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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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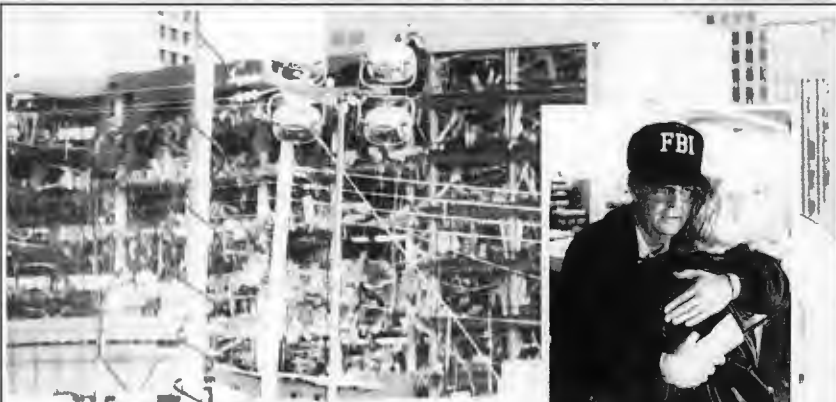
ARKANSAS BAPTIST



INSIDE:
1995 SBC Preview

Volume 94, Number 9

May 4, 1995



Joe Williams, director of chaplaincy for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, consoles Phyllis Poe, Oklahoma City police chaplain, in the wake of Oklahoma City's devastating terrorist attack.



A time to heal

Nation grieves, ministers to terrorism victims

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Arkansas Baptists to host National Campers on Mission Rally in June

Arkansas Baptists will host the 1995 Campers on Mission National Rally June 13-15 at the Hope Fairgrounds in Hope. The rally, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will feature worship, fellowship, Christian entertainment and missions education.

Lendol Jackson, coordinator for the Arkansas COM organization, said the rally will "stress Christian fellowship and strategy planning on how to witness in recreational settings."

"We will have a lot of conferences to meet different interests and different gifts," Jackson said. "Some of these are excellent opportunities to talk about volunteerism."

Pete Petty, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said the rally's theme is "Bein' As How You're Goin'..."

"It's the 'cotton-patch' version of the Great Commission," Jackson explained. "Since you are going, witness as you go. There's been a fear by some people that when Christians leave the confines of the sanctuary, they leave the Lord at home. With our witness training and worship services, we try to dispel that."

Explaining the choice of Hope as the rally site, Petty noted, "We try to choose a site for the national rally that is within a day's drive to the Southern Baptist Convention each year. Many of our campers will go from Hope there to the SBC" to be held June 20-22 in Atlanta.

Petty said the COM organization is "a national fellowship of Christian campers who desire to share their faith where they are camping."

Jackson said the fairground facilities include "more than 400 sites equipped

with 30-amp power hook-ups and three dump stations. The air-conditioned coliseum will seat 1,000 people and we have another, smaller building which also is air conditioned."

He noted that the facilities also include an Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts and softball field. There also will be a golf tournament June 12.

Petty said the rally program will focus on missions activity and will include conferences on missions opportunities through organizing work projects, resort or leisure ministries, interfaith witnessing, disaster relief, lifestyle evangelism and outreach activities such as fairs, puppets, face painting, clowning and mime. Other conference topics include recreational vehicle maintenance and safety and crafts.

The program will feature speakers: Dennis Swanberg, special assistant to the president for seminary relations at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; and Don Moore, ABCS executive director. Branson entertainer Barbara Fairchild also will be on the program.

The cost for the rally is \$15 per unit, plus a camping fee of \$12 per night per unit. Catered buffet meals will be served Wednesday and Thursday at an additional cost of \$6 per adult and \$5 per child.

Although the program begins June 13, Jackson said many participants are expected to arrive early. He asked participants not to arrive at the fairgrounds prior to 1 p.m. June 11.

For additional information about the rally or to request a registration form, contact Jackson; phone 501-933-0055.

Cover Story



'A time to heal'

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President Bill Clinton and evangelist Billy Graham were among leaders who offered words of hope and comfort following the devastating terrorist attack on the federal building in Oklahoma City April 19. Graham urged Americans to "stand together" and "let the healing begin."

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



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'A time to heal'

Clinton, Graham offer terrorism victims words of hope and comfort

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP/ABP)—9:01 a.m. April 19, 1995.

Like the day John F. Kennedy was killed or the day the Challenger space shuttle exploded, that date will forever be etched in the minds of Americans.

It was the day America lost its sense of security, as a car bomb explosion outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City reminded Americans that terrorists can strike anywhere, anytime.

Despite the overwhelming devastation and tragic loss of lives, President Bill Clinton and evangelist Billy Graham emphasized that terrorists cannot break the spirit of Oklahoma and the United States.

"In the face of death, let us honor life," President Clinton told the more than 9,000 people who filled the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds Arena on April 23 for a statewide prayer service honoring victims of the bombing.

Another 10,000 listened to the service on loudspeakers in a nearby exhibition hall and baseball stadium, and millions viewed it on television at home or in satellite locations.

Grieving family members of the 110 people confirmed dead and the estimated 100 still missing in the blast listened as Clinton, Graham and others offered words of consolation during the "A Time to Heal" prayer service.

As they listened, some parents clutched stuffed animals or photos of their children. Fifteen children are known to have died in the blast and others are still missing.

"Though we share your grief, your pain is unimaginable. We know that," Clinton told the hurting families. "We cannot undo it. That is God's work."

He reminded the families that while they had lost much, "those who are lost now belong to God. Someday, we will be with them. Until then," he said, "their legacy must be our lives."

Clinton called on all Americans to "purge" themselves of hatred and "the dark forces which give rise to this evil." Quoting the Apostle Paul, he urged them to "be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."

At the same time, he pledged swift and certain punishment for those who caused such pain to innocent citizens, and he pointed to promises of an eternal reckoning for evildoers.

"Let us teach our children that the God of comfort is also the God of righteousness. Those who trouble their own house will inherit the wind," he said. "Justice will prevail."

Blast shakes lives of Baptist families

OKLAHOMA CITY (ABP)—When a car bomb exploded on April 19, reducing one third of the federal building in downtown Oklahoma City to rubble, it shook churches throughout the city.

Few families in the area's many Southern Baptist churches remained untouched. Some grieved for dead or missing loved ones. Some rejoiced with survivors. Many reached out to friends, neighbors and co-workers whose lives would never be the same.

Among the confirmed fatalities was Kenneth McCullough, 36, a special agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. His father, the late Glendon McCullough, was a former president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Jessica and Patrick; and stepmother, Marjorie McCullough, former Southern Baptist Missionary and Woman's Missionary Union president.

Robbie Maroney was at her home early Friday, April 21, when she received word that the body of her husband, Mickey, had been discovered in the rubble of the federal building.

"You have lost too much, but you have not lost everything," he said. "And you have certainly not lost America, for we will stand with you for as many tomorrows as it takes."

Graham also offered hope and comfort to the more than 1,900 grieving family members present at the service, and to citizens of America's heartland whose sense of security had been shattered by the bomb blast.

"We stand together today to say, 'Let the healing begin,'" Graham said to the Oklahomans and the nation.

"Times like this make us hard, bitter and angry at God, or they make us tender, open and able to reach out in faith," he said. "Do not let bitterness and the poison of hatred creep into your soul. It is better to face times such as this with God than to try to face them without Him."

"The forces of hate and violence must

Maroney, 50, was a Secret Service agent who had helped to protect four presidents and had been assigned to Bill Clinton during his presidential campaign. He was working in his ninth-floor office at the federal building in Oklahoma City when the car bomb exploded.

His brother, Jimmy Maroney, is a 28-year veteran of foreign missions who currently directs the global desk at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Southern Baptist church closest to the bombing — First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City — was the only Baptist church that sustained significant structural damage. The explosion caused more than \$150,000 damage to the church's facility, including the loss of several stained-glass windows.

Home missionary Fred Loper, a physician who lives in Oklahoma City, asked Southern Baptists to pray for people to continue working together in a spirit of unity. He also requested prayers for a "forgiving attitude," as well as guidance for the pastors and chaplains counseling grieving survivors.

not be allowed to gain their hearts, not just in our society, but in our very."

Graham told the mourners that there is a mystery to suffering, and some questions defy easy answers. But he assured them God was present in the midst of their pain, and He stood ready to offer them comfort if they would respond to Him.

"Experience God's comfort. He loves you and shares in your suffering," he said, reminding the hurting families and neighbors of victims that the painful reminder of evil's reality came to Oklahoma City just three days after Easter—a reminder of "God's triumph over evil, death and hell."

"The cross tells us that God understands our suffering," Graham said. "Our Lord on that cross asked the question, 'Why?' And the answer was that He died to redeem us, to save us. He was saying from the cross, 'I love you.'"



Shattered stained glass at Oklahoma City's First Baptist Church.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

While the present young generation has come to be known as "Generation X," that is, an unknown quantity, the present overall trend in society is "individualism."

In the spiritual realm, "individualism" expresses itself with rebellion against God and other authority and unreasonable demands for special consideration. Unstable churches exist where everyone is expecting to have their way about everything.

Denominationally, "individualism" is fatal. Denominations are the result of people wanting to share their goals and resources in pursuit of a larger objective.

Individualism expresses itself by a spirit of "independence." We are seeing it in vast proportions. Pastors operate without regard to the larger family; churches isolate themselves and become a denomination unto themselves. Associations separate from interaction with others. State conventions move toward separation from ties with the Southern Baptist Convention. Institutions separate from their parent organizations. Even the SBC, which most benefits from the principle of shared resources, seems to be expressing this spirit as plans are developed that will call for less interaction within the larger family.

Individuals express this independent spirit when they get disgusted with the preacher, the church or the convention and simply withdraw from involvement. We need each other. We are strengthened by having each other. We need to trust and work with each other. This is the reason our churches need to send messengers to the state convention and SBC.

Only 219 Arkansas Baptist churches sent messengers to the SBC Annual meeting last year. Of those, 113 sent five or less. Only five churches sent their full contingency of 10 messengers to the SBC last year. The ministries God has entrusted to Southern Baptists cannot survive the spirit of independence that grows out of the "individualism" of the day. I hope that more of our churches will determine to really be a part of the family called Southern Baptists and send more of their members to share in the work of the convention.

ANGIE SCHLEIFF

Woman's Viewpoint

Be ready for worship

It's Sunday morning. The alarm rings. On any other morning that irritating noise would prod me out of bed to begin the day's work...but not this morning.

This morning is different. My destination is different. I'm not going to work. I'm going to worship. As soon as I get out of bed, I face the hardest morning of the week.

You may relate to the Sunday morning struggle I go through to get the whole family ready for church. Everything that can go wrong quickly does.

The shirt you want to wear needs ironing, or worse, it's dirty. Your hair refuses to do its normal thing. Plus, the house is a disaster, making it impossible to find your child's other shoe.

At last you're in the car, frustrated, furious and on your way to church. The most important battle is already lost.

We forget that Satan's attack is

twofold: not only to keep us out of church, but also to keep us from worshipping God.

Occasionally, we may be tempted to miss church due to a weekend getaway. However, I believe we are even more susceptible to Satan's second attack.

Although it's subtle, we should expect it. Ironically, Sunday after Sunday we are surprised at the mayhem that takes place in our home!

We can change our approach to Sunday mornings by broadening our goal.

It's more than just getting to church. We have the awesome privilege of joining other believers to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we strive for a spiritual and not just a physical destination, we will be ready for church.

Angie Schleiff is an Acteen leader at Benton First Church. She and her husband, Mark, have two children.



Personal perspectives

"The forces of hate and violence must not be allowed to gain their victory, not just in our society, but in our hearts."

— *Evangelist Billy Graham, speaking to families of Oklahoma terrorism victims*

"Those who are lost now belong to God. Someday, we will be with them. Until then, their legacy must be our lives."

— *President Bill Clinton, speaking at Oklahoma City prayer service*

"The great heartbeat of Southern Baptists is strong....They're grateful to be Southern Baptists and they feel like our best can be before us."

— *Jim Henry, assessing his service as Southern Baptist Convention president*

"These men who are seemingly in a hopeless situation are finding out that God still loves them....That's something real attractive to these guys."

— *Zac Murtha, prison ministry leader for Ouachita Baptist University BSU*

Christ offers peace amid tragedy

Unexpected tragedy has a way of seizing our nation's attention and focusing our thoughts on the true priorities of life. Responses to natural disasters, illness, accidents and other calamities tend to bring out the best in people as friends, family members and even total strangers labor together to meet physical needs and offer emotional comfort.

Actions that have unfolded in Oklahoma City since April 19 are no exception. Few events in recent history have been more emotionally devastating than the terrorist bomb that killed more than 150 innocent victims and shattered the nation's sense of security. Suffering such a deliberate act of deadly destruction will leave both Oklahoma and the United States permanently scarred.

Fear, anger, shock and grief are among the countless responses to the senseless attack. Even amid the hurt and the horror, Americans have once again pulled together in a spirit of compassion and cooperation.

The most inspiring Christian responses have come through the testimonies of individuals directly affected by the blast.

■ Randy Norfleet, a 29-year-old Marine pilot was working at the Marine Corps recruiting office on the sixth floor of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building when the bomb exploded. Although he survived the attack and more than five hours of

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

surgery, he may lose sight in his right eye.

Norfleet, who grew up as a missionary kid in Taiwan, noted, "Losing an eye is a small thing....If there's one thing I've learned, it's that whatever brings you closer to God is a blessing. Through all this, I've been brought closer to God. I've become more dependent on Him and less on myself."

Norfleet's wife, Jamie, who is seven months pregnant, added, "All the things I thought were so important - paying the bills, saving for a trip to Disney World, everyday concerns - just don't matter. What matters is family, my husband, my children. What matters is following Christ's example."

■ Secret Service agent Mickey Maroney, a 50-year-old Sunday School teacher, was

among those killed. His brother, Jimmy, is director of the Foreign Mission Board's Global Desk.

Affirming the spiritual depth he has witnessed while sorting through his brother's Sunday School notes and devotional journal, Jimmy Maroney said, "The Lord is removing the anger. When I picked up a newspaper and saw the picture of that young man (bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh), I didn't feel anger toward him."

■ Southern Baptist evangelist Richard Coss faced one of the most heart-rending tasks in the aftermath of the attack. He traveled to Oklahoma City to conduct the funeral of his two grandsons - Chase Smith, 3, and his brother, Colton, 2 - who were killed in the explosion. Coss said he hasn't yet grasped God's providence in the situation but that the familiar words of Romans 8:28 have been particularly helpful.

"If Romans 8:28 were the only verse we had in the Bible, we could work through all our problems in life if we believed it," he said. "John 14:27 is another good one: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you....Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'"

Even amid the reality of devastating domestic terrorism and overwhelming grief, Christ's words offer constant hope and assurance: "My peace I give you."

Cooperation with Catholics

Wyndham Cook's recent letter of concern about "keeping the message pure" seems to imply that there are no Catholics on the face of the earth with whom Southern Baptists could cooperate in reaching our world for Christ. Mr. Cook never knew Carlos Fernandes.

