

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

5-15-1997

May 15, 1997

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "May 15, 1997" (1997). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999*. 27.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99/27

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

"INFORM...INSPIRE...INVOLVE..."

Volume 96, Number 10 • May 15, 1997

ARKANSAS BAPTIST



news magazine

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

MAY 20 1997



1-9-97

SOUTHERN
BAPTIST
CONVENTION
PREVIEW

JUNE 17-19 ■ DALLAS

To The CROSS

Seventeen Arkansans named for SBC service

Seventeen Arkansas Baptists are among individuals being appointed and nominated for service in the Southern Baptist Convention—but not without some concern voiced by Arkansas members of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Church, Conway, and Doyle Moore, a member of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, served this year as members of the Committee on Nominations. The 70-member committee is responsible for recommending individuals to serve as trustees of Southern Baptist entities.

Noting that they were "honored and humbled to be elected to serve as the two Arkansas representatives on the nominating committee for the Southern Baptist Convention," Pillow and Moore expressed personal concerns about the way the nominating procedure was handled on the national level.

"We took our responsibility on the nominating committee seriously and invested lots of prayer and time in the process," the two men explained in a written statement. "It's important to us that Arkansas Baptists know that in the case of some trustee positions, our nominees were not accepted" by the full committee.

"We left the meeting with a clear conscience, believing we had done what was right, even though it didn't turn out the way we hoped it would," Pillow added. "We'd like to say more but wisdom dictates restraint."

The two noted that anyone with questions or concerns about the nominating process may contact subcommittee chairman Guy Sanders at 7202 E. 9th St. North, Wichita, KS 67206 or Pillow at 701 Polk, Conway, AR 72032.

Among those being nominated for service, two Arkansas Baptists are being nominated as trustees of the new North American Mission Board. They include Gary Underwood, a member of Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock, who currently is a trustee of the Radio and Television Commission, and Ozzie Berryhill, a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, who currently is a trustee of the Brotherhood Commission.

Arkansas Baptists nominated for a first term of service include:

- Annuity Board: Tim Walley, a member of Hot Springs Church, for a term expiring in 2001.

- Southern Seminary: H.D. McCarty, senior pastor of University Church, Fayetteville, for a term expiring in 2002 and Kim Wagner, a member of Percy Church, for a term expiring in 1999.

Those being nominated for a second term of service are:

- Annuity Board: J. Kirk Thompson of Springdale.
- Christian Life Commission, Barry King, pastor of Tumbling Shoals Church, Heber Springs.

- Golden Gate Seminary: Grant Ethridge, pastor of First Church, Lavaca.

- New Orleans Seminary: Arnold A. Burk of Russellville.

- Southeastern Seminary: Dale E. Thompson, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith

- Southern Seminary: Orman W. Simmons of Little Rock.

Six Arkansas Baptists were appointed to committee service by SBC president Tom Elliff. He appointed his brother, Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, as a member of the SBC Resolutions Committee. Other Arkansas Baptist appointments include:

- Committee on Committees: Pat Robinson, pastor of Lakeview Church, Cave Springs, and Mark Sparks, a member of Central Church, Magnolia.

- Credentials Committee: Bobby Biggers, pastor of Wilmot Church, and Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC Associate executive director and a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

- Tellers Committee: Rick Pyron, pastor of Meridian Church, Crossett.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

newsmagazine



Cover Story

SBC preview.....13-20

The 1997 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will be held June 17-19 in Dallas. The three-day meeting will highlight the theme, "To the Cross."

Perspective

A Pastor's Heart.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5
Guest Editorial.....	5

Arkansas Baptists

Volunteers impact county jails.....	6-7
Associational Missions Week.....	7
Holley to retire from ABSC post.....	8
Children's Home initiates fund campaign.....	11
People & Places.....	12

Nation/World

Partnership aids hungry Koreans.....	22
Senior adults hold national event.....	27
Judge upholds chaplains' rights.....	28

Lessons for Living 30-31



Available on CompuServe through the Publications Library of SBCNet.

Next issue: May 29

Convention gains outpace losses during '96

Arkansas baptisms up while Southern Baptist figures show slight loss

Arkansas Baptist churches reported increases in baptisms and membership among gains in six of 10 key statistical categories for 1996. The Southern Baptist Convention also reported a strong year, with only the number of baptisms showing a drop from the previous year, according to 1996 Annual Church Profile reports.

The Annual Church Profile is compiled by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention computer services office from reports sent in from local churches. In turn, the broader Southern Baptist figures are compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board's strategic information unit from reports routed through Baptist associations and state conventions.

The 1996 report showed SBC church membership climbed to 15,694,050, up nearly 26,000, or 0.17 percent, from 1995.

Arkansas Baptist church membership, however, dropped in the same period by 1,921 members (0.4 percent), from 511,090 to 509,169.

The number of Southern Baptist churches increased by 526 in 1996 to a total of 40,613, a 1.31 percent increase over 1995. Following one of its strongest church-starting years, the ABCSC grew by nine churches, from 1,344 in 1995 to 1,353 (a 0.7 percent increase).

Arkansas churches reported 13,137 baptisms for 1996, an increase of 436, or 3 percent, over last year's 12,701 baptisms. Baptisms throughout the SBC, which totaled 379,344, were down 14,467 or 3.67 percent from 1995.

In church program areas, Arkansas Baptists reported their greatest numerical gain in the area of Discipleship Training, with an almost 8,000-person increase in enrollment (11.2 percent), from 70,417 in 1995 to 78,358 in 1996.

Bob Holley, director of the ABCSC discipleship and family ministry department, said he was "grateful for the increased participation in discipleship activities." "This reflects the expanded discipleship programs being offered in many of our churches and it probably reflects more accurately all of the discipleship ministry in church reports."

Among Southern Baptist churches, Discipleship Training enrollment rose to 2,347,695, an 8.09 percent increase.

Southern Baptists also reported an increase in Sunday School enrollment to 8,242,128, a 0.42 percent increase.



'96 Baptist statistics: a comparison

	ARKANSAS		SBC	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
Churches	1,344	1,353	40,617	40,613
Baptisms	12,701	13,137	393,811	379,344
Total members	511,090	509,169	15,668,877	15,694,050
Sunday School enrollment	256,448	259,702	8,207,860	8,242,128
Discipleship Training enrollment	70,417	78,358	2,171,993	2,347,695
Music ministry enrollment	55,400	55,272	1,881,754	1,915,288
WMMU enrollment	23,571	23,022	1,061,279	1,071,240
Brotherhood enrollment	9,539	9,664	749,310	769,248
Total receipts	\$189,712,824	\$203,361,878	\$6,069,724,036	\$6,878,906,615
Missions expenditures	\$28,578,051	\$26,189,465	\$858,779,214	\$891,259,062

Arkansas Baptist statistics also showed an increase, from 256,448 in 1995 to 259,702 last year, an increase of about 1 percent.

SBC churches reported music ministry enrollment at 1,915,288, a 1.78 percent increase. Music ministry enrollment was slightly down in the state, from 55,400 in 1995 to 55,272, a 0.2 percent decrease.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment in Arkansas fell by 549, from 23,571 in 1995 to 23,022 last year, a 2.3 percent decline. Nationally, WMMU rose to 1,071,240, a 0.94 percent increase.

Arkansas Brotherhood enrollment grew by 125 participants, from 9,539 to 9,664 (a 1.3 percent increase). In SBC churches, Brotherhood participation was reported at 769,248, a 2.66 percent increase.

ABCSC associate executive director Jimmie Sheffield said any comparison between 1995 and 1996 figures should be watched cautiously.

"We had so much trouble last year with the ACP that it's hard to tell this year," he noted. "To say anything really positive, we will need another year. Our people are getting used to the ACP and the program was pretty well corrected."

Sheffield said he is "very pleased with the baptism increase. Baptisms looked at over a five-year period have shown an increase from 12,689 to 13,137."

BSSB strategic information unit supervisor Cliff Tharp said some questions on the 1996 ACP were asked differently, possibly impacting totals in the following categories:

■ Total receipts, which escalated to \$6,878,906,615, a 13.33 percent increase. Arkansas Baptist churches reported increases in total receipts at \$203,361,878, up from \$189,712,824 in 1995, a 7.2 percent increase.

■ While Southern Baptist churches reported total missions expenditures at \$891,259,062, a 3.78 percent increase. Arkansas Baptist churches reported total missions expenditures dropping almost \$2.4 million, from \$28,578,051 in 1995 to \$26,189,465 (a 9 percent decrease).

Sheffield was puzzled by the decline in missions spending among Arkansas Baptists. With an increase in dollars being given to the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions and Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, he noted, "I can only guess that some churches are reporting their missions expenditures differently or not at all."

Reflecting on the statistical findings, Sheffield added that Arkansas Baptist churches "have maintained stable numbers over the last five years, but we're in a state of plateau. It's no secret that 60 percent plus of our churches are plateaued and declining."

"It highlights the need for our emphasis for 1998 which is 'Build the Church,' an emphasis on church growth and church growth renewal. We want to help our churches take a hard look at where they are, look at their communities and this church-building emphasis is designed to do that."

A Pastor's Heart



Emil Turner

ABSC Executive Director

It was his 12th birthday. A big party was planned. More than 20 guests would show up. Lots of gifts — right. *But now for the rest of the story.*

Dustin Roberts is the son of Dr. Sam and Martha Roberts in Walnut Ridge. Dr. Roberts is the pastor of First Church, Walnut Ridge. Dustin thought long and hard about the gifts. Then, he made an unusual request; his guests should bring gifts for children whose homes and possessions had been destroyed in the recent tornadoes. The birthday party activities included a gift-wrapping session.

Dustin gave the party. The gifts went to those who did not know him, had done nothing for him, and who could not respond to him. Dustin has done well in his imitation of Christ. When I heard of this, I felt I had received a gift. Thanks, Dustin, for imitating Jesus.

■ Have you read *Leading Your Church Through Conflict and Reconciliation* edited by Marshall Shelley? (Bethany House, 1997). This is an excellent resource. Thirty articles by authors like Stuart Briscoe, Jack Hayford and Chuck Swindoll make this book not only very readable, but also very practical.

Executive director's schedule:

May 16-17 National Council on Bivocational Ministry, Oklahoma City
 May 18 (a.m.) Union Valley, Beebe
 May 19 (p.m.) Little River Association—Executive Board Meeting
 May 20 WMU Executive Meeting, OBU;
 BSU Directors' Workshop, HSU BSU
 May 22 ABSC Program Committee
 May 25 (a.m.) South Main, Crossett

Flood relief offers ministry opportunity

Joe Conway

Baptist Press

A flood of historic proportions and destructiveness in the Dakotas and Minnesota has opened doors of opportunity for Southern Baptists that come once in a generation, according to Mickey Caison, national disaster relief director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"This is most likely going to be the deepest commitment Southern Baptists have ever made to a disaster relief effort, probably greater than (Hurricane) Andrew," Caison noted. "We can touch as many lives or more than we did in the entire Andrew relief work."

Prayer support urged

"We need people's prayers and we need their support," he emphasized. "Only 96 Southern Baptist churches and missions are in the Dakota fellowship with 6,000 resident members. There are only three Southern Baptist churches in the entire region.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to gain acceptability and credibility for the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention," Caison explained. "We have tremendous opportunities to minister, probably our best ever in this region, to establish a Southern Baptist presence."

Southern Baptist response to the flooding thus far includes three disaster relief feeding units, from Ohio, Oklahoma

and Texas, mobile child care units from Illinois and Ohio, a mobile shower unit from Georgia and four mud-out units, three from Kentucky and one from Georgia. An Arkansas Baptist child care unit was activated May 9 and is expected to serve through May 23.

Caison said the shower unit, from the Home Mission Board and Mallory Baptist Association, will be providing 100 showers a day based on requests for mud-out crews.

The SBC Brotherhood Commission coordinates multi-state disaster response on behalf of all Southern Baptists. Prospective volunteers should contact the Brotherhood departments in their respective state conventions for additional information.

As of May 7, the three Baptist feeding units had provided more than 233,000 meals. Feeding unit coordinator Jerry Bob Taylor estimated the feeding operation could last another six to eight weeks.

W.D. "Doc" Lindsey, state director of missions and evangelism for Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptists, said he has been impressed with the effort of volunteers and sees tremendous potential for future ministry.

"I've been blown away by the response and by the opportunity to meet people's needs," he noted. "It is in times like these that the gospel can be spread. The Lord sometimes allows things like this to open doors. I have been encouraged. It's a big stretch for us, but the future is bright for our work."

quotes

"If society is going to take a bite out of crime, it's not going to be done by McGruff. It's going to be done by leading people to the Lord and disciplining them."

—Larry Weaver
 jail ministry volunteer

"Prayerwalking is praying on site with an unusual insight for those who are captives in a darkened world."

—Randy Sprinkle, director
 FMB prayer strategy office

"Life is short. Time is a treasure. Our days are priceless.....Let's not waste our precious days."

—Joni Eareckson Tada

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

newsmagazine

Volume 96, Number 10 • USPS 008021

Member of the Association of State Baptist Papers

Travis Henderson.....Editor
 Russell N. Dillard.....Associate Editor
 Colleen Backus.....Assistant Editor
 Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
 Becky Hardwick.....Business Manager
 Erwin L. McDonald, Ltd. D.....Editor Emeritus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lyndon Finney, Little Rock, president; Mark Baber, Malton; Earl Burgess, Glenwood; Robin Cook, Magnolia; Kirby Cunningham, Mena; Lucile Haglins, Fordyce; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Greg Kirksey, Benton; Eddie McCord, Mount Ida; David McCormick, Russellville; Glenda Miller, Heber Springs; Mike Petty, Hot Springs; Karen Ramsey, Fayetteville; Ken Shaddock, Fordyce; Oats Turner, Arkadelphia.

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-0056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist NewsMagazine, Inc., 001-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individuals), \$15.95 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.00 per year (Student Plan). Periodic Postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone 501-376-4791

ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

SBC '97: 'To the Cross'

Thousands of Southern Baptist messengers will gather next month in Dallas for the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. As always, the event will offer an opportunity to conduct business, fellowship together and hear words of challenge and inspiration.

As we focus on the cross of Jesus Christ, however, this year's SBC provides the potential for Southern Baptists to carefully examine who we are, where we are headed and what our priorities are. The convention theme is taken from I Corinthians 1:18, which emphasizes that "the preaching of the cross...is the power of God!"

One way the power of the cross will be highlighted is through Southern Baptists' annual Crossover witnessing event. It will be held in Dallas neighborhoods Saturday, June 14, three days before the convention convenes.

Since 1989, Crossover has become a significant ministry tool in each city where the SBC has been held. Thousands of people have professed personal faith in Jesus Christ, including 2,476 people last year in New Orleans, as Baptist volunteers witness through block parties, door-to-

**Straight
from the
Editor**



Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

door witnessing, street evangelism and other efforts.

One of the goals during this year's Tuesday evening evangelistic emphasis is to include a testimony from an individual who became a new Christian during the previous week-end's Crossover event. Coupled with testimonies from new believers on the home and foreign mission fields, that session should be a clear demonstration of the power of the cross of Christ.

Beyond the obvious evangelistic impact, a call to the cross also is a reminder to Southern Baptists about the spirit in which

we should conduct business together. As the world watches us point "to the cross," it is important that we make a commitment to respond to one another with humility, sincerity and equality.

As Christians, when we get the message of the cross in perspective, it reveals how unworthy we are to boast of our own abilities or accomplishments. While we will gather to celebrate what God is accomplishing through Southern Baptists, we must be careful to not take undue credit or call attention to ourselves. It is the power of the cross that gives us a reason to proclaim God's message.

It is easy to place a few prominent leaders on a pedestal and forget that we all approach the cross in the same way. Rather than magnifying what man is doing or even what our convention is accomplishing, this year's theme is an opportunity to emphasize who Christ is and what He has done on our behalf.

As the words of B.B. McKinney urge us, "Take up thy cross and follow Me," I heard my Master say... "There is no better time for Southern Baptists to respond: 'Wherever He leads, I'll go.'"

Signs of the death of a church

Editor's Note: The following Baptist Press article was originally published as a first-person column in the Kentucky Baptist *Western Recorder*.

How do you trace the death of a church? It happens so slowly, few are even aware of it.

