, have two children, Brian Christopher, and Ross Simpson.

John O'Neal, a member of Pine Church in Hot Springs, has been called to serve as pastor of Boie Church, Prattville.

Bill Neal has resigned as pastor of Mount Vernon Church, Benton.

Robert Dubon is serving as pastor of Ridgcrest Church, Benton. He resigned a position with the U.S. Postal Service to accept this pastorate.

Gene Murdoch has been called as minister of evangelism and outreach to Shannon Road Church, Pine Bluff.

Jennifer Strills has joined the staff of First Church in Glenwood as children's ministry coordinator.

John Guerra resigned Sept. 9 as minister of youth and evangelism at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock to serve as pastor of Pleasant Hills Church, Sardis.

Stephen St. Clair has resigned as music director of First Chapel in Jonesboro to enter Southern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Music.

Briefly

Broadmoor Church in Brinkley observed its 12th anniversary Sept. 9. Former members were special guests.

Dumas First Church held a vacation Bible school and Teen College Aug. 6-10. The two resulted in an enrollment of 285 with an average attendance of 218. An offering of \$454 was designated to the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home. Hal Graves is pastor.

Springdale First Church held a special service Aug. 19 led by J. Harold Smith that resulted in 71 professions of faith and 47 baptisms.

Gilead Church at Malvern observed its 40th anniversary with homecoming Aug. 12. Jerry George was speaker.

Magnet Cove First Southern Church ordained Barry Smith to the gospel ministry Aug. 12. James Swedenborg, director of missions for Central Association, preached the ordination message and Pat Titsworth, pastor of Third Street Church in Malvern, which was the sponsoring church when First Southern started as a mission, moderated.

Indian Springs Church in Bryant ordained Jim Stewart, Chris Reade, Don Laster, and Richard Craft to the deacon ministry Aug. 12. Benny Grant is pastor.

North Park Church in Van Buren celebrated payment of a \$119,557 church plant indebtedness in two years with a noteburning service Aug. 26. Murl Walker, staff evangelist, was speaker and George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, led prayer.

Central Church in North Little Rock will celebrate a decade of progress Sept. 26 with supper for all age levels, recognition of ministries, a tour of the new church plant, and recognition of officers, teachers, vacation Bible school workers, new members, deacons and committee members. Ronald Ford is pastor.

Crossett Temple Church mission team, led by Pastor Milton L. Wilson, has returned from its sixth evangelism mission trip to Imperatriz, Brazil. The effort resulted in 158 professions of faith.

East End Church at Hensley will be in a revival Sept. 16-21 led by Evangelist Mel Poe, pastor of Calvary Church in Blue Springs, Mo., and Bill Kilmer, director of music. Jack Woodard is pastor.

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Rodney Louder

President, Board of Trustees
Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes
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Ratton Named To Taskforce

Pat Ratton, associate director of the ABSC Sunday School Department, has been named by Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton to a state taskforce evaluating proposed new national child care standards.

The proposed standards have been drafted by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association. They address health and safety issues in out-of-home child care programs. While not mandatory, the completed guidelines will serve as a national reference for state licensing requirements and child care center operation.

Teams from seven states are evaluating the proposed standards.

In a letter informing Ratton of her nomination, Clinton said he chose her because of her recognized expertise in early childhood education and her concern for quality child care. Glenda Bean, executive director of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission, is directing the Arkansas field assessment team.

Ratton, an Arkansas native, has served on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School staff for 23 years. She consults with churches regarding Weekday Early



Ratton

Education programs and coordinates an annual workshop which satisfies the 10-hour annual training minimum required for state child care licensing.

A Smackover native, Ratton is a graduate of Southern Arkansas State College (now University) at Magnolia. She also has done graduate work in religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

She formerly served Second Church, Little Rock, and Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff. She is a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Ruddell Hill Observes 50th

Ruddell Hill Church at Batesville observed its 50th anniversary Aug. 19.

Program personalities were Pastor Jim Black; Andy Westmoreland, son of Fred Westmoreland, who served the church for a period of 16 years prior to his death; Bill Coop, Sunday School director; Randy Magar of Old Austin Church, Cabot, a former interim pastor; and deacons Gary Leonard and Bobby Davis.

The Soul Searchers presented a Sunday evening concert that was followed by a baptismal service for five candidates. There were two other additions to the church on its anniversary, one by letter and one on profession of faith.