One of my best friends in Recife, Brazil, was Roman Catholic. Carlos was CEO of one of the largest shopping centers in Brazil. Scores of employees, vendors and business executives met with him weekly in his office where they would see a Soul Winner's Testament in Portuguese lying prominently on his desk. He showed it to me one day before we prayed together, pointing with great pride to the page in the back where he had dated and signed his commitment to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. He often had opportunity to do the same with others who asked about the book lying on his desk, sharing his experience of salvation and what Christ meant to him in his daily life.

It is true that many Catholic people do not have this kind of personal faith. The same is true for many Southern Baptists.

When you leave the Bible Belt and seek to bear a witness for Christ where Baptists



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

or even evangelicals are a very small minority, you learn that God needs all of His true children working together to reach His world, regardless of their denominational affiliation.

Perhaps one reason Bold Mission Trust has largely failed is that Southern Baptists caught a magnificent, God-given vision of reaching our world and then decided we could do it all by ourselves.

Glenn E. Hickey
Former missionary to Brazil
Little Rock, AR

Would ABN publish ad?

Let's say I would like to take out a half page ad in the *Arkansas Baptist* for the express purpose of gathering all of the Arkansans committed to the conservative resurgence movement. Let's say I invited popular guest speakers such as perhaps Adrian Rogers or maybe Paige Patterson, and showed beautiful pictures with their beaming smiles. Let's say this meeting was

to be held at a notoriously conservative church with a committed pastor to the resurgence movement. Furthermore, let's say I have a sweet, yet very non-threatening little slogan such as the following: "The Southern Baptist Resurgence movement is dedicated to preserving historic Baptist principles and to reaching people for Christ through the local church and to support the mission of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and its related institutions."

All this being true makes me wonder: First of all, would I even get the opportunity to have my ad printed? Second, would I be considered divisive and political? Third, would I immediately be categorized as a mindless sheep blindly following the winds of change? So, the CBF is having a meeting in Arkansas, and the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine printed an advertisement for them. I wonder what Arkansas Baptists should think?

Marty J. Polston
Nashville, AR

Editor's Note: Yes, your proposed ad would meet our guidelines for publication, just as the CBF ad did. The *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine is committed to fairly representing the diverse views of Arkansas Baptists, both in news coverage and advertising policies.

Page: 80th General Assembly good for Christian concerns

By Russell N. Dillard
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The 80th session of the Arkansas General Assembly marked "a change" in passing legislation supporting Christian concerns, according to the leader of the Christian Civic Foundation.

"In the more general context of our Christian concerns, there was a change," explained Larry Page, executive director of the Little Rock-based CCF, a multi-denominational lobbying organization.

"Two dynamics played a big part in the passing of legislation affecting drunk driving, gambling and areas dealing with sexual morality," he said, citing term limits and the role of new legislators.

"Term limits drastically changed how the legislature operates," Page said. "In the past, without term limits, you could easily have a freshman legislator sometimes go through two or three sessions before they earned their wings and were given positions of leadership.

"With term limits, you have representatives serving three terms (six years) and senators serving two terms (eight years)," he explained. "They had to alter how they do business. Seniority became much, much less important.

"Add to that the fact that we had several new conservative legislators. New people had input and affected change," Page said. "You combine those two things and I think you'll find we got a better hearing on some of the bills that concern Christians."

Laws dealing with drunk driving topped Page's list of laws passed that affirm Christian moral concerns, including a law that will authorize the automatic revocation of the driver's licenses of drunk drivers.

"After six years of intense lobbying we have finally passed the bill (the Administrative License Revocation Act) which has been identified by the National Transportation Safety Board as the most effective law dealing with DWI," Page said. "Arkansas joins 37 other states in enacting this law."

He explained that the law "revokes automatically a motorist's driver's license if he is stopped for suspicion of DWI and either refuses to take a test to determine blood alcohol content or takes the test and registers intoxicated."

The length of the revocation, he said, is

increased for subsequent offenses. "For a first offense the motorist will be given a permit allowing him to drive to work or school."

He said the motorist's due process is protected by giving him the right to an administrative hearing and an appeal in a circuit court.

"It is effective because it is immediate," he noted. "It's an immediate consequence of their actions and it gets people's attention if they realize they will lose their licenses."

The Administrative License Revocation Act "is effective because it is immediate. It's an immediate consequence of their actions and it gets people's attention if they realize they will lose their licenses."

— Larry Page

Executive director, Christian Civic Foundation

Another law passed during the 80th assembly affecting drinking and driving will place information in driver's license manuals publicizing the effects of alcohol on driving.

"This law requires that the driver's license manual contain factual, accurate information about the effects of alcohol and other drugs, such as how judgment and response time can be impaired by those substances," he explained.

"This law is important in two respects," he said. "First, it may help counter the thousands upon thousands of deceptive and misleading television commercials for alcoholic beverages our children watch as they grow."

"Second, the manual is an excellent place to put such information because it is studied diligently by those young people who very much want to obtain the privilege to drive. What a place to list the effects of alcohol."

Page said he also was pleased to report that even though three proposals involving gambling were submitted for consideration, "none of the constitutional amendments being offered to the electorate by the legislature deals with the expansion of gambling."

"We may have expended more time and effort on this issue than any other in this session," Page said of CCF efforts. "We

testified before committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, recruited several leaders from our denominations to speak in hearings, prepared documentary evidence, presented thousands of signatures on petitions and generated hundreds—perhaps thousands—of phone calls to the legislators."

Any gambling amendments on the 1996 general election ballot, Page said, would have to come from individuals and groups using the initiative process.

"I don't want people to get complacent, however," he warned, "just because we had no gambling amendments from the legislature. There are already three gambling amendments that are in the works and will be voted on in November if they qualify to be put on the ballot."

Page said legislative action on sexual morality laws also favored Christian moral concerns by strengthening an existing child pornography law and blocking the repeal of the state sodomy law.

Page said the CCF was instrumental in strengthening the state's child pornography law, which he said had "a minor flaw."

"Conviction was dependent on the pornographic performance, whether live, filmed or videotaped, being viewed by an audience of two or more," he said.

"At our request, a bill was filed and passed that simply removed the requirement of an audience," he said. "The mere use of a minor in the production of obscene material or in an obscene performance is criminal conduct."

Legislators also blocked an attempt to repeal the state's sodomy law. "We successfully argued in the committee hearing that the law's value is not so much in the enforcement of the law since so much of the activity occurs out of the public eye.

"Our reasoning was that we should remain one of the six states that bans this behavior in order to repeat and reinforce the public policy statement that this activity is dangerous, immoral, unnatural and should not be sanctioned by the state," he said.

Page noted that another legislative issue, a possible constitutional revision, presented potential conflicts with Christian concerns. "We were key players in convincing Gov. Tucker and key legislators to pledge that they would not repeal or otherwise tamper with the prohibition against gambling or the unborn child amendment or term limits in the revision of our state constitution."

Iowa partnership: Arkansas Baptist volunteers needed

A request for volunteers tops the list of needs this summer for the missions partnership between Arkansas and Iowa Baptists.

Jimmy Barentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said his department currently lists about 60 unfilled projects in Iowa, many of which must be completed during the summer.

Andrea Ramage, a US-2 home missionary and associate Arkansas coordinator for the partnership, also called for prayer in meeting partnership projects. "Our No. 1 prayer request is for people," she emphasized. "We're having trouble getting people to go. That concerns me."

The projects are part of the five-year missions partnership between the ABCS and the Iowa Baptist Fellowship, a group of about 100 Southern Baptist churches, church-type missions and Bible fellowships in that state.

Barentine said priorities of the partnership include church starting and development, strengthening student ministries, evangelism, construction, leadership training and church-to-church partnerships.

He noted that specific needs include Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs, surveys, revival teams, construction and county fair ministries.

"We are looking for people who have good relational skills," he explained. "Those who can meet new people, who can teach, who love and work well with children, preachers who can preach conversationally, people with musical skills and people who are organized to do surveys."

He also emphasized a need for revival teams consisting of at least a pastor, musical leader and visitation leader.

Ramage noted that a project can be a low-cost way for Arkansas churches, associations or individuals to participate in hands-on missions work.

"These are not expensive missions trips," she said. "You don't have to go for a month."

Ramage said the cost will vary. "Almost all of the projects require that you pay for your transportation, but many of the Iowa churches will provide lodging in homes or at the church building and one meal per day."

Ramage urged those who have "even the slightest interest in missions work" to contact her at the ABCS missions department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5193, for more information.

Ouachita BSU reaches prisoners through non-traditional worship

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Members of Ouachita Baptist University's Baptist Student Union are adding to their education off-campus—in prison. Each semester, BSU members travel to central Arkansas prison units to share Christ through non-traditional worship.

Zac Murtha, a senior biblical studies major at OBU, leads the BSU prison ministry efforts. He said students have ministered at several prison units. The team does most of its work in the Pine Bluff area at Cummins Prison and at the Diagnostic Center run by the Arkansas Department of Corrections. During the fall, the prison ministry team made their first trip to Cummins Prison where they led a worship service for 230 inmates.

Murtha said the BSU students minister with a program that is "a mixture of praise and worship."

He said a typical program "is very non-traditional in this sense: Most pastors come in with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak to these men and they try to relate to these prisoners with a sermon on Paul in the jailhouse or something like that. They preach at them, but they (the prisoners) have heard enough of that.

"What we usually do, being the younger generation, is contemporary praise and worship," he said. "We come in to share our way of praising God, fellowshiping and enjoying God's presence."

Ian Cosh, director of the BSU, said the ministry is open to all students who are interested in devoting their time.

"We want to broaden people's perspective and take away some of their fears," Cosh explained, noting that is part of the ministry's twofold objective.

"I have always noticed when students come back they are so excited," Cosh said. "They almost consider it a personal victory because they've gone into a very uncomfortable situation and survived it."

The second purpose of the mission is the most obvious: to minister to the needs of the prisoners and provide encouragement to them.

Jessica Sharp, a sophomore physical education major, said, "I think God has called us to go and tell. Every time I go, I look forward to it."

She said her ministry to prisoners may help further Christian prisoners' own ministries. "Even though they are in prison, they can be an effective witness in prison. That's why I go."

Sharp, who said she has participated in four prison trips by singing or acting in skits, remembered her first trip. "My first year one of my friends was in charge and asked me to go. I got blessed through it."

"I was scared to death, though," she recalled. "You never know what to expect and things can get out of hand. We were told some of these guys hadn't seen a woman in years."

Murtha said the ministry involves about 30 students annually. "Usually we have a crew of about eight or 10 people, but we have had as many as 20 people go."

He said the program typically involves a month of preparation. "We begin to pray for guidance and direction. We are not set to a program, but we are set to whatever God leads for us to do."

"We have one or two people to share their testimony, one or two to share in special music and we usually give a ministerial student

15 minutes to give a short sermon or devotional study," he explained. "We incorporate drama and then 20 to 30 minutes of praise and worship. Everyone who goes has an opportunity to stand up and make a statement for God."

"One thing that makes chapel so attractive to them is that God promises hope," he said. "These men who are seemingly in a hopeless situation are finding out that God still loves them and God still cares about them....That's something real attractive to these guys."

The inmates' reactions, he pointed out, are enthusiastic. "They are the best congregation that you will ever introduce anything to. They are so willing to do whatever you have to bring in to them that it doesn't matter what you do."

"They want nothing more than to have a friend there, somebody from the outside to relate to — not to their crimes, but to them as people who have needs," Murtha explained. "That's the whole focus of the BSU ministry, to go in, identify their needs, and minister to the needs these prisoners have."

"The need I feel is most neglected is Christian relationships who are friends and brothers in Christ, being there and loving each other," he added.

Reflecting on his relationship with the prisoners, Murtha said he wondered, "How many of these guys have killed someone? Then I thought, 'We all have hung Christ on the cross.'"

"These guys are just like me," he concluded. "They just got caught."

PRISON



**MINISTRIES
IN ARKANSAS**

Fourth in a five-part series

Staff changes

Charles Atkinson retired April 30 as pastor of Green Memorial Church in Little Rock, following more than 25 years of ministry. He previously was pastor of Mount Carmel Church in Cabot and Welch Street Church in Little Rock. Atkinson has been active in the ministry of Pulaski Association, serving two terms as moderator and one term as vice president of the associational pastors' conference. He also served two terms on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. His wife, Virginia, has served in various capacities at Siloam Springs Baptist Assembly for 34 years and currently serves on the assembly's advisory committee. The couple was honored by the church with a retirement reception April 30. Atkinson will be available for supply preaching and revivals. He may be contacted at 64 Flag Road, Little Rock, AR 72205; phone 501-664-7061.

Harrel G. Cato joined the staff of First Church in Rogers April 23 as assistant pastor and administrator, going there from Rose Bud where he was pastor of First Church. He also has served Gregory Church, First Church of Knoxville and First Church of McCrory. Cato is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. He also has been actively involved in associational missions, serving as a moderator, vice moderator and as missions development director. He is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and the University of Central Arkansas and has completed other studies at Mid-America Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Cato and his wife, Judy Ann, have a daughter, Regina A. Cato Donnell.

Randy King has joined the staff of Fellowship Church of Witcherville as music and youth director. He and his wife, Janna, and their daughter, Kayce, moved there from the Dallas, Texas, area.

Phillip Richards is serving First Church in Wilson as part-time youth minister. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary. Richards and his wife, Kim, reside in Cordova, Tenn.

John Kurtz joined the staff of First Church in Heber Springs April 30 as minister of music. He previously has served churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Kansas. A native of Kentucky, Kurtz is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has done private vocal study at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and Mercer



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

University in Atlanta, Ga. Kurtz and his wife, Elaine, have two children, Anna and Timothy.

Dorothy Johnson retired April 28 as secretary of Liberty Association, following 11 years of service. She was honored with a reception and presented a monetary gift.

Chris Harris joined the staff of Hillside Church in Camden April 16 as associate pastor and minister of youth. A native of Birmingham, Ala., he is a graduate of the University of Alabama and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Harris previously has served as minister of music and youth for churches in Texas and Alabama.

Pat Ryan is serving as pastor of Arkana Church in White River Association. He and his wife, Jay, and their two sons, Keith and Kevin, moved there from Texas.

Stefan Eubanks is bivocational pastor of Midway Church in White River Association. A faculty member of Benton County Christian School in Rogers, he has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi. He is a graduate of

Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Eubanks and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Kate and Ben.

Ronnie Brock resigned April 21 as minister to students for First Church in Benton. He has accepted a call to serve as minister to students at the Church at Brookhills in Birmingham, Ala Brock is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He and his wife, Joan, have one daughter, Katelyn.

Donna Nolan has joined the staff of Central Church in North Little Rock as preschool/children's coordinator. She and her husband, Garry, have two daughters, Hayley and Hannah. Nolan attended Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She previously assisted with organizing and serving as a volunteer of preschool activities at Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock.

