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10-25-1990

### October 25, 1990

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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'The Little Things'

# Arkansas Baptist

October 25, 1990



**Mall  
Ministry**

**Cover Story**



ABN photo / Colleen Backus

**Mall Ministry . . . . . 9**

*Creative evangelism at a Little Rock mall was one facet of the state Baptist Student Convention held Oct. 5-7. Students both learned and demonstrated the theme "Loving God with Your Mind."*

**Editor's Page . . . . . 3**

**Speak Up**

- You'll Be Glad . . . . . 4
- What Does the Book Say? . . . 4
- A Pastor's Perspective . . . . 4
- Letters to the Editor . . . . . 5
- The Golden Years . . . . . 5

**Local & State**

- Arkansas All Over . . . . . 6
- Elrod Reacts to Decision . . . 7
- ABSC Coverage Cancelled . . 7
- 'The Little Things' . . . . . 8
- Not 'Defecting' . . . . . 10

**Helpline**

- Let's Set A Record . . . . . 11
- ABSC Updates . . . . . 11
- Looking Ahead . . . . . 13

**Nation**

- Across the Country . . . . . 14
- Trustees Adopt Budget . . . 14
- Funding Destructive . . . . . 14

**Lessons For Living . 15**

**World**

- Around the Globe . . . . . 16

**Strange Directions**

by Craig Bird  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

**BAMAKO, Mali (BP)**—Suntura Jiallo sold all of her cattle so she and her husband could buy a plot of land and build a house outside of Bamako, the capital of Mali.

But a few years later her husband suddenly announced Suntura was no longer his wife and arbitrarily divided their common property. He—and his mistress—would keep the house and the land. Suntura would get the five children. No counteroffers were considered.

Homelessness can send people in strange directions. Suntura, a member of the Fulani tribe (and therefore, almost by definition, a Muslim resistant to the gospel) approached the Baptist Community Center seeking help.

The Southern Baptist mission organization of Mali had no budget to help hungry families without a place to stay. But missionaries don't let corporate funds limit their private vision; they commonly spend their own money and spare time helping people, although it never shows up in end-of-year statistics.

Southern Baptist missionaries became involved. They pointed Suntura toward legal help, and the court ruled that the house and property belonged to her since she had paid for it. Incensed, her husband stole the roof, exposing the interior and the mud walls, which dissolve in rain.

Meanwhile, he appealed the court case and won a verdict in his favor. Suntura's appeal of his appeal bogged down. She and her children were living on the property, jammed into a 9-by-9-foot kitchen outbuilding—the only shelter her husband hadn't decapitated. (The missionaries had replaced the roof after the initial court ruling but removed it when the husband won round two.)

To help out, the Baptist center employed Suntura's 15-year-old son. Missionaries' private contributions paid for medical care when a 16-year-old daughter developed leprosy, and helped provide food and clothing for the family.

For a year the legal situation stagnated. Finally missionaries approached the judge

BP photo / Don Rutledge



Missionary Norman Coad with the Jiallo family.

and explained that while Baptists did not want to take sides, they wanted to provide decent housing for a woman and five children.

Two weeks later the judge issued the binding verdict: the land, and the remnants of the house, belonged to Suntura. The missionaries and the family promptly cleared away the mud piles of the former residence and began making mud bricks for a five-room, 32-by-57-foot dwelling.

They dried up their "informal fund" buying material for an aluminum roof and tied up their spare hours installing it. When payday rolled around they bought steel windows and doors. The concrete to finish the floors and other small items had to wait for more paydays and more donations from missionaries.

By the time the house was completed, Bamako missionaries and short-term volunteers had contributed more than \$2,000. And their hours of labor had attracted plenty of attention in the neighborhood—some folks were jealous, but most said it was a good thing for whites to help blacks.

So Suntura, 16-year-old Patrice (now cured of leprosy), 15-year-old Gilbert, 5-year-old Jacqueline, 4-year-old Abraham and 2-year-old Aminata ("Little light") have a home now. Plus an income, since the house was built with five rooms to allow Suntura to rent to boarders.

But more importantly, Suntura has begun attending a home Bible study led by missionaries Tom and Diane Pace—who were among those who helped her. She is a serious student, eager to learn about the Jesus her Baptist friends talk about. She also has offered to let missionaries use her house as a meeting place to start a church.

# A Devotional Life

J. EVERETT SNEED

Most committed Christians desire a continuing relationship with God through Christ. Such a relationship is dependent upon a proper devotional life. Yet, the pressures of our contemporary world seem to make this more and more difficult. In order for an individual to have a proper devotional life he must identify the barriers to communication with God and eliminate them.

It is important to understand the true meaning of a devotional life. For many, a definition would simply involve regular church attendance, some Bible study, and perhaps, an occasional retreat. Such a concept would limit an individual's devotional life to only a few prescribed religious activities. The Bible teaches that a person's devotional life cannot be limited to prescribed religious activities but must, also, include his daily activities.

Both the Old and New Testament emphasize that the devotional life must include every area of a person's life. For example, Isaiah said, "Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hate: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them . . . learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Is. 1:14-17).