A reception concluded the celebration.

Arkansans Appointed

Neal and Gleenda Stevens were commissioned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in a ceremony July 5 at Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Stevens is a church strategist for multi-family housing ministries. He is serving as a field consultant in apartment and mobile home park ministries for the church extension program of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department. He also consults with the Home Mission Board on church extension projects in other states.

The Stevens are both natives of Dyess. He is retired from the United States Army.



The Stevens

Job Corps Needs

One of the many faces of Arkansas Baptist work is that of the ABSC-supported chaplain at Cass Job Corps Center. There is an ongoing need to stock the gift items given in the personal hygiene packages that the chaplain gives to the new arrivals. Providing these items, such as soap, shaving lotion, deodorant, shampoo, and razors,

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For further information write: Doctor of Ministry Office, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 3624, Memphis, TN 38173-0624; or call (901) 726-9171.

can be a way to witness. Anyone interested can contact Carter Tucker, missions associate for ABSC Chaplaincy Ministries, at 376-4791, ext. 5150, or Chaplain Ron Clark at Cass Job Corps at 667-3686.

Ford Honored For 15 Years of Service

Ronald M. Ford, pastor of Central Church in North Little Rock, was honored Aug. 26 with a reception in recognition of 15 years of service.

During his tenure, Ford has led the congregation in re-locating and in a membership growth from 716 to 1,206 members as of Oct. 1, 1989.



Ford

Dr. Ford also has been active in associational work, and has served as children's pastor at Siloam Springs Encampment, a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and a member of the ABSC Executive Board finance committee, and as an instructor for Boyce Bible School.

Ford is married to the former Kay Sowell, daughter of Pat and Bobby Sowell of North Little Rock. They have two sons, Jeremy, and Nathan.

Missionaries Appointed

Two missionary couples were appointed and one couple reapointed when the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board met recently at Gloriaeta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Robert and Nancy Calvert will live in Kenya, where he will start and develop churches.

Born and reared in Little Rock, Calvert is the son of Mrs. and Mrs. Gene Calvert of that city. He is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and Southwestern Seminary. He has been minister of youth and music at Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock and minister of music at Pickles Gap Church in Conway.

A native of Georgia, Mrs. Calvert, the former Nancy Felts, is a graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta and Southwestern Seminary. She is a registered nurse.

The Calverts have three children: Christine Rose, Abigail Deborah, and Robert Thomas.

Ernest and Norma Whitten will live in Ecuador, where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1986 he has been pastor of Natural Steps Church in Roland. Born in McCaskill, Whitten also lived in Hope and Prescott while growing up.

He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has been mission pastor for Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock



The Calverts



The Whittens

and pastor of First Church in Lockesburg and First Church in Decatur.

A native of Texas, Mrs. Whitten, the former Norma Willis, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Since 1984 she has been an elementary teacher with the Little Rock School District.

The Whittens have four grown children. The families will go to Rockville, Va., in October for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Vinton and Carol Laseter were reapointed, having served in Transkei and Ethiopia for seven years before resigning in 1988. They will live in Zambia, where he will be mission treasurer.

Since 1988 he has been pastor of Millwood Church in Ashdown. Born in Louisiana, he considers Texas his home state. Laseter is a graduate of Texarkana (Texas) College; the University of Colorado in Boulder; University of Arkansas in Fayetteville; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native Texan, Mrs. Laseter, the former Carol Kincannon, received a diploma from Southwestern Seminary.

The Laseters have four grown children.

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Office of the Principal, Benton Arkansas 72015

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March 16, 1990

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Sincerely,

John H. Butler
Principal

A SMILE OR TWO

A man who was fond of playing practical jokes sent a friend a telegram, charges collect, which read, "I am perfectly well."

About a week later, the joker received a heavy package on which he was required to pay considerably higher charges. Opening it, he found a big block of concrete on which was pasted the message, "This is the weight your telegram lifted from my mind."

You can always find a person to take on a thankless job if you make him chairman.

SBC Housing Form

The form on the opposite page must be used by all those wishing to make hotel reservations through the SBC Housing Bureau for the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia on June 4-6, 1991.

When to mail the form—Housing Request Forms bearing a postmark other than Oct. 1, 1990, will be processed by the Housing Bureau after those postmarked Oct. 1. Do not mail a deposit with the form.