William K. Lindsey joined the staff of First Church in Walnut Ridge March 26 as associate pastor with responsibilities for education and youth. A native of Ohio, he is a graduate of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lindsey previously served as a staff member of other churches in Ohio and Kentucky.

Cliff Palmer is serving as pastor of First Church in Centerton. He previously served



Foothills Church of Mountain View broke ground April 2 for a 50-by-100-foot sanctuary with full basement that will be constructed by Arkansas Nailbenders and church members. Pastor J.R. Hull read Scripture for the service with Danny Vetoito, director of missions for Independence Association, leading in prayer. Building committee members are chairman John McClintock, Betsy McClintock, Cliff Buchanan, Bobbie Harris, Joe Cronney, Sherman Curtis and Beverly Curtis.

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

First Church of Springdale, Grand Avenue Church of Fort Smith and First Church of Sloom Springs. Palmer is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Mary, have two adult children, Cheryl Ames and Steve Palmer, both of Rogers.

Ordinations

Portland Church ordained pastor Ted Grove to the gospel ministry March 26.

Hardy First Church licensed Greg Meador to the gospel ministry April 12.

Paragould First Church ordained minister of youth Marty Light to the gospel ministry April 23.

Strawfloor Church in Jonesboro ordained David Todd to the deacon ministry April 23.

Victory Church in Jacksonville ordained Fred Jarry to the deacon ministry April 23.

El Dorado Second Church ordained Joey Askew, Blake Dunn, Ray Henley and Kirk McCafferty as deacons April 30.

Obituaries

Delone Foshee of Mountain Pine died recently at age 75. He was a member of First Church of Mountain Pine where he had served as a deacon since 1957 and as church clerk since 1953. He also was a former mayor of the city. Survivors are his wife, Maudie Foshee; two sons, George Foshee of Mountain Pine and Darwin Foshee of Hot Springs; one daughter, Marie Stewart of Little Rock; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two sisters. Memorials may be made to First Church of Mountain Pine.

Marvin E. Faulkner of Jacksonville died April 24 at age 85. His funeral services were held April 26 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock where he was a member. Faulkner, who had been pastor of Geyer Springs, Ironton, Zion Hill and Picasant Grove churches in Pulaski Association, retired as chaplain for the Arkansas State Senate in 1989. He worked for 25 years for the U.S. Department of Labor, retiring in 1965. Survivors are his wife, Elizabeth Sasser Faulkner; two sons, Billy Faulkner of Fermdale and Bob Faulkner of Romance; a daughter, Carole Ann Cupples of West Memphis; a stepdaughter, Susan Gilbert of Sherwood; a stepson, Gary Burchfield of Sherwood; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Park Hill Church library fund or the education scholarship fund or to the Shrine Hospital of Shreveport, La.



Five students were selected recently as 1995-96 Baptist Student Union state officers. Ericka Stuckey (second from left) of Henderson State University, was elected president at the BSU Leadership Training Conference April 8 at Camp Paron. The others all hold vice presidential positions. The new officers are (left to right) Amy Bass of Williams Baptist College; Stuckey; Almata Hill of Southern Arkansas University; Amy Berry of the University of Arkansas at Monticello; and Gyella Swanigan of Ouachita Baptist University.

People

Gene and Kay Robertson of First Church of Charleston have been assigned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to serve as volunteers with the Woodcock Baptist Center in Nashville, Tenn., May 20-27.

Angus Emerson of Cabot was one of 12 employees who received the Award of Excellence presented recently by Arkansas Children's Hospital. The award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to quality of patient care within their department and throughout the hospital. Emerson, who is staff chaplain, has worked at Children's Hospital for five years. He has served churches in the central Arkansas area for the past 25 years as minister of education and youth.

Church news

Spradling Church in Fort Smith will host a "Looking for the Wounded" Women's Conference May 20. Brenda Woodard of Bentonville will be the featured speaker. Betty Williamson, president of Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives, is coordinating the event. Ron Williamson is pastor.

Lake Hamilton Church recently launched Mountain View Mission which is targeting its ministry to residents in southeastern Hot Springs with midweek fellowship meetings in home. Plans currently are being formulated to begin Sunday morning worship and Bible study. Darwin Meighan is serving as pastor of the

new work. He and his wife, Linda, and their two children, Matt and Melissa, have lived in Hot Springs for six years. Meighan is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously was teaching pastor for Lake Valley Community Church in Hot Springs, as well as associate pastor of education and administration for First Church in Hot Springs.

Piggott First Church held a recent revival that resulted in 43 professions of faith and 25 other decisions. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was the evangelist and Kent Barnes directed music. Clyde Spurgeon is pastor.

Oak Cliff Church in Fort Smith's 20-member youth mission team spent their spring break in Oklahoma, painting and cleaning around the grounds at Tulakogee Baptist Assembly.

East Side Church in Osceola held a "Here's Hope" revival April 2-7 that resulted seven professions of faith and baptisms. Danny Taylor, pastor of First Church in Tuckerman, was the evangelist. Pastor Tommy Doty and his wife, Brenda, provided revival music.

Diaz Church will dedicate a new educational building May 21 at 2 p.m.

Lowell First Church set a new attendance record April 16 when 519 were present for the morning worship service, according to pastor Gary Thomas. Mission pastors Tommy Poplin and Manuel Villegas reported 89 in attendance at the church's Hispanic services at Hickory Creek Mission, for a total attendance of 608 for the day.

Arkansas students: making a global difference



Arkansas Baptist Student Union members will work alongside career missionaries around the world this summer as 27 students serve in Arkansas, four serve overseas and 52 serve in other states. "Arkansas Students Making a Global Difference" is the theme for this year's summer missionaries, who will serve from California to South Carolina as well as Israel and the Philippines.

Diane Parker, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministry department, said the summer missionaries will serve in a variety of ministries this summer. "They will minister to inner-city children in mission centers, assisting at a medical clinic, working in a juvenile correctional center," she said, "and will be assisting house parents at emergency receiving shelters and children's homes and serving overseas at Baptist camps and with Baptist churches."

Two new ministries added for this summer include The Shepherd's Clinic, an inner-city medical clinic in Baltimore, Md., where Rhonda Evans of Ouachita Baptist University will serve, and the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System ministry where Christie Marshall, a student at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, will serve.

Among other areas of ministry, a BSU Share Team will lead worship and work with youth in camps, a Disciple Now team will lead Disciple Now Weekends for youth groups and a Memphis Team will work for the second year in a short-term Mississippi River Ministry Project in Memphis.

"Students receive a stipend of \$60 per week if they are appointed through the Arkansas BSU program," Parker explained. "They also will receive transportation to and from their field of service, room, board and insurance."

The funds are provided through the ABSC student ministry budget made up of funds contributed from local BSUs throughout the year and coordinated through the ABSC student ministry department.

Students serving in Israel are funded by an endowment designated specifically to send two Arkansas summer missionaries to work in that country each year.

Mark Robinson, director of the Henderson State University BSU, said the Henderson BSU also will sponsor a "local Summer Explosion '95 team, conceived

Continued on next page

Overseas Team

(left to right):
Erica Stuckey,
HSU, serving in the
Philippines; Brad Kinsey,
UAF, serving in Israel; Brad Young, Lyon
College, serving in Israel; Karen Chatman
(not pictured), WBC, serving in the
Philippines.



Arkansas Children's Homes and Family Ministries

(left to right): Amy
Campbell, OBU; Charles
Fannin, SAU; Barbie
Warner, OBU; Rebecca
Reese, UCA; Lara
Shempert, WBC; Shane
Smith, SAU.



Disciple Now Team

(left to right): Terry Johnston,
ASU; Janet Grimmitt, UAM;
Heather Phillips, UCA;
Jennifer Baldrige, UCA;
Kyle Farrar, ATU; Jenny
Bowen, UAF.



Mississippi River Ministry Project- Memphis Team

Back row (left to right):
Dantel Gray, WACC;
Heather Phillips, UCA;
Rebecca Beardin, WBC;
Jaymi Blankenship,
OBU. Front row:
Natallia Mayfield, WBC;
Destred Meiser, UCA;
Jocelyn Campbell, UCA;
Eyllane Sullivan, UAMS;
Larinda Duke, HSU;
Alicia Pack, UAM.





Fine Arts Share Team

(left to right): Stephanie Diamond, UALR; Sarah Stanley, OBU; Paula Jordan, ASU; David Fowler, ATU; Sloan Standridge, WACC; Shane Sanderson, WACC.

"I feel that God has called me to mission work and I feel that this is where He wants me to be right now. I hope to gain more of a sense of understanding of what God is doing in the world and what my part will be in that."

- Kristi Key
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
Serving in Memphis

entirely by the students, that will go to Corpus Christi and Arlington, Texas, and five (Arkansas) associational summer youth camps."

Most of the BSU summer missionaries will serve about 10 weeks after attending an orientation and commissioning service in April. Overseas summer missionaries will attend an additional orientation at the Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va.

The missionaries represent 17 Arkansas college campuses, including one student from a new BSU begun this fall at Gateway Technical College.

Some of the students, such as Brad Kinsey, a student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and Shannon Bettis, a student at Williams Baptist College, have long-term commitments to summer missions and will each be returning for their third summer of service.

Kinsey spent his first summer in New Orleans, served last summer in Australia and then, at the request of the Australian Baptist Union, remained there as a semester missionary. He will serve this summer in Israel.

Bettis served her first summer in New Orleans and ministered last summer at an Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries emergency receiving shelter. She will return to New Orleans to serve this summer.

New Orleans Team

Back row (left to right): Michael Mallett, ASU; Kay Tanton, WBC; Christie Tucker, SAU; Tonya Stewart, UCA; Front row (L to R): Radeanna Presley, HSU; Trisha McDuffie, SAU; Tiffany Burbridge, HSU; Shannon Bettis, WBC; Heather Moon, WBC.



Out-of-State Team

(left to right): Deanna Covington, ASU, serving in Colorado; Meredith Archer, OBU, serving in Texas; Rhonda Evans, OBU, serving in Maryland; Christie Marshall, UAPB, serving in South Carolina; Amy Berry, UAM, serving in California; Larinda Duke, HSU, serving in Tennessee; Thierry Vodounou, OBU, serving in Iowa.

Henderson State University Summer Explosion Team

(left to right): Tom Johnson, Lori Bergan, Jonathan Curtis, Traci Terry, Paul Mules, Jennifer Petrie, Paul Dees, Jammi Cherry, Tim Temple.



Home Mission Board Appointees and Innovators

Back row (left to right): Steve Austin, WBC, serving in Penn/South Jersey; Misty Standage, U of O, Grand Canyon; Tyler Mabry, U of O, Grand Canyon; Jimmie Glover, WBC, Indiana; Jeromy Hopgood, UAF, Penn/South Jersey. 2nd row: Natasha Barton, WBC, West Virginia; Laura Stevens, SAU, Arizona; Regena Cox, HSU, Arkansas; Dawn Turney, UAF, Indiana; Mike Stewart, GTC, Colorado. 1st row: Michelle Lancaster, WBC, California; Tonya Stator, OBU, South Carolina; and Hannah Wring, WBC, Innovators, Wyoming.

Brotherhood trustees decline to embrace restructuring plan

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Unanimously adopting a detailed "statement of concern" about the proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission concluded: "We do not embrace or support the recommendation in its current form."

Trustees also instructed Brotherhood Commission president Jim Williams to "gracefully decline" to appear on a promotional video about the proposed "Covenant for a New Century." The video, being produced by the SBC Executive Committee, is scheduled to be shown to SBC messengers in June prior to their initial vote on the restructuring proposal.

The trustees' actions came at the conclusion of their board meeting April 21-22 in Memphis. The two-day meeting was dominated by discussion of the restructuring proposal which includes plans to merge the Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission and Home Mission Board into a new North American Mission Board (NAMB) to be located in Atlanta.

Commending the Program and

Structure Study Committee "for their commitment to a massive and challenging task," trustees also affirmed the proposed SBC mission statement.

Primary concerns expressed by trustees included the proposed structure of the initial NAMB board of trustees. The plan calls for a 75-member board to include 15 Brotherhood trustees, 15 RTVC trustees, 44 HMB trustees and the SBC president. Brotherhood trustees suggested that the board "be composed of an equal number of trustees" from each of the three entities, with the remainder of the board to be filled by newly elected trustees.

Trustees also voiced concern "that exclusive placement of men's ministries with the Baptist Sunday School Board and missions education with the North American Mission Board breaks the linkage that is critical to the success of both."

The statement encourages the SBC Executive Committee to instruct the study committee to "authorize the North American Mission Board Mission Volunteers and Education Division to develop men's ministries approaches that encourage spiritual growth and participation in the mission of God in the world."

The document also noted that

statements in the study committee report "regarding improved fiscal efficiency and more effective performance are not substantiated by any data included in the report. We therefore request further study, to include impact statements and standard business case documentation, to support claims of improved efficiency and effectiveness."

The statement of concern called on the SBC Executive Committee to reconsider the proposal "in light of our concerns," and to respond to Brotherhood trustees before presenting the restructuring proposal for messenger consideration in June.

Following the trustees' action, Williams noted, "This represents the heart of the trustee body's concerns. It was developed by the trustees. I think it was an attempt by the trustees to help Southern Baptists clarify concerns and issues related to the 'Covenant for a New Century.'"

Williams said the trustees' action "does not in any way indicate the Brotherhood trustees are angry. They are concerned and they are calling on Southern Baptists to correct what they perceive to be weaknesses in the proposal."

"We are positive about the concept (of restructuring) but we have some concerns we've expressed to the SBC Executive Committee," agreed trustee chairman Donley Brown of Missouri. "It's our desire that they would hear our concerns and respond appropriately."

Arkansans offer mixed response to Brotherhood stance

The Brotherhood Commission trustees' decision to "not embrace or support" a proposed Southern Baptist Convention restructuring plan has drawn mixed responses from Arkansas Baptist leaders.

Harry Black, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department commended the Brotherhood trustees for their "statement of concern," while program and structure study committee members Ronnie Floyd and Rex Terry voiced disappointment over the trustees' actions.

Brotherhood trustee Ozzie Berryhill, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, said he opposes the restructuring plan because "God does not fix things that aren't broke." Emphasizing that "Brotherhood has made tremendous strides in the past five years and everywhere you look men are becoming involved," he added, "We don't need the North American Mission Board. There may be positives in the NAMB, but I can't see it."

Rex Terry, an attorney from Fort Smith, responded, "Our committee prayed through this with great effort, great care. Everything we said in the report is designed to strengthen the churches.

"The mission of the Southern Baptist

Convention is bigger than who's on the Brotherhood Commission staff or where they're located," Terry said. "The commissions came into existence to support the work of the convention. The structure of the organization probably needs to change with the times.

"I feel sure the Executive Committee will respond to their concerns," he noted, adding that he doesn't expect the restructuring committee to amend its proposal. "We've had the benefit and opportunity to look at the overall structure and the big picture....We think we've got the right plan."

Fellow committee member Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale; echoed Terry's views. "I am sorry they have not embraced the report in its present state," he remarked. "I hope God will do something in their hearts to turn their hearts toward the report. Our committee would desire that there be no amendments to the report because we see it as a whole report - not perfect, but whole."