Jesus often condemned the Pharisees who were apparently involved in a multitude of religious activities. On one occasion he clasped them as hypocrites and said, "... Ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Mt. 23:23).

Many maintain that the primary deterrent to devotion is secularization. It is true that for many their life-style is controlled almost exclusively by non-religious forces. It is easy to see that since the industrial revolution of the western society that less and less time for the average individual has been given to spiritual concerns.

In the Middle Ages all of life centered around church activities. The devoted Christian would stop to pray as the church bell tolled the third, sixth and ninth hours of the day. Every morning and every evening the faithful would go to church to pray, sing and listen. All matters of importance were settled by the religious leaders.



Almost total authority rested in the hands of the church officials.

Of course, it is possible to exaggerate the power and the control which was exerted by "the church" in the Middle Ages. But for many there was no choice except to abide

by the prescribed worship. But such coerced performance does not, in itself, guarantee true devotion to God. Ultimately, a true devotion to God must be an individual matter which springs forth from a willing and contrite heart.

The ultimate problem is not the change which has taken place in our society, although changes have had an impact on each of us. Each individual must take responsibility for his relationship with God through Christ. True devotion develops as an individual recognizes the transcendence of God and God's right to every area of life.

In the devotional life, one seeks to become more and more like Christ. In the process, an individual submits to the sovereignty of God in every area of his life. Prayer, Bible study and church attendance are not only rituals to be fulfilled, but instruments which transform one's attitudes to those of Christ.

Perhaps the best measure of an individual's devotional development is his attitude toward others, particularly those who are less fortunate. Jesus pictured the kingdom person as one who reacts proper-

ly to human need. The things mentioned were simple (Mt. 25:31-46), things that can be done every day. The list included a meal for a hungry man, water for a thirsty man to drink, the welcoming of a stranger, assisting the sick and visiting the prisoner. These are things which any normal, healthy person can do. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mt. 25:40).

Jesus taught that true greatness for the Christian is achieved through service. As one studies the Scripture he will discover how often an individual is spoken of as "The Servant of God." This is true in both the Old and New Testaments. For example, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Paul, Peter, James and John, and many others are all identified in this way. All of these men are referred in the title "Servant of the Lord."

Jesus himself is identified as "The Suffering Servant." When the disciples were arguing over who was the greatest, Jesus said, "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:26-28).

It is easy for us to blame the pressures of the age in which we live for our lack of devotion to God. Every age has its detractors which individuals could use as excuses for not having proper commitment to God. Ultimately, devotion is an individual responsibility.

Yes, our society, with its emphasis on productivity, mechanization, and secularization, has an impact on everyone. But inner commitment and desire to follow Christ is the key to devotion rather than outside pressures.

## Arkansas Baptist

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J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor

Mark Kelly . . . . . Managing Editor

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

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DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know



The hour is late! The moral and economic darkness is closing in on us. Several thousands of people will be going to the polls in a few weeks unprepared to cast a responsible ballot. That is, unless something is done now. I am speaking of the Lottery and Bingo Amendment.

No intelligent person in possession of the facts on state run lottery could be in favor of it. The public seems to have no idea of the pitfalls of this particular amendment, nor will it be clear on the ballot title in the voting booth. We must not forget that gambling parlors with bingo will spring up all over the state, as well as lottery ticket outlets.

For every \$30 that will be received for use in education, our citizens will have spent \$100. Does that sound like good finance? The educational organizations of the state have voted to oppose the amendment. The retail merchants and grocers have voted to oppose it. The only persons who can possibly benefit from the lottery are the very, very few who will win, and the lottery commissioners who name themselves in the constitutional amendment. If \$100 million should be brought in as they project, the lottery commissioners would have sole control over \$45 million. They can do anything they want to with \$15 million and then distribute the other \$30 million to education in whatever amounts to whatever institutions they desire. Neither the State Board of Education, nor the Legislature, nor the governor will have any control over these men and what they do with that money.

Christian business and professional men along with some church leaders have tried to lead the fight to defeat this. Unless all who read these lines begin to take aggressive action, we cannot win.

We need prayer, money, voters, and workers to tell the story. All churches have been asked to give \$1 per member to fight this battle. We have received \$36,000 as of Sept. 26. Advertising and media people say it will take \$300,000 to win the battle with TV and newspapers. Have you done your part? With your help, we can win!

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

## What Does the Good Book Say?

"State lottery gambling can't be morally wrong, since even the Good Book doesn't condemn it." That is what overzealous defenders of state lottery gambling claim. An Arkansas minister said, "I won't preach against it. I have to go with the Word of God, not my opinion. . . I'm not necessarily for a legalized lottery, but I can't find a scripture that forbids gambling."

The question before us really as Christians is—Is state lottery gambling morally wrong or is it morally right? If it is morally wrong, it cannot be economically right.

It is true that the words "state lottery gambling" are found nowhere in the Holy Bible. They are not mentioned in the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount. No condemnation of state lottery gambling ever fell from the lips of Jesus.

However, the Bible is filled with condemnation of state lottery gambling, but gamblers would have to read it to find them.