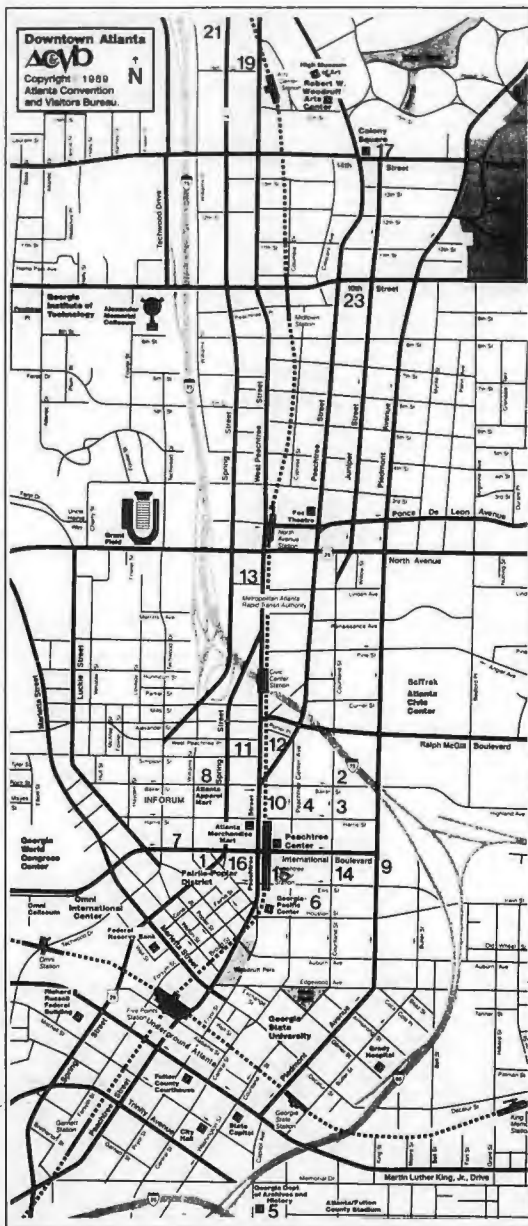
How to use this form—One form should be used for each room requested. No more than 10 forms may be sent in one envelope. Accurately fill in the requested information, and select six hotels from the list below.

The Georgia World Congress Center is the site of the Southern Baptist Convention, Pastors' Conference, and Woman's Missionary Union Meeting. The Hyatt Regency Atlanta is the Convention Hotel. The Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel is the Woman's Missionary Union Headquarters Hotel.

For questions, call the Bureau at 404-521-6630. Handicapped persons requiring special assistance should contact Housing Information, SBC, Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Room 750, Nashville, TN 37203; telephone 615-244-2355.

HOTEL LIST

| Map No. | Single | Double |
|--|--------|--------|
| DOWNTOWN | | |
| 1. Best Western American Hotel | \$ 78 | \$ 88 |
| 2. Atlanta Downtown Travelodge | 64 | 76 |
| 3. Atlanta Hilton and Towers | 99 | 119 |
| 4. Atlanta Marriott Marquis | 110 | 110 |
| 5. Burger Hotel | 125 | 125 |
| 6. City Centre Hotel | 70 | 75 |
| 7. Comfort Inn | 99 | 109 |
| 8. Days Inn Atlanta Downtown | 76 | 86 |
| 9. Holiday Inn Downtown Atlanta | 80 | 90 |
| 10. Hyatt Regency Atlanta | 95 | 95 |
| 11. Inn at the Peachtrees | 65 | 75 |
| 12. Quality Inn Habersham | 90 | 90 |
| 13. Atlanta Penta Hotel | 89 | 89 |
| 14. Radisson Hotel Atlanta | 75 | 75 |
| 15. The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta | 125 | 135 |
| 16. The Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel | 105 | 120 |
| MIDTOWN/BUCKHEAD AREA | | |
| 17. Colony Square Hotel | 85 | 95 |
| 18. Days Hotel at Lenox | 71 | 81 |
| 19. The Granada All Suite Hotel | 80 | 100 |
| 20. The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead | 135 | 135 |
| 21. The Rodeway Inn - Midtown | 63 | 73 |
| 22. Swissotel Atlanta | 95 | 95 |
| 23. Wyndham Hotel Midtown | 99 | 99 |
| AIRPORT AREA | | |
| 24. Atlanta Airport Marriott | 100 | 110 |
| 25. Courtyard Marriott Atlanta Airport North | 84 | 90 |
| 26. Courtyard Marriott Atlanta Airport South | 84 | 90 |
| 27. Hyatt Atlanta Airport | 90 | 110 |
| 28. Howard Johnson-Atlanta Airport South | 49 | 54 |



MAP OF DOWNTOWN

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
JUNE 4-6, 1991 — ATLANTA, GEORGIA
*****OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM*****

- PRINT OR TYPE ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EVERY ITEM BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.
- SHOULD **MORE THAN ONE ROOM** BE NEEDED, USE A SECOND FORM.
- ALL CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS FORM.

(NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ROOM) NOTE: This person must be one of the individuals who will be occupying the room.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____

Select six hotels/motels of your choice:

FIRST CHOICE _____ FOURTH CHOICE _____

SECOND CHOICE _____ FIFTH CHOICE _____

THIRD CHOICE _____ SIXTH CHOICE _____

When making your selections which is more important to you PRICE or LOCATION?

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Arrival Time _____

Check type of room desired:

- Single (1 bed/1 person) Triple (2 beds/3 persons)
- Double (1 bed/2 persons) Quad (2 beds/4 persons)
- Twin (2 beds/2 persons) Other (specify) _____

Names of all persons occupying the room, including the person making this request:

1 _____ 3 _____

2 _____ 4 _____

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Hotel locations are shown on accompanying maps. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. SBC Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date mailed. Confirmations will come directly from your hotel. **DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS.** If rooms are not available at hotels of your choice, comparable reservations will be made at another cooperating hotel. If rate requested is not available, next available rate will be assigned. **Changes or cancellations should be sent in writing to the SBC Housing Bureau.**

—ALL FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OCTOBER 1, 1990—

MAIL TO: SBC Housing Bureau, 233 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 2000—Peachtree Harris Bldg., Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 521-6630

Parks Appeals for CP Support

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has responded to the recent meeting of moderates in Atlanta with a plea for dialogue and support of the Cooperative Program giving plan.

Parks and FMB trustee first vice chairman Morris Mills issued an Aug. 29 open letter that affirms, "The cooperative way is still the best way."

The letter was a response to the gathering of 3,000 moderates last month to discuss fellowship and alternate funding possibilities. The group established an interim organization to allow churches and individuals to designate funds outside the Cooperative Program. The group also elected a steering committee to develop plans for a permanent funding alternative and for fellowship organization. Leaders of the Atlanta meeting insisted the group was focusing on renewal, not a new convention. They also voiced a commitment to support Southern Baptist missionaries and missions efforts.

Park and others from the board attended the Atlanta meeting as observers. Just days after the gathering, the two board leaders issued their open letters.

The letter praised the Southern Baptist combination of the Cooperative Program and mission offerings as "the most effective way any group has yet found to jointly sponsor missions and other commonly agreed upon causes. It is a system built on trust and a commitment to financially support together a witness and ministry beyond what each church could do singly."

Southern Fund Foundation

An independent non-profit foundation has been established to receive funds to support Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Alumni and Friends of Theological Education Inc. was incorporated in Kentucky Aug. 21 by H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

The foundation's articles of incorporation stipulate that gifts will be considered endowments unless otherwise noted and that the principal of the endowment will not be spent.

The foundation also will receive cooperation from Southern's development office, said Thomas Mabe, the school's vice president for development.

Across the Country

Stringer Approved as Arizona Exec

Dan C. Stringer was approved as executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention at a special called convention Aug. 28.

Stringer, 62, succeeds Jack B. Johnson, who became president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission July 1.

Whitehead Nominated for CLC Washington Post

Michael K. Whitehead, 40, a Kansas City, Mo., lawyer and deacon at First Baptist Church of Raytown, Mo., will be nominated as General Counsel and Director of Christian Citizenship and Religious Liberty Concerns of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

If approved by the Christian Life Commission's trustees at their meeting Sept. 10-13 in Nashville, Whitehead will join the CLC's Washington, D.C., staff Oct. 1. He will succeed Larry Braidfoot, who resigned from the CLC staff in May to accept a position as academic vice president at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

A graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia, Whitehead received his law degree in 1975 from the University of Missouri Law School. He is with the law firm of Crews, Smart, Whitehead & Waits. Whitehead has served in a number of lay positions at First Church, Raytown, Mo., including chairman of deacons in 1988-89.