Acknowledging that "leadership is not always wholeheartedly embraced," Floyd said, "We feel like the report is from the Lord. If Southern Baptists determine it is not right, then it's not right. If they

determine it is right, then we've heard the voice of the Lord."

The proposed restructuring is designed "to maximize the resources of this convention to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ," Floyd insisted. "Just because we've done it one way for 40 years doesn't mean it's still the best way."

Harry Black said his "greatest personal concern for the proposed restructuring is the future of gender-specific missions education." Affirming that "the heart of Brotherhood is missions education for men and boys," he asked, "Would that be a commitment of the North American Mission Board? No one knows."

Black also voiced concern for "uninterrupted growth of men's ministries." Citing Brotherhood's involvement with such ministries as Promise Keepers and Dad the Family Shepherd, he said, "If we interrupt our participation in this work of God, we may miss a great opportunity for revival."

While commending the study committee "for their dedicated work," Black emphasized that the concerns expressed by Brotherhood trustees "are valid and raise the kinds of questions every Southern Baptist should consider."

EMPOWERED

For the unfinished task

PREVIEW
of the
SBC ANNUAL MEETING
June 20-22, 1995
ATLANTA

SBC features Graham, restructuring proposal

ATLANTA (BP)—Messengers to the 138th session of the Southern Baptist Convention will celebrate the denomination's 150th anniversary, hear evangelist Billy Graham and take a first vote on whether to reduce the size of the SBC structure.

The annual meeting of the nation's largest evangelical body, June 20-22 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, also will elect a president, conduct other business and hear devotions on the theme from Matthew 28:19-20, "Empowered for the Unfinished Task."

While the sesquicentennial celebration promises to be entertaining and inspiring with special presentations the evenings of June 20-21, significant interest will center around a proposed "Covenant for a New Century" which would reduce the denomination's 19 agencies to 12.

To conclude the three-day gathering, the most well-known Southern Baptist, evangelist Billy Graham, will close the meeting June 22. Longtime co-worker and friend, George Beverly Shea, will provide the special music prior to Graham's sermon, as he has done for decades in Graham crusades.

President Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., has announced he will allow his nomination for a traditional second one-year term, apparently without opposition.

As has become the tradition prior to the SBC annual meeting, an evangelistic campaign, "Crossover Atlanta," will precede the convention meeting. A host of pre-convention meetings such as the Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting also are scheduled.

Because of the anniversary celebration, the proposal to reduce the number of agencies and Graham's appearance, organizers are expecting more than 25,000 messengers plus guests to attend.

The proposal to reduce the size of the SBC's structure comes from a study commissioned by the Executive Committee in response to a motion referred from the 1993 SBC annual meeting. The committee approved the plan in February and recommended it to the annual meeting. Because it would dramatically change the convention's structure, it will take approval by messengers at two SBC annual meetings — at Atlanta and next year in New Orleans. The proposal will be submitted during the Executive Committee's report at 10 a.m. June 20.

Some of Southern Baptists' most visible personalities will bring theme devotions: Robert E. Naylor, former Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president; W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Dallas; Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City;

James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Sunday School Board; Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary; Alma Hunt, former executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; layman Greg Horton, Simpsonville, S.C.; and Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

The convention sermon Wednesday morning will be presented by R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The convention president's address will be Tuesday morning.

The first election of officers is slated for 2:40 p.m. Tuesday followed that evening by part I of a "Sesquicentennial Presentation," which will take a "look at the past through music and drama." Part II will be a joint presentation the next night by the Foreign and Home Mission boards, titled "A Challenge for the Future."

The three-day meeting will be kicked off at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday by the adult choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church, Orlando, led by Ragan M. Vandegriff III, director. A variety of music will be heard by the messengers, coordinated by John V. Glover Jr., convention music director and minister of music at First Baptist Church, Atlanta. John Innes, director of keyboard ministry at First Baptist, Atlanta, and Gary Menzies, pianist at Peachtree Corners Baptist Church, Norcross, Ga., will be the convention's organist and pianist, respectively.

The end of the meeting will come following Graham's sermon Thursday about noon with the benediction by Alan Cox, pastor of First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.

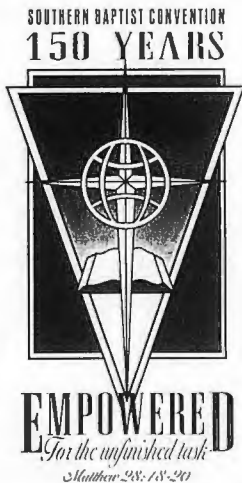
Atlanta's Georgia Dome, site of major athletic and entertainment events, will host the SBC meeting for the first time. The playing field will be split, with the front platform sitting about on the 50-yard line. With seating on the floor, organizers hope to accommodate about 30,000 in the Dome. Last year in Orlando, Fla., there were more than 20,000 messengers.

The SBC met last in Atlanta in 1991 but the Dome was under construction and the meetings were held in the adjacent Georgia World Congress Center. The exhibits, offices and some smaller meetings will again be held at the GWCC.

Because of some possible construction work with Atlanta's 1996 Olympics, convention-goers are encouraged to use Atlanta's Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit (MARTA) system.

Food service is planned in the Dome and Congress Center for lunches and dinners at reasonable prices, a spokesman said.

The telephone number for the SBC office at the convention will be 404-865-7300.



1995 SBC PREVIEW

Southern Baptist Convention June 20-22 • Georgia Dome • Atlanta, Ga.

Tuesday Morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — Adult Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., Ragan M. Vandegriff III, minister of music, director
- 8:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing — John V. Glover Jr., convention music director, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
Prayer — Jim D. Prock, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Clovis, N.M.
- 8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First report) — Fred Powell, chairman
- 8:45 Welcome — Larry W. Wynn, pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.
- 8:50 Response — Paul Box, retired foreign missionary, Oklahoma City
- 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:00 Crossover Atlanta — Darrell W. Robinson, vice president, evangelism, Home Mission Board
- 9:05 Theme Devotion — Empowered in our Cooperation, Morris H. Chapman, president, SBC Executive Committee
- 9:15 Report — Denominational Press, Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news
- 9:25 Report — Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Stephen P. Carleton, secretary/treasurer
- 9:35 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 9:50 Theme Devotion — Empowered in the Churches, Robert E. Naylor, president emeritus, Southwestern Seminary
- 10:00 Report — Executive Committee (Part 1), Morris H. Chapman
- 10:55 Report — Stewardship Commission, Ronald E. Chandler, president
- 11:05 Congregational Singing — Larry McFadden, music evangelist, Orlando, Fla.
- 11:10 Special Music — Adult Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 11:15 Special Music — Kitty Henry Campbell, soloist, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 11:20 President's Address — James B. "Jim" Henry, SBC president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
- 12:00 Benediction — Bruce A. Perkins, pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas

Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration — The Specks, music evangelists, Owaso, Okla.
- 1:10 Music for Inspiration — The Stone Brothers, music evangelists, Huntsville, Ala.
- 1:20 Congregational Singing — Bud Lee, music evangelist, Blue Springs, Mo.
Prayer — John L. Dees, pastor, Willowbrook Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 1:25 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Second Report)
Introduction of Business and Resolutions

- 1:35 Theme Devotion — Empowered in the Scriptures, W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Dallas
- 1:45 Report — Southern Baptist Foundation, Hollis E. Johnson III, president
- 1:55 Congregational Singing — Irvin Pearre Jr., minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga.
- 2:00 Report — Radio and Television Commission, Jack B. Johnson, president
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey — David W. Atchison, SBC recording secretary
- 2:20 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:30 Committee on Nominations Report — Bob Hutcherson, chairman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Austell, Ga.
- 2:40 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:55 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) — Morris H. Chapman
- 3:55 Theme Devotion — Empowered in our Distinctives, Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City
- 4:05 Special Music — The Fairchilds, music evangelists, Atlanta
- 4:10 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:20 Denominational Calendar Report — W. Wade Burleson, chairman, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Enid, Okla.
- 4:25 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 4:40 Election of Officers (Second)
- 4:55 Benediction — Michael P. Calvert, associate pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.

Tuesday Evening

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration — Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, John V. Glover Jr., director
- 6:10 Music for Inspiration — Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, SBC Hymnody/Heritage Youth Choir, Milburn Price, director
- 6:25 Congregational Singing — L. Mark Blankenship, director, music department, Baptist Sunday School Board
Prayer — Stanley A. Nelson, professor of theology, Golden Gate Seminary
- 6:30 Report — Sunday School Board, James T. Draper Jr., president
- 6:40 Sunday School Board Presentation
- 7:00 Theme Devotion — Empowered in Sunday School, James L. Sullivan, retired president, Sunday School Board
Committee on Order of Business (Third Report)
- 7:10 Congregational Singing — W. Hines Sims, retired secretary, church music department, Sunday School Board
- 7:15 Previously Scheduled Business and Introduction of New Business and Resolutions
- 7:20 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:35 Sesquicentennial Presentation — "Empowered for the Unfinished Task" (Part I) — A look at the past through music and drama
- 7:45 Benediction — Joe K. Taylor, pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, Nev.

Wednesday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — Sons of Jubal, Georgia Baptist Convention ministers of music, Warren C. Fields, director
- 8:40 Congregational Singing — Larry White, minister of music, Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Prayer — Daniel McCrosky, pastor, First Baptist Church, Arlington, Ky.
- 8:45 Introduction of Local Arrangement Committee — John R. "Jack" Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, SBC Executive Committee

'EMPOWERED FOR THE UNFINISHED TASK'

- 8:50 Theme Devotion – Empowered in Evangelism, Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary
- 9:00 Report – Baptist World Alliance, Denton Lotz, general secretary
- 9:10 Congregational Singing – Warren C. Fields, director, church music department, Georgia Baptist Convention
- 9:15 Bold Mission Thrust Report – Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president, Executive Committee
- 9:25 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:30 Introduction of Past Presidents – Jim Henry
- 9:35 Seminary Presentation & Reports – Seminary presidents
- 10:35 Congregational Singing – Lloyd L. Mims, dean, school of church music, Southern Seminary
- 10:40 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report)
Introduction of Business (Last Time)
- 10:50 Previously Scheduled Business
- 11:10 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 11:20 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:25 Special Music – Seminary Choir, Southern Seminary, John H. Dickson, associate professor, church music, director
- 11:35 Convention Sermon – R. Albert Mohler Jr.
- 12:15 Benediction – Jim G. Butler, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven, Miss.
- 7:00 Report – Brotherhood Commission, James D. Williams, president
- 7:10 Report – Home Mission Board, Larry L. Lewis, president
- 7:20 Report – Foreign Mission Board, Jerry A. Rankin, president
- 7:30 Foreign & Home Mission Board Presentation – “Empowered for the Unfinished Task” (Part II)
- 8:30 Commitment Invitation – Jim Henry
- 8:40 Benediction – Joe Porter, retired director of missions, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Thursday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration – The Crossmen, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
- 8:40 Music for Inspiration – Babbie Mason, music evangelist, Marietta, Ga.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing – Dick Barrett, music evangelist, Bremen, Ga.
Prayer – Marcus Sizemore, retired pastor, Pleasant Garden, N.C.
- 8:55 Report – American Bible Society, Eugene B. Habecker, president
- 9:05 Memorial Service
- 9:10 Report – Education Commission, Stephen P. Carleton, executive director
- 9:20 Report – Annuity Board, Paul W. Powell, president
- 9:30 Theme Devotion – Empowered in the Laity, Greg Horton, layman, Temple Baptist Church, Simpsonville, S.C.
- 9:40 Report – Historical Commission, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director
- 9:50 Report – Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group, Larry L. Lewis
- 10:00 Report – Christian Life Commission, Richard D. Land, executive director
- 10:10 Theme Devotion – Empowered in Education, Paige Patterson
- 10:20 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers
- 10:25 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 10:30 Congregational Singing – John V. Glover Jr.
- 10:35 Previously Scheduled Business
- 10:45 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:55 Tribute to Billy Graham – Morris H. Chapman
- 11:00 Special Music – George Beverly Shea, soloist
- 11:10 Introduction – Jim Henry
- 11:15 Message – Billy Graham, evangelist
- 12:00 Benediction – Alan Cox, pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
- NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration – Adult Choir and Orchestra, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., Aubrey D. Edwards, minister of music, director
- 6:25 Congregational Singing – F. Lindsay O'Rear, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C.
Prayer – J. Mark Bond, pastor, First Baptist Church, LaCenter, Ky.
- 6:30 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)
Election of 1996 Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate and Music Director
- 6:35 Congregational Singing – Don B. Snell, music missionary, Foreign Mission Board
- 6:40 Theme Devotion – Empowered in Missions, Alma Hunt, former executive secretary, Woman's Missionary Union
- 6:50 Report – Woman's Missionary Union, Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director

MARTA offers convenience for messengers

ATLANTA (BP)—It won't be the same Atlanta as 1991 when the Southern Baptist Convention last convened here.

The 1995 SBC annual sessions will be in the new Georgia Dome, June 20-22, not the adjacent Georgia World Congress Center, where the SBC met in '91.

Additionally, Atlanta will be spotted with construction projects for the Olympic Games slated for the summer of 1996.

Construction could tie up International Drive, a key traffic artery for the Dome and GWCC, where the SBC exhibits will be housed in Hall D, noted Jack Wilkerson, SBC Executive Committee vice president for business and finance.

A key alternative for messengers from Atlanta hotels to the Dome and GWCC will be Atlanta's mass transit system, MARTA,

advised Wilkerson, who serves as SBC convention manager.

Special four-, five- or six-day MARTA passes for unlimited travel will be available at \$8, \$9 and \$10, respectively, he said. Advance order blanks will be in the April issue of *SBC Life* or can be requested by writing to MARTA Marketing-SBC, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, GA 30324. All requests must be received by June 1. MARTA passes also will be sold in the vicinity of the SBC registration area in the Dome.

Otherwise, each MARTA trip costs \$1.25.

Messengers and others riding MARTA to SBC sessions should exit MARTA at the Omni/Dome/GWCC station – the first stop, W1, on MARTA's west line – and enter the Dome through Gates C and D. The SBC registration area will be at the lower level of the Dome at Gate C.

RELATED MEETINGS

Directors of missions

ATLANTA (BP)—"Building Relationships" will be the theme of the 34th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions, June 18-19 in Atlanta. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel.

Featured speakers will include Don Hammer, faculty member at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Glenn Akins, director of research and consulting services of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; and Emmanuel McCall, pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, College Park, Ga., and retired Home Mission Board liaison with black churches.

The conference begins at 1 p.m. June 18 and ends with an afternoon session at 1 p.m. June 19.

Church musicians

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will host Charles Lowery as the worship preacher during its 39th annual meeting in Atlanta, June 18-19.

Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M., will preach during the conference worship sessions at 7 p.m. June 18, and 7 p.m. June 19 at Peachtree Corners Baptist Church, Norcross, Ga.