The Ten Commandments form one of the oldest and most respected moral codes of mankind. State lottery gambling conflicts with at least two commandments. "Thou shalt not steal," and "Thou shalt not covet." (Ex. 20:15, 17) When Moses told the Israelites, "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor" (Lv. 19:13), he set forth a principle that concerns all types of financial shenanigans. There is plenty in Moses' law against state lottery gambling.

First, the Ten Commandments declare, "Thou shalt not covet." Desiring what

belongs to another is wrong. The signs of covetousness are written all over the state lottery gambling enterprise. The desire to win money that we did not work for is covetousness. Further, state lottery gambling is a form of stealing from the poor. State lotteries take a disproportionately high amount of their revenue from the poor. Many state lottery outlets are strategically placed in poor and minority communities. This is state sponsored stealing from the poor, a form of economic immorality.

Jesus spoke words that penetrate the heart of the state lottery gambling issue. In the Sermon on the Mount, he addressed the basic problem when he said, ". . . Man shall not live by bread alone" (Mt. 4:4). Interest in state lottery gambling indicates a failure to trust God for our needs. In this connection He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God. . . and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33) God, not state lottery gambling, is the answer to greed.

Billy Sunday used to say that a praying knee and a dancing foot do not grow on the same body. I would say that a trusting heart and a gambling heart cannot exist in the same body. The Good Book teaches that those who trust God don't gamble, and those who gamble don't trust God to provide for them. So, as stark as it seems, we must choose between obeying or disobeying the Good Book.—John Flinn, executive director, Christian Civic Foundation

RANDALL O'BRIEN

## A Pastor's Perspective

### Daddy Shall Sleep with the Lamb



It's Friday night. Late 10:30 p.m. or so. I'm packing. Last minute for Guatemala mission trip. Up at 5:00 a.m. Off early. I'm packing and in walks a beautiful little brown-eyed brunette, seven years of age with sad eyes. Clutching her stuffed lamb she watches quietly.

"Hun, what are you doing up?" I ask. "I couldn't sleep," she whispers. "Daddy?" "Yes, darling." "Do you want to carry my lamb with you?" I stop what I'm doing. There are times when a man becomes daddy and stops what he's doing. "Do you want me to carry your lamb, Hun?" I ask gently. "Well, it

would remind you of me, daddy."

From Aug. 18 to Aug. 25, 1990, every night for one week, for the first time in 33 years, let the record show, your columnist, Shannon's daddy, slept with a stuffed lamb.

To my surprise the other six men on our mission trip never kidded me about it. Not a word. Which tells me, I'm not the only man in our church who knows when a man should be a daddy.

Jesus loves the little children. . . .

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

# Letters to the Editor

## Not 'Defecting'

Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church is by no means "defecting" from our Southern Baptist Convention, either nationally or locally. No one was more surprised than we were to see our action to redirect our mission funds through the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program receive front-page coverage in the *Arkansas Gazette* and to be interpreted, in the headline, as "defecting" from the convention.

During the time that our Denominational Affairs Committee was in process of shaping its recommendation, I told the

church through my column in our newsletter that whatever response we agreed upon should be based upon a spirit of humble conviction, not arrogance or defiance. I believe that's the spirit in which we acted.

I have also urged that we continue to affirm and promote all that we can about our convention. We are active in our association, supportive of the mission goals of our state, and prayerful for Bold Mission Thrust as a convention goal.

But like many churches, in the face of the systematic and unbending disenfranchisement of legitimate, conservative, scripturally-based Baptists over the last 11

years, our hope for reconciliation is almost depleted. Most moderate-conservatives are weary of the posture of resistance; we're ready to be for something.

We are still supporting our state convention directly and are still supporting practically all the endeavors of our convention through the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program. We also, in the best sense of Baptist freedom, continue to give our folks the option of giving through the Cooperative Program.

We are still giving. We are still praying. We are still hoping. We have altered. We have not defected.—Ross Woodbury, Little Rock

ERWIN McDONALD

## The Golden Years

### My God Shall Supply Your Need

"... My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Ph. 4:19).

When Daniel Grant was facing retirement as president of Ouachita University, a little more than two years ago, he and top assistant Betty Jo took a week of their vacation to do some serious planning and praying. They tried to take into perview every aspect of their upcoming new career.

Dan recently shared highlights of that momentous retreat and of the abundant blessings he and Betty Jo have experienced in the intervening months. In a devotional testimony before the annual meeting of the Fellowship of Arkansas Retired Southern Baptist Workers recently at North Little Rock's Park Hill Church, he gave God all the credit, listing as answers to their pre-retirement prayers:

—"A sense a peace and propriety in the nature and time or our retirement decision and announcement.

—"A balanced budget for material and financial needs.

—"A sense of confidence in the future of Ouachita and the cause of Christian education.

—"A sense of God's leadership in the matter of where we made our retirement home.

—"A local church relationship that both nurtures and challenges for con-



*Daniel and Betty Jo Grant*  
tinued service.

—"A retirement lifestyle that includes challenging physical activity.