His other affiliations include the Kansas City chapter of Lawyers for Life, the Washington, D.C.-based Christian Legal Society, the Heart of America Christian Justice Center in Kansas City, and the Kansas City chapter of Coalition Against Pornography. He and his wife, Janet, have three children.

Southwestern Faculty Affirm McBeth, Book

Calling the decision not to publish a book by Leon McBeth an "arbitrary act of censorship," the faculty at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth voted unanimously to affirm the book's author and encouraged publication of the manuscript during their annual retreat Aug. 24.

McBeth's book, written for the centennial of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, became an issue of controversy when trustees at the board voted to destroy all copies of the manuscript, except one which will remain in the board's archives in Nashville.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

A Path of Crime

by S. D. Hacker, Harrison

Basic passage: 1 Kings 21:4-11a, 17-19

Focal passage: 1 Kings 21:4, 7-11, 17-19

Central truth: The misuse of influence, whether by king or peasant, is a transgression of God's law.

There can be no denial of sin before the holy and just God because he sees and knows all. The dark stains of crime, lust, and greed that Ahab wore are blights on human history. The king and queen were aided and abetted in their dastardly deed of totally wiping out Naboth. Naboth's own neighbors—and perhaps, friends—who were elders and nobles by title, participated in the crime.

Ahab became an evil pawn in the hands of an even more evil woman. What he alone might not have done, at the persuasion and insistence of Jezebel, he did do, endorsing a chain of events which slandered Naboth, publicly ruined him in the eyes of the community, robbed him on his land, and took his life. All of this was done at the petty whim of an evil king and his evil queen. Perhaps Ahab and Jezebel deserved each other. In addition, their descendants reaped punishment because of the cruelty of his sin.

Truly, Elijah was Ahab's enemy (v. 20) because he represented God. Ahab could not stand in the face of God's truth, purity, and justice. His guilt and wretchedness were revealed in his angry insults and actions against God's prophet. Elijah delivered the verdict and sentence for the crime—punishment without compromise.

The misuse of one's influence, power, or wealth shows no consideration or regard for law, justice, or human dignity. Such misuse is a gross transgression of God's law. The powerful and wealthy, and even the insignificant and poor, can be perpetrators of such crimes.

The gospel message today is prefaced by the same words the prophet spoke to Ahab, "Thus saith the Lord. . ." (v. 19). Designing and participating in slander, robbing one of his influence and his standing in the community, stealing one's material possessions, lying, plotting to do evil, murder—these will be punished by the just God. The old adage, "what goes around, comes around" fits Ahab's case. The greatest punishment will be meted out to those who ignore the warnings and reject God's perfect plan of salvation.

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Life and Work

Being Doers of the Word

by Joseph W. Jones, Little Rock

Basic passage: James 1:22-27; Luke 6:27-38; Galatians 6:9-10

Focal passage: James 1:22-27

Central truth: Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only.

It seems that in today's world, we have a lot of classroom Christians. We spend a lot of time in Sunday Schools, spiritual conferences, and many "how to" workshops, but sometimes we fail to apply those things that we have learned. In this week's lesson, James is encouraging us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

Those who think that they are doers, when in fact they aren't, are only deceiving themselves. I'm reminded of the reporter who went looking for a Dallas Cowboy football player. He first saw a man with a Cowboy sweatshirt and tickets and asked him if he was a Dallas Cowboy. The man said, "Yes, I'm one of their biggest fans." He then saw a Dallas Cowboy cheerleader and immediately knew that this was not a Cowboy. Then he looked out on the field and saw 11 big football players passing, running, and tackling; playing the game of football. These were the Cowboys because they were playing the game.

Not being a doer of the Word is harmful to the testimony of the church. First, it sends a message to the unbelieving world that there isn't really much to being a Christian. The lost tell us that we say one thing on Sunday and do the opposite on Monday through Saturday. Hearers of the Word are also harmful to the young Christian. One who becomes a Christian is at first very excited about serving God and being a doer of the Word, but after several months he may join the ranks of "normal" Christians and become a hearer only. He learns that being a hearer is the "norm" for Christians.

James, in verse 27, tells us what pure religion is. He tells us that pure religion is "to visit" and "to keep." Both of these words require us to be doers. First, we are to visit those who are helpless and are at the mercy of others (the fatherless and widows in Bible times). Secondly, we are to separate ourselves from the world system.