The two-day music conference will include four seminars, offered at 9:05 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. June 19, including "Worship Planning: Staying Fresh," led by Lynn Madden, minister of music at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Performance of church music commissioned by the conference will be presented during the 7 p.m. worship service, June 18. Other performances include Florida Baptist All-State Youth Choir; Simmons Classic of Hardin-Simmons University; the SBC Hymnal Heritage Youth Choir; the praise and worship team from Dunwoody Baptist Church, Atlanta; the Peachtree Corners Baptist Church choir; and the older children's choir from First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Baptist chaplains

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist Convention during their annual convocation June 19. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta.

Guest speakers include James L. Sullivan, retired Sunday School Board president, and Bill Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Lunch will be served during the meeting. Participants are asked to register by calling the HMB chaplaincy division at 404-898-7440.

Campus ministers

ATLANTA (BP)—The Baptist Student Center at Georgia Tech will host the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers for its annual meeting, June 16-18 in Atlanta, "Charting a Course for the Twenty-first Century."

In addition to a slate of guest speakers, the meeting will include four "breakout sessions" for campus ministers sharing common concerns. The worship leader will be Jack Causey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Statesville, N.C.

Seminars will be offered June 17 on such topics as "Developing Creative Worship Services for Students"; "Drinking from the Spring — Help for My Spiritual Journey"; and "Ethical and Legal Issues in Campus Ministry."

Preaching/worship conference

ATLANTA (BP)—An alternative to the Pastors' Conference preceding the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta is being organized by a Tampa, Fla., pastor.

Don Letzring, pastor of Tampa's Wellswold Baptist Church, said the June 18-19 "Preaching and Worship Conference" is "not identified with any political group. We just simply want to offer a conference that is in contrast with the Pastors' Conference — not in opposition to it."

The conference, at Atlanta's Wieuca Road Baptist Church, will include a Sunday evening session and three Monday sessions. Among the featured speakers will be Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church, Porter Ranch, Calif.; Richard Jackson, former pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church; and Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas.

Hispanic Fellowship

ATLANTA (BP)—Seminars on family, men's, women's and youth concerns will launch the Southern Baptist Hispanic Fellowship's June 17-18 meeting. The theme for the gathering, scheduled at Briarlake Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., will be "What the Spirit Is Saying to the Hispanic Church."

The seminars are slated for 2:30 p.m. June 17. Jose Luis Molliner, president of the Miami Hispanic Fellowship, will be the featured speaker during the 4 p.m. general session. Rene De Alejandro, chief of police in Robstown, Texas, will be the featured speaker during the 7 p.m. session.

Rudy A. Hernandez of San Antonio, Texas, will deliver the president's message during the 3 p.m. session June 18.

African American Fellowship

ATLANTA (BP)—Foreign missions will be the emphasis of the annual worship service of the African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention. The worship service, at 5 p.m. June 18, will be held at Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, College Park, Ga.

Speakers for the foreign missions emphasis will be Ralph D. West, pastor of Brookhollow Baptist Church, Houston, and David Cornelius, director of black church relations for the Foreign Mission Board.

The fellowship's business meeting will begin at 11 a.m. Monday, June 19, at Greenforest Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., followed by a luncheon.

Baptist computer users

ATLANTA (BP)—The latest in fax technology and use of the Internet will be among topics discussed during the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association's annual meeting June 16-17.

The SBCUA meeting will be held in the Home Mission Board's new office building in Alpharetta, Ga.

SBCUA is an organization of Southern Baptist employees who meet to discuss common computer-related issues. Annual membership dues are \$10 for an individual or \$20 for two or more members from the same organization. Registration fee for the meeting is \$25, which includes a luncheon on June 16.

To pre-register for the meeting or to obtain additional information, contact Charles Williamson, director of systems development for the Home Mission Board, at 404-898-7282. The registration fee also may be paid at the door.

Baptist researchers

ATLANTA (BP)—Research on baptisms and discipleship will be among the topics discussed during the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship's June 17 meeting. The Saturday gathering, from noon to 9 p.m., will be held in Atlanta's Colony Square Hotel.

The program will include reviews of:

- A study by Foreign Mission Board researcher Jim Slack on concerns and influences among baby boomers and pre-baby boomers.

- A study by the Home Mission Board's research department on baptisms.

- The Baptist Sunday School Board's new Annual Church Profile, which replaces the Uniform Church Letter.

Jim Henry reflects on service

Presidential role provides Henry view of 'deep down love' for SBC

By Barbara Denman

Florida Baptist Convention

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Jim Henry has traveled the globe this year, attending every Southern Baptist meeting and gathering possible.

"The great heartbeat of Southern Baptists is strong," said Henry, president of the 15.6-million-member Southern Baptist Convention. "They want to be Southern Baptists. They're grateful to be Southern Baptists and they feel like our best can be before us."

Henry, who was elected to the post during the 1994 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., called his year of service "absolutely incredible. It has been a very enriching experience — just to touch the warp and woof of this multifaceted people called Southern Baptists."

During the past year, Henry took time from his pastorate at First Baptist Church, Orlando, to attend meetings of state conventions, associations, almost every SBC agency, board and commission, the Woman's Missionary Union and the Baptist World Alliance. A self-proclaimed historian, Henry said he was thrilled to attend the signing of the Mid-East Peace Agreement.

"As president, I thought one of the most important things I could do is represent Southern Baptists as many times as I could," he explained. It became the "fastest year of my life — most demanding and most fulfilling."

He has liked what he has seen. "There has been the greatest spirit I have found across the board. It made me love being a Southern Baptist more to see that spirit. It's a can-do attitude that's good to taste and good to see."

Henry said he will allow his name to be placed in nomination for a second term as SBC president when the convention meets in Atlanta, June 20-22.

On numerous occasions this year, Henry has sounded a call of reconciliation between factions within the denomination. Although he said the past 15 years of controversy in the SBC were necessary, he likened it to a wound that now needs healing.

"I think there are some people who will not be reconciled back into mainstream Southern Baptists," Henry continued. "To me there is a different priority, a different sense of direction, a different philosophy."

However, he has consistently called for less rhetoric, less of an attack on those individuals. "In dealing with them, I think we should always do that in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Attacking, condemning individuals — that's out of order with the way I understand forgiveness, love and grace in the New Testament."

Conservative Southern Baptists are "grateful for the fact that we have taken a stand on Scripture and that we've kept our focus on evangelism and missions," Henry said. "But they have felt that some people — and I don't think it's been among the leadership (of) Southern Baptists and the conservative resurgence, but some people who have identified themselves with conservatives — have at times been unduly harsh in conversation and rhetoric. That's hurt before the world who we are as believers. We shouldn't treat fellow believers that way even when we disagree with them."

As a historian Henry said he is excited about the sesquicentennial SBC meeting in Atlanta. A highlight of the meeting

will be a message from evangelist Billy Graham. There will be "times of tears, times of laughter, times of renewal, times of commitment," Henry promised.

The meeting will be "stimulated by the Brister report," he said, which will ask messengers to approve a reorganization of the denomination's agencies. Noting that every 40 years the SBC has dealt with a report that changes the denomination's structure, Henry added, "It's good for our people to look at who we are, are we doing it efficiently and effectively, and can we get the job done better."

Although he has heard some concerns expressed about the recommendations in the restructuring plan, Henry said he had been able to ask enough questions of the committee to relieve his concerns. He said he expects the report at the SBC to "clarify some of the points of concern that I've heard."

Calling the mission statement "one of the grandest things I've seen," Henry said he was surprised that until this time the SBC had no mission statement. "Once you establish a mission statement, you are purpose driven at that point. Then you can flesh out the details."

Although members of the Woman's Missionary Union have expressed concerns about the organization's omission from the report, Henry said, "The committee did the only thing they could do. They could not expect the WMU to be accountable to them because the WMU had made a choice not to be an agency. That being true, it would have been wrong for them to have come in and demanded it."

He predicted little will change with WMU's support of SBC missions. "I think it goes back to a thing that's very important to Southern Baptists — and that's cooperation and trust. As long as we can keep those levels at a high point, I don't see any major changes."

Henry said he had made a number of observations as he met and studied Southern Baptists this past year.

"The respect that Southern Baptists are held in by outsiders has been a very fascinating experience to me." As he has represented Southern Baptists in non-denominational meetings, he has found instant respect "not because who I am but because I represent this body. And it gives us this platform, which to me is a thing we need to be very sensitive to, and a responsibility about who we are and how we portray ourselves before the Christian world and the non-Christian world."

Henry said he was impressed with the quality of young pastors preparing to assume the reins of leadership in the future and has found a "gratitude that we've taken a stand on the Bible."

"I've seen a wellspring of Southern Baptists praying for revival that I haven't sensed in a lot of years," he said. He cited True Love Waits, Promise Keepers and recent experiences at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as evidences of a yearning for revival.

He also has seen a growing financial support of the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptist mission efforts. "I believe several of our conservative churches and brothers are saying, 'If we have conservative leadership we need to support it, and we need to put some dollars in the plate.' I think that's finally dawned on some people. And that's been healthy."

Henry has been surprised by the "deep-down love for the SBC that I think the majority of Southern Baptists feel. It is deeper than I thought. I knew it was there, but I didn't realize the depth of it until listening, talking and visiting.

"That's why I think when we have pain, it's like in your family. Southern Baptists are unique — we're like a huge family."



Jim Henry

'HIGH AND LIFTED UP'

SBC Pastors' Conference

June 18-19 • Georgia Dome • Atlanta, Ga.

Sunday Afternoon

- 1:50 Pre-Session Musical Praise — Point of Grace
2:00 Musical Praise — soloist, Jane Keel, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
2:03 Welcome — James Merritt, Pastors' Conference president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
2:11 Musical Praise — Gold City Quartet, music evangelists
2:20 Message — Ken Whitten, senior pastor, Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.
2:45 Congregational Praise and Worship — Wayne Grothman, minister of music, Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon, Miss.
2:50 Message — Danny Akin, dean of students, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
3:15 Choral Praise — Adult and Youth Choir/Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
3:18 Message — Robert Reccord, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.
3:43 Prayer and Offering
3:46 Testimony and Message — James T. Draper Jr., president, Sunday School Board
4:00 Congregational Praise — Billy Payne, assistant minister of music, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
4:03 Musical Praise — Point of Grace
4:07 Message — Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.
4:30 Benediction — Glen Cox, Clermont, Ga.

Sunday Evening

- 6:15 Pre-Session Musical Praise — Gold City Quartet
6:35 Welcome — James Merritt
6:40 Scripture and Prayer — Phil Roberts, Home Mission Board
6:45 Praise and Worship — David Oliver, minister of music, Immanuel Baptist Church, Germantown, Tenn.
6:50 Musical Praise — Bryan "Bo" Parker, music evangelist
6:55 Message — Jack Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
7:25 Praise and Worship — Joe Estes, minister of music, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.
7:30 Brotherhood Commission/Promise Keepers presentation
7:35 Musical Praise — Point of Grace
7:40 Message — Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
8:10 Prayer and Offering
8:15 Musical Praise — Choir, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga., soloist, Bryan "Bo" Parker
8:20 Message — Chuck Colson, chairman of the board of Prison Fellowship Ministries
8:55 Celebration of Salvation — Gold City Quartet, Point of Grace, Bryan "Bo" Parker, combined choirs of First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
9:10 Benediction — John Yarborough, Perry, Ga.

Monday Morning

- 8:30 Choral Praise — Choir, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.
8:45 Scripture and Prayer — Hollie Miller, pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.
8:55 Musical Praise — Phil Cross and Poet Voice
9:00 Message — Gene Getz, senior pastor, Fellowship Bible Church, North, Plano, Texas

- 9:30 Musical Praise — soloist, Starla Harbin, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
9:35 Message — Joe Brown, pastor, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.
10:00 Praise and Worship — Roger Christian, minister of music, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.
10:05 Special Recognition of Roy Fish
10:10 Prayer and Offering
10:15 Musical Praise — Phil Cross and Poet Voices
10:25 Message — Fred Luter Jr., pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans
10:55 Choral Praise — Choir, Hickory Grove Baptist Church
11:00 Message — Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.
11:30 Benediction — Donny Pickertill, Forest Park, Ga.

Monday Afternoon

- 1:15 Choral Praise — Choir, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
1:30 Scripture and Prayer — Daniel Gage, evangelist, Houston
1:35 Musical Praise — Point of Grace
1:40 Message — Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
2:05 Congregational Music — Larry Black, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
2:10 Choral Praise — Choir, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
2:15 Message — Johnny M. Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
2:40 Musical Praise — Gold City Quartet
2:45 Election of Officers
2:55 Musical Praise — Bryan "Bo" Parker
3:00 Message — Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
3:30 Prayer and Offering
3:35 Congregational Praise — Buster Pray, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
3:40 Recognition of J. Harold Smith
3:50 Musical Praise — Gold City Quartet
4:00 Message — John Phillips, author, Memphis, Tenn.
4:30 Benediction — Jim Austin, Flowery Branch, Ga.

Monday Evening

- 6:10 Musical Praise — Gold City Quartet
6:25 Scripture and Prayer — Claude Thomas, pastor, First Baptist Church, Eules, Texas
6:30 Welcome — Jim Henry, SBC president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
6:35 Congregational Praise — Denny Dawson, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn.
6:40 Introduction of 1996 Pastors' Conference officers
6:45 Choral Praise — Choir, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
6:50 Message — Ravi Zacharias, president, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Atlanta
7:20 Presentation of Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now
7:30 Choral Praise
7:35 Prayer and Offering
7:40 Choral Praise
7:45 Message — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
8:20 Musical Praise — Terry and Barbi Franklin, music evangelists, Nashville, Tenn.; combined choirs
8:25 Message — John MacArthur, pastor, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, Calif.
9:00 High and Lifted Up: The Coronation — Grand Finale with 1,000-Voice Mass Choir and Multi-Media Presentation
9:15 Benediction — John Cross, North Port, Fla.

Woman's Missionary Union

June 18-19 • World Congress Center • Atlanta, Ga.