At the beginning of the death, there will be a few people in the congregation who don't like a minister or develop a personal grudge about something. That personal feeling somehow becomes all-encompassing to them. It controls their rational thinking and makes them mean and vindictive.

Soon this hate becomes too great for them to stand alone, so they spread their negative feelings to others. Soon the others spread these feelings, plus some of their own. The phone lines are kept busy with rumors, innuendoes and outright lies.

It is about this time that Satan really moves in. He slowly, insidiously takes all the love out of their hearts. He replaces it with revenge, hatred and emptiness.

No longer do they come to church to worship. They come to find fault and to point fingers. They still attend church and probably Sunday School too. But they only come to be seen and to watch for something else that displeases them. They have forgotten by this time how to worship and praise God.

A dying church will still have many Christians who are faithful with their Bible study, tithing and attendance. But after a while, not only do they feel weary from fighting the negativism, they feel somehow as if they must defend their actions.

Any new programs or innovative ideas are squelched and often die from lack of support. The naysayers always question change. They seem to be afraid to move into the present generation. Young families are not drawn to a dying church because the future is not there, the past is.

After a few years of crippling along in this dying mode, Satan will take a back seat for a while. His work is done. The unrest and hate are firmly planted right in the middle of the church. While he sits back and relishes the demise of this church, the anger and bitterness grow.

These people now are focused on something far away from worship. They want to get their way. No prayer is involved at this point, only personal choices. Members will begin leaving, perhaps ministers too. There will be fewer and fewer programs supported. The financial situation may reach a crisis point.

How sad it is to watch a church in the dying process. The wonderful facility sits empty except on Sunday and Wednesday night. People come and go on Sundays with frowns on their faces, hurrying to get the best seat at a restaurant. The children's department dwindles; the nursery is empty.

Can a church be saved when it reaches this point? Only God can save a church. But He must be allowed to be present there.

God must be the focus of all things, then there is hope. God told us that wherever people are gathered in His name, He will be there. Welcome Him back into your hearts and into your services. Focus once again on the only reason for true worship, God's salvation through His Son for each of us.

Satan loves victories. The best victory for him would be to win over a whole congregation, driving God out of their midst.

Don't allow your church to die. Lift up your fellow members in prayer. Do not be a part of the rumor mill. Pray about your personal differences with someone, keeping them to yourself. When you hear an ugly rumor, put a stop to it, don't encourage it. Come to terms with new ideas. Be faithful, not only in your presence, but in your loving spirit, your truth and your compassion. And always, in all things, put God first.

guest editorial

Ministry conviction

Baptist volunteers make spiritual impact with weekly ministry to 10 county jails

Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The heavily-barred door whined and clanged as it slid closed and locked behind Larry Weaver. He stood inside a small commons area that joined four smaller rooms in a wing of the Sharp County Jail in Ash Flat.

An inmate peered out of one of the rooms, saw Weaver, and motioned for two other inmates to join him. Each smiled as they recognized their visitor. It was time for Bible study.

Weaver and his partner, Ron Faught, are the most visible arm of the jail ministry of Eastside Church in Cave City. The church presents the gospel to inmates in 10 county jails in north central Arkansas and at the Arkansas Department of Corrections facility at Calico Rock. The evangelistic ministry, active for four years, has been the catalyst for approximately 700 professions of faith and dozens of baptisms using the ministry's portable baptismal pool.

All three inmates, dressed in blaze orange outfits, were young. An 18-year old, serving time for residential burglary, was waiting for a slot to open at a correctional boot camp. The others, 18 and 19, were serving brief sentences at the jail for breaking and entering.

Weaver, a tall retired Marine drill instructor, seated himself at a communal table, opened the nylon bag he carries, and handed out stationery and pencils—a rare and appreciated commodity for prisoners.

"Does anyone have any questions from last week?" he asked. One inmate, a thin, blond man, jumped up, went to his bunk and returned with an *Open Windows* devotional magazine—a donation to the ministry from the Baptist Sunday School Board from outdated stock—and asked Weaver about a passage he had read earlier in the week.

Weaver began the Bible study, which had the look, feel and sound of a youth Sunday School class—except for the ever-present iron bars and uniforms.

Weaver concluded the study with the plan of salvation and an invitation to accept Christ. He used terms that inmates would find familiar: sin, conviction, sentencing, freedom, pardon. Responding to the invitation, one inmate prayed the sinner's

prayer with Weaver.

"The purpose for our going to county jails is that a lot of these county jails don't have a minister going," Weaver explained. "We think it's important that they hear the gospel and be given the choice to accept or reject Christ after they've heard it."

While Weaver conducted the Bible study with younger inmates, Faught visited older prisoners housed in a separate wing, offering counseling and discipling.

Developing relationships is an important part of the ministry, noted Faught, a private investigator and former law enforcement officer. "In county jails, there are prisoners in there for six months to a year, waiting to go to the AD C. It gives us a chance to teach God's Word and helps them to grow in Christ after they've been saved."

"All the jails are different and you minister differently in each one," Weaver pointed out. "Sometimes you will be ministering and leading people to the Lord through a little hole. Sometimes you'll be ministering one on one, with two or three, or with others in a church service."

T.J. "Sonny" Powell, Sharp County sheriff, said the jail ministry "does have an effect on the lives of the inmates. Generally, all of them will want to participate."

"When you get incarcerated," Powell explained, "you start looking for someone or something to help you through your troubled times. When they get in a problem area, they tend to turn to God."

"I'm honored to have men like this willing to sacrifice their time and energies to come in and do this," he noted. "I'm convinced they are sincere in their work. If I didn't believe in them, they wouldn't be here."

The two volunteers cited the need for dedication, teamwork and commitment to evangelism to maintain an effective jail ministry.

Each man spends an average of 34 hours a week traveling to their 11 ministry locations, but they contend that they are

Volunteer chaplain Ron Faught ministers to county jail inmates in north Arkansas through the barrier of heavy iron bars.

not traveling alone: They have spiritual and financial support from their church.

"We have church members praying for us, we have a \$6,000 budget and a van," Weaver said. "Our budget strains our local congregation, but we were convinced that if society is going to take a bite out of crime, it's not going to be done by McGruff. It's going to be done by leading people to the Lord and discipling them."

The support from Eastside pastor Jim Tiley also is crucial to the ministry, Weaver emphasized. "If the pastor of the local congregation is not going to support a jail ministry, it's not going to go anywhere. Brother Jim is completely behind it in his words and deeds."

"Approximately 20 percent of people in America are affected by the criminal justice system," Weaver said. "It's not a matter of if a pastor is going to get involved, but when. It's something you cannot ignore."

Weaver's personal involvement in the criminal justice system is what led him to begin the ministry with his wife, Bobbye, four years ago. "I have a son that's in prison in Missouri. It was difficult to get a pastor to come to him and I saw the need right there. I felt that's where the Lord wanted me to be—going to the jails."

He added that going into jails to witness each day "has never been a problem" for him. "I was in combat. It don't bother me to go into prisons. I've been shot more than most in there—four times."

Faught, who joined the ministry in February 1996, recalled that he first felt the call to witness in jails when "the Lord hit me on the head. Larry had been in the jail ministry for three years. I kept going to our pastor and said, 'We've got to have someone to help Larry. We need to have someone to go with him.' It hadn't yet



dawned on me that I was supposed to go."

After making a commitment to participate, Faught received confirmation of his calling "because the first man I witnessed to came to know the Lord. He saved the first one and didn't stop saving them. That told me I was in the right place."

When Faught joined the ministry, he said, the effort surged. "Jesus knew just what He was doing when He sent the disciples out by two," he noted. "We preach to each other going down the road and we stay motivated. I push him and he pushes me. Just like that, I started leading prisoners to the Savior and Larry started leading twice as many to the Lord as he had before. It goes to show you what God does when you do things His way."

In its first two years, the ministry saw nearly 100 people saved. The duo have led 263 inmates to Christ since Oct. 1. Last year they led 351 in professions of faith.

Looking beyond the numbers, the two men choose to see their ministry in terms of individuals.

Recounting the story of an inmate he led to Christ who was "as emotionally bad off as I've ever seen anybody," Weaver said, "I knew as soon as I'd seen him that there was no wisdom or words that would help him. He was beyond my help."

"I told him about Jesus and he got saved. We prayed the sinner's prayer and when I prayed that prayer, I came to that part where I said, 'Forgive me, I'm a sinner,' and he said, 'Forgive me, I'm an awful sinner.' His demeanor and his looks changed and his attitude, too. We got to disciple him over the months."

Faught defended the impact of their ministry to other "awful sinners" in jail. "A lot of good Christian church members who love the Lord will say, 'I wouldn't get too excited about those men that get saved in the jails, because they're at the lowest point in their lives and they will do anything that they think will help them in their situation.' Each time I hear a church member say that, I get mad."

"Like the prodigal son, these men have reached the hog pen," Faught added. "Just like any other lost person who realizes that, whether he be in jail or out, you have to reach the hog pen before you get saved."

Both acknowledged that while they seek to concentrate on discipleship, the movement of prisoners poses a problem.

"We're hurting in Arkansas on a follow-up program," Faught said. "There needs to be at least one church in every town which has people called into that ministry: not only with prisoners, but their families."

"We need to have it organized where a prison minister can get a hold of the person in a church in charge of that in each community," Weaver added. "If they can go to that family and minister to them, they might be changed by the time he gets out."

Arkansas associations take risks for missions efforts

Colleen Beckins

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Taking a risk in an association means somebody will get the blame — or the credit," noted Jimmy Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department. Citing the 1997 Associational Missions Week theme, "Risk Something New," which is being highlighted May 19-25, Barrentine added, "Associations often have been at the forefront of risk-taking."

"All associational involvement is voluntary," Barrentine pointed out. "So when you risk, it's a risk in the company of others — whether it's a new way to do a Sunday School conference, starting a new ministry or a new church."

"New" is a significant part of his ministry for Southwest Association director of missions Jerry Creek, who has been on the job for just 15 months. Southwest has a variety of ministries, some new, some risky, but all involving many churches in the association.

"Next to the ARBC, we're the biggest supporter of the migrant mission center at Hope," Creek pointed out. The center will be renovated through new construction later in the year. "We have a trucker's ministry — a chapel on the back of an 18-wheeler," he added. "We're still feeling our way with that ministry — nothing is tried and proven."

Diverse ministry efforts

The association also has a ministers' training center in Lewisville, primarily for black pastors. It also assists a black mission in Texarkana and two Hispanic missions, one at Hope and one at Canfield. Churches in the association also help with Friendship Crisis Center, which feeds the community's hungry as well as meeting other needs. The association also is a strong supporter of the Baptist Student Union at Magnolia.

The 40-acre associational camp, Camp Canfield, is a risk, Creek noted. "Having a camp owned by one association is a risk, especially financially." But the association tries to make as full use of the camp as possible to reach those in the association's area, which encompasses more than three counties. "We have children's camps, youth camps and even a Christian deer camp," Creek explained.

Describing Southwest Association as "a focused association," Barrentine

added "The DOM is new in the job and his wife is seriously ill, but the association continues to make itself vital."

Central Association director of missions Tim Reddin also has been on the job only a matter of months, but he had served as a pastor in his association for 16 years.

Highlighting one of Central's primary ministry efforts, Reddin explained, "We have a tremendous investment in a small community outside Malvern, called Dismalville. We were doing a needs assessment of Hot Springs County, and the name came up. None of us had heard about it." Home missionary Diana Lewis, whom Reddin calls "the conscience of our association," discovered the small community with huge needs.

"Growing out of that has been a full-scale ministry," Reddin shared. "We distribute food and clothing, provide tutoring, worship, Sunday School, specialized ministries to women, children and now men. It involves people from several of our churches."

Central is involved in a variety of other ministries as well. Resort ministry is a growing emphasis, with a summer missionary serving alongside the park ranger at Lake Ouachita this year. Two black congregations have affiliated with the association, and a third may join. "We also are involved in the European partnership," Reddin noted. "We have sent teams to help with work in Portugal for the last two summers and staffed a mission meeting there."

Another major emphasis for Reddin is helping churches in worship and prayer. "This emphasis is needed to receive genuine renewal," he pointed out. "We're helping pastors and staff think through responsibilities in leadership, organization and prayer."

"Tim Reddin understands the importance of tradition and the need for change in new work," Barrentine noted. Reddin also serves as chairman of the Arkansas Baptist structure study committee and directed the work of the Arkansas Baptist Historical Commission for many years, Barrentine pointed out.

Affirming the vital ministries of Southwest, Central and other associations throughout the state that are "taking risks to be agents for change," Barrentine emphasized that Associational Missions Week provides an ideal opportunity for leaders to make a commitment to "Risk Something New."

Bob Holley to retire after 29 years as discipleship leader

When Bob Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, retires Aug. 31, he will have completed 29 years of service to the convention.

Holley served as a minister of education for First Church in McGehee, First Church in Conway and First Church in West Memphis from 1956-1966 before being called to serve as minister of education for Ridgecrest Baptist Church in his native Montgomery, Ala.

In 1968, he was called as an associate in the then-Discipleship Training department of the ABSC, serving there for five years before being named director of the department.

When he received the call to serve as an associate in the department, he said, "I had never considered the possibility of ever serving with state convention leadership. My call was to be in the ministry of education, but I think what we've done here has been in the field of religious education because it has been in the role of training and equipping church leadership."

In addition to his department director's duties, he has written training works that include *Diagnosing Leader Training Needs*, *The Church Nominating Committee*, *Southern Baptists and Missions and Potential Leader Training Guide*.

He also has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association, the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, the Arkansas Gerontological Society and the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Committees. He also has taught for Boyce Bible School and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Holley said that during his tenure, his focus has been on the equipping of church leaders.

"In almost every area of our work, our role has been that of equipping church leadership—pastors, staff and lay leaders," he said. "After all, the mission of the church is given to the church. We only exist to assist churches to fulfill their mission."

"One of my most fulfilling roles has been that of a resource person, often involved in one-on-one personal consultations with pastors, staff members, lay leaders or associational leaders."

Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director, said Holley's "greatest contribution is his long tenure—that he's been working at this matter of Discipleship Training and is committed to helping churches and to assist churches in doing discipleship-type activity. He also has a great knowledge and understanding of what's involved and knows how to help churches."

Leroy Stringfield, minister of administration and education for First Church in Mountain Home, agreed. "Bob is not only a friend through whom I could have a personal approach to the Baptist Building staff, but he is a resource person whose personality and character allowed me to feel that he was sharing himself as a servant, not sharing some information that would justify his position as a denominational employee," Stringfield said. "He has always made you feel that he was investing himself for you."

Holley noted that the changes he has seen in his more than a quarter-century of service have been approach-based, rather than mission-based.



"We must refocus our energies on a strong educational ministry that equips believers for the ministry of the church."

BOB HOLLEY

Director, ABSC Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

"The basic needs of the churches have not changed," he emphasized, "and the mission and message of the churches has not changed."

When he began his work as a state leader, he recalled, "We didn't have MasterLife, LifeCourse, LifeSupport or TeamKid and our work in the area of single- and senior-adult ministries weren't well defined."

"Programs of Discipleship Training, family ministry and other programs have been greatly expanded in their scope," he said, with the aid of "greatly expanded curriculum materials and varied approaches to doing church ministries. There are now over 200 products in the adult area of discipleship and family ministry."

With the changes come challenges, he noted. "We are challenged to address specific needs and interests of churches."

It can no longer be said that one approach to organization, curriculum selection or scheduling is appropriate for every church.

Holley also emphasized that the "challenge to maintain a strong educational ministry in our churches has never been greater. Many people today have their first point of contact with the church through the worship service. If they become members of the church without becoming involved in the educational ministry, they miss the nurturing relationships that come from small groups."

"It is through the educational ministry of the church that we learn who we are and what we believe and what we are about as a church," he added. "We must refocus our energies on a strong educational ministry that equips believers for the ministry of the church. Otherwise, we will continue to lose over half of those we reach."

Holley credited his wife, Lucille, and his family for his ability to minister to all Arkansas Baptists. "I will always be grateful for a wonderfully supportive wife and family through these years. Anything I may have accomplished in my ministry would have been impossible apart from their encouragement and involvement. I guess the thing that made my work enjoyable and satisfying is the strong support and encouragement from my family and their involvement in it in so many ways."