—"A healthy relationship with our children and grandchildren.

—"Challenging work in retirement; useful work, related to our professional skills and interests and to our Christian commitment; but work that is not so burdensome as to negate the purpose of retirement."

Thanks, Daniel and Betty Jo, for a most inspiring and challenging example for abundant Christian living into the golden years!

Erwin McDonald, a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, was editor of *Arkansas Baptist* from 1957 to 1972. He and Mrs. McDonald live at 1419 Garland Ave., North Little Rock, AR 72116; telephone 753-6328.

## Interested in a Ministry of Love?

Arkansas Baptist Home is looking for dedicated Christian singles (with no children) or couples (with two or less children) to live and work with children in a home-like setting. Salary, fringe benefits, and training are provided. Call or write Royce Aston, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 501-367-5358.

What:	<b>Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat</b>
Who:	Baptist Men And Women
When:	November 2-3 Start with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday through lunch on Saturday.
Where:	Camp Paron
Cost:	\$21 per person
Seminar Leader:	Don Miller, Texas
Bring:	Linens and towels



For reservations contact the Brotherhood Department at the ABSC. 501-376-4791 ext. 5158.

# LOCAL & STATE

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### Briefly

**Coal Hill First Church** ordained Dennis L. Reynolds to the deacon ministry and licensed him to the gospel ministry Sept. 30.

**Lakeside Church** in Rogers ordained Bill Knapp and Philip Laughlin to the deacon ministry Sept. 9.

**North Park Mission** in Osceola has received a 68 passenger bus for use in outreach ministries, according to Pastor Carl Guy. The bus was presented to the mission by Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



*A service was held Sept. 30 at Keo Church to dedicate gifts that were presented to the church by J. D. and Katherine Kolb prior to his death in July, 1989. These gifts were stained glass windows and outside improvements that included self maintenance landscaping, a designed courtyard with fountain, and installation of sidewalks. W. T. Byrum, retired director of missions for Caroline Association, was dedication speaker. Pastor Elva Smith and Mrs. Kolb are pictured before one of the 10 windows, designed by Soos Stained Glass.*

**Brush Creek Church** at Springdale ordained Howard Ferguson to deacon ministry Sept. 9. Harold Gateley, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association, served as moderator and Jim May served as clerk. Pastor Larry Catcher preached the ordination message. Others participating were Dwain Baskin, Virgil Clark, and Dale Lynch.

**Rogers First Church** recently held a 48 Hours meeting for students, parents and workers. Youth communicator Rick Caldwell of Little Rock led the meeting and Brian Ford of Jonesboro assisted in music and worship. The effort resulted in 80 decisions, including 41 professions of faith.

**Baring Cross Church** in North Little Rock held a noteburning service Sept. 30 in recognition of payment of the activities, office and education building and the parking area property.

**Clarendon First Church** ordained John Bonner to the deacon ministry Oct. 14.

**Broadmoor Church** in Brinkley sponsored an evangelistic outreach program Sept. 22 in the federal housing projects of Brinkley. Ronnie Tullos, a student from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, was speaker for the program that resulted in 62 professions of faith.

**Bismarck First Southern Church** will

break ground Nov. 4 for a 3,600 square foot sanctuary, according to Pastor James Duke. L.B. Jordan, ABSC director of Church Leadership Support, will be speaker. Other guests will be Zane Chesser, pastor of First Church in Malvern; Lynn Worthen, pastor of First Church in Arkadelphia; and Richard Lee, pastor of First Church in Prescott.

**Woodland Heights Church** in Conway ordained Paul Helton, Mike Marshall, Rick Spurr, Mark Strickland, and Mark Stuart to the deacon ministry Oct. 7.

**Garfield First Church** launched a mailout ministry Oct. 1 that will update church families on coming events and happenings in the church. R.V. Haygood is pastor.

**Batesville First Church** has launched a Homebound Department that will minister to men and women over 18 years of age who are confined to their homes. Coordinators are Cecilia Baker and Laura Sproles.

**Sylvan Hills First Church** in North Little Rock ordained Garry Nolan and David Randolph to the deacon ministry Oct. 7.

**Fort Smith South Side Church** ordained Ralph Frye to the deacon ministry Oct. 21.

**Sherwood First Church** ordained Ron Roy and Charles Seelinger to the deacon ministry Oct. 14.

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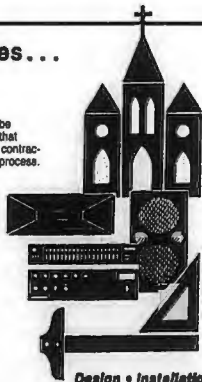
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## People

James R. and Roma Zeltner of Fort Smith celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 6 at the Sheraton Inn in Fort Smith when their children, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Zeltner of Pratt, Kans., and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Quattlebaum of Wichita, Kans., hosted a reception. Wedding vows were reread at the celebration by Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association. The Zeltners have three grandchildren. Dr. Zeltner is pastor of Westside Church in Fort Smith and she is director of preschool and children's ministries at Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith.