Sunday Afternoon

- 2:20 Music for Meditation – Randall Atcheson, piano,
Greenwich, Conn.
- 2:30 Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller, Birmingham, Ala.
Hymns – Joanne Perry, directing, Simpsonville, S.C.
"God's World Today"
"O God of Love, Enable Me"
Invocation
Announcements
Introduction of Local Committee
Message in Music – Joanne Perry
Message: My Place in God's World Today – home
missionary
Theme Interpretation – Face to Face
Message: My Place in God's World Today – foreign
missionary
Hymn "God's World Today"
Devote Yourselves to Prayer – home missionary, foreign
missionary
Prayer time: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Organ and Piano Benediction: "When I Pray"

Sunday Night

- 6:50 Music for Meditation – Randall Atcheson, piano
Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller
Hymns – Joanne Perry, directing
"Jesus Is the Song"
"I'll Tell the World That I'm a Christian"
Invocation
Announcements
Presentation of National Acteens Panelists –
Jan Turrentine, Carrie Bell, Kelly Hamilton, Amy Lynn
Foster, Jamie S. Mashburn, Amy Rebekah Hamilton,
Emily McAlister
Hymn: "People Need the Lord"
Message: My Place in God's World Today – home
missionary
Message in Music – Joanne Perry
Message: – Anne Graham Lotz, Raleigh, N.C.
Hymn: "God's World Today"
Theme Interpretation – Face to Face
Devote Yourselves to Prayer – foreign missionary,
home missionary
Prayer time: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Benediction: "When I Pray"

Monday Morning

- 9:20 Music for Meditation – Randall Atcheson, piano
Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller
Hymn: "Make Me a Channel of Blessing"
Invocation
Message: My Place in God's World Today – foreign
missionary
Executive Board Report – A Place for You in WMU,
Dellanna W. O'Brien, WMU executive director,
Birmingham, Ala.
Testimony: "What WMU Has Meant to Me" –
Anise McDaniel, Clinton, Miss.
Hymn: "Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated"
Presentation: A Place for You in WMU
Special Recognitions

Election of Officers

Hymn: "Because He Lives"

Offertory Prayer

Offering

Message in Music – Joanne Perry

Message: My Place in God's World Today – home
missionary

Theme Interpretation – Face to Face

Hymn: "God's World Today"

Devote Yourselves to Prayer – home missionary, foreign
missionary

Prayer time: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Organ Benediction: "When I Pray"

Monday Afternoon

- 2:00 Music for Meditation – Randall Atcheson, piano
Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller
Hymns – Joanne Perry, directing
"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"
"Grace Greater than Our Sin"
"Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound"
Invocation
Announcements
Message: My Place in God's World Today – home
missionary
Theme Interpretation – Face to Face
Message: My Place in God's World Today – foreign
missionary
Hymn: "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" –
Joanne Perry, directing
Project Help: AIDS: A Place for You in Ministry – Sandra
Nash, Clinton, Miss.
Message: – Jimmy R. Allen
Hymn: "God's World Today"
Devote Yourselves to Prayer – home missionary, foreign
missionary
Prayer time: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Organ Benediction: "When I Pray"

Monday Evening

- 6:50 Music for Meditation – Randall Atcheson, piano
7:00 Call to Order and Welcome – Carolyn D. Miller
Response – Robert T. Banks, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.
Hymn: "Tell the Good News" – Joanne Perry, directing
Scripture and Prayer – Roger Freeman
Testimony
Hymns (Flags Process)
"We've a Story to Tell"
"O Zion Haste"
Partnership with State Conventions and Associations –
T.O. Spicer, Joplin, Mo.
Introduction of Missionaries – William C. Graham,
Atlanta, Ga.
Presentation of Certificates of Appointment –
Larry L. Lewis, president, Home Mission Board,
Atlanta, Ga.
Testimonies – Selected Missionaries
Prayer of Dedication – Dellanna W. O'Brien
Message in Music
Message – Larry L. Lewis
Hymn of Commitment: "I Surrender All" – Joanne
Perry, directing
Benediction – James Williams, president, Brotherhood
Commission, Memphis, Tenn.
Postlude

SBC SEMINARIES

All six Southern Baptist seminaries will host alumni gatherings June 21 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta.

Southern Seminary

An address by seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr., a performance by the Southern Seminary Choir and the presentation of the school's Distinguished Alumni Awards will highlight Southern Seminary's alumni and friends luncheon. The luncheon begins at 1 p.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center.

Tickets are \$17 each in advance or \$18.50 at the convention. Tickets may be ordered from Alumni Services, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. For information, call 1-800-626-5525.

Midwestern Seminary

Two Alumni of the Year will be honored by Midwestern alumni and friends during a luncheon at the Georgia World Congress Center in room 267 on west concourse level two, immediately following the convention's morning session June 21.

Advance tickets for the Midwestern Seminary luncheon may be purchased for \$17 per person from the Office of Institutional Advancement, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Or tickets may be obtained for \$20 at the seminary booth in the convention exhibit hall during the SBC meeting.

Other highlights of the luncheon program will include a report from Lewis Adkison, chairman of the Midwestern board of trustees and the seminary's presidential search committee; a report from seminary president Milton Ferguson; and music provided by saxophonist Bob Sass, a master of divinity student at Midwestern.

Southwestern Seminary

Three Distinguished Alumni awards will be presented at the 1995 national alumni luncheon for Southwestern Seminary.

The luncheon will be held in the International Ballroom of the Omni Hotel at CNN Center, immediately following that morning's session of the Southern Baptist Convention. Southwestern's president, Ken Hemphill, will be the keynote speaker.

Advance tickets may be purchased for \$18 each and will be held at the Southwestern booth at the Southern Baptist Convention. Tickets purchased at the luncheon will cost \$20 each. For more information, contact Southwestern's Alumni Relations office at 817-923-1921, ext. 7240.

New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans Seminary's annual alumni and friends reunion will be a 7:30 breakfast meeting on June 21.

The breakfast will be held at the Hyatt-Regency Atlanta, 265 Peachtree St. (the convention headquarters hotel). The meeting will include a report from the seminary president and the faculty's annual presentation of the distinguished alumnus award.

Tickets ordered before June 1 will cost \$6 each; tickets ordered after June 1 and those purchased at the NOBTS exhibit booth at the convention will cost \$10 each. Ticket sales at the SBC will end at noon June 20.

Tickets may be purchased from the Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentry Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Tickets ordered from the office after June 1 may be picked up at the seminary's booth at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southeastern Seminary

Southeastern Seminary's national alumni luncheon will be held June 21 at the Georgia World Congress Center. It will feature an address by Southeastern president Paige Patterson.

The luncheon will be held in room 260-261 on level two of the west concourse of the World Congress Center. Adult meals are \$12 each and children's meals are \$6 each. Reservations for the luncheon can be made through Southeastern's alumni office prior to June 9.

Golden Gate Seminary

Golden Gate Seminary's alumni and friends luncheon will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center, following the morning session of the SBC. President William Crews will provide a "state of the seminary" report.

Tickets are \$14 each and may be purchased in advance from the Office of Alumni Relations, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941. For more information, call 415-388-8080, ext. 296.

Pre-registration now open for SBC day camp

ATLANTA (BP)—Special activities are planned again this year at the SBC Missions Day Camp for children of parents attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Sponsored by the Children/Royal Ambassador department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, SBC Missions Day Camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades one through six by June of this year.

In addition to the regular missions education emphasis, the day camp will include field trips to the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the Fernbank Science Center and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Missionary speakers and convention tours will be added features. Volunteers from First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., will provide assistance.

"We ask all parents to pre-register again this year," said Tim Seanor, SBC Missions Day Camp coordinator. Registration will be open to the first 250 children.

Parents should secure a registration packet by writing to SBC Missions Day Camp, SBC Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104; phone 901-272-2461. There is no

registration guarantee for day camp at the SBC Missions Day Camp for packets received after May 30.

Parents or guardians of children who attended SBC Missions Day Camp over the past three years will receive registration packets automatically.

A three-day package price of \$62 per child is available. Two different two-day packages are \$52 (Tuesday and Wednesday) and \$35 (Wednesday and Thursday). The individual day cost per child per day is \$35 for Tuesday, \$24 for Wednesday and \$17 for Thursday. Prices include admission fees, transportation, accident insurance, lunch (Tuesday only), snacks, learning materials, a day camp T-shirt and wristband.

Missions Day Camp operates during all daytime sessions of the convention, Tuesday through Thursday.

Youth who wish to serve as day camp workers must be at least 14 years of age or must have completed eighth grade. They should contact Seanor at the Brotherhood Commission in writing before May 30. A special registration form will be sent to each prospective worker.

State CBF studies past, future during assembly

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Members of the Arkansas Cooperative Baptist Fellowship focused on the group's history and future direction as it met for its third general assembly April 21-22 at Second Church in Little Rock. The meeting, attended by more than 160 Arkansas Baptists, included business, information and worship sessions.

Keynote speakers Phil Lineberger and Molly Marshall interpreted the theme for the assembly, "Where Have We Come From...And Where Are We Going?"

Interpreting CBF's history, Lineberger, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, said, "We Baptists were born in freedom, bred in freedom and must work to maintain our freedom.

"The greatest threat our civilization faces in the 21st century is intolerance," he said. "It is a person believing that, 'I am absolutely right and anybody that disagrees with me is absolutely wrong and not only are they wrong but they are an enemy and must be silenced.' When we talk about terrorism in our country, we are talking about intolerance.

"We were born in freedom," Lineberger said. "Jesus Christ did not set us free so that we might again become victims of our own religious entanglements. As free and faithful Baptists, we believe that every individual must have that free experience."

He also noted that Baptists were "bred in freedom. Southern Baptists formed from a free kind of cooperation. Churches who wanted to be part of that convention could choose how to be a part.

"From 1845 to 1979, Southern Baptists maintained their freedom to be or not to be part of the cooperative effort of spreading the gospel and the results were overwhelming in that time," he emphasized. "Our seminaries were full. We had more missionaries in more countries than had ever been in all of Christian history. And someone tries to tell us we were faltering and about to fail?

"Our challenge is to maintain that freedom," he concluded. "Just like Paul told the Galatians, 'We must stand firm.'"

"We also must work to maintain our freedom against a papal, hierarchical structure that seeks to do denominational work from the top down rather than the bottom up," he warned. "We must fight hard to maintain our freedom against a denominational structure that would overwhelm the autonomy of the local church."

Molly Marshall, who resigned under pressure as a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, gave participants her perspective of the future of "the



Texas pastor Phil Lineberger urged Arkansas CBF members to "maintain your freedom" during the group's April 21-22 assembly at Second Church, Little Rock.

remnant that we call the CBF."

"We are a people who remain in need of comfort," she said. "Many of us because we grieve for the institutions we've lost. For others, it is the lack of focus caused by the distractions of well over a decade of mutually destructive fighting. Some of us grieve severed relationships. Our spiritual homeplace has become as desolate as Jerusalem after the captives were carried off to Babylon."

'Leave the fussing behind'

Using Isaiah as her text, Marshall said, "We have been guilty of looking backward for too long. We have been longing for the fleshpots of Egypt during our years of conflict. 'If only we could return to more peaceful times,' we have lamented.

"If we are honest, we must admit that those former days harbored issues and attitudes which stood in conflict with God's new way and even hindered the fresh wind of the Spirit," she countered, listing racism, sexism and "many prophetic voices were silenced in a culturally captive convention" as faults of the SBC prior to the conservative resurgence.

"Stop clinging to the past," she urged. "We are free to leave the fussing behind. We are free to leave the controversy in the past. Perhaps we, like Israel, needed to be shaken from a faith that has nothing new to learn about the activity of God.

"One of the great benefits of our protracted conflict is that the scales have fallen from some of our eyes," she said. "Many of us have reawakened what it means to be Christian, what it means to be Baptist."

Asking participants, "What kind of new thing might God desire to do with this remnant that we call the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship?" Marshall suggested:

- Repent of the notion that we are God's last and only hope. "A good dose of humility would help us a great deal. We cannot organize or orchestrate God's Kingdom. It is God's gift."

- We must acknowledge "the giftedness of all members of Christ's body: black, white, lay, clergy, zealous, cautious, male, female."

- We must "reclaim the understanding of pilgrimage as the perpetual mode of the people of God. We are not yet there."

During a business session on Saturday morning, participants elected Fred Ball, pastor of Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock, as moderator-elect and Henrietta Holcomb, a member of Rolling Hills Church in Fayetteville, as recorder for the 1995-96 year. Dianne Swaim, moderator-elect for the 1994-95 year, assumed the role of moderator for 1995-96.

Swaim, a member of Second, Little Rock, said her desire "is for us to make a positive statement to Baptists in Arkansas."

"CBF is not retaliatory," she said. National CBF moderator "Cecil Sherman said that 'In the future, CBF will be measured more by what we do than whom we oppose.' I fully concur with that.

"We have spent three years in getting organized. Now I want to see us work," she emphasized. "We're looking at a Habitat for Humanity house and a pastor/staff retreat as ways of doing that."

Also approved was a proposed 1996 state budget of \$96,600, an increase of almost \$5,000 over the 1995 budget. About 900 individuals and approximately 20 Arkansas Baptist churches channel funds to national CBF ministries.

Participants chose from several information sessions offered by assembly planners, including the topics of Arkansas CBF, "The Changing Face of Worship," ministries to AIDS patients, women in ministry and "The Prague Project," an initiative partially funded by the national CBF to move the International Theological Seminary from its current location in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to Prague in the Czech Republic. Nine Arkansas CBF members recently participated in a construction project at the new seminary.

Bill Bruster, western coordinator for national CBF, interpreted the work of the four-year-old group during one of the sessions. "We are committed not to become a denomination," he said. "We were formed Baptist, we remain Baptist and I hope we never form a new denomination. We want to remain a fellowship."

'Proud moms'

Housemothers build love, trust with kids

By Colleen Backus
Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Working hard to prepare their boat for the race, small Vikings put the finishing touches on their papier maché helmets. Tiring of this activity, one youngster asked, "Mom, can I go ride my bike?"

"Mom" is housemother Karen Benson, a Bryant native who with her husband, Howard, oversees eight children from kindergarten through seventh grade at a cottage at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello. "I like being a mommy," she commented. "I want to make an impact with these kids -- to make good memories to replace the bad."

Benson does a lot of "being there," going to school programs, band concerts, and like any proud mom, taking lots of pictures. "All these good memories are important," she emphasized.

The best part, Benson explained, is when a little girl who screams when a man approaches her loses that fear, or when a child who is shy and defensive at every move begins to have self-confidence. "This is something money can't buy," she said.

Benson's sweetest memory is her first Mother's Day at the Children's Home three years ago, when she was having a moment of sorrow over the fact that she and her husband have no children of their own. Then she found a hand-made construction paper Mother's Day card outside her door. A little girl in her care had written a poem,

"I love you in the morning, I love you in the night, I love you whenever you're in my sight." Benson cried. "That was a real risk for her, to let down her defenses," she said. "I knew this was what God had planned for me."

But what if your children are teens, going through difficult times? Jean Jacobs' girls are going through just that -- they're pregnant. As housemom at Promise House, Arkansas Baptists' home for unwed mothers, Jacobs' days are filled with the innumerable small tasks of taking care of pregnant girls. Getting up at 5:30 a.m., Jacobs makes coffee, opens the laundry room and starts making breakfast. "I try to give them something substantial to eat, but often it just comes back up," she laughed.

She tries to build their self-esteem by teaching them everything from how to prepare meals to bonding with their babies. "I love to work in the yard," she noted, "so I make them do yard work, too--sometimes they don't like it, but it instills a sense of pride." As the mother of three and the grandmother of five, Jacobs is very astute at picking out individuals needs, whether nurturing an artistic talent or just letting a tired pregnant girl watch TV in her apartment.

And then there's the tough part -- when a girl goes into labor, she comes to Jacobs' apartment until the contractions are about five minutes apart. "We talk, track the contractions and pet my cat," Jacobs

shared. "She can squeeze my hands to death and talk really loud and not worry about the other girls."

The girls often think of Jacobs as a grandmother, and insist that she can't go out of town when their babies are due. "You have to get them ready to try their own wings," she explained. "They often can't understand that even though they did wrong, you still love them."