The Holleys have two daughters. Anita Pumphrey and her husband are on the faculty of Louisiana Tech in Ruston and Deborah Root and her husband are on the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University.

Following retirement, Holley plans "to have time for my wife and me to spend time with our children and grandchildren, and with some of my personal interests such as photography and writing."

"I hope to be more personally involved in the ministry of my own church (Immanuel in Little Rock)," he added.

Reflecting on his long tenure, he said, "I cannot imagine a ministry opportunity with greater challenge or with more fulfillment during these years. I will always be grateful to Arkansas Baptists for these opportunities for ministry."

"Working with the dedicated and highly committed staff of the ABSC and the staff of our department has been one of the special blessings I have enjoyed."

"I have been especially blessed by the relationships with people in churches and associations across our state and colleagues in other states and at the Baptist Sunday School Board," Holley said. "I shall always be grateful for the ways in which they have touched my life."

Walking with God

Workshop highlights philosophy, practice of prayerwalking

Mike Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Encouraging participants to "take steps to touch your world," the Arkansas Baptist State Convention sponsored a "Prayerwalk Practicum" May 2-3 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Practicum leader Randy Sprinkle, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office, emphasized that the prayerwalk practicum prompts personal involvement as participants put into practice what they learn. Noting that "America is walking all over the place," Sprinkle added, "There is a greater movement and it is walking and praying."

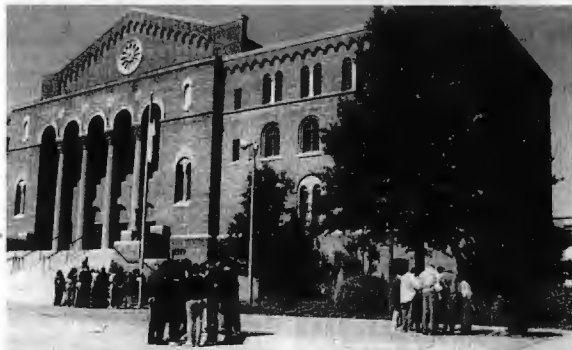
As the 80 practicum participants prepared to go prayerwalking "two by two" on Saturday morning in the area surrounding Immanuel Church, Sprinkle emphasized that the Spirit of God would be their guide.

During a debriefing session following the prayerwalks, participants told of finding new homes in which Immanuel church members could minister. They also cited the need to pray for the men whose wives and children were living in the Dorcas House, a home for battered women and children. Others prayed with a leader who was participating in a Boy Scout jamboree on the State Capitol lawn as well as a grandmother who was on her way to visit a grandchild in Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The group also prayed on the steps of Immanuel Church for its congregation as well as for ministry opportunities available to the church through the prayerwalk practicum. Evaluating the morning's prayerwalk, Charles Lewis, pastor of First Church of Corning, remarked, "I feel like God used all of our efforts this morning to reap a harvest for Him."

Sprinkle recalled that his first involvement in prayerwalking had been as a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and again while he and his wife, Nancy, were serving as foreign missionaries in Ethiopia. "Prayers were answered in both instances even though the walks occurred before any materials had been developed on the subject," he noted.

Sprinkle shared that those early experiences led him to research the Bible on prayerwalking. "Since I knew God was the author and initiator for these, I began the research and immediately found the disciples walking with Jesus, begging their



Prayerwalk participants gather in small groups outside Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

model and mentor, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" he said. "I further discovered Abraham, Enoch, Noah and Adam and Eve were others where the words 'walking with God' were used.

"It seems that after a great long circle in history, God has come again asking men and women to come and walk with Him in total obedience," he declared. "However, I fear we are still in the cocoon stage, daily rushing to a traffic jam so we can crawl to work, leave work late and frustrated, on our way home pick up a pizza and a video and then hit the garage button to cocoon in our homes."

Intercessory emphasis

Sprinkle emphasized that prayerwalking is not a fleeting fad but a movement of God among Christians with the goal of using intercessory prayer to help prepare for the gospel to spread into the last frontiers of the world. "God is calling out the church to leave religious activities and go into the land, sending intercessors to open the way," he added.

Sprinkle explained that prayerwalking includes a welcome from God, worship and spiritual warfare. Noting that God "extends His arms to us," he explained, "As we extend ours to Him we are reaching out with one hand to God and reaching out with the other to the world. As we do this we are depicting a supernatural act of love and a picture of a servant life in which we are being molded in Christlike-ness."

He said intercessors are involved in active worship as they go from the

sanctuary into the world. As they go, Sprinkle added, God comes to them with all that He is, giving them the power to reach a darkened world.

"As the army of God marches into occupied territory, it encounters warfare on a level that seems to be unprecedented," Sprinkle warned. "Prayerwalking is not a stroll in the park; it is praying on site with an unusual insight for those who are captives in a darkened world."

Sprinkle emphasized that all Christians should begin their day bowed before God with an obedient and responsive heart. "As we let the Holy Spirit become our guide, we will then go out into the darkened world to set the captives free, using the Bible as our guide and God as our power surge," he affirmed.

Sprinkle concluded the practicum by explaining that prayer works, prayer is work, prayer leads to work and prayer is the work. "It is evangelism, ministry and all the church is about, spurred forward on a highway of prayer that will lead to new ways of involving people and responding to all the needs which God will bring.

"I challenge you to walk with God from this place today as a channel He can use to involve others whose hearts He is preparing for prayerwalking," he urged. Noting that "Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood and other men's organizations are discovering new avenues for being on mission," he insisted, "God will show you innumerable ways of involving and praying for others."



'Be proud of chaplain Alcoser'

Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Beginning my assignment to highlight Chaplaincy Month in May was easy this year: I opened my high school senior annual and located Ricardo Alcoser. Ricardo is chief chaplain at the newly-completed Federal Correctional Institution at Forrest City, the state's only federal prison. He and I graduated from Navasota (Texas) High School in 1982 with 133 other classmates.

Now, 15 years later, we were walking through the gates of the Forrest City prison on a cold, rainy morning as he excitedly told me of his new ministry.

"I feel safer in here than I feel out in public," he said. Sure, I think, looking over my shoulder. "The moment I enter here, I am chaplain Alcoser. Inmates and staff know I'm a chaplain. They respect that."

As he talked, I recalled the first time I met Ricardo. He immigrated to Navasota in 1979 from Belize, a small Caribbean country. As class president, I often was the first to meet new freshmen.

Shaking his hand as we first met, I remember thinking, "Is that all of him?" He was barely five feet tall and might not have weighed 90 pounds, shoes included. I found out later he was only 13, two years younger than many of his new classmates. I also remember looking around for a world map in the school office. I had no idea where Belize was.

"I was number seven of eight kids with

Southern Baptist chaplain Ricardo Alcoser (left) ministers to both inmates and prison staff at the newly-built Federal Correctional Institution at Forrest City.

a single-parent mom," he explained. "We came to America for financial reasons. Mother got a job in Navasota, saved up and brought us over to America."

Meanwhile, Ricardo and her other children were adjusting to life in a small, rural south central Texas town. Navasota is near College Station (home of the Texas Aggies) and Brenham (home of Blue Bell ice cream) — a long way from Belize.

In addition to immigration and a new home, 1979 proved to be a pivotal year in his life for another reason: He accepted Christ through the ministry of the Hispanic Baptist Mission of Navasota's First Baptist Church. In his first week as a Christian, he answered a strong call to the ministry.

"Initially there was some opposition in my family to me becoming a Christian," he said. "I'm the only Southern Baptist. We grew up Catholic. I had two brothers who became Rastafarians and, later, another brother became a Jehovah's Witness."

"Some of my brothers opposed me at first, especially since at age 13 I had decided I wanted to be a minister. They would say, 'Aw, you don't want to be a preacher, you want to have fun,' that was more the pressure from them."

He soon became involved in the Spanish club and on the school photography staff, but the adjustment to American life remained difficult. "I dealt with life in Navasota by trying to be a good student, but when school was over, my primary activities were religious."

Guiding him in his religious education was Rice Buchanan, a layman at First Church who invested his life in the work of the Hispanic mission. "I think of Rice and his wife, Ruth, as my adoptive parents," he noted. "Even today, when I go back home, it is to the Buchanans' house."

"Rice Buchanan was my Sunday School teacher, deacon and friend. For the next four years during high school, I learned a lot about the Bible from him. For a long time, I was his only student in Sunday School so he taught me a lot about the Bible."

Buchanan also was instrumental in helping Ricardo interpret his ministry calling and guiding his education. "At the time, I thought it was as a foreign missionary. I went to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor with plans to go on to Southwestern Seminary, then to the mission field."

He prepared for the mission field by working in mission areas: "During college and seminary, I always worked with a church, usually in an Hispanic mission," he said. "In seminary, I worked with

Riverside Mission, either in the capacity of pastor or lay leader. I also taught English as a Second Language classes.

"Later, while in seminary, my intent changed when I discovered I had a gift for languages, especially Greek," he commented. "I thought about teaching, but all along I was doing the work at the Hispanic missions and I found that I enjoyed that more than I enjoyed the books. It was then I decided to be a chaplain."

His call to chaplaincy proceeded quickly after his seminary graduation in 1989. He completed a one-year internship at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, then was a staff chaplain at Scott and White hospital in Temple and in an Odessa hospice. In 1993, he accepted the job of federal chaplain at the Federal Correction Institution at Fort Worth. That ministry led the way for his position in Arkansas.

As we walked into the chapel facility in his new mission field, he explained his job to me. "As a Southern Baptist chaplain, I preach as a Southern Baptist minister and the inmates know up front where I'm coming from. At the same time, if they have a religious need that is not my particular faith, I provide for them a location, space, time and some religious leader from the outside."

Ricardo enjoys his new field. "Personally, the reason I enjoy chaplaincy is the experience with inmates. Some may be hardened criminals, some may not care about God, but for whatever reason they come to the chapel, they become Christians and I can see them change over time."

"The ministry is not just one week or one day. On the inside, I can visit them where they live. I'm a prisoner. I'm locked in," he noted. "I tell them, 'I'm doing time.' To me, it's a great ministry. I get to witness, I get to do Bible studies, I get to do counseling, I get to see lives change. I enjoy it."

He noted that he also is chaplain to the prison staff. "They face some different issues, but basically they are the same: family problems, marital problems, drug and alcohol problems, financial problems and spiritual problems. My philosophy is, 'Ministry is ministry.'"

As Ricardo walked me to my car, I thought of how God places people where their talents are best used. I remembered how, on Friday nights, I would see him on the sidelines of the football field taking photos of me and the other players in the game. Now, here I was on the sidelines of his mission field, taking photos of him in the game.

I was proud to be there. I am proud to call him a friend. I am proud he is one of our Southern Baptist chaplains. You should be, too.

'Embracing the Promise'

Children's Home seeks funds for endowment, capital improvements

David Perry is encouraging supporters to join the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries in "Embracing the Promise" by investing in the lives of children and families today.

The agency is seeking to raise between \$3.5 million and \$6 million during its "Embracing the Promise" capital campaign, which entered its public phase this spring.

Perry estimated that the ministry already has raised approximately \$1 million from its board, employees and campaign steering committee members. The campaign, which is being coordinated by campaign consultants Resource Services Inc., is seeking to raise funds for endowment and capital improvements at many of the agency's 21 ministry locations in the state.

He noted that to comply with Arkansas Baptist State Convention bylaws, "this is not a campaign taken to the churches, but it will be through individuals and foundations. There will have to be some large gifts to be successful."

Perry noted that special events have played a significant part in the campaign's early success. "We already have had events in Texarkana, Fort Smith, El Dorado, Russellville, Fayetteville and Leachville," he said. "We have a steering committee that has helped develop regional chairpersons in 15 communities."

He said some of the events have been as simple as coffees and as elaborate as a recent dinner held April 25 at the Leachville estate of Arkansas Baptists Boe and Myrna Adams. The \$125-a-plate dinner, which featured television evangelist Jerry Falwell, a personal friend of the Adamses, and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, netted the campaign approximately \$150,000.

The Adamses also opened their gardens for a two-day tour that attracted more than 1,000 visitors, who were asked to contribute to the campaign.

During the dinner, Falwell noted that "nothing is nearer to the heart of God than children. I could not imagine a more sacred work on the face of the earth. (We) have come here tonight for one common denominator: to join hands and hearts together to make a difference."

Speaking about child abuse, Huckabee told participants, "The only thing standing between a fist, or an electrical cord, scalding water, cigarette burns or verbal abuse...might be those of us in this room. When we help a child, we are giving the right kind of expression of love and worship to the Lord Jesus."

Dinner participants also heard from Natasha Barton, a former Arkansas Baptist Children's Home resident, who said that as "a depressed and lonely 17-year-old

girl" she came to the Home and began to attend church. "In that time I gave my life to Christ and graduated from high school.

"Without the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home, I would not be able to stand here before you tonight and give this testimony," she said.

Topping the list of needs is \$750,000 for immediate program and maintenance needs, including the refurbishing of six ABCHFM emergency receiving homes and upgrading health benefits and salaries for houseparents.

"This funding will allow us to...bring houseparents' salaries to a fair and regionally competitive level," Perry explained.

The second campaign priority extends to general endowment. ABCHFM administrators hope to allocate \$1.5 million in campaign funds for endowment purposes.

"It is unrestricted endowment that will help provide us with funds until the Lord comes," Perry said. "Endowment helps us to be able to plan, with some certainty, by having that dependable resource to meet needs."

Other campaign funds will be used for a new residential cottage, a chapel and learning center at the Children's Home, a new education building at the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch in Harrison and to create a contingency fund for the agency.

Court ruling is 'win/loss' for pro-life groups

Calling last week's Arkansas Supreme Court ruling on abortion funding "a partial win and a partial loss," Larry Page affirmed that the ruling "did uphold Amendment 68 and the premise that we will protect unborn lives." Page is executive director of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation.

The negative part of the ruling for pro-life advocates is that the court upheld the practice of performing abortions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for reasons other than to save the life of the mother. The exception applies specifically to "patients who either paid for their abortions or secured payment from a third-party provider."

The Arkansas Constitution's Amendment 68, adopted by voters in 1988, specifies that "no public funds will be used to pay for any abortion, except to save the mother's life." It also states that "the policy of Arkansas is to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth, to the extent permitted by the Federal Constitution."

A coalition including CCF, Family Council and the Unborn Child Amendment Committee filed suit in 1991, charging that some abortions being performed at UAMS violated Amendment 68. In 1993, Pulaski County Chancery Judge Robin Mays ruled that UAMS was prohibited from performing abortions "other than those to save the life of the mother...unless the patient pays the cost of such abortion in advance thereof, or furnishes sufficient guarantee of payment by a third-party provider."

In last week's 6-0 decision, the state Supreme Court upheld Mays' ruling. Although Amendment 68 clearly prohibits the use of public funds to pay for abortions, the court ruled that the amendment does not specifically "prohibit the performance of abortions at public facilities and by public employees."

"In spite of the ruling, I am pleased that Amendment 68 is operative and public funding of abortions is still illegal in Arkansas," noted Jerry Cox, executive director of Family Council.

Although pro-life supporters "are disappointed the ruling didn't go further," Page said, "We're pleased that they upheld that there was a violation of the constitution."

"We can always follow up with enabling legislation where Amendment 68 is applicable," he added, noting that legislation to prohibit abortions at public facilities performed by public employees may be introduced during the state's next legislative session in 1999.

In another anti-abortion effort, representatives of CCF, Family Council and other pro-life groups held a May 7 press conference at the state capitol to urge Sen. Dale Bumpers to support the current Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act.

The measure, passed last year by Congress but vetoed by President Clinton, has again passed the House of Representatives this year. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill this week. Bumpers voted against the measure a year ago. Sen. Tim Hutchinson already has indicated his support of the proposal.

people & places

COMPILED BY MILLIE GILL

CHURCH LIFE

Southern Hills Mission was constituted as a church May 4 on property originally belonging to Enterprise Church. The new church, chartered with 91 members, was a mission of East Side Church of Fort Smith. Bob Ford, pastor of the sponsoring church, presented constitutional documents to the new congregation as well as the \$60,000 which they had accumulated as a mission. Nelson Wilhelm, director of missions for Concord Association, brought the charge to the church. Eddie Combs, who has been serving as mission pastor, was called as pastor. East Side Church and Southern Hills had a joint service April 27 at East Side Church to commission the new church prior to organization.