Gerry Hall, who served as a church and home worker in Kenya for 20 years, received special recognition Oct. 7 when Rex M. Horne Jr., pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, presented her with a service pin on behalf of the Foreign Mission Board. Hall, currently a member of Immanuel Church, is a psychotherapist at Living Hope Institute in Little Rock.

Roy Buckelew, a Ouachita Baptist Univer-

sity professor, is serving as interim pastor of Hillside Church in Camden.

Doyle Summerhill is serving as pastor of Shibley Church, Van Buren. He previously served as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Van Buren.

Kirk Taylor has joined the staff of First Church in Alma as minister of music and youth.

David L. Hutsell is serving as pastor of Cedarville Church, coming there from Oak Grove Church in Lebanon, Mo. He attended Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. Hutsell and his wife, Tammy, have two sons, Landon and Eric.

Rose Mary Weaver, assistant professor of elementary education and chairman of the elementary department at Williams Baptist College, recently received her doctorate of philosophy in education from the University of Mississippi.

Harry Black, pastor of First Church in England, has returned from Pavillion, Wyo., where he conducted services Oct. 7-10 at Warm Valley Chapel.

Preston Pearce, pastor of Fellowship Church, Batesville, was ordained to the ministry Oct. 14.

Barry Jackson is serving as pastor of Rosie Church, going there from Alicia Church.

Gene Craig is serving as pastor of Friendship Church, Marianna, moving there from Hunter.

## Elrod Reacts to Baylor Decision

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University President Ben Elrod said Saturday, Oct. 13, that he is "saddened" by Baylor University's recent decision to establish an independent board of regents to avoid a possible takeover by Southern Baptist Convention fundamentalists.

"Fortunately," he said, "the relationship between Ouachita and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention could not be stronger than it has been in recent years. We have excellent leadership in Dr. Don Moore as executive director, and Rev. Mike Huckabee of Texarkana as president. They have provided rock-solid stability."

For the record, he said, "I want to state that Ouachita will continue to be an institution of the ABSC. Ouachita owes its very existence to the Baptist churches of the state. They have loved and nurtured Ouachita for more than 100 years. At the present time, I see nothing but a heightening of that spirit."

## ABSC Coverage Cancelled

Plans to telecast the entire gavel to gavel coverage of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention via satellite have been shelved due to the inability to secure necessary funding, according to Mike Huckabee, ABSC President. It had been hoped to make the entire proceedings of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention available throughout the state through live satellite coverage of the proceedings. The production equipment and all of the necessary labor for the telecast had been donated by ACTS of Arkansas affiliates with the only cost being the rental of the satellite uplink truck and the actual airtime on the satellite transponder which would have amounted to approximately \$10,000.

Huckabee expressed regret that the project had to be put on hold for the time being, but indicated that future attempts would be made to connect the state to its convention by way of modern technology.

"The best Baptists are informed Baptists, and we had high hopes of letting the average Baptist layman of our state participate without ever having to leave his own home," Huckabee said. "No state convention has ever attempted anything quite like this. I'm still optimistic that Arkansas could be the first."

ACTS of Arkansas will cooperate in a joint venture of taping highlights of the proceedings and making them available throughout the state on ACTS affiliates.

**BOYD**  
**PRO SOUND**

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### Benton Senior High School

Office of the Principal, Benton Arkansas 72015

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Again, thanks for your quality of workmanship and your willingness to work with us after installation.

March 16, 1990

Sincerely,

John H. Butler  
Principal



Second in a Series of Seven Articles on Church Growth

## 'The Little Things'

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The little things that are done by the pastor and church members have a great impact on church growth," declared Royce Boling, bivocational pastor of Brown's Chapel Church near Paragould. The church, located on a gravel road one mile from the pavement, has experienced phenomenal growth under the leadership of Pastor Boling. In 1980, when Boling became

pastor, the church was averaging approximately 25 in Sunday School. Today the average Sunday School attendance is 234.

Boling, who farms 1,500 acres of land, has majored on fellowship. C.A. Johnson, director of missions for Greene County Association, said, "Almost every Arkansas pastor believes the Bible. Most do a respectable job of preaching the Word, but unless a pastor communicates a loving spirit very little growth will take place."

A second key to Boling's success is freedom in the worship service. The church does have an order of service, but does not use a printed bulletin. This makes it possible for changes to take place. Individuals can be inserted to give testimonies or songs can be changed. Boling said, "Every service must be done in decency and order. Freedom is not to be equated with chaos, but the Holy Spirit must have opportunity to work in the lives of the pastor and those in attendance."

One of the elements which develops warmth in a congregation is the friendly visitation of the people with each other. Boling observed that the congregation might be noisier than the average church prior to the beginning of the worship service because everyone is visiting with each other. Even during the song service the pastor continues visiting with those who are in attendance. It is his goal to visit with every individual who attends the church.

The music director, a volunteer, has complete control of the song service. Boling said, "I feel that if the Holy Spirit can lead me to the proper message that the same spirit can lead the music director."

Boling relies greatly on the membership



C.A. Johnson, director of missions for Greene County Association, and Pastor Royce Boling

for participation in the service and for visitation. All of the announcements and prayer requests are cared for by the Sunday School director. There is no paid staff in the church other than the pastor and the caretaker.