What about you? Are you a doer or just a hearer of the Word? Start right now and decide that you will be a doer and then do it!

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Bible Book

Beginning of the End

by William P. Oakley, Gosnell Church, Blytheville

Basic passage: 1 Samuel 27:4-6a; 28:4-7, 15-19

Focal passage: 1 Samuel 28:15-19

Central truth: Man cannot disobey God without facing a devastating payday.

In the process of time, the Philistines gathered their armies to war against Israel. The Philistines gathered themselves together at Shunum and Saul gathered the armies of Israel at Gilboa. On the opposing forces being assembled, Saul's heart fainted for fear of his enemy. Saul, in his trouble, seeks in vain guidance from God. In despair, Saul turns to the witch of Endor for help. Saul requests that the witch bring up Samuel in order that he might converse with him. The focal passage contains the conversation between Saul and Samuel. It is this passage upon which we will focus our attention today.

(1) A serious conversation (1 S. 28:15-17). Saul, being in deep distress, inquires of Samuel what he should do. Samuel intimates that the inquiry is in vain, as he cannot go against God. He also states that the events causing so much distress were simply the perfecting of what had long before been declared. God had already stated that David was the coming king and that all this was the consequence of Saul's deliberate disobedience of God.

(2) A stated cause (1 S. 28:18). Disobedience to God was the reason Saul found himself in such a dire predicament. The whole of Saul's conduct during the closing days of his life was based on the ignorant supposition that by some device he could be sustained in the kingdom, notwithstanding his former disobedience and continued impentence. It must be stated here that conformity in act and spirit to the mind of God is the law of true prosperity in life. This law of life has never changed. Character determines destiny. The lines of the future are the outcome of the present; they are not disconnected.

(3) A sad consequence (1 S. 28:19). The final verdict of the matter was twofold: First, the Lord would deliver Israel into the hands of the Philistines. Second, within 24 hours, Saul and his sons would be dead.

Let us all be reminded that the bitterest element in the cup of suffering is that we put the ingredients into the cup by our own transgressions and disobedience.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Standing Alone

by S. D. Hacker, Harrison

Basic passage: 1 Kings 22:13-16, 19-23, 26-28

Focal passage: 1 Kings 22:14, 26-28

Central truth: God's opponents, claiming to speak in his behalf, create discord, division, and confusion.

1 Kings 22:22 states: "... the spirit said, I will go forth and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." This does not refer to the Holy Spirit, but another spirit, and refers to Ahab's prophets. Ahab's day of judgment was fast approaching. Micalah, God's prophet, was the one to pronounce the judgment and lead the way to the execution chamber, directed by the righteous judge, God. As Ahab had made use of lies to gain power and wealth for himself, so now lying tongues in the mouths of his own prophets would be his very fitting downfall.

Micalah was a unique man, in that he chose not to join the popular stand of others, but instead stood his ground and said it like it was. Note his confidence in verse 28 (writer's paraphrase): "Now, pay attention, folks; just you wait and see whether or not the Lord has spoken through me." He suffered imprisonment because his prophecy offended the king and was rejected by him.

There are opponents of God today who claim to speak in his behalf, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. They create confusion, discord, and division. They seek to destroy the works of God. How can we know God's truth when there are so many false prophets? When we do determine the truth, will we, like Micalah, stand on our convictions, even if we stand alone and must suffer the consequences as he did?

Many of the styles and practices of today's churches are not God-sanctioned and Christ-centered. Rather than followers getting in line with what the Lord directs through his chosen spokesmen, this group chooses to listen to their own prophets who speak with lying tongues. They help imprison and destroy God's spokesmen. They change the leadership in order to get someone who will say what they want to hear.

The hearts of these are desperately wicked and they are far from the Lord. All the cosmetics, fame, fortune, or influential positions cannot disguise the wicked nor protect him against judgment.

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Life and Work

Go and Tell

by Joseph W. Jones, Little Rock

Basic passage: Mark 5:19-20; John 15:25-27; Psalm 40:9-10; 2 John 1:1-2

Focal passage: Mark 5:19-20

Central truth: We need to go and tell others the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Why is it that only a small percentage of Christians ever share the good news with others? Perhaps the most common reason is that many simply do not know how to share their faith. If this is your reason, let me just say that there are a variety of courses, workshops, and seminars that are available to churches through the evangelism department in the convention. If nothing else, just write out and then memorize your testimony. Do you remember the blind man that Jesus healed? When the Pharisees demanded answers from the man, he simply told them what Jesus had done for him.