Pleasant Grove Church of Conway will hold a "Remembering...Celebrating...Dedicating..." service May 18 to close its present sanctuary, erected in 1950, and to dedicate a new 7,000-square-foot facility located at 3255 Prince Street. Pastor John Greer will speak at the dedication service. The new building includes a sanctuary, classroom space and additional office space. Building committee members are chairman Mike Irby, David Andrews, Randy Dodge, Barbara Erion, Ely Harrington, Kenneth Henry, Patricia Rains, Ray Walters and Greer.

Inmanuel Church of Magnolia will dedicate a new 15,000-square-foot facility June 8. The new building is located on the corner of U.S. Highway 79-82 bypass and East North Street in Magnolia. The facility, which the congregation began using Easter Sunday, includes a worship center with a seating capacity of 300; a fellowship hall and kitchen; children, youth and adult classrooms; a resource room, offices and a work and media area. The church was founded in 1948 as the East End Mission of Central Church of Magnolia. Building committee members are chairman Hollis Eads, David "Butch" Kee, David Pyle, Betty Smith and Leah Jo Wilson. Terrance "Terry" Bradshaw is pastor.

Perryville Second Church members have purchased 10 acres of property on Highways 9 and 10 and recently erected a sign announcing future building plans. Plans are under way to construct a new church facility there in stages.

Woodland Heights Church of Conway has chosen "Our Mission Defined...Our Vision Renewed" as the theme for its "centennial" anniversary celebration June 1. Activities will include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:50,

to be followed by dinner on the grounds and a 1:15 p.m. service. David Hatfield, pastor for nine of the 10 years of the church's history, will be the celebration speaker. Special music will be presented by soloists and an anniversary choir led by minister of music Alan Moore.

Mount Zion Church of Arkadelphia observed Celebration Day May 4 when they returned to the facilities which were damaged by the March 1 tornado.

Red River Association is nearing completion on repairs to the associational office which sustained damage to the roof and windows during the tornado which struck Arkadelphia March 1. Those damages resulted in water and carpet damage to the interior. Steve Garner, Randy Marshall and Bill Williams have worked to repair the office facilities. They were assisted on March 21-22 by a Church-in-a-Day team from Dover.

MILESTONES

Cecilia Burch was recently recognized by Second Church of Arkadelphia for 37 years of nursery service. Minister of education Barry Blanton presented her with a plaque and she also received a floral arrangement.

Emily Watts, a 1997 graduating senior from Arkadelphia High School, was presented the Carl and Margie Kluck Scholarship by Second Church of Arkadelphia.

TRANSITIONS

Randy P. Magar is pastor of First Church of Star City, going there from Newark Southern Church in Independence Association. He previously was pastor of Claud Road Church of White Hall and Old Austin Church of Austin, as well as other churches in Arkansas and Texas. Magar is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Lori Allen. They have two adult children, Brad and Leah.

Tim King began his ministry May 11 as pastor of Riverside Church of Maumelle. A native of Little Rock, he previously served churches in Maryland and Texas. King is a graduate of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Annelle, is a graduate of Baylor University. They have a daughter, Katie, age two.

Johnpaal Moccia resigned May 4 as minister of music at First Church of Sherwood, following 10 years of ministry.

Moccia, who previously served churches in Texas and Florida, is moving to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He is a graduate of Florida State University, Tallahassee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

David Mann resigned May 11 as minister of music and education for First Church of Fordyce, following more than eight years of ministry. He and his wife, Debbie, and their children, Matt and Meghan, have moved to Tulsa, Okla., where he began serving May 13 as minister of education of Red Rock Church.

OBITUARIES

Martha Lynn Sexton Griffin of Cabot died May 1 at age 65. She was the widow of Ronald S. Griffin who had been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas. She was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Survivors include a son, Philip D. Griffin of Laurel, Miss.; a daughter, Marsha Moses of Cabot; two grandchildren; a brother; and her mother-in-law, Ella Nelson of Hurst, Texas.

Leonard "Red" Baker of Conway died May 1 at age 71. A retired Baptist minister, he had been pastor of Rosedale Church in Little Rock and Hartan Park Church and Emmanuel Church, both of Conway. Survivors are his wife, Edna Baker; a son, Bob Baker; a daughter, Mary Lynn Elledge; and his mother, Estelle Baker of Fordyce.

Phillip John Beach of Fordyce died May 3 at age 87. He was a retired Baptist minister, having served as pastor of First Church of Rison and First Church of Junction City. He also was director of missions for Dardanelle-Russellville Association (now Arkansas River Valley Association). He is survived by one son, Dale Beach of DeKalb, Miss.; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Gideons International.

ORDINATIONS

Faith Church in DeWitt ordained Bobby Earl Wright as a deacon March 9.

Hot Springs Church ordained Michael Pounders, church administrator, to the ministry April 20.

Leachville First Church ordained Stephen Beavers, minister of youth and music, to the ministry April 20. Ordained as deacons were Gordon Miller, Marlin Miller, Marvin Brown and Nathan Sanders.

Mount Zion Church of Arkadelphia ordained Wright Carter, J.C. Gallant and Boyd Pierce as deacons April 20.

Owensville Church ordained pastor Tim Wicker to the ministry May 4.

Mena First Church ordained Karl Cunningham and Dean Rowland as deacons May 4.

To The Cross

"For the preaching of the cross...
is the power of God!"

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

PREVIEW of the 1997 SBC Annual Meeting

June 17-19 ■ Dallas

SBC meeting features business, inspiration

Emphasizing a desire to make next month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting "as effective for business as it will be conducive for worship," Jim Richards noted, "We have broadened all the business times, allowing more time for input, discussion and debate." Richards, director of missions for Northwest Association, is serving his second year as chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

Focusing on the theme, "To The Cross," the 1997 SBC annual meeting will be held June 17-19 at the Dallas Convention Center. The annual meeting, expected to attract approximately 15,000 messengers from throughout the nation, will be the 140th session in the SBC's 152-year history.

According to SBC president Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., "We're going to celebrate a lot of things when we meet together." Elliff said he is praying for "a revived fellowship, a convention sold out to God and sold out to His purposes, willing to

follow Him wherever, at whatever cost."

Elliff is expected to be nominated for a traditional second one-year term as SBC president. Dan Bates, a previously announced candidate from Texas, recently indicated he will not be a nominee for the SBC presidency.

Richards said convention planners "have sought to make a number of our sessions worshipful experiences" in an effort to encourage participants to gain "a fresh sense of what God has done and is doing in their lives."

Covenant, challenge, celebration

Major program features will include a time of covenant between the six SBC seminaries and the convention on Tuesday evening, a missions challenge and evangelistic emphasis on Wednesday evening and a celebration of the SBC's ethnic diversity on Thursday morning.

Keynote speakers will include Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Tuesday

night; former SBC president Adrian Rogers on Wednesday night; and international evangelist Luis Palau on Thursday morning. Elliff will present his presidential address on Tuesday morning and Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, will preach the annual convention sermon on Wednesday morning.

Business sessions will include the final approval of convention restructuring which will lead to the launching of the new North American Mission Board. Messengers also will be asked to approve a proposed Cooperative Program budget of \$148 million.

As convention messengers focus on this year's theme, Richards said organizers hope that it "will call Southern Baptists to another look at the cross and provide the challenge and comfort that we find in the Lord Jesus, that the focus of the convention will foster the spirit of revival and that messengers will go with a renewed vision of carrying the cross to the world."

Arkansas Baptists to fill SBC leadership roles

Several Arkansas Baptists will be featured during next month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and related events. The annual meeting will be held June 17-19 in Dallas.

Jim Richards, director of missions for Northwest Association, is serving his second year as chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business. He will share committee reports throughout the two-day meeting.

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, is chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. He will be involved in presenting Executive Committee recommendations during Tuesday business sessions.

Floyd also is president of this year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference which will be held June 15-16. He will preside at the conference as it focuses on the theme, "The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Dallas, Texas." The Celebration Choir and Orchestra from First Church, Springdale, will perform during the conference's Sunday evening and Monday evening sessions.

Ben Rowell, pastor of First Church, Rogers, and David Miller, an evangelist from Heber Springs, are scheduled to pray during

the SBC meeting. Rowell will lead the benediction on Tuesday afternoon and Miller will pray at the conclusion of the Wednesday morning session.

Miller also was elected last year to serve as the alternate preacher for this year's convention sermon. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, was elected to preach the Tuesday morning sermon.

Tom Cox, an evangelist and president of Tom Cox World Ministries in Mountainburg, is president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. In addition to presiding at the conference's Wednesday afternoon session, Cox will be recognized for 25 years of evangelism ministry.

During the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, Lyndon Finney will present a 3:15 p.m. organ concert on June 16. Finney is organist at Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Arliss Dickerson, campus minister at Arkansas State University, will speak during the meeting of the Association of Baptist Campus Ministers. He will discuss practical aspects of campus ministry during sessions at 4 p.m. on June 13 and 10:45 a.m. on June 14.

Southern Baptist Convention

June 17-19 ■ Dallas Convention Center

Tuesday morning June 17

- 8:00** Music for Inspiration—Celebration Choir and Orchestra, James Bradford, director, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 8:30** Call to Order
Congregational Singing—James D. "Jim" Whitmire, convention music director, minister of music, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
Prayer—C.T. McGuire, evangelist, Karnack, Texas
- 8:35** Registration Report and Constitution of Convention—Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary,
- 8:40** Committee on Order of Business (First Report)—James W. "Jim" Richards, chairman, director of missions, Northwest Baptist Association, Ark.
- 8:45** Welcome—George W. Bush, governor of Texas
- 8:50** Response—O. Damon Shook, pastor, Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston
- 8:55** Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:00** Bible Study—David Ring, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.
Prayer—Edward C. "Ed" Gregory, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 9:20** Crossover Dallas—Darell W. Robinson, vice president for evangelism, Home Mission Board
- 9:25** Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 9:45** Executive Committee Report (Part 1)—Morris H. Chapman, president
- 10:40** Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report—Ernest J. Kelley, interim president, Home Mission Board
- 10:45** Recognition of Former SBC Presidents
- 10:55** Congregational Singing—James Bradford, minister of music, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 11:00** Special Music—Celebration Choir and Orchestra, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 11:10** President's Address—Thomas D. "Tom" Elliff, SBC president, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 11:55** Benediction—Jon Elliff, youth minister, Union Hill Baptist Church, Purcell, Okla.

Tuesday afternoon June 17

- 1:00** Music for Inspiration—Heartsong, Darlene Oliver and Donna Harper, Richardson, Texas; Jeff and Joy Earle Ministries, Acworth, Ga.
- 1:15** Congregational Singing—Gary Powell, minister of music and education, Cherokee Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
Prayer—Mike Spradlin, president-elect, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary
- 1:20** Memorial Service—J. Harold Smith, evangelist, Newport, Tenn.
- 1:25** Woman's Missionary Union Report—Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director
- 1:35** Business—Committee on Order of Business (Second Report)—Jim Richards
Introduction of Motions;
Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 1:55** Congregational Singing—Mike Daniel, associate pastor

- and minister of music, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 2:00** Committee on Nominations Report—Lloyd Freeman, chairman, Odessa, Texas
- 2:10** Messenger Information Survey—David W. Atchison, SBC recording secretary
- 2:20** Election of Officers (First)
- 2:35** Executive Committee Report (Part 2)
- 3:05** Bold Mission Thrust Report—Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president, Executive Committee
- 3:15** Congregational Singing—Len Kennedy, minister of music, Woodland Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.
- 3:20** Sunday School Board Report—James T. Draper Jr., president
- 3:30** Sunday School Board Presentation
- 4:00** YouthLink 2000—Richard Ross, church growth consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board
- 4:10** Congregational Singing—Blake Krumalis, minister of music, Carriage Hills Baptist Church, Southaven, Miss.
- 4:15** Committee on Committees Report
- 4:25** Introduction of Motions;
Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 4:40** Election of Officers (Second)
- 4:45** Benediction—Ben J. Rowell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Rogers, Ark.

Tuesday evening June 17

- 6:00** Music for Inspiration—New Sound, William Mac Davis, instrumental ensemble, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 6:15** Congregational Singing—Ron Upton, minister of music, Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.
Prayer—Laverne Butler, retired president, Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky.
- 6:20** Election of Officers (Third)
- 6:30** Committee on Order of Business (Third Report)—Jim Richards
- 6:40** Previously Scheduled Business, Introduction of New Motions; Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 6:55** Christian Life Commission Report—Richard D. Land, president
- 7:05** Seminary Report—R. Albert Mohler Jr., chairman, Council of Seminary Presidents
- 7:15** Congregational Singing—Jamie Parker, minister of youth music, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
- 7:20** Seminary Presentation—The Cross and the Call A Covenant of Commitment
Music—Adult Choir and Banner Ministry, James D. Whitmire, director, Bellevue Baptist Church
Message—Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 8:40** Call to Commitment
- 8:45** Benediction—Shawn Merithew, student, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Wednesday morning June 18

- 6:15** Music for Inspiration—Birchfield Brothers, Nashville, Tenn.
- 6:30** Congregational Singing—Tim Dunahoo, associate pastor and minister of music, Southside Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga.

To The Cross

"For the preaching of the cross...
is the power of God!"

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

1997 SBC annual meeting June 17-19 Dallas Convention Center

Prayer—George O. McCalep Jr., pastor, Greenforest Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

- 8:35** Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee—Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, Executive Committee
- 8:40** Annuity Board Report—Paul W. Powell, president
- 8:50** Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:00** Business—Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report)—Jim Richards
Introduction of Motions (Last Time)
- 9:20** Congregational Singing—Greg Sims, minister of music, Spotswood Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, Va.
- 9:25** Previously Scheduled Business
- 9:50** Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 10:10** Introduction of the North American Mission Board—John O. Yarbrough, chairman, Implementation Task Force, pastor, First Baptist Church, Perry, Ga.
- 10:40** Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 10:50** Congregational Singing—Tim Foland, associate pastor of praise and worship, Woodland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 10:55** Music—Adult Choir, Bellevue Baptist Church; Soloists: Bette Stalenecker, music evangelist; Jamie Parker, minister of youth music
- 11:05** Convention Sermon—Richard D. Land, president, Christian Life Commission
- 11:50** Benediction—David Miller, evangelist, Heber Springs, Ark.

No Wednesday Afternoon Session

Wednesday evening June 18

- 8:00** Music for Inspiration—Ray Jones, Radiance Ministries, San Antonio
- 8:15** Congregational Singing—Chris Alsup, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Horn Lake, Miss.
Prayer—Jimmie Ruth Caughron, layperson, Lacey's Spring, Ala.
- 8:25** Business—Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)—Jim Richards
Election of 1998 Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate and Music Director
- 8:40** Home Mission Board Report—Ernest J. Kelley, interim president

- 8:50** Foreign Mission Board Report—Jerry A. Rankin, president
- 7:00** Congregational Singing—Donnie Stribble, minister of music, Felder Road Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas
- 7:05** Missions Emphasis—The Cross Over the World Music—Combined Choirs of the Dallas/Fort Worth Area
Presentation of Testimonies—Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board
Message: The Cross Over the World—Adrian P. Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
- 8:35** Tena.
- 8:45** Call for Commitment
Benediction—M. Wade Coker, missionary to Zambia

Thursday morning June 19

- 8:15** Music for Inspiration—Diana Seitz, violinist, Memphis, Tenn., One Voice, Ladies Ensemble, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn. with the Clint Greene Family, Memphis, Tenn.
- 8:35** Congregational Singing—Roosevelt Brooks, community missions volunteer, Memphis, Tenn.
Bible Study—Ledykey R. McIntosh, pastor, Gloriaeta Baptist Church, Oklahoma City
- 8:55** Prayer—Satoa Faititi, residential supervisor, Way Back House, Garland, Texas
- 9:20** Previously Scheduled Business
- 9:30** Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
American Bible Society Report—Eugene Habecker, president
A Celebration: Reflecting on the Past, Rejoicing in the Future
Questions and Answers About Agency Ministries Stewardship Commission—Ronald E. Chandler, president
Brotherhood Commission—James D. Williams, president
- 10:10** Radio & TV Commission—Jack B. Johnson, president
Education Commission—E.D. Hoto, chairman
Historical Commission—Slayden A. Yarbrough, interim executive director
- 10:15** Southern Baptist Foundation—Hollis E. Johnson III, president
Special Recognition of Outgoing Directors
- 10:25** Congregational Singing—Mark Cook, bivocational associate pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, El Monte, Calif.
Baptist World Alliance Report—Deaton Lotz, general secretary
- 10:35** Denominational Calendar Committee Report—Edward I. Mattox Jr., chairman, Farmington Hills, Mich.
- 10:45** Denominational Press Report—Herbert V. Hollinger, vice president for convention news, Executive Committee
- 10:50** Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers—Morris H. Chapman
- 10:55** Presentation of Newly Elected Officers—Morris H. Chapman
- 11:00** Congregational Singing—Marty Goetz, music evangelist, Franklin, Tenn.
Music—Marty Goetz
Speaker—Luis Palau, evangelist, Portland, Ore.
Prayer/Benediction—David Galvan, pastor, Princesa Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Garland, Texas

SBC Pastors' Conference **June 15-16 ■ Dallas Convention Center**

Sunday afternoon June 15

Session One, 1:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Bruce Perkins, senior pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas
Stan Coffey, senior pastor, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
Harold O'Chester, senior pastor, Great Hills Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
Keith Thomas, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Special Music:

Great Hills Baptist Church Choir & Orchestra, Austin, Texas

Sunday evening June 15

Session Two, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Adrian Rogers, senior pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
Wellington Boone, president, Wellington Boone Ministries, Atlanta
K.A. Paul, international evangelist/founder, Gospel to the Unreached Millions, Houston

Special Music:

First Baptist Church Celebration Choir & Orchestra, Springdale, Ark.