Teaching independence while still sharing love is also the task of D.J. Hale, housemother at the high school-age boys cottage at the Children's Home.

"Initially, their trust level is very low, often because of abuse," Hale explained. "Sometimes they are stuck at the maturity level of a 12-year-old."

Relationships take time, she pointed out, and she has to constantly build the trust level by just being there. "I'm not really their friend, but I'm there to support them, be firm with them and make them do what they need to do," she explained. "At this age, going home is not an option, so I try to teach them independence."

There's also a lot of laughter, joking and hugging, Hale pointed out. She and her husband, houseparents for eight years, want to help the boys leave with a good attitude to help them get a good job and have a successful family. One of "her boys" who insisted that "Mom" come to his wedding now has two kids of his own. Another recently called her first from the doctor's office upon finding out his wife was pregnant. "He's going to be a good dad," she proudly declared.

"I just don't want them to slip through my fingers."

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Do you know university students interested in missions or other ministerial service?

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Trustees affirm Mohler, alter hiring process

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP/ABP)—Following more than five hours behind closed doors, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary voted overwhelmingly April 18 to affirm President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and to revise the faculty hiring process, eliminating a full faculty vote on candidates.

Trustees also amended the bylaws to allow the election of chairman Richard D. White to an unprecedented third term and affirmed Mohler's actions regarding the recent firing of Diana R. Garland as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

Trustees voted to affirm "both the process followed and the actions taken by the president" concerning the Garland firing. In so doing, trustees also affirmed Mohler's desire to consider only faculty candidates who are conservative and who can "relate constructively to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Trustees put into writing that candidates will be evaluated regarding their views on the Abstract of Principles, the Covenant Renewal (enacted in 1990) and "current pressing issues of concern to evangelicals and Southern Baptists." Listed as "pressing issues" were:

- The exclusiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation;
- The sanctity of human life;
- The sinful nature of homosexuality;
- The restriction of women from serving in the church office of pastor/overseer.

The document said those issues "are only indicative examples, and (are) not to be viewed as exhaustive."

Also approved was a statement on the "issue of women in the pastorate." It cited the "autonomous" churches of the SBC, "which overwhelmingly reflect" the view that women should not serve as pastors and which have "expressed this collectively in annual conventions by adopted resolutions." The statement said the trustees have and will continue to expect the president to recommend to the faculty only those candidates who reflect "the biblical position and the convictional consensus of the churches of the SBC."

Trustees restrict faculty

Trustees also approved an amendment to the faculty-staff manual, adding a paragraph which includes "an obligation on the part of all faculty and staff to support and relate constructively to the institution, its policies and administration. Faculty members may not use class time (or any forum designated for instructional purposes) for the purpose of undermining or obstructing the policies of this institution. Faculty members and staff of this institution are not to act in ways that are injurious or detrimental to the seminary's relationship with the denomination, donors or other constituencies within and without the seminary community."

Faculty members expressed concern about commenting on the trustee actions, fearing reprisals from the administration for any negative comments they might make. However, some professors agreed to describe the faculty's feelings, as long as

their identities would not be revealed.

"A neutron bomb went off on this campus," one professor said of the combined effects of the trustees' actions. "All the buildings are standing, but all the people are dead."

"All the facilities are here; everything Southern Baptists have invested in is here," the professor elaborated. "But what is the essence of a school? People and relationships, just like a church. And they are all dead, mostly victims of violent death."

Mohler, however, defended the actions, many of which "were taken in direct response to what trustees perceived to be actions by faculty members that were unconscionable and irresponsible," he said.

In other action, nearly \$1 million in expenses will be cut from the seminary's budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year due to declining enrollment and gift income.

On-campus enrollment this spring is 1,373, down 4.7 percent from last spring and down 13 percent from the year before that. Alumni giving has declined from a peak of \$400,000 per year in 1986 to \$100,000 in 1994, Mohler said. The new budget anticipates a further reduction of \$400,000 in overall gift income.

Documents approved by trustees say this \$918,497 reduction "will be realized substantially through a program of restructuring, an early retirement incentive program, a change in post-retirement benefit policy and other budget reductions, if necessary."

The retirement package would be available to any faculty member whose age and number of years with the seminary equal at least 65 when added together. The incentive would give eligible candidates one year's salary and an additional \$500 for every year served. There are 29 professors eligible for the package.

Search Committee Listening Session

The Search Committee for the Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention invites all interested Arkansas Baptists to participate in a listening session to express ideas about the qualifications for the next executive director. Please note the times listed below.

May 11 • Baptist Building Chapel

- 12:30 - 1:00 Baptist Building Support Staff
- 1:05 - 1:45 Directors of Missions
- 2:00 - 2:45 Baptist Building Professional Staff
- 3:00 - 3:45 Pastors/Staff Members
- 4:00 - 4:45 Laypersons

This listening session is designed to provide Arkansas Baptists an opportunity to share their desires and ideas in the search process.

All interested individuals are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Nominations

Executive Director

Nominations for the position of Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention may be mailed only to the Search Committee Chairman, Billy Kite at P.O. Box 1184, Crossett, AR 71635. Please enclose a cover letter with the résumé of the person being recommended. Nominations will be received through Wednesday, June 28, 1995.

Mark Coppenger nominated as new Midwestern president

KANSAS CITY, MO (BP)—Former Arkansas pastor Mark Coppenger has been nominated as the next president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Trustees will vote on his election during a called meeting June 1-2 in Kansas City.

Coppenger is the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations. If elected, he will succeed Milton Ferguson, 65, who has been president since 1973.

The announcement of Coppenger's unanimous recommendation by the trustee search committee was made on the opening day of the trustees' April 24-25 regular meeting in Kansas City. If elected in June, Coppenger will assume Midwestern Seminary's presidency Aug. 1, said trustee chairman Lewis Adkison.

Search committee members indicated that Ferguson's salary and benefits will be paid until his announced July 31, 1996, retirement. Trustees also voted to give Ferguson a \$50,000 retirement gift in honor of his years of service to the seminary.

During his president's report, Ferguson said he still considers his official retirement date to be July 31, 1996, but made it clear, "I will respond positively and favorably to any change in the best interests of the seminary."

The approximate eight-week span for a transition to a new president is "a

very short time frame in educational leadership," Ferguson said. "We will reorder our priorities. We can do it and we will do it. My primary concern is the welfare of the seminary."

Search committee members said they received 24 recommendations, but Coppenger was the only one interviewed.

Committee member Ronnie Rogers, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said Coppenger would encourage dialogue among differing viewpoints on theological issues "within the framework of innecency."

Coppenger, 46, assumed his Executive Committee vice presidency in 1991 after serving as executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana

for two years. Other previous positions include associate professor of philosophy at Wheaton College in Illinois and pastor of First Church, El Dorado.

A 1970 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Coppenger also holds degrees from Vanderbilt University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In other business, trustees adopted a resolution supporting the proposed restructuring plan of the SBC. Adkison was elected to serve a second term as board chairman and Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, was elected first vice chairman.



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NATION

Judge halts Mississippi school's public prayers

PONTOTOC, MS (BP/ABP)—A federal judge ruled April 18 that a north Mississippi school must stop its practice of prayers and morning devotionals over its intercom system.

In a 25-page preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. ruled that the Pontotoc County school district wrongly advanced religion by permitting prayers and Scripture reading at North Pontotoc Attendance Center.

"It has the effect of endorsing or placing the governmental institution's seal of approval on these religious practices," Biggers wrote.

The district "has excessively involved itself with religion and crossed the line drawn between church and state," he said.

"We may not like the court decision but we will obey it," Pontotoc County School superintendent Jerry Horton responded.

Biggers sided with plaintiff Lisa Herdahl, 34, of Ecru, whose lawsuit contends the constitutional rights of her five children at the school were violated by the practice.

She argued that her children, who were baptized as Lutherans, suffer undue embarrassment for not participating in Bible classes or prayers at school.

In the ruling, Biggers wrote: "Invoking the name of Jesus Christ and broadcasting it throughout the school at times when attendance is mandatory necessarily chooses religion over nonreligion. And, moreover, Christian beliefs over other religious beliefs."

Biggers rejected arguments that the policy's establishment-clause problems can be resolved by allowing Herdahl's children to be excused from the religious exercises.

"The plaintiff's children are likely to feel ostracized and stigmatized if their beliefs do not coincide with those of the majority," Biggers wrote. The judge said a "method of accommodation that is inclusive of those students who wish to participate is far better than a practice that excludes those that do not."

School officials had turned over the loudspeaker to the students' Altheia Club for morning prayers. It "is pressuring, if not mandating students to attend and participate in prayer," Biggers wrote.

However, the judge refused to end all prayer at the school. Students in grades seven through 12 may have voluntary devotionals before school hours each morning in the gymnasium, with younger children also able to attend, Biggers ruled.

Biggers also set a March 4, 1996, trial for the lawsuit. Horton said he and school board members will study a possible appeal.

Workshops to train leaders in marriage, sex education

Two workshops scheduled for June 5-6 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock will train church staff and laypeople to lead courses in marriage enrichment and Christian sexuality. The workshops are sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department.

Department associate Gerald Jackson said the Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop June 5 is a "more intensive training" designed to prepare church staff members, church or associational family enrichment leaders and potential leader couples to teach Covenant Marriage courses.

He said the primary purpose of marriage enrichment training in Baptist churches is to "strengthen" marriages.

"The principal relationship in the family is the marriage," he emphasized. "When you strengthen a marriage from within, it can withstand anything."

Jackson said the workshop "will prepare participants for the unique characteristics of Covenant Marriage courses, focusing on the Scriptures which support the courses as well as teaching them to plan

and promote a Covenant Marriage course."

The cost for the marriage enrichment workshop is \$26.50 per person. Participants also will receive the Life Course book, *Communication and Intimacy: Covenant Marriage Couple's Guide*.

Jackson said the Christian Sex Education Workshop on June 6 will "equip church leaders to interpret the ministry of Christian sex education in their churches and to plan, promote and conduct Christian sex education courses."

The need for Christian sex education, he explained, is to counter non-Christian sex education. "We learn about sex from everywhere but the church," he said.

"We learn an awful lot about sex, but not the Christian concepts of sexuality," he added. "It leaves us open to being affected negatively by sex."

The cost for the workshop is \$8.50 per person. Participants will receive the Life Course book, *Christian Sex Education: Parents and Church Leaders Guide*.

For more information, contact Gerald Jackson at the ABCS discipleship and family ministry department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.



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Youth minister — Bayou Meto Baptist Church is now accepting applications for a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to: Youth Search Committee, 26200 Highway 107, Jacksonville, AR 72078.

Accepting resumes — for full-time music/education minister, FBC, Gravel Ridge, 501-835-2644.

Youth/college minister — Harlan Park Baptist in Conway is receiving resumes for a part-time youth/college minister. Tremendous potential in one of the fastest growing cities in Arkansas. Please send resumes to Harlan Park Baptist Church, 1895 Hwy 286 West, Conway, AR 72032, attention Jerry Hogan.

Pianist — need dedicated Christian piano player for church, call 501-397-6170 or write Kearney Baptist Church, 1900 Hwy 365 S, Redfield, AR 72132.

Seeking resumes — for full-time minister of music/education. Send to: Search Committee, Baring Cross Baptist Church, 1224 Franklin St., NLR, AR 72114.

Accepting resumes — for part-time youth minister. Send to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 438, Dierks, AR 71833.

Pianist and organist — First Baptist, NLR, is in need of a part-time pianist and organist. Please call 753-1121.

Accepting resumes — for full-time music & youth director. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Fairfield Bay Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1029, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088.

Positions open — Part-time singles director, full-time minister of music, full-time minister of recreation/youth. Direct resumes to Sylvan Hills First Baptist church, 9008 Sylvan Hills Hwy, North Little Rock, AR 72120.

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

ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

Camps offer music training for children, youth

Two camps planned at Ouachita Baptist University will offer Arkansas Baptist children and youth opportunities for music education and fellowship.

The Young Musicians Camp June 26-29 will feature a music and missions emphasis for children who have completed grades 4-6. Music Arkansas July 24-28 will focus on worship and training for youth who have completed grades 7-12.

The theme of the Young Musicians Camp is "The Whole World Is Singing." Peggy Pearson, Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department associate, noted that "we will feature classes on two days that open new dimensions in missions for the campers and relate to the worship at night."

Participants will perform in one of four musicals and the program also will feature a talent show, daily worship, music activities and Peanut Olympics.

The cost for Young Musicians Camp is \$60 per camper or counselor if registration is postmarked before May 30. The cost includes lodging, meals and a T-shirt.

Each church must provide one counselor for every 10 campers. Campers registering without counselors must pay an additional \$5 before May 30.

Department director Rob Hewell said Music Arkansas will "focus on quality relationships through worship, training

and performances involving the entire camp in a variety of music experiences."

It will feature workshops, which will include: handbells, voice, worship planning, Christian discipleship, music reading skills, sign language, band, keyboard skills, choir leadership and drama.

The cost for Music Arkansas is \$85 per camper, \$80 per counselor and \$90 per camper for campers without counselors for registrations postmarked prior to June 26. The cost includes all lodging and meals.

Registration for both camps should be made by the church's music leadership. Registration information and a medical release form are included in the *State Music Ministry Handbook*.

For more information about Young Musicians Camp, contact Pearson. For more information about Music Arkansas, contact Hewell. Both may be reached at the ABSC church music ministries department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5121.



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MISSIONARY NOTES

Barry and Tammy Walker, missionaries to Japan, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: 1-7-25 Ueonosaka, Toyonaka-shi, Osaka 5560, Japan). He considers Jonesboro his hometown. She is the former Tammy Showalter of California. They were appointed by the Foreign Missions Board in 1994.

Michael and Kathy Weaver, missionaries to Peru, are on the field (address: Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). He is a native

of Missouri. The former Kathy Chandler of Arkansas, she was born in Heber Springs and considers Fordyce her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1993.

Don and Angie Finley, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Rua Uruguai 5141301, 27510 Tyuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). He is a native of Missouri. The former Angie Coston, she was born in Clarksville and consider Hot Springs her hometown. They were appointed in 1988.

David and Martha Miller, missionaries to Chile, are on the field (address: Casilla 345, Puerto Varas, Chile). He is from Little Rock. The former Martha Savage, she was born in DeQueen and considers Walnut Ridge her hometown. They were appointed in 1986.

Harold and Rene Mitchell, missionaries to the Comore Island since July 1994, are moving to Madagascar (address: B P 3953, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar). They are natives of Pine Bluff.



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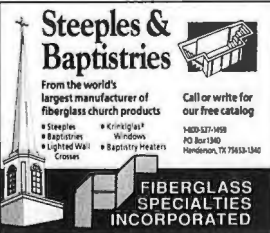
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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Siloam summer schedule features seven weeks of camp activities

The Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs will be "an easy place for people to be saved" this summer, according to assembly director Pat Batchelor. The seven-week summer assembly schedule will run from June 19 through Aug. 4 with programs for children, youth and adults.