Another reason for not sharing the gospel is that we are not convinced of the urgency of the hour. The end times are upon us and yet we sometimes act as if there is plenty of time for reaching the lost for Christ. Suppose that you knew that you had only 24 hours left on earth. Would you spend most of it watching TV or even sleeping? I'd think one would spend a lot of time telling relatives and friends the good news of salvation through Jesus.

Finally, maybe we don't witness like we should because we are not as thankful for all the things God has done for us as we once were. In Mark chapter 5, Jesus encountered a man possessed with many demons. The man would be found always at the tombs crying and cutting himself with stones. Think for a moment about the pain and misery that this man was in. Life to him seemed so hopeless and helpless. Then Jesus came and cast out the demons and took away his pain. He then told the man to go and tell what great things the Lord had done for him and that's exactly what the man did.

What about you? Have you ever been in such agony and pain that you felt like life wasn't worth living? Then Jesus came and took that pain and gave you his peace. It's time for us to remember and to go and tell what great things God has done for us. In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Will you begin this week to "go and tell!"

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Bible Book

Even as the Lord Said

by William P. Oakley, Gosnell Church, Blytheville

Basic passage: 1 Samuel 30:1-2, 17-18; 31:1-7

Focal passage: 1 Samuel 30:1-2, 17-18; 31:1-7

Central truth: What the Lord promises, he always delivers.

David, on returning to Ziklag with his men, discovers that the Amalekites had smitten it and carried off the families as captives. In their deep distress David and his men weep bitterly. On a mutiny arising among his men, David betakes himself to God for comfort and guidance. He receives assurance of success, and therefore presses on with his forces. David comes upon the Amalekites in the midst of their revels and smites them.

In the battle of Gilboa the men of Israel suffer defeat from the Philistines. His sons being slain, the conflict presses hard on Saul. Dreading to fall by the hand of a Philistine, and falling to find death through the hand of his armor-bearer, he falls on his own sword and dies. Here we have the closing scene in the tragedy of Saul's life.

(1) A tragic detail (1 S. 30:1-2). The Amalekites were doubtless glad to retaliate upon David for his cruel treatment of them. Also, they lived off rapine, and when the fighting men of Philistia and of Judea were marching away to war, it was just the opportunity they wished to spoil the defenseless country. A great calamity had come, but religiously it proved a blessing.

(2) A triumphant deliverance (1 S. 30:17-18). Pursuing the Amalekites, David finds an Egyptian slave in distress, and administers to him food and drink. On being questioned, the man states that his master, who was one of the force destroying Ziklag, had left him there three days before. On promise of not being turned over to his master, he acts as guide to the rendezvous of the Amalekites. On coming upon them, David and his men win a decisive victory.

(3) A terrible death (1 S. 31:1-7). This section gives revelation to the tragic death of Saul and his sons and the decisive victory of the Philistines over Israel.

In Saul's final hours, there is a commingling of light and darkness, moral quickening and mad infatuation that produces an analogue to his conduct all through his sad career.

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Gathered for Prayer

Chapman Meets with SBC Prayer Leaders

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman met privately for more than three and one-half hours with key convention prayer leaders Sept. 1 at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment near Dallas to discuss prayer and spiritual awakening.

"I wanted to learn more about what is occurring in solemn assemblies with leaders around the country," said Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

Avery Willis and T.W. Hunt of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Henry Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were at the encampment for the "Cedars of Lebanon" prayer retreat, sponsored by Texas Baptist Men organization. Minette Drumwright of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Doug Beggs with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission flew in specifically at Chapman's request.

Chapman said that even before the votes were tallied June 12 in New Orleans (site of the 1990 SBC annual meeting), God had

directed him to emphasize prayer and spiritual awakening if he were elected president of the SBC.

"Once I was elected, one of my first thoughts was to call together these prayer officers of our convention agencies," he said.

"I wanted to listen to them and hear some of the things that they had learned about prayer since first calling Southern Baptists to solemn assembly in September of 1989."

The solemn assembly is based on the Old Testament practice of calling together God's people for prayer, fasting, corporate repentance and confession of sin. "I am greatly encouraged by what I believe God is going to do among Southern Baptists as we increasingly come before him," Chapman said.