Monday morning June 16

Session Three, 8:00-11:35 p.m.

(For Pastors & Other Male Christian Leaders)

Focus: "The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit On and Through the Local Church"

Speakers:

Johnny Hunt, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
James Merritt, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.
Edwin Young, senior pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
Rick Warren, senior pastor, Saddleback Valley Community Church, Mission Viejo, Calif.

Session Three, 8:00-11:35 p.m.

(For Pastors' Wives & Other Female Christian Leaders)

Focus: A Specialized Session for Women

Speakers:

Beth Moore, founder, Living Proof, Inc., Houston
Teresa M. Brown, director, Heart to Heart Women's Ministries, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.
Barbara O'Chester, director, Great Hills Retreat Ministry, Austin, Texas
Nancy Leigh DeMoss, director of publications and women's ministries, Life Action Ministries, Niles, Mich.

Monday afternoon June 16

Session Four, 1:10-4:20 p.m.

Speakers:

O.S. Hawkins, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas
Ken Freeman, evangelist, Ken Freeman Ministries, San Antonio
Claude Thomas, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas
Jack Graham, senior pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas

Special Music:

First Baptist Church Choir & Orchestra, Dallas

Monday evening June 16

Session Five, 6:00-9:45 p.m.

Speakers:

Bill Bright, founder/president, Campus Crusade for Christ, Orlando, Fla.
J.C. Watts Jr., United States representative, 4th District-Okl., Washington
John Maxwell, founder/president, INJOY, San Diego
Special Music:
First Baptist Church Celebration Choir & Orchestra, Springdale, Ark.
Alvin Slaughter, Integrity Music Recording Artist

Ministers' wives luncheon

DALLAS (BP)—On-site counseling and two hours of encouragement will be primary features of the 1997 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. All wives of ministers — pastors, staff members, chaplains, missionaries and denominational workers — are invited to attend.

With the theme "Singing in the Rain," the 42nd annual luncheon will focus on "the minister's wife's most longed-for need: encouragement," said Dolores Taylor, president of the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference for 1996-97.

Main speakers will be Dixie Lusher and Dennis Swanberg. The luncheon will begin at noon, June 17, in Ballroom C of the Dallas Convention Center.

Lusher has been a minister's wife twice, having remarried after the death of her first husband. "Ministers' wives are her specialty," Taylor said. "She will reveal joy-stealers, as well as joy-restorers."

Swanberg is a humorist and impressionist "who specializes in motivating and swinging moods upward" and "bringing smiles through tears," Taylor said.

A first-time feature of the conference will be on-site "individual counsel for women who may be experiencing difficulty or distress in their lives," Taylor said. Counseling will be provided by eight staff members of LeaderCare, a ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Tickets ordered by May 21 are \$18 per person and may be obtained by sending a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the group's treasurer, Peggy Walker, 409 Tricia Lane, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Make checks payable to the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference. After May 21, tickets will be \$20 per person and may be purchased at the Southern Baptist Convention near the messenger registration site through Monday night, June 16.

Woman's Missionary Union

June 15-16 ■ Dallas Convention Center

Sunday afternoon June 15

- 2:30** Music for Meditation—Nancy and Bruce Muskrat
Call to Order—Wanda S. Lee, WMU president, Montgomery, Ala.
Theme Interpretation: Beyond the Walls—MissionsUSA Live, Home Mission Board
Invocation—Yolanda Calderon, San Quentin, Calif.
Hymns
WMU Second Century Fund at Work, Elizabeth Merritt, missionary to Germany
Recognition of Foreign Missionaries
Hymn
Special Music—Cornerstone Baptist Church Choir, Dallas
Foreign Missions Presentation: Create New Ways to Share God's Love—Bobbie and Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board
Closing Meditation: Love Leads Us to God's Throne—Jennifer Dean, Blue Springs, Mo.

Sunday evening June 15

- 7:30** Music for Meditation
Theme Interpretation: Beyond the Walls—MissionsUSA Live
Invocation—Kate Leong, Sugarland, Texas
Hymns
WMU Vision Fund at Work: MKs—Cindy Gaskins, Texas WMU
Acteens Panelists—Sarah S. Groves, Birmingham, Ala.; Sara Arnold, Springfield, Mo.; Shauna Bennette, Pineville, La.; Laura Marie Howell, Germantown, Tenn.; Rachel Kelley, Tulsa, Okla.; Emily A. Row, Midland, Texas; Julie Michelle Walker, Lilburn, Ga.
National Acteens Conventions 1970-1998—Evelyn Tully, Illinois WMU
Recognition of Home Missionaries
Hymn
Special Music
Missions Message: Challenge Us to the Task Which Must Be Done—Denton Lotz, general secretary, Baptist World Alliance
Closing Meditation: Love Leads Us to God's Throne—Jennifer Dean

Monday morning June 16

- 9:30** Music for Meditation
Theme Interpretation: MissionsUSA Live
Invocation—Joy Fenner, director, Texas WMU
Hymns
A Heart Overflowing—Dawn Phillips, Chillicothe, Mo.
Executive Board Report—Dellanna O'Brien
Hymn
Sunbeam Centennial Feature
Introduction of Local Committee—Sue Giesecke, Dallas
WMU Vision Fund at Work: Christian Women's Job Corps—Elizabeth Ford, Fort Mill, S.C., and

Elizabeth Adams, Rock Hill, S.C.
Hymn
Offering for WMU Vision Fund
Special Music—Laura Shelton
President's Message: Woman's Missionary Union Goes Beyond the Walls—Wanda Lee
Closing Meditation: Love Leads Us to God's Throne—Jennifer Dean

Monday afternoon June 16

- 2:00** Music for Meditation
Theme Interpretation: MissionsUSA Live
Invocation—Sue Hill, Arlington, Texas
Hymns
Special Music
Ministries in Texas: Send Us to the World Around Us—Milfred Minatrea, Dallas; Toni and Roger English, Laredo, Texas; Chris L. Simmons, Dallas
Hymn
WMU Vision Fund at Work: State GA Camps—Katharine Bryan, director, Tennessee WMU
Recognitions
Election of Officers
Prayer of Dedication—Ronald H. Grizzle, pastor, First Baptist, Columbus, Ga.
Closing Meditation: Love Leads Us to God's Throne—Jennifer Dean

Monday evening June 16

- 7:00** Music for Meditation
Theme Interpretation: Beyond the Walls—MissionsUSA Live
Invocation—Martha Chung, Hollis Hills, N.Y.
Hymns
WMU Vision Fund at Work: Minnesota-Wisconsin—Betsy Lynn Cadle, director, Minn./Wis. WMU
WMU Second Century Fund at Work: Utah-Idaho—Bea Conrad, director, Utah-Idaho WMU
Hymn
Special Music
Missions Address: Shattering Wall and Veil—Robert Smith, Carl E. Bates associate professor of Christian preaching, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Closing Meditation: Jennifer Dean

Crossover Prayerwalk

DALLAS (BP)—Hundreds of sites need to be prayed over during a June 12-13 Prayer Walk preceding the June 14 Crossover Dallas evangelistic thrust, according to Jana Young of the Dallas Baptist Association.

This year marks the first time a prayerwalk has been formally incorporated into Crossover activities prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Individuals interested in participating in the Dallas prayerwalk may contact Young's office at 214-324-2803; fax 214-324-2809; or e-mail, 102726.3061@compuserve.com.

Young encouraged those unable to be in Dallas for the prayerwalk to set aside time to pray June 12-13 for Crossover participants and the people to whom they will be encountering in door-to-door witnessing, neighborhood block parties and other ministries.

Directors of missions

DALLAS (BP)—A study committee report focusing on the purpose and structure of the 475-member Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions will be the main item of business when the organization holds its annual meeting June 15-16 in Dallas.

The study was approved last year and committee members were appointed by the association's president, Larry Rose, director of missions for Tarrant Association, Fort Worth, Texas. Action on the study committee report is scheduled during the DOMs' final session at 8:30 a.m., June 16. The organization's meetings will be at the Adams Mark Hotel, 400 N. Olive St., Dallas.

The meeting will begin with a worship session at 9:30 a.m., June 15, with preaching by Chester Jones, director of missions for Truett Association, Marble, N.C. During the 1 p.m. Sunday session, Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministries studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead a Bible study and Bill Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will speak on "Partnerships: State to Association."

At 3:45 p.m., Karl Ortis, director of missions for San Francisco Peninsula Association, will speak on "Partnerships: Association to Association," while Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, also will be featured. A 6 p.m. Sunday banquet will feature humorist Dennis Swanson, special assistant to the president for seminary relations at Southwestern.

Church musicians

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, which will hold its annual meeting June 15-16, will mark the 30th year of commissioning church music compositions. Conference sessions will be held at First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas.

Three compositions will be unveiled this year: an anthem, "Holy in the Highest," by Robert Sterling, a freelance composer and arranger and Baptist layman from Nashville, Tenn.; a hymn, "Sound the Word and Share God's Love," by Hugh McClrath, retired professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a children's song, "All Around this Wonderful World," by Joseph Martin, a freelance composer, concert pianist and Baptist layman from Austin, Texas. Martin also will give a concert and devotional at 9 a.m., June 16.

The conference opens at 2:15 p.m., June 15, and concludes with a 7 p.m. Monday worship service featuring the

Singing Men of Texas. Special features of the conference program include a 1:30 p.m. Monday discussion of contemporary church music styles and three workshops earlier that day, at 10:30, on "Restructuring the Church Music Department," "Is It a Job or a Calling?" and "Are Traditional Church Curriculums Relevant?"

Performances scheduled during the two-day meeting include a 3:15 p.m. organ concert on June 16 by Lyndon Finney, organist at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. Also scheduled that day are lunchtime entertainment by Mark Reighard, professor of piano at Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Okla., and the Southwestern Singers from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at 4 p.m.

Campus ministers

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—The 20th anniversary of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will be celebrated during the organization's June 13-15 sessions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. ASBCM, now with 125 members, held its first annual meeting in June 1977 in Jackson City, Mo.

This year's keynote speaker will be Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministries studies at Southwestern, with addresses at 7:30 p.m. June 13 and 8:45 a.m. June 14.

Arllis Dickerson, campus minister at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, will discuss practical facets of campus ministry at 4 p.m. June 13 and 10:45 a.m. June 14.

Additionally, seminars will be offered in two tracks: one for "newcomers" in campus ministry and another for "experienced" campus ministers. Registration information is available by contacting Bob Ford at Jacksonville State University, P.O. Box 151, Jacksonville, AL 36265; phone 205-435-7020.

Evangelists

DALLAS (BP)—The 1997 Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will feature "some of the finest Southern Baptist evangelists in America," according to conference president Tom Cox, president of Tom Cox World Ministries, Mountainburg, Ark. The evangelists' annual meeting will be June 18, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Featured speakers will be W.A. Criswell, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Dallas; evangelist Henry Lingfelter, of Alcoa, Tenn.; and evangelist Ron Herrod of Loudon, Tenn. Testimonies will be given by Frank Harber, president of the Conference of Texas Baptist Evangelists; Jim McNeil, a drama and music evangelist from St. Louis; and Art Toalston, editor of Baptist Press.

Special recognitions will be given to evangelists J. Harold Smith of Newport, Tenn., for 60 years of service; Mike Gilchrist of Shreveport, La., for his work in revival evangelism; Freddie Gage of Euleus, Texas, for his ministry in harvest evangelism; and, for 25 years of service, to Cox, Leo Humphrey of Albany, La., and Ben Rogers of Longview, Texas.

The evangelists' annual breakfast business meeting at 7:30 a.m., June 17, at the Hyatt Regency will include a message by Steve Hale of Woodstock, Ga., a former conference president.

Additionally, Southern Baptist music evangelists will be featured in traditional "Afterglow" sessions from 9:15-11 p.m., June 16-17, in the Hyatt Regency's Grand Ballroom.

Hispanic Fellowship

GARLAND, TX (BP)—The Southern Baptist Hispanic Fellowship will celebrate 10 years of ministry during its June 14-15 annual meeting at Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida (New Life First Baptist Church), 2000 S. First St., Garland, Texas.

More than 3,000 Hispanic churches are now part of SBC life. The fellowship's meeting will begin at 6 p.m., June 13. David Galvan, pastor of the Garland congregation, will bring the evening's message. The fellowship's president, Roberto A. Lopez, pastor of Bethel Hispanic Baptist Church, Las Vegas, will present the fellowship's church of the year award.

A number of workshops will be offered at the 8 a.m. session, June 14, focusing on such topics as world missions, church growth, worship, discipleship, leadership, pastoral counseling, stress, church conflict, church discipline, pastoral burnout and media.

The 2 p.m. session Saturday will include the fellowship's annual business session. Featured speakers at the 7 p.m. session will be Lopez and Jose Borjas, a faculty member at the Theological Baptist Seminary, Madrid, Spain.

African-American Fellowship

DALLAS (BP)—Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, will be the featured speaker at the African-American Fellowship meeting June 15 at Singing Hills Baptist Church, 6550 Houston School Road, Dallas. The sixth annual fellowship will begin at 5 p.m.

On June 16, the group will hold its pastors' fellowship at 10 a.m. at the Dallas Grand Hotel, followed by its annual luncheon at noon, also in the hotel. Reservation information is available by calling Ethel Williams at 1-800-999-3113, ext. 1423.

During the fellowship's June 16

Seminary alumni gatherings

business session, a discussion of the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention has been scheduled by the organization's president, E.W. McCall Sr., pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church, La Puente, Calif. The discussion will focus on the restructuring's effect on the African-American Fellowship and on SBC ministries relating to the black community, McCall said.

Research Fellowship

DALLAS (BP)—A presentation on "America's Mega Churches" will cap the June 14 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship in Dallas. The mega-church theme, to be addressed by John N. Vaughan, editor and publisher of *Church Growth Today* magazine, will follow a 6:30 p.m. banquet.

The fellowship's session, which begins at 1 p.m., will be held at the Baptist General Convention of Texas offices. Other presentations scheduled during the Saturday research meeting will focus on church growth and related topics.

The cost of the banquet is \$15 and dues for the fellowship are \$15. Registration for the meeting is being handled by Clay Price, BGCT research and information services manager, 333 N. Washington St., Dallas, TX 75246.

Baptist World Alliance

DALLAS (BP)—The Baptist World Alliance will hold its annual "Window on the World" breakfast at 7 a.m., June 18, at the Dallas Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, will be the featured speaker. Tickets, at \$15 each, may be ordered through the Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101-6005; phone, 703-790-8980.