There are a number of things that depart from the norm in the congregation. For example, the song-service often runs until 11:45 a.m. Pastor Boling may preach only 12 to 15 minutes. Dr. Johnson said, "The pastor's messages are exceedingly biblical and directly to the point. He takes a brief passage of Scripture and does an excellent job in exegeting it."

Another feature that is somewhat different from many congregations is the large number of young married people attending the church. The majority of the members are young married couples. Pastor Boling teaches a young married class that runs from 70 to 75. The class has been divided two times and another young married class runs approximately 40 while the third class averages about 20.

The church also has a somewhat different approach to visitation. There is no structured time for visitation, but every Sunday School class assigns someone to make contact with each absentee. Prospects also are assigned to members of the class to contact during the week.

The church gives major support to mission causes. Nineteen percent of the church's undesignated gifts goes to the Cooperative Program and associational missions. In addition, the congregation gives major support to Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. This is promoted through special offerings

and through birthday and anniversary offerings. The congregation also provides support for the local emergency receiving home in Paragould. The church also is one of the major contributors to the Cedar Glades youth camp.

A unique feature in the church is the fact that the pastor and deacons are authorized to give up to \$200 to any needy person without church approval. The gift is simply reported to the congregation. This approach provides flexibility so that the physical needs of individuals can quickly be met.

Since 1986 has the church has built a magnificent plant. The new facilities are valued at approximately \$750,000. In December of 1986 the church was completely destroyed by fire. Pastor Boling recalls, "It seemed initially to be the darkest day of our lives, but God has made the sun to shine through." In May of 1987 a new facility was dedicated in which the materials alone cost \$300,000.

After the property was destroyed by fire many people provided help. This included church members, people of the community, the association and the school. On Sunday the congregation worshipped in the school gymnasium. On Wednesday evening the congregation worshipped in the local clubhouse which is quite small. But in spite of worshipping in several locations the congregation continued to grow while the new buildings were being constructed.

In July of 1989 a 5,500 square foot educational building was added. This facility was erected at a cost of \$100,000 with the partial use of donated labor. In March of 1990 the sanctuary was enlarged at an additional cost of \$30,000. The auditorium will now seat 700 people. All of the facilities are completely debt free.

The effectiveness of the church can be illustrated by the fact that every week the congregation has six to eight visitors in attendance. Some individuals who are in regular attendance drive as much as 15 miles to come to the church. Visitors have come as far as 30 miles just to participate in a worship service.

For two years one family came from another town and attended all of the services regularly. Recently they have moved to Paragould and are continuing in regular attendance.

The congregation's love for its pastor was recently shown through the surprise gift of a new 1990 four-door Cadillac Brougham.

Pastor Boling said in summary, "Growth has come to our church through the cooperation of the people and the leadership of the Lord. I feel that this is one of the best churches in the world. I want all of our members to have this same feeling."

# LOVING GOD WITH YOUR MIND



Whenever Christian college and university students get together, good things are bound to happen. This was the case when more than 500 students from 27 Arkansas campuses where the Baptist Student Union is organized, met at Second Church in Little Rock for the annual Baptist Student Convention, Oct. 5-7.

Students were challenged to think as they pursued the program theme, Loving God with Your Mind. They were invited to commit themselves to action at God's direction through the summer mission report celebration and through witnessing events at local shopping malls. Speakers Bill Steeger of Ouachita Baptist University, Billy White of Second Church in Little Rock and musician David Warren of Jonesboro urged students to open their minds to know God and to see through his eyes. Professional mime artist, Doug Berky of Nashville, Tenn., helped to illustrate God's Word in the lives of individuals and to help students see themselves in a new light. A workshop format for the convention helped to encourage every student to evaluate his personal needs and to visualize his potential for leadership in God's world.

The Arkansas Baptist's

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# Redirecting, Not 'Defecting'

by J. Everett Sneed

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The headline in a state secular newspaper that indicated that we had defected from the SBC is incorrect," declared Ross Woodbury, pastor of Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock. "What we are doing is redirecting our SBC mission giving. Almost every entity will receive the same amount from our church that they have been receiving."

On Sept. 30 Lakeshore Drive Church voted to send SBC gifts to the newly formed Baptist Cooperative Mission Program. This organization is being developed as a result of the "moderate" meeting held in Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 25.

Pastor Woodbury explained that the redirecting of funds had its inception as a result of the conflict in the SBC. He indicated that he returned from the convention in New Orleans with "considerable concern." People in the Lakeshore Drive Church immediately started questioning him regarding the events which had transpired. As a result he preached on the conflict in the convention on Sunday following the convention.

The church also conducted three open forums on Sunday evenings in which Woodbury would give a 20-minute statement and it was followed by questioning.

Woodbury feels that the conflict is basically political. He said, "It does include a difference of opinion on separation of church and state and on the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer."

Lakeshore Drive Church leadership also was grieved by the termination of Al Shackleford, SBC vice-president for Public Relations and Baptist Press, and Dan Martin, Baptist Press newsroom director. There also were threats of possible termination of several SBC seminary presidents.