Batchelor, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department, highlighted the evangelistic focus of this year's assembly schedule. He emphasized that the assembly setting and programs "can feed the spirit through preaching, music and team building." He said team building will be a key focus of the youth activities.

The youth curriculum for the first six weeks of camp will be "Growing in Godliness: Moral Purity," a continuation of the Baptist Sunday School Board's "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign. Power Week, the seventh week of the assembly's summer schedule for youth only, will feature the Bible-based curriculum, "True North."

There also will be programs for children in grades 4-6 and adults during the first six weeks of camp. Batchelor said the adult program will offer money management seminars, a discipleship lab and preparation for the 1996 Winter Bible Study of Amos.

The schedule for assembly activities will include: Week 1, June 19-23, with

youth pastor Tierce Green, a youth communicator from Arlington, Texas, and children's pastor Rick Hyde, pastor of Third Church in Malvern; Week 2, June 26-30, with youth pastor Dave Edwards, a youth communicator from Oklahoma City, and children's pastor Jimmie Sheffield, ABCS associate executive director.

Week 3, July 3-7, will feature youth pastor Wayne Slay, a minister of youth in Lake Charles, La., and children's pastor Lee Lawson, director of missions for Faulkner County Association; Week 4, July 10-14, will feature youth pastor Billy Beacham from Fort Worth and children's pastor Ron Ford, pastor of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.; and Week 5, July 17-21, will feature Tierce Green and children's pastor Jack Ramsey, an associate in the ABCS missions department.

Week 6, July 24-28, will feature youth pastor Gary Cole, minister of youth for First Baptist Church in Frederick, Okla., and children's pastor Mike Seabaugh, pastor of Crosspoint Church in North Little Rock. Power Week, July 31-Aug. 4, will feature Rick Caldwell, associate pastor for Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

The cost for camps is \$60 per person for dormitory lodging and \$35 to \$70 per person for family unit lodging.

For more information about Arkansas Baptist Assembly, contact Batchelor at 501-376-4791, ext. 5129.

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Convention Uniform

Looking at the invisible

By Rich L. Kincl, pastor,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: II Corinthians 5
Focal passage: II Corinthians 5:1-2,
4-8, 10-11, 20
Central truth: The Word of God
assures us of heaven and reminds us
of our earthly ministry on earth.

Paul had just reminded his readers in verse 4:18 that believers insist on the reality of the invisible world of spiritual blessing. We "look" at things that are invisible by faith. We should be content to govern our lives by eternal values. He reminds us of the importance of hope.

■ *Heaven is the destination of the Christian* (vv. 1-2, 4-8).

Paul speaks of our earthly bodies as a tent which will one day be dissolved. The glorified body that each Christian believer will receive will be eternal, beautiful and never show signs of weakness or decay.

When a believer dies, the body goes to the grave but the spirit goes to be with Christ (Phil. 1:20-25). When Jesus returns, He will raise the dead bodies in glory and body and spirit shall be joined together for a glorious eternity in heaven (I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:35-58).

■ *Heaven should be a motivation for the Christian.*

Christians are to persuade men to be reconciled to God. (v. 11, 20). There is a holy ambition which honors the Lord (v. 9). We should want to be well-pleasing to the Lord. He has commissioned us and we are ambassadors with a message. It should never embarrass us to confront people with the claims of Christ. We are ambassadors of the King of Kings!

We will all appear before the Lord (v. 10). The judgment seat of Christ will be a place of revelation. As we live on earth it is relatively easy to hide things and pretend. The true character of our works will be exposed before the searching eyes of the Savior. We will have to give an account to Him.

Life and Work

Household salvation

By Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus,
Central Church, Jonesboro
Basic passage: Acts 16:16-40
Focal passage: Acts 16:25-34
Central truth: The father is to be the
spiritual leader of his family.

■ *Paul and Silas in prison* (v. 25).

Paul and Silas had been unjustly placed in prison. At midnight, they prayed and sang praises to God. (It is likely that today we would send for a tape on "How to Be Happy in Jail.") The other prisoners heard them praying and singing praises to God.

■ *God's intervention* (vv. 26-28).

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so violent that it broke the stocks and bands of the prisoners. The keeper, seeing this, felt sure that all the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to commit suicide. Paul cried out, "Do thyself no harm for we are all here."

■ *Salvation of the jailer* (vv. 29-32).

Calling for a light, the jailer saw Paul and Silas and fell down before them saying, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Then Paul gave the single answer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Paul spoke to him the Word of the Lord and "all that were in his house" that night (kinsmen and servants) were baptized.

■ *The lesson is so clear.*

As long as the jailer was unsaved, all those in his household were unsaved, but when he became a Christian, "all his household" believed and were baptized.

The cry is this: The father is the spiritual leader of his family. He is answerable to God concerning how he leads his wife and all his household in the ways of the Lord. The father sets the pattern for all the family. We must redouble our witness to the men of the community, for when we lead the head of the household to faith in Christ, we usually get the rest of the family.

Bible Book

What's inside counts!

By Greg Stanley, pastor,
First Church, Warren
Basic passage: Mark 6:1-7:37
Focal passage: Mark 7:1-23
Central truth: Our attitudes and
actions of obedience to God's Word
are more important than our
professed beliefs.

One of Charles Schultz's Peanuts comic strips finds Lucy proclaiming to her brother, Linus, that he can never be a doctor because he doesn't "love mankind." Linus shouts in reply: "I love mankind.... It's people I can't stand!"

How true of God's people. How often our words and actions betray our professed beliefs. Jesus confronted this problem among His Pharisee opponents in Mark 7.

In verses 1-5, these religious law experts condemned Jesus' disciples for not strictly observing certain Jewish legal traditions regarding ceremonial hand washing. His penetrating reply points out what is really important in spiritual values.

■ Lip service is not as important as life service (vv. 7:6-7). Jesus quoted the Old Testament prophet Isaiah in rebuking these religionists for "talking the talk" without "walking the walk."

■ Man-made rules are not as important as God-given revelation (v. 7:8). The cause for actions not matching supposed beliefs may be an adherence to human ideas, interpretations and opinions, instead of God's revealed will and laws.

■ The letter of the law is not as important as the Lord of the law (vv. 7:9-13). The legalists had substituted their traditions for God's commands so as to nullify the Lord's will and contribute to human suffering. The Lord always gives commands for His glory and human good.

■ Outward defilement is not as important as inward devotion (vv. 7:14-23). Inward attitudes and values determine our outward actions and words. Whether we are righteous or sinful depends on what comes from within, not what bombards from without.

All types of defiled behavior flow from an impure heart. Outward actions do not come unbidden. A sinful attitude always precedes sinful actions.

Jesus teaches that for us to be right with God, we must first get our hearts right with Him. This is done by drawing our attitudes from the values of God's Word and basing our actions on Spirit-empowered obedience to His guidelines.

Convention Uniform

Grace giving

By Rich L. Kincl, pastor,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: II Corinthians 8-9
Focal passage: II Corinthians 8:5,
7-8, 18; 9:13
Central truth: It is more blessed to
give than to receive.

How many times has someone begged in your church for an offering to be taken? The Macedonian churches, experiencing deep poverty, gave enthusiastically to meet needs (vv. 8:2-4). We can learn much from their Christ-like spirit.

What do we need to do so we can honor Christ in giving?

■ *Give yourself to God* (v. 8:5). If we give ourselves totally to God, we will have little problem giving our substance to God.

■ *Let love be your motivation* (vv. 8:7-8). Our motive for giving is God's spiritual blessing in our lives, but our measure for giving is God's material blessing. "Let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (I Cor. 16:2).

■ *Get a burden for lost people* (v. 8:18). Every person is either lost or saved. Every person is bound for heaven if he knows Jesus or he is going to hell if he is unsaved. The brother in this verse remains unnamed, but he had a testimony that he shared the gospel. He was burdened for souls. Keeping your priorities straight will result in your becoming a soul winner. It will also make you a more generous giver to your church.

■ *Give generously and God will be glorified* (v. 9:13). When we give confidentially and sacrificially to our church, we do not get the glory, God does. We must not just be willing but we must be doing. A wealthy Christian, during family devotions, prayed for the various needs of his church. One day after the family prayer, his daughter said, "Dad, if I had your checkbook, I could answer these prayers."

Life and Work

World upsetters

By Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus,
Central Church, Jonesboro
Basic passage: Acts 17
Focal passage: Acts 17
Central truth: Respond to the
gospel.

In the 17th chapter of Acts, we see three different approaches and three different responses to the proclamation of the gospel of Christ as Paul and Silas faithfully proclaimed the Gospel in Thessalonica, Berea and Athens.

■ *The gospel in Thessalonica* (vv. 1-9):

Paul and Silas taught that Christ had to suffer and die in order to be raised from the dead and that Jesus was the Christ. Some Jews, some Greeks and some devout women believed and joined themselves to Paul and Silas.

But other Jews raised opposition against them and accused them of turning the world upside down. Some followers of Christ upset the world while others let the world upset them. The world is in enmity with the values of the church and this is upsetting to the people of the world.

■ *The gospel at Berea* (vv. 10-14):

The experience at Berea was refreshing. We are told, "These were more noble than those at Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so." What a joy it is to minister to those who readily receive the Word and search the Scriptures to confirm the truth of the lesson or sermon.

■ *The gospel in Athens* (vv. 22-34):

Paul's gospel was the same in Athens as it was anywhere else, but he had to approach these scholarly men in a different way. Because these academicians were always seeking to hear and learn something new, Paul preached to them about a God who was unknown to them. They followed his teachings fairly well until he got to the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. This is one of the fundamental doctrines of our salvation. As explained in Romans 10:9, we must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead in order for us to confess Him as Lord and Savior.

Bible Book

Spiritual blindness

By Greg Stanley, pastor,
First Church, Warren
Basic passage: Mark 8:1-9:29
Focal passage: Mark 8:1-21, 27-37;
9:14-29

Central truth: Jesus must overcome the spiritual blindness that would enslave our hearts and minds.

We criticize Jesus' enemies for rejecting Him as God's Son. Even His disciples seemed dense to spiritual truth, but we have to admit spiritual blindness also threatens unbelievers and Christians today. Only God's Word and Spirit can dispel this. Mark 8 and 9 record several instances of spiritual blindness. We overcome it by learning its source and solution.

■ *We can fail to see Jesus' proof* (vv. 8:1-12). Jesus gave an "instant replay" of an earlier miracle as He fed 4,000 with seven loaves and a "few small fish." Immediately afterward, some Pharisees challenged Him and demanded "a sign from heaven."

How often do we overlook the obvious and "see what we want to see"? Do we look for what supports our own prejudices and "pet" beliefs and for what confirms our own selfish will?

■ *We can fail to see Jesus' power* (vv. 8:13-21). Those closest to Jesus, the twelve, were afflicted with this blindness. They worried about a lack of food when the Bread of Life had just abundantly provided enough and to spare.

We forget past miracles and blessings. We pray but attribute answers to other sources. Regular searching of the Scriptures, thanksgiving and praise in prayer, and keeping written prayer lists and spiritual journals help cure blindness.

■ *We can fail to see Jesus' priority* (vv. 8:27-37). Jesus' agenda and that of His followers were often at odds. They recoiled from a suffering, dying, redemptive Savior. Imagine their shock when He invited, challenged and demanded of them (and us) a similar sacrificial lifestyle! Do we modern disciples react any differently? Jesus' servant spirit and redemptive priority must become ours if He is Lord.

■ *We can fail to see Jesus' potential* (vv. 9:14-29). In the company of omnipotence, the disciples were powerless to help an afflicted boy. Past victories were useless. Prayer seemingly went unused. We allow spiritual blindness to rob us of Kingdom potential for power in witness and ministry. We must tap into spiritual resources available to us.

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NEWS DIGEST

Tightrope-walking Wallenda tells onlookers of his faith

FRANKLIN, TN (BP)—Most people don't spend their Easter in the air on a tightrope talking about Jesus. But Tino Wallenda did.

A crowd of 3,000 watched the tightrope walker in quiet awe during Easter services held under a blue-and-white circus tent at First Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn.

Walking a tightrope is similar to following the Lord, Wallenda said as he made his way across the wire, testifying as he went.

"As you go, it begins to get easier," said Wallenda, 44, a sixth-generation Flying Wallenda performer. "I'm not alone up here."

Only Christ's love could save him, not his own works, Wallenda told the crowd, emphasizing that is the true meaning of Easter.

Lawsuit challenges revocation of church's tax status

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Pat Robertson's legal organization is challenging the Internal Revenue Service's enforcement of a law barring churches and other tax-exempt organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates.

The American Center for Law and Justice filed the suit April 17 in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., challenging the IRS decision to strip a New York church of its tax-exempt status.

The IRS took the action against the Church at Pierce Creek in Vestal, N.Y., after the church placed advertisements in *USA Today* and *The Washington Times* urging Christians to vote against then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton. The ads, published four days before the 1992 election, denounced what they purported to be Clinton's views on abortion, homosexuality and teen pregnancy.

Federal tax law permits churches and other tax-exempt organizations to address issues but bars them from endorsing or opposing political candidates or engaging in excessive lobbying activities.

The suit asserts the IRS violated the church's First Amendment rights and the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which bars government from restricting religious practice unless it can show a compelling reason.

Russian evangelicals introduce compromise proposal

MOSCOW (BP)—Russian lawmakers passed a measure April 14 that bars dangerous religious groups but stops short of citing other religions outside the traditional Russian Orthodox Church.

The measure, approved 264-0 with two abstentions, represents a compromise proposal framed by evangelical legal experts and introduced in Parliament by the Christian democratic faction. It comes in the form of an amendment to Article 4 in Russia's religious freedom law, passed in 1990 to sweep away communist oppression of faith.

Evangelicals hope its passage will relieve the pressure legislators feel to return the country to the safe harbor of Russian Orthodoxy, its centuries-old tradition predating communism.

Meanwhile, the 53 Southern Baptist missionaries in Russia — among other non-Orthodox — have fallen victim to growing Russian nationalism, an anti-western mood seeking to favor the Orthodox. Recently, missionaries learned of a new policy not to grant renewable visas. That means they must leave the country and re-apply for a visa each time their current one expires.

Golden Gate budget reflects 'significant belt-tightening'

MILL VALLEY, CA (BP)—Amid reports of "significant belt-tightening" in administrative operations, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a \$5.6 million budget during their regular meeting April 10-12.

Despite overall increases in Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts during the 1994-95 fiscal year, the new budget reflects a drop in CP support.

Seminary president William O. Crews noted that although Golden Gate operates campuses in California, the Pacific Northwest and Arizona, the SBC seminary funding formula only fully counts work done at "main" seminary campuses. Consequently, Golden Gate will receive a \$171,000 reduction in denominational support this next fiscal year. Golden Gate is the only Southern Baptist institution whose CP allocation is being reduced for the coming year.

The new budget increases student matriculation fees by 10 percent, from \$800 to \$880 per semester for students from Southern Baptist churches. Non-Southern Baptists will pay \$2,200 per semester, up from \$2,000 during the current year.