Messianic Fellowship

DALLAS (BP)—"Future Directions" will be the focus of the June 16 meeting of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship, according to the organization's president, Mike Smith.

The 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas is open to anyone involved in Jewish evangelism, said Smith, an attorney in Columbus, Ohio.

Chaplains

DALLAS (BP)—The eighth annual Southern Baptist Chaplains Convocation will be June 16 at the Baylor Medical Center in Dallas.

The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. meeting is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division.

All six Southern Baptist seminaries will host annual alumni gatherings June 18 in conjunction with the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas.

Southwestern Seminary

Southwestern Seminary's "Homecoming III" will feature a Texas barbecue dinner, national alumni association meeting and groundbreaking for phase one of the seminary's continuing education center.

Entertainment will include a trick rider and circus acts. Class reunions will be held with special sites set aside for students from 1946 and 1971. Child care will be provided.

Charter buses will provide transportation from the Dallas Convention Center to Southwestern's Fort Worth campus beginning at 11:30 a.m. They will return to Dallas at 4 p.m. The bus fare is free with purchase of a \$10 meal ticket, to be on sale at the Southwestern booth in the convention exhibit area.

Golden Gate Seminary

Golden Gate Seminary will host a noon luncheon for alumni and friends of the seminary. The luncheon will be held in Room D262 on level 2 in the Dallas Convention Center. President William Crews will be the featured speaker.

Tickets, at \$14.50 each, may be purchased through Golden Gate Seminary by mailing payment to the Office of Alumni Relations, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941; phone 1-888-442-8708. Tickets purchased after June 9 may be picked up at the seminary exhibit booth.

Midwestern Seminary

Midwestern Seminary alumni will gather at noon for their annual luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention. Seminary president Mark Coppenger will be the featured speaker. The meeting will be in D270-272 of Level 2 in the Dallas Convention Center.

Advance tickets are available by sending a check for \$16 to MBTS to Laura Gust, Alumni Office, MBTS, 5001 N. Oak Street Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Tickets also will be available at a cost of \$20 each through the seminary booth in the exhibit hall.

New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be a 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting. The full-course breakfast will be held at the Hyatt-Regency Dallas, the convention hotel, in the Reunion Arena area. The event will include a report from seminary president Chuck Kelley.

Tickets ordered before June 1 will cost \$10 each; tickets ordered after June 1 and those purchased at the NOBTS booth at the convention will cost \$15 each.

Tickets are available from the NOBTS Alumni Office, 3939 Gentilly 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.

Southern Seminary

Seminary president Al Mohler will be the featured speaker at the Southern Seminary alumni and friends luncheon. The luncheon will be at the Hyatt Regency, Dallas, in the Grand Hall from 1-3 p.m.

Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be obtained from Southern Seminary at 2825 Lexington Drive, Louisville, KY 40280; phone 502-897-4143. Advanced tickets must be purchased by June 2.

Southeastern Seminary

Southeastern Seminary's National Alumni and Friends Luncheon will be held at First Baptist Church, Dallas. The luncheon, to be held in Coleman Hall following the morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention, will include an address by Southeastern president Paige Patterson.

Tickets are \$9 each. Checks should be made to Southeastern Seminary and mailed to the alumni office by May 30 at P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, NC 27788.

Convention messenger requirements

Who can register as a Southern Baptist Convention messenger is dictated by Article III of the SBC constitution.

Messengers of the convention are "members of missionary Baptist churches cooperating with the Convention as follows:

"1. One messenger from each church which

(1) is in friendly cooperation with the

Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work.

Among churches not in cooperation with the Convention are churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior.

And, (2) Has been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work during the fiscal year preceding.

"2. One additional messenger from each such church for every 250 members; or for each \$250 paid to the work of the Convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.

"3. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by the churches to the Convention, but no church may appoint more than 10.

"4. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed."

'97 SBC annual meeting expected to attract 15,000 messengers

In 1985, the last time the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting was held in Dallas, a record 45,519 SBC messengers registered. Only about one-third that number are expected for next month's SBC annual meeting, according to SBC registration secretary Lee Porter.

Registration at the annual meeting has been declining since 1990, Porter noted. Last year in New Orleans 13,706 messengers registered.

If at least 14,277 messengers register at the June 17-19 Dallas meeting, it will mean 1 million SBC messengers have attended annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention since its beginning in 1845. The 1997 Dallas meeting, at the Convention Center downtown, will be the 140th session in the convention's 152-year history.

The Dallas meeting will be only the fifth time the convention has been held in Dallas; including 1985, 1974, 1965 and 1894. The first meeting in Dallas in 1894 drew 772 messengers. The convention has met in nearby Fort Worth twice, the last time in 1934.

Porter, a retired Baptist Sunday School Board official living in Lawrenceville, Ga., has been predicting convention registration totals since his election as registration secretary in 1978.

Porter said registration will open in Lower Lobby "C" of the Dallas Convention Center,

one of the main entrances at street level, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 15, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday through Thursday. It will close about 9:30 each night.

According to SBC Bylaw 8, Porter said each messenger card must be signed by the church's clerk or moderator. The messenger card may be obtained from state convention offices.

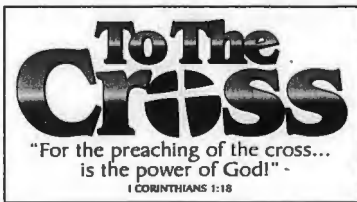
If a messenger comes to the meeting without a properly filled-out card, Porter said the person must go before the convention's Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee will open after 8:30 a.m. on Monday. Porter said if at the last minute it is not possible

to obtain a messenger card, the person should bring a letter from the church and meet with the committee.

The registration desk will be able to help messengers reach churches with information via telegrams or faxes, he said. He noted that the convention does not register "alternate messengers."

An additional service the registration desk will provide after noon on Monday is information about where messengers are staying during the convention. Messengers wanting the information should know the person's name, church, city and state.

A general information booth also will be located near the registration area which will include a message board for messengers.



Shuttle service

A shuttle discount between a number of downtown Dallas hotels and the Dallas Convention Center aboard the DART/Light Rail System will be available to Southern Baptist Convention messengers for \$8 for four days. Shuttle service between Market Center-area hotels and the convention center will be available at a cost of \$10 for four days or \$8 for three days.

Organizers said hotel rooms are still available in the Dallas area, but to guarantee reservations the SBC housing form needs to be returned.

Food service is planned in the convention center for lunches and dinners at reasonable prices, a spokesman said. DART/Light Rail Service will be convenient to a number of restaurants in the West End area of Dallas.

Leadership Profile for ABSC Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee for the 1997 Arkansas Baptist State Convention want Arkansas Baptists to submit names of persons to that committee to consider when they bring the convention nominations for state committees and boards.

This recommendation will not insure nomination, but the committee will consider each recommendation. The committee will not contact any person recommended until they approve the nominations. The Nominating Committee will hold its first meeting in early August and needs all recommendations no later than May 30.

Members of the committee: Rodney Reeves, chairman; Bob Harper; Bill Hatfield; Ed Hinkson; Don Nail; Roy Parker; Lew Sorrells; C.B. Thompson; Don Walsh.

May 30 is the deadline for recommendations

Nominee _____ Layperson Minister Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Member of what church? _____ Association _____

Current leadership responsibilities

Professional _____

Civic _____

Church _____

Association _____

State or SBC Boards _____

Past leadership experience (within last five years)

State or SBC Boards _____

Association _____

Local Church _____

Personal

This person's greatest contributions, based on his or her past record, knowledge and experience, should be in the area of: _____

Is this person currently active in a local church? _____

Is this person able to be away from family and work for at least one or two days, three times a year? Yes No

Give the name and phone number of at least one person, other than his or her pastor or director of missions, who knows of the nominee's involvement in Baptist life. _____

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank this person's understanding of and commitment to the way Southern Baptists work together? (Circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Check the board, committee or commission on which you believe this person could best serve.

Board of Trustees

- Executive Board
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis
- Children's Homes and Family Ministries
- Foundation
- Ouachita Baptist University
- Williams Baptist University
- Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Committees and Commission

- History Commission
- BSU Advisory Committee
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Convention Program Committee

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
JOY FAUCETT
c/o Executive Director's Office
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Signed _____

(Name of person making this recommendation)

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

WORLD

Partnership provides millions of meals for hungry Koreans

Starving North Koreans are receiving millions of meals because Southern Baptists gave generously and joined with others to share the good news of God's love with people in need.

More than 1.8 million servings of dehydrated vegetable soup mix were shipped in April to the reclusive Asian nation — at a cost of 3.6 cents per meal — because of an effective partnership between Southern Baptists, American farmers and an inter-denominational food bank.

The project was possible because Southern Baptist churches gave generously to the 1996 World Hunger Fund, reversing several years of declining gifts.

North Korea teeters on the brink of famine after two years of massive crop failures. Eyewitnesses say as many as 20 million people are going to bed hungry every night, many reduced to eating grass, tree bark and even soil.

In some areas, government rations have shrunk to 3.5 ounces a day — less than one-fourth of the level needed to maintain body weight. Children reportedly have begun to die of malnutrition.

Three overseas freight containers, containing 1.86 million meals, were shipped in April for only \$60,000, said Bill Cashion, a Southern Baptist human needs consultant. Expenses were minimized because farmers in Colorado and Texas donated surplus crops and Breedlove Dehydrating Plant, a nonprofit ministry of an inter-denominational food bank in Lubbock, Texas, provided its services at cost.

"These farmers have given a tremendous boost to this relief effort because they were willing to give away their surplus harvest, rather than turning it under," Cashion said. "In fact, they offered 200 million pounds of potatoes and vegetables, but even at this low cost, it would have taken \$9 million if we had processed and shipped it all. We just don't have that kind of resource."

Southern Baptist officials were able to release another \$140,000 to extend the project, however — providing an additional 4.3 million meals.

About \$1.2 million of Southern Baptist hunger relief funds have been released to relieve the food crisis since August 1995 floods destroyed much of that year's rice harvest.

"We believe that compassionate ministry in the name of Christ will continue to reveal to North Koreans the depth of love God has for them," Cashion affirmed.

PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA (BP)

THEY COUNT ON YOUR GUIDANCE.



YOU CAN COUNT ON OURS.

Just as your community looks to you for guidance, you need an insurance company that understands your church's unique needs. You need Preferred Risk Mutual—America's largest insurer of churches. Our Cornerstone program features flexible insurance protection specifically designed for today's ministries. And, if your church suffers an unfortunate loss, we'll be there to help you get back on your feet.

Call Preferred Risk Mutual at 1-800-321-5754 to get information, quotes or advice.

P
PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY
www.preferred-risk.com

Endorsed Program Of The Annuity Board, SBC

Albert George Mfg. Co.

Quality Custom Manufacturers of:

Pew Cushions

Upholstered Seats & Backs

717 N. Cypress • P.O. Box 5700 • NLR, AR 72119

501-375-2921



Quality
Van Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches. 501-268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson



Available in 20' to 33' Models
(12 to 38 passengers)

Church Buses • Rental Buses

(New and Used)

• We buy used buses • Guaranteed buy back program
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc. • Brentwood, TN
Call Today

1 (800) 370-6180 • 1 (615) 376-2287

Schall to speak at Governor's Prayer Breakfast

A former Razorback basketball star will be the featured speaker at the annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast, to be held June 4 at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock.

Steve Schall, starting center for the

University of Arkansas at Fayetteville basketball team in the late 1970s, will speak during the program. He led the team to three Southwest Conference titles and to the NCAA Final Four in 1978.

Schall, who now lives in Conway, is

president of K-Life, Inc., a student ministry focused on Christian discipleship programs with junior and senior high school students.

Among sponsors of the event are the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Promise Keepers and Dad the Family Shepherd.

Harry Black, director of the ABSC Brotherhood department, said the prayer breakfast, a tradition since 1980, has typically been an evangelistic event. "There will be a clear presentation of the gospel. The point of the breakfast is for Christian business and professional men to bring their associates to allow them to hear that presentation."

Event chairman Reg Hamman, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, noted that the event has resulted in more than 650 professions of faith during its 17 years.

"My goal is to see 1,000 Christians bring 1,000 non-Christians to this event," he said. "People will go to breakfast who would never go to church with you."

The one-hour program will begin at 6:45 a.m. To purchase tickets, send \$12 per person by May 29 to Reg Hamman at ARCOM, 1001 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201.

For more information about the event, individuals may contact Hamman at 376-7678 or Barry Ballard at 758-5557.



Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Midwestern Seminary offers ministers in Arkansas the convenience of pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree close to home.



"The interaction with my peer group and supervisor has improved my spiritual life considerably, providing a deeper walk with God and improved prayer life. Studying at Midwestern has also gotten me into the Word, doubling my sermon preparation.

"Smaller classes and the low cost of the program for Southern Baptists are other reasons I chose Midwestern."

Chris Stocklin, Pastor
First Baptist Church, West Fork, Arkansas

No need to relocate. Designed with full-time ministers in mind, it is not necessary to relocate from a ministry setting in order to enroll in Midwestern's Doctor of Ministry program.

Affordable cost. For Southern Baptists, the cost is \$4,200 payable at \$700 per semester over six semesters.

Three-year schedule. The program can be completed in three years, including professional seminars, supervision and professional development experience.

Classes now forming. Seminars are being offered on Mondays and in two-week sessions at the Little Rock center next fall and spring.

For information about the Doctor of Ministry program:
Contact Robbi Haynes

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
5001 N. Oak Trlwy., Kansas City, MO 64118
or call 1-800-944-8287

Tiger Basketball Camp

Ouachita Baptist University

July 7-11 • Since 1962

For 6th - 12th grade BOYS

Cost: Resident \$185 • Commuter \$125

Camp Director:

Coach Mike Reynolds, OBU

Men's Basketball Coach

Call 501-245-5188 for info

Adult Get-A-Ways

OSARK DISCOVERY

Branson, MO June 3-6

BALLOON FESTIVAL

Albuquerque, NM Oct 3-5

SAN ANTONIO CHRISTMAS

San Antonio, TX Dec 5-6

RECREATION ADVENTURE

Call Today! 800-927-1992

BRANSON

'Showplace of the Ozarks'

For Sale By Owner

- 2 Bedroom • 2 Bath
- Top Floor with Lock Out Unit
- Overlooking the 17th Green

Located in Pointe Royale Village & Country Club

Amenities Include: Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts
18 Hole Championship Style Golf Course

Only \$75,000

includes Golf Membership!

For more information call
417-337-8134
Evenings: 417-339-3761



While in Branson... we invite you to attend

Sunday Praise Gathering

at the



10:00 AM

- Christian Musicians & Entertainers
- Drama • Special Time for Children
- Great Music w/ Band & Praise Team
- Biblical Messages • Deaf Ministry

a ministry of ...



(Began as a Mission
in 1993
sponsored by
Ark & Mo Bapt
Conventions)

Pastor: Glenn Artt
417-337-5424

Pick Your Season Pick Your Resort

Looking for a weekend getaway in Branson? Or perhaps the perfect family vacation in Branson?

Our reservationists are waiting to assist you with all of your vacation needs.

One, Two & Three Bedroom Luxury & Deluxe Condos

Call 1-800-225-2422 to book your vacation



OZARK MOUNTAIN RESORT
RESORT & CONDO

HCR 4, Box 910
Kimberling City, MO 65686



HOLIDAY HILLS
RESORT & CONDO

620 E. Rockford Dr.
Branson, MO 65616

FAMILY FUN VACATION

April 12, 1997 - November 14, 1997

3 Nights Lodging in a luxury 1 bedroom condo

Family Tickets to Silver Dollar City

Family Tickets to Country Tonite

Family Tickets to the Dixie Stampede (dinner & show)

\$30.00 Dinner Certificate for the Hard Luck Diner

\$520.00 per Family*

(Don't miss the Children's Festival, June 14th through August 24th, when Geyser Gulch the world's largest tree-house will make it's debut. Besides all of the marvelous activities for children of all ages during this festival, you surely won't want to miss the U-Pick-Nick Show from Nickelodeon Studios.)