Woodbury did not attend the meeting in Atlanta. But some of the members from the Lakeshore Drive Church's denominational affairs committee did. As a result of the forums that were held, a denominational affairs committee was formed to consider funding of SBC causes.

The church is continuing to give 58.75 percent (the same amount that remains in the state from all of the churches) to state causes. The 41.25 percent is being sent to the newly formed Baptist Cooperative Mis-

sion program in Atlanta.

The Baptist Cooperative Mission program committee currently is developing a formula which will determine the division of SBC funds received by the group.

Presently Lakeshore Drive is directing the Atlanta group to not send funds to the SBC Executive Committee or the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Pastor Woodbury stated his opinion as he said, "We are giving through a Cooperative Program type program. This clearly is a mission type mechanism and is not a societal approach. It is a method by which we are using another mechanism to redirect our SBC funds."

Woodbury believes that when the Baptist Cooperative Mission Program formula is developed that it will likely bypass the Executive Committee and the Christian Life Commission. He also feels that the organization will send additional support to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The funds for the BJCPA were reduced from \$391,796 to \$50,000 last year at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Woodbury concluded with a note of hope as he said, "It is my prayer that something positive can occur in the near future which can restore trust and full cooperation among all Southern Baptists."

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## Let's Set A Record

by Don Moore  
 ABCS Executive Director

Almost everyone likes to set records. I have a friend who said he always wanted to be number one at something. He was pastoring in Mississippi at the height of the racial crisis. He finally made number one. He was listed as number one on the KKK list of people to get. Number one is not always that great!



Moore

Setting records is not always that great. But this is one we can all get into and feel good about. Here it is!

"Baptist Ministries in the Arab World: Crossing Barriers with Love" is the theme for our Foreign Mission study this fall. It was probably planned three to five years ago without any possible knowledge of what would be taking place in the Arab world today, particularly in the Middle East.

The adult study is "Middle East Today"; the youth can study "The Amman Adventure"; grades 4-6 can study "Middle East Mailbox"; and grades 1-3 can study "Middle East Messenger."

The suggested date for the study is the week of Nov. 18-21. My challenge is that the entire church do the special study over a four week period on a night when the entire membership will already be at the church.

We can set a record for number of church members engaged in mission study. That will lead naturally to a concern that will result in more praying. The next thing you know, your church will have set a new record for the Lottie Moon offering. All of this can happen in November and December if you will plan and work toward it.

**Caution: Classified Information**  
 This is really just for pastors, staff and their spouses. Last year the insurance company that carries health insurance on us through the Annuity Board spent \$65 million on us for hospitalization brought about from psychosis. More was spent to care for these needs than any other condition. None of us are proud of this.

Lay people could easily conclude that we are weak, faithless or otherwise inept. The truth is that unprecedented pressures, expectations, demands, and hostilities face those who are church leaders today. There

is little resemblance between town and city pastorates today and 50 years ago.

Many have found the Career Assessment experience very helpful in dealing with who they are, where they are and what their ministry directions may be in the future.

Held only once a year with registration limited, this year's will be Nov. 29-30, at the Baptist Plaza Hotel. We have many testimonies of people blessed by this process. Contact L. B. Jordan, 376-4791, ext. 5148, and register as soon as possible. There is a cost of \$35.

### Coming Into His Presence

Dramatic and wonderful things happen when we come into God's presence. We usually experience an awareness of his greatness, then of our finiteness, and then of his holiness and our sinfulness. We are always changed. We need this often, weekly, daily, even hourly. We call this worship.

Those who are in a position, by calling and employment, to lead others to have a true worship experience have an awesome responsibility. Because of that we have planned a Worship Seminar. It is Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Markham Street Church. Practical application of worship planning will be emphasized. If God uses human instrumentality, and he does, to aid us in worship, then these people leading should be as prepared as possible. This seminar should help!

### Men Pray, Too!

One of the most respected leaders in the area of prayer is Don Miller. To undergird Lay Renewal Ministries, Bold Mission Thrust endeavors, and to inspire a more consistent individual and corporate prayer life, we are planning a Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat. Most prayer emphases are led by women in our churches. We are glad to provide an opportunity for men to be developed in their prayer ministry. Wives are welcome to come with their husbands. Pre-registration will be necessary—since meals will be provided. This will be at Camp Paron, Nov. 2-3.

### Heaven Help The Home!

Why can't we help the home? We can! That is, if we are prepared. Homes need help. Those making homes will receive help. Are we prepared to help?

The best tool we have for equipping church leaders to help is the Marriage Enrichment Retreat. Nov. 15-16, a training event will be held to equip pastors, staff, denominational and lay leaders for conducting marriage enrichment retreats. Dr. and Mrs. Bill Carpenter from Oklahoma City will be leading this. I am hopeful more of

our people will feel a calling to do more in this area. We must help every one we can right where we are.