Though he indicated he would have to "give more thought and prayer" to the matter before making specific plans, Chapman said he was considering ways to help implement the idea of solemn assemblies among Southern Baptists.

Throughout the weekend Cedars of Lebanon retreat, speakers asserted that the SBC was suffering under the remedial judgment of God and needed desperately to repent.

Since he had not heard the sermons referring to judgment, Chapman said it was difficult for him "to determine how God views our spirituality at the present time," but he agreed that Southern Baptists need to seek God in humility and repentance.

He declined naming specific sins from which Southern Baptists need to repent, saying, "I think we first as a corporate body must be sure we're bringing ourselves into the presence of God, then he most likely will reveal to us the times in which we have failed to follow him."

Chapman said he reported to the prayer leaders the great number of converts in Kenya and Korea who professed faith in Christ and whom he had helped to baptize during recent evangelistic trips.

Blackaby requested prayer for the SBC Executive Committee, who will hold a solemn assembly on Sept. 17 as part of their regularly scheduled meeting. Blackaby said Chapman plans to deliver a "state of the union" address at the meeting, and "wants a clear and unmistakable word from the Lord."

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VENEZUELA

2,500 Accept Christ

by Mary E. Spiedel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (BP)—They received more than twice what they prayed for.

Baptist leaders in Maracaibo, Venezuela, had prayed that 1,000 people would become Christians during a partnership evangelism project with Southern Baptist volunteers. When the campaign ended Aug. 26, more than 2,500 people had accepted Christ as Savior. But that wasn't the only answered prayer.

Two of those 2,500 people had been praying for someone to help them with spiritual questions.

One was a young woman who was washing clothes outdoors when Southern Baptist volunteer Gary Longenecker visited her neighborhood. Speaking through an interpreter, Longenecker told her about Christ. The woman said she had been reading the Bible for several years but did not understand it.

"This morning I prayed that God would send someone to help me understand," the woman told Longenecker, pastor of First Baptist Church in House Springs, Mo. "God sent you to help me understand. Thank you for coming," she said.

Volunteer Kendall Hamilton, minister of children/family at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., had a similar experience. He and a Venezuelan

Baptist shared their faith with an elderly man in his home.

"I've been waiting five days for someone to come tell me about Jesus," the man said. "I prayed because I knew I needed something. You are my answer to prayer."

Longenecker and Hamilton were among 81 volunteers from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma who helped lead evangelistic services Aug. 12-19 in 30 Baptist churches and missions in the Maracaibo area. Almost half the volunteers were students and faculty from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

Venezuelan Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries followed up the services with a citywide crusade Aug. 19-26 in a local baseball stadium. John Click, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Wichita, Kan., was the evangelist.

The project was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Wellspring Foundation in Prairie Village, Kan.

Wellspring was begun by Southern Baptist layman Harold Finch and his wife, Peggy, using funds from the sale of a business. Wellspring enables volunteers who have never been on the mission field to experience foreign missions. "Our principal objective is to help others catch the excitement of the Great Commission," said Finch, volunteer coordinator for the Venezuelan trip.

As Others Leave, Couple Remains

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A birthday wish for Maurice Graham's older brother was the only message that relatives of the Southern Baptist worker and his wife, Laurie, received as the exodus of Americans from Iraq and Kuwait began in early September.

"We are all fine and just waiting out the situation. Give family our love," Graham said in an Aug. 31 birthday greeting to his older brother, Jay, of Shelbyville, Tenn., via the State Department's communications link with the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

More than 100 Americans set foot on friendly soil the first two days of September, but the Grahams and their 10- and 13-year-old sons were among an estimated 2,500 or more Americans still being held hostage in Iraq and Kuwait, the oil-rich country seized by Iraqi troops Aug. 2.

As of Sept. 4, relatives of the couple

had not heard whether Mrs. Graham had been able to make arrangements to leave Kuwait with her sons following Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 28 announcement that foreign women and children could leave Iraq and Kuwait.

"We have no confirmation at this time of any departing flights," a State Department spokesman said Sept. 4. He said he had no confirmation of news reports that more Americans would be on an Iraqi jetliner slated to leave Baghdad Sept. 4.

The Grahams took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait several days after the invasion. Graham has been holding nightly prayer services there and scheduling appointments to offer counseling or a listening ear to an undisclosed number of Americans who also took refuge at the embassy compound.

Conflicting reports continue to swirl around conditions inside the compound in Kuwait.