Packages are priced for 1 bedroom luxury unit. Tax not included.

email at holidayhills@tri-lakes.net

HI-HO

MOTOR INN

3325 W. Hwy 76 • Branson, MO
417-334-2204

\$5.00 off
regular room rate
with this coupon

(Not good with any other discount)

expires 8/28/97

*"In the Heart
of It All!"*

- Walk to 16 shows
- Church Group Rates
- Continental Breakfast
- Non-Smoking Rooms
- Level Parking
- Two-Room Family Units

Branson, Missouri

FOX TOURS, INC.

Ozarks' Hospitality

COMPLETE CUSTOMIZED VACATION PACKAGES

• For Families & Individuals •

A No Obligation Proposal

Receive Complete Branson Packet When You Check-In

Excellent Lodging Accommodations • Show Tickets • Prepaid Meal Vouchers

800-443-1866

Most Major Credit
Cards Accepted

For Sale By Owner

Beautiful

Lake Front Condominium

on the Shores of Lake Taney

1700 S.W. FL

Waterfront Boat Dock Stalk Available

Only Minutes from Branson

Swimming Pool/Clubhouse

Only
\$64,900
2 Bedroom/2 Bath

1-417-336

The Silver Creek Circle

EDUCATION

Boyce to honor grads June 4

Boyce Bible School's Little Rock campus will graduate its first class during a June 4 ceremony at the Baptist Building.

Burton Perry, assistant director for theological education in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said six candidates will receive their diploma in Christian ministry during the school's "first formally recognized" graduation ceremony ever.

Perry explained that the graduates "had to attend classes every Friday night and Saturday. They completed approximately four years of weekend college-level study for them to receive these diplomas."

Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is "a fully-accredited institution by Southern Association of Schools and Colleges taught by degreed adjunct professors," Perry added. He noted that each student "is enrolled in the associate of arts program and receives either the associate of arts degree or the diploma in Christian ministry upon graduation."

The graduation program, which will begin at 10 a.m., will feature ABSC executive director Emil Turner and keynote speaker Lehman Webb, former ABSC director of the theological education.

For more information about the graduation or about continuing theological education in Arkansas, contact Perry toll-free in state at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791, ext. 5249.



ROSEBUD INN

\$39.95
(+ tax)
per nite

(2-Night Minimum / 1-2 People)

Not good w/ other discount

- Kids 12 & under FREE
- Free Deluxe Continental Breakfast
- 65 Beautiful Units
- Pool • Level Parking
- AAA Rated
- Located between 3 outlet malls
- Ask about our group rates

1-800-767-3522 expires 8/28/97

Roark & Gretna Rd. / Branson, MO

Historical Society to provide anniversary certificates

Southside Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, received a piece of history after a recent phone call to the Southern Baptist Historical Commission: It received the last church anniversary certificate to be given by the SBC agency.

Each year the Historical Commission has provided a free anniversary certificate to churches celebrating 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 and other such anniversaries and has published resources on how to celebrate

a church anniversary. The commission has mailed hundreds of these certificates to churches across the Southern Baptist Convention in the past decade alone.

Southside Baptist Church, which got the last one, will celebrate its 75th anniversary in October.

The Historical Commission will be unable to provide anniversary certificates to churches in the future because the agency is being closed June 19 as part of

the SBC convention restructuring plan.

Church anniversary certificates will now be provided by the Southern Baptist Historical Society. Churches wishing to receive an anniversary certificate should call the SBHS toll-free at 1-800-966-2278 with the date and/or year their church was organized or constituted. As a service to the church, the SBHS will send them a complimentary anniversary certificate.

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)

EUREKA SPRINGS

A GREAT PLACE TO STAY... AND SAVE.

Inn of the Ozarks • Eureka Springs, Arkansas

\$49
a night

Up to four people can stay at Best Western Inn of the Ozarks for just \$49 any Sunday or Monday from April 13 to June 30 or August 17 to September 29, 1997 and experience all that Eureka Springs has to offer: the Great Passion Play, New Holy Land, Christ of the Ozarks and more—plus great service and the best amenities.



BEST WESTERN INN OF THE OZARKS
Resort and Conference Center

P.O. Box 431 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632 • 1-800-552-3785 • (501) 253-9768

* Standard rooms only. Special not good in conjunction with any other discounts or during holidays. Price does not include tax. Subject to availability.

The Best For Less Traveler's Inn

- Family owned & operated
- Sixty clean comfortable rooms
- Remote control TV's & Telephone
- Large Heated Pool & Picnic Area
- Perfect Location -

Walk to Pine Mountain Jamboree,
10-Restaurants & Gift Shops

- Golf available (private course)
- **Trolley Stop**
- Reservations made free to all attractions
- Group discounts available
- New Conference Room for 20-50



TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS

1-800-643-5566

Rt. 1 Box 269, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY

In Eureka Springs, Ark. Super \$33 group pkg. includes the best (\$14.50) tickets, plus fun, lodging and meals. Our 25th year of Christian service!
KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM 501/253-8418

Best Memories, Best Location, Best Value, Best Western Eureka Inn

Come to Historic Eureka Springs to see the Great Passion Play!

All you have to do is call and make your reservations with us, we'll do the rest. Meeting and Banquet Rooms for Wedding Receptions and Dinners, Retreats, Family Reunions, Business Meetings and Conferences.

- ◆ Stress Free Packaged Vacations for Families and Groups
- ◆ Group Tour of the City on Eureka's NEW Tram System
- ◆ Kids 18 and Under Stay Free
- ◆ Gazebo Restaurant
- ◆ Victorian-Accented Decor
- ◆ Dates available in June and July at Special Rates
- ◆ Heated Pool
- ◆ Fitness Center
- ◆ City Trolley Stop
- ◆ Special Rates



EUREKA INN

P.O. Box 329
Jct. Hwys 62E & 23N
Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Call Toll-Free Today For Information and Reservations 1-800-221-3344

Seniors challenged to live to fullest, be role models

Approximately 11,000 senior adults from throughout the nation gathered for Southern Baptists' third National Senior Adult Convention, April 28-30, to sing, fellowship, gain inspiration and be entertained.

Meeting in four sessions, participants heard messages from Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy Graham; Bill Mitchell, author of *Building Strong Families*; Joni Eareckson Tada, author of *Heaven Your Real Home*; Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper Jr., who led daily Bible study sessions; and T.W. Hunt, nationally known prayer consultant.

Country humorist George "Goober" Lindsey made them laugh and gospel entertainer Ricky Skaggs made them cry as he sang sentimental songs about the responsibilities that accompany growing older.

The speakers' messages revolved around the conference theme, "Remember the Future." Seniors were urged to celebrate the remainder of their lives, to believe in the possibility of a "triumphant long life" and to use their wisdom to guide younger generations.

"When someone younger looks at your life, allow them to see someone who is excited about Jesus, committed to Him

and totally surrendered and available for His service," Lotz urged.

"What are the plans for the last years of your life?" she asked the senior adults. "Do you plan on just playing golf or playing bridge and going to the outlet malls? Have you retired, not only from your job, but from service to the Lord?"

"Stay excited about Jesus," she challenged, reminding participants to ask God "to put His hand on you to use you for His service."

'Spiritual guiding lights'

Mitchell, a former teacher, principal and coach who founded the nonprofit organization, Power of Positive Students, told senior adults that grandparents are the backbone of the family structure. He challenged them to serve as virtuous role models for the younger generation and to act as the spiritual guiding light for families who live daily in a secularistic world.

Mitchell, who lost his wife to cancer last September, said he learned then he would have to work at remaining positive. "The greatest battle is the battle that's going through our minds. Our thoughts determine our emotions and feelings, and our feelings determine our behavior."

Joni Eareckson Tada's message for senior adults was: "Your days are numbered." But the popular Christian author and speaker said that's nothing to fret about, but something to celebrate.

"Friends, life is short. Time is a treasure. Our days are priceless...Please, let's not waste our precious days," said Tada, who has spent more than 30 years in a wheelchair since a diving accident left her a quadriplegic at age 17.

"I've got this habit of numbering my days," Tada said. "Each day when I wake up, I thank God for a brand new 24 hours that He's given me. I pray for Him to teach me that each moment, each hour has value.

"Yes, life is hard," Tada said. "But it's worth hanging on. God has given you another moment, another hour, another day. Do something with it."

Draper reminded the senior adults "that the Word of God promises the possibility of a triumphant long life, one that glows with the glory of God."

He said three things the Bible teaches about a triumphant old age are "it reflects on past faithfulness; it projects the present goodness and sustaining power of God; and it reflects upon future blessedness."

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)



Celebrating the 30th Season

THE BIBLE COMES ALIVE AT THE "PERFECT" PLACE FOR CHURCH GROUP OUTINGS!

Start your "PERFECT" day with the Holy Land Tour, a two and a half hour narrated and motorized journey through a mountain setting of 37 authentic Old and New Testament replications.

Add visits to 15 other attractions and features located on the grounds. The Christ of the Ozarks statue, Sacred Arts Center with over 1,000 works of sacred art, and Bible Museum which has over 6,000 Bibles in 625 languages.

Partake of a delicious, low-cost dinner at the All-You-Can-Eat Mission Buffet.

Attend a Parables of the Potter presentation and pre-performance Gospel Concerts.

Special provisions and convenient parking for Church Buses

Free on-site parking



Top your outing off by attending an electrifying performance of The Great Passion Play™. Your church group will be thrilled and inspired as 250 actors and live animals portray the final week and climax of Christ's earthly walk.

For reservations or information, call
1-800-882-7529

Be sure to ask about our discounted package prices for Church Groups and complimentary packages for pastors.

You can learn more about The Great Passion Play™ on the Internet: <http://www.passion.org>

The Great Passion Play™ • PO Box 471 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Judge rules U.S. military violated chaplains' rights

The U.S. Department of Defense violated the First Amendment rights of military chaplains last year, a federal judge has ruled. Defense leaders had barred chaplains from preaching in favor of legislation banning partial-birth abortions and from encouraging congregational members to urge Congress to support the bill.

District of Columbia Judge Stanley Sporkin ruled that the government's directive "clearly interferes with military chaplains' free exercise and free speech rights, as well as those of their congregants."

"The chaplains in this case seek to preach only what they would tell their non-military congregants. There is no need for heavy-handed censorship and any attempt to impinge on the plaintiffs' constitutional and legal rights is not acceptable."

Sporkin granted a preliminary injunction preventing the Pentagon from blocking chaplains from urging individuals to contact members of Congress seeking passage of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act again this year. The House of Representatives has approved the bill and the Senate is expected to vote on it this week.

The Department of Justice has not announced if it will appeal the decision.

The controversy began in 1996 when the Roman Catholic Church initiated a campaign seeking a congressional override of President Clinton's April veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. The Catholic church encouraged its priests, including military chaplains, to preach against the procedure and to urge their parishioners to sign postcards urging members of Congress to vote to override the veto.

The Army, Navy and Air Force informed their chaplains that Department of Defense directives and anti-lobbying laws prohibited them from taking part in the effort.

A group of Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant chaplains, military personnel and their families brought suit, citing the Department of Defense's action as a violation of the First Amendment as well as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

In ruling in the chaplains' favor, Sporkin rejected arguments that the chaplains' participation in the campaign would be direct solicitation of voters and might be viewed as an order by lower-ranking members of the military.

"When chaplains are conducting worship," he wrote, "they are acting in their religious capacity, not as representatives of" the Pentagon. WASHINGTON (BP)

CROSSPOINT 1997

A CHRISTIAN BASED SPORTS CAMP SPONSORED BY THE CENTRIFUGE/CROSSPOINT SECTION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

WHAT SPORTS ARE OFFERED?

Baseball ♦ Basketball ♦ Cheerleading ♦ Flag Football ♦ Gymnastics ♦ Soccer
♦ Softball ♦ Team Handball ♦ Tennis ♦ Track/Field ♦ Volleyball

OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE AT

WILLIAMS BAPTIST COLLEGE
WEEK OF JUNE 9 & JUNE 16
COST: \$205

WHAT CAN CAMPERS EXPECT IN A WEEK OF CAMP?

- ⇒ Campers will receive excellent training in two sports from quality Christian athletes...engage in daily Bible study experiences...exposure to afternoon non-sport activities...creative worship experiences each night...
- ⇒ Campers will bring home a lifetime of memories... increased skill in two sports... lifetime friendships... deeper understanding of the Christian life... a Crosspoint T-shirt... a follow up devotional book... examples/role models to follow when they get back home...

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 615-251-3834

AUTHORIZED
Konica
COPIERS • FAX



Ralph Gray and Associates Inc.
701 W. Capitol, Little Rock • 378-8108
1640 E. Grand Ave., Hot Springs • 623-7392
1022 W. 6th, Pine Bluff • 534-8811

CRY

Are your Seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an Alate, Raised Roof & Electric Step. Call Tri-State Van & Bus Sales Today!



1-800-330-3622 • (817) 484-6145
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!



Your Recovery Room.

Baptist Home Health Network can work together with your doctor to develop an Extended Home Care program especially designed to take care of your individual needs. For a free consultation or more information, call Baptist HealthLine at B-A-P-T-I-S-T (227-8478) or 1-800-262-0054 (Ext. 1045).

Baptist
HOME HEALTH NETWORK

Needed—40-50 hp boat motor in excellent condition for Ecuador mission partnership. Call Finna Hills Baptist Church, Fort Smith, AR, 501-646-3452.

Accepting—Full-time music/youth minister resumes. Send to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 373, Glenwood, AR 79143.

Seeking—Full-time associate pastor/minister to students (75% youth). Send resumes to: First Baptist Church Gravel Ridge, 14322 Hwy. 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Youth pastor needed—Full-time ministry to youth and families. Fifty youth in attendance on Wednesday nights. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 319 Hwy. 4 East, Camden, AR 71701.

Seeking—First Baptist Church of Troy, MO, is seeking a full-time minister of music, with other ministry possibilities. Please send resume to First Baptist Church Troy, Music Search Committee, 800 Cap au Grais, Troy, MO 63379.

Accepting resumes—Quitman Baptist Church has an opening for a part-time youth director (duties include congregational song leading). Send resumes to PO Box 174, Quitman, AR 72131.

Seeking—Full-time minister of music and youth. Send resume to: Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 201 W. 7th St., Smackover, AR 71762.

Seeking—Full-time pastor for Moro Baptist Church. Send resumes to Virgil Guynes, PO Box 28, Moro, AR 72388.

Church seeking—Full-time minister of childhood education. Growing church near metro-plex. Send resume to: Charles Treadway, FBC, POB 97, Forney, TX 75126.

Vans—New & used for sale. Contact Ken Griffin 501-646-2000, Fort Smith, Ark.

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 will 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.

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
50	14.61	24.50
60	22.14	43.31
70	49.00	110.47

Please Call ROY NAPIER (Knoxville, TN)
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 '99 Mon.-Sat.

Jackson National Life, Lansing, MI. Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best. Yearly Renewable Term to age 100-Choice form #11882. Preferred, Non-tobacco rate. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 100. Preferred, Female rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and male rates.

BWA urges religious freedom in Saudi Arabia

The Baptist World Alliance has asked the governments of the United States and United Kingdom to do what they can to help Christians in Saudi Arabia gain religious freedom.

According to BWA officials, Christians in the Middle East country have no church buildings and are harassed when they meet in homes. It also is illegal to own a Bible.

Deaton Lotz, BWA general secretary, made the request for U.S. and U.K. action following a recent visit to Lebanon where Lebanese Christians discussed concerns they have for believers in Saudi Arabia, who have almost no religious freedom.

Citing one example, Lotz told of the imprisonment three years ago of a homeowner and other Christians who were meeting in a home in Saudi Arabia. No further information was available about their arrest or if they remain in prison.

In a letter to President Clinton, Lotz recounted the arrests and wrote, "On behalf of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, we plead with you to work with the Saudi government and other countries in the Middle East to assure religious freedom for all people." He sent a similar letter to the prime minister of the United Kingdom.

BWA also sent condolences to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia following the death of more than 240 Muslim pilgrims to Mecca in a fire that swept through their tents. Most of the dead were pilgrims from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Expressing sympathy for the families who lost loved ones in the fire, Lotz wrote to the Saudi leader, "Please be assured of the prayers and concern for the well-being of the families who suffered great loss."

WASHINGTON (BP)

First Baptist Church • Mena, Arkansas CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF WORSHIP — June 8, 1997 —

10:00 a.m. Special worship service

Lunch at the church • 1:30 p.m. Hymn sing

A special day of celebration and worship for the members, former members and friends of First Baptist Church.

Opportunities for Ministry!

NEEDED:

- ◆ Houseparent couple for Camden Emergency Shelter for Children
- ◆ Relief Houseparents for West Fork Emergency Shelter
- ◆ Houseparents for Arkansas Baptist Home for Children

CONTACT: Charles Flynn at
1-800-838-2272 or in Little Rock
376-4791, ext. 5167



INSPIRATIONAL TRAVEL 1997

Escorted by Rev. John Adkinson and other experienced hosts.
"Early Bird Discount" Bonuses to hosts/hostesses.

- TOUR #HL57 HOLY LAND. June 8. Opt. extn. to Europe — Switzerland, Germany (Rhine Cruise), Austria, France and Belgium.
TOUR #EU31 BEST OF EUROPE. 8 Days. June 15. Germany (Rhine Cruise) Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and France.
TOUR #BI6 BRITISH ISLES AND IRELAND. 14 days, Aug. 14
TOUR #SP6 AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND. 16 days, Oct. 13
TOUR #HL56 HOLY LAND / PETRA. 10 days, Nov. 4
TOUR #HL69 HOLIDAYS IN THE HOLY LAND. 10 days, Dec. 27. Opt. extn. Egypt and London.

PASTORS: Call for TOUR HOST information • Contact John Adkinson, P.O. Box 451174, Atlanta, GA 31145 • Phone 770-414-1950 or 800-516-3318



John Adkinson
Hosted 98 tours
to 87 countries
worldwide.
You can't beat
experience!

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Paul had just finished telling Timothy that there would be a falling away of some in the last days. It is significant that Paul then instructed Timothy of the necessity to avoid fables and old wives' tales. It is important that we nourish ourselves with what is truly biblical instead of that which may merely sound good. It is no great task to speak "off the cuff" about the things of God.

We should always be careful that what we heed is in fact the Word of God and not man. Even if it sounds reasonable, Christian disciples must filter what they hear with scripture. Only when there is a direct biblical basis, can we assert religious authority. Anything else is subjective and not worth hearing. Paul is telling us that feeding ourselves anything other than that which is biblically based will cause spiritual malnutrition.

Likewise, the other side of the issue relates to what we speak concerning the things of God. A good minister must instruct others with words of faith and good doctrine. Always be sure that what

you say to others regarding spiritual reality is from God and not your own imagination.

One of the reasons for Paul's teaching here relates to the issue of some falling away which is mentioned in previous verses. Some fall away from the faith because what they have been told about religion does not stand up to the test of life's experience. Invariably, this is a result of somebody putting in "their two-cents worth," instead of making certain that what they say is biblical. It would have been better had they kept those coins in their pocket.

The fact is that God has revealed Himself in scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ. Only by God's revealing Himself can we know anything about God or His kingdom.

It is significant that Paul's teaching is in the imperative. In other words, we must strive to be nourished, and to nourish others with faith-filled words of good doctrine. "For in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

There are times in all of our lives when we need an extra special measure of God's grace, mercy, guidance and powerful presence. The psalmist petitions for the Lord's divine intervention as he faces deep personal turmoil, the need for forgiveness, and the many difficulties of life. The adversary is apparently waging war within the writer's soul as he finds himself within the very presence of his enemies. It is during these times our Abba Father welcomes the wailing voice of His children and eagerly inclines His ear to us to meet our every need (Matt. 6:25-34, 7:7-11).

Divided into three parts, this Psalm begins with a lament or plea for help (vv. 1-7), followed by a song of praise and thanksgiving (vv. 8-13), and concludes with a recapitulation of the psalmist's lament (vv. 14-17). Parts one and three reveal the heart of one who has nowhere to turn but to God, a feeling perhaps most of us have experienced. Part two indicates how in the past his night had turned to day, his sorrow to joy, his weeping to laughter, and his mourning into dancing.

His lesson and the next four make a unit, "Relating Together as God's People." All are from I Corinthians. The Christians at Corinth were not getting along. They were divided over their leadership. Some followed Paul, Apollos or Peter while others were following Christ (1:12-13).

Rivalry and divisions always do harm to the unity of a church when loyalty is given to persons in the church rather than to Christ. Quarreling destroys unity. Divisions erode fellowship. Factions are formed. If unity does not prevail, eventually the very life of the church is threatened (3:10ff, 4:17-19).

A careful reading of I Corinthians 1-4 reveals three root causes of division in a church.

1. False Wisdom: Paul made it clear that his leadership in no way contributed to the disunity of the church (1:17ff). Paul's appeal was for unity around Christ and His cross which is true wisdom (1:22ff, 2:1ff). God's wisdom is true wisdom. It has been hidden as a mystery, but is now revealed. In contrast the effect of pseudo-wisdom manifested

The praise portion also indicates how well the poet knew that God inhabits the praises of His people (Psa. 22:3). He knew through the offering of his praises that Satan's host doth flee. He knew through praise his pleas for help would be heard by the One who is willing and able to make provision for his lament. He knew this was true since he had personally experienced Yahweh's redemptive powers through previously answered prayer (vv. 5, 7) and deliverance from the depths of Sheol (v. 13). It is important to note that when we "call" upon the Lord (v. 5) His loving kindness is so great that all who "call" upon the Lord will be saved (Rom. 10:13).

Pray or sing this psalm to the Lord as you find yourself in the midst of great distress, struggles and temptation. Allow His grace to be evidenced through your life to bring glory and honor to His matchless name (v. 17, Matt. 5:16). God promises He will meet you at the very point of your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus as He turns your mourning into dancing.

itself in division (3:18). 2. False Pride: The pride in the church is obvious in their party slogans. They said, "I belong to Peter or I belong to Apollos." The pronoun "I" is emphatic and implies boasting before God (1:29). 3. Mispaced Loyalty: Such loyalty is obvious in Paul's question (1:13b). The problem is the false loyalty of the party members.

The church's response in reconciliation: 1. Paul advocates instead of the world, the wisdom of God (1:17). The church has a more effective way to solve relationship problems (1 Thes. 2:13-14). 2. Paul suggested instead of pride, humility (1:30-31). What God did in our redemption should make us humble, not boastful and proud. All this is from God (II Cor. 5:18, Rom. 3:21ff). Humility can effect unity in the church. 3. Paul urges loyalty to God instead of loyalty to leaders. He argued that his own example contributed to unity in the church (2:1ff). Pray that our leadership will contribute to the unity of the church.

Family Bible

Heed word of God, not man

By T. Clifford Toney, member, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage:

I Timothy 4:6-7, 16

Focal passage:

I Timothy 4:6-7, 16

Central truths:

Sound doctrine is a must for both teacher and student.

Life and Work

Mourning into dancing

By Joe A. Fitzpatrick, member of music, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage:

Psalm 86

Focal passage:

Psalm 86:1, 3, 12-13, 17

Central truths:

Call upon the Lord and He will meet your every need.

Explore the Bible

An appeal for church unity

By James Swenedburg, pastor, Trinity Church, Benton

Basic passage:

I Corinthians 1-4:21

Focal passage:

I Corinthians 1:10-17

Central truths:

Unity strengthens the church, factions weaken the church.

Paul had just finished telling Timothy that there would be a falling away of some in the last days. It is significant that Paul then instructed Timothy of the necessity to avoid fables and old wives' tales. It is important that we nourish ourselves with what is truly biblical instead of that which may merely sound good. It is no great task to speak "off the cuff" about the things of God.

We should always be careful that what we heed is in fact the Word of God and not man. Even if it sounds reasonable, Christian disciples must filter what they hear with scripture. Only when there is a direct biblical basis, can we assert religious authority. Anything else is subjective and not worth hearing. Paul is telling us that feeding ourselves anything other than that which is biblically based will cause spiritual malnutrition.

Likewise, the other side of the issue relates to what we speak concerning the things of God. A good minister must instruct others with words of faith and good doctrine. Always be sure that what

you say to others regarding spiritual reality is from God and not your own imagination.

One of the reasons for Paul's teaching here relates to the issue of some falling away which is mentioned in previous verses. Some fall away from the faith because what they have been told about religion does not stand up to the test of life's experience. Invariably, this is a result of somebody putting in "their two-cents worth," instead of making certain that what they say is biblical. It would have been better had they kept those coins in their pocket.

The fact is that God has revealed Himself in scripture and in the person of Jesus Christ. Only by God's revealing Himself can we know anything about God or His kingdom.

It is significant that Paul's teaching is in the imperative. In other words, we must strive to be nourished, and to nourish others with faith-filled words of good doctrine. "For in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

There are times in all of our lives when we need an extra special measure of God's grace, mercy, guidance and powerful presence. The psalmist petitions for the Lord's divine intervention as he faces deep personal turmoil, the need for forgiveness, and the many difficulties of life. The adversary is apparently waging war within the writer's soul as he finds himself within the very presence of his enemies. It is during these times our Abba Father welcomes the wailing voice of His children and eagerly inclines His ear to us to meet our every need (Matt. 6:25-34, 7:7-11).

Divided into three parts, this Psalm begins with a lament or plea for help (vv. 1-7), followed by a song of praise and thanksgiving (vv. 8-13), and concludes with a recapitulation of the psalmist's lament (vv. 14-17). Parts one and three reveal the heart of one who has nowhere to turn but to God, a feeling perhaps most of us have experienced. Part two indicates how in the past his night had turned to day, his sorrow to joy, his weeping to laughter, and his mourning into dancing.

This lesson and the next four make a unit, "Relating Together as God's People." All are from I Corinthians. The Christians at Corinth were not getting along. They were divided over their leadership. Some followed Paul, Apollos or Peter while others were following Christ (1:12-13).

Rivalry and divisions always do harm to the unity of a church when loyalty is given to persons in the church rather than to Christ. Quarreling destroys unity. Divisions erode fellowship. Factions are formed. If unity does not prevail, eventually the very life of the church is threatened (3:10ff, 4:17-19).

A careful reading of I Corinthians 1-4 reveals three root causes of division in a church.

1. False Wisdom: Paul made it clear that his leadership in no way contributed to the disunity of the church (1:17ff). Paul's appeal was for unity around Christ and His cross which is true wisdom (1:22ff, 2:1ff). God's wisdom is true wisdom. It has been hidden as a mystery, but is now revealed. In contrast the effect of pseudo-wisdom manifested

The praise portion also indicates how well the poet knew that God inhabits the praises of His people (Psa. 22:3). He knew through the offering of his praises that Satan's host doth flee. He knew through praise his plea for help would be heard by the One who is willing and able to make provision for his lament. He knew this was true since he had personally experienced Yahweh's redemptive powers through previously answered prayer (vv. 5, 7) and deliverance from the depths of Sheol (v. 13). It is important to note that when we "call" upon the Lord (v. 5) His loving kindness is so great that all who "call" upon the Lord will be saved (Rom. 10:13).

Pray or sing this psalm to the Lord as you find yourself in the midst of great distress, struggles and temptation. Allow His grace to be evidenced through your life to bring glory and honor to His matchless name (v. 17, Matt. 5:16). God promises He will meet you at the very point of your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus as He turns your mourning into dancing.

itself in division (3:18). 2. False Pride: The pride in the church is obvious in their party slogans. They said, "I belong to Peter or I belong to Apollos." The pronoun "I" is emphatic and implies boasting before God (1:29). 3. Misplaced Loyalty: Such loyalty is obvious in Paul's question (1:13b). The problem is the false loyalty of the party members.

The church's response in reconciliation: 1. Paul advocates instead of the world, the wisdom of God (1:17). The church has a more effective way to solve relationship problems (1 Thes. 2:13-14). 2. Paul suggested instead of pride, humility (1:30-31). What God did in our redemption should make us humble, not boastful and proud. All this is from God (II Cor. 5:18, Rom. 3:21ff). Humility can effect unity in the church. 3. Paul urges loyalty to God instead of loyalty to leaders. He argued that his own example contributed to unity in the church (2:1ff). Pray that our leadership will contribute to the unity of the church.

Family Bible

Heed word of God, not man

By T. Clifford Toney, member, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage:

I Timothy 4:6-7, 16

Focal passage:

I Timothy 4:6-7, 16

Central truths:

Sound doctrine is a must for both teacher and student.

Life and Work

Mourning into dancing

By Joe A. Fitzpatrick, minister of music, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage:

Psalm 86

Focal passage:

Psalm 86:1, 3, 12-13, 17

Central truths:

Call upon the Lord and He will meet your every need.

Explore the Bible

An appeal for church unity

By James Swedenburg, pastor, Trinity Church, Benton

Basic passage:

I Corinthians 1:4-21

Focal passage:

I Corinthians 1:10-17

Central truths:

Unity strengthens the church, factions weaken the church.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine offers subscription plans at three rates:

■ **The Every Resident Family Plan** offers churches a premium rate when they send the Newsmagazine to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

■ **The Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

CAR-RT SORT AAC039
017557 CDP#
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST STE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

■ **Individual subscriptions** may be purchased at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more expensive because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the above form.

When inquiring about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the Newsmagazine at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.

Gambling foes voice concern over study panel's balance

WASHINGTON (BP)—Nearly seven months after the congressional deadline for appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, President Clinton has announced his three appointments. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-VA, chief sponsor of the bill establishing the panel, has voiced concern that the president's choices "tilt the balance of the commission in favor of the gambling industry."

The commission is responsible for studying the impact of gambling. Messengers to last year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting approved a resolution endorsing a gambling commission.

Clinton's appointments include Bill Bible, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board; Richard Leone, president of the Twentieth Century Fund and former New Jersey treasurer; and Robert Loesch, executive vice president of natural resources management of Sealaska Corp. and a member of the Tlingit Tribe of Alaska. Congressional appointees on the nine-member panel range from Focus on the Family president James Dobson to Terrence Lanini, CEO and chairman of the board of MGM Grand Inc., a gambling, entertainment and hotel company based in Las Vegas.

The last national study of gambling came in 1976, when few states had legalized gambling. Two decades later, only Utah and Hawaii have no form of legal gambling.

Church's TV ads target 'Ellen' viewers

BEAUMONT, TX (ABP)—When "Ellen" came out of the closet, southeast Texas viewers heard the gospel.

Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, aired two 30-second commercials during the much-publicized April 30 ABC-TV comedy in which the title character declared her homosexuality.

The church enlisted Michael Johnston, founding president of a ministry to homosexuals, to appear in spots at the halfway mark and the conclusion of the one-hour broadcast. Johnston is an HIV-positive Christian who formerly was involved in a homosexual lifestyle.

"Homosexuality is not a laughing matter to me. I'm dying of AIDS," Johnston said in one of the paid spots. The commercial messages contrasted "imprisoning" homosexuality with the "liberating" power of Jesus Christ.

"It's not intended to be any kind of social message," said Calvary pastor John Powers. "We just want to present the gospel."

Seminary professor named head Army Reserve chaplain

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—A Southern Baptist seminary professor has been approved for promotion to brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserves. Following confirmation by the U.S. Senate, he will become the USAR's senior chaplain.

Jim Spivey, associate professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will have a four-year assignment as assistant chief of chaplains. He will spend 60 to 90 days on active duty each year at the Pentagon.

His selection was announced recently at the Chief of Chaplains Conference in Orlando, Fla. The promotion board is scheduled to rule on the recommendation this week and Senate confirmation will follow in several months. Only four chaplains in the U.S. Department of the Army hold the rank of general, two in the regular army, one from the National Guard and one from the reserves.

Spivey has taught at Southwestern Seminary since 1987. He holds degrees from Auburn University, Southwestern Seminary and Oxford University.

Baptist Hymnal editor Walter Hines Sims dies at age 89

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Walter Hines Sims, 89, retired leader of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music program, died April 30 at a Chattanooga, Tenn., retirement center.

Sims led the board's music department from 1952 until his retirement in 1970, serving as editor of the 1956 Baptist Hymnal as well as author and compiler of a wide range of music and music education books.

The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference's annual award for outstanding contributions to Southern Baptist music life is named in Sims' honor.

Prior to joining the BSSB staff, he was a music director and educator in churches and public schools in Arkansas, Nebraska and Louisiana. Survivors include three daughters, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