### Tender Toward Missions

Who could be more tender toward missions than those in first through sixth grade. Life-long impressions are made when they see, hear and know a missionary. That's why we plan a GA Missions Spectacular. They can interact with both home and foreign missionaries. Adults who care will have to make a special effort. The Spectacular is Nov. 17, at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. This is a sack lunch affair.

### Mission Friends Leaders

A Super Saturday has been planned for you Nov. 3, at Calvary Church, Little Rock. Hazel Morris, professor of Childhood Education at Southwestern Seminary, will be your leader. If you are not a leader but open to becoming one, you ought to come along with the leaders from your church and association.

### Fabulous! Fabulous!

That's all I hear since the Sunday School Convention and PK '90 Weekend. Standing room only at the convention, and about the most excited young people in Arkansas — this all took place Sept. 21-22. We thank our great God for his blessing and our great Arkansas people for taking advantage of opportunities to strengthen our walk and work with Jesus Christ.

## Church Leadership Career Seminar

"A career and development consultation affords you a serious pause in your busy life to update your life purposes and ministry directions," according to Fred McGehee of the Baptist Sunday School Board. In the last 14 years, hundreds of ministers and mates have found help through career assessment.

Under Bob Holley's leadership the Career Assessment/Development Seminar has become an annual event. I am especially glad to have such an excellent tool available for ministers and mates in such a turbulent time.

According to McGehee some of the specific benefits include:

- (1) Greater fulfillment in ministry
- (2) Updating your calling
- (3) Negotiation of expectations
- (4) Identification of your needs for support
- (5) Managing chapters and transitions
- (6) Skills development
- (7) Awareness of God's guidance

Our event is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, at Baptist Plaza Hotel, 1120 Medical Center Drive in Little Rock. Career Assessment is open to pastors, staff members and spouses. Registration fee is \$35 for materials. Spouses may attend for no additional registration fee. Room cost at Baptist Plaza Hotel is \$38.50. Reservations are to be made through the Church Leadership Support Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Please register by Oct. 31. For more information call 376-4691, ext. 5148.—L.B. Jordan, director

## Discipleship Training Discipleship Training 'Army'

A recent issue of *Facts and Trends* reports an army of 260 men and women was equipped this summer to go directly into Southern Baptist churches and provide assistance in starting or strengthening Discipleship Training programs. A part of this "army" was from Arkansas and they are already on the front lines, making a difference in Discipleship Training.

We are very pleased to introduce those who have been trained as Discipleship Training Consultants in Arkansas. They include Bob Enel, Salem Church, Benton; Elvis Smith, Keo Church; Dennis Coop, First Church, Jonesboro; Ruth Carswell, Crystal Hill Church, Little Rock; Charles Lewis, Gravel Ridge Church, Jacksonville; Jim Edwards, director of missions, Caroline Association; Terry Dwiggin, First Church, Mena; and Joe Craft, First Church, Gould.

Each of these is highly trained and extremely committed to making a difference in Discipleship Training in Arkansas. They are available for conference leadership or for personal consultations with pastors, staff members, Discipleship Training Directors, and other leaders. They are generalists with a working knowledge of the total Discipleship Training program.

Call on us when we can be of assistance to your church. With the added help of these consultants, we are prepared to respond to your requests.—Robert Holley, director



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## Stewardship/Annulity Witnessing- Giving Life

The Evangelism and Stewardship Departments are working together on the Witnessing-Giving Life emphasis because both believe growth is a mandate of God's Word.

The Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board and the Stewardship Commission have worked together in preparing materials for the Witnessing-Giving Life emphasis. The Witnessing-Giving Life revivals, suggested for 1991, are at the heart of the emphasis.

Associational evangelism and steward-

ship directors were introduced to the Witnessing-Giving Life revivals during the key leader meeting in April. Another training session is set for Camp Paron, Dec. 6-7.

Associational Witnessing-Giving Life events are being scheduled for 1991. Some associations will present the emphasis during an annual evangelism rally. Others will schedule separate training events for church leaders. Packets will be available for churches at the associational events.

The Witnessing-Giving Life revival is a call to commitment. Members are challenged to grow in their witnessing and giving. The Witnessing-Giving Life emphasis begins in God's Word and will result in going witnesses and growing givers.—James A. Walker, director

## Woman's Missionary Union

### Attention Mission Friends Leaders!

"Mission Friends are happy, Mission Friends have fun. Mission Friends can share God's love with everyone." Attention leaders and directors of Mission Friends! An exciting day, Super Saturday, has been planned especially for you. Super Saturday takes place on Nov. 3, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Calvary Church in Little Rock. By participating in Super Saturday, Mission Friends leadership will receive timely information on how to work with preschoolers. The conference offered will be "How to Answer Big Questions from Little Children," "But I Can't Sing," and "Let's Tell a Story." Hazel Morris, professor of Childhood Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will be leading the general session on "Empowered to Teach Preschoolers." Mission Friends leaders will be reminded that the Holy Spirit will empower them to be effective in their work with preschoolers.

Coffee, juice and donuts will be served from 9:30-10:00 a.m. Don't forget to bring a sack lunch for the noon meal. Soft drinks and a variety of desserts will be provided. Also, a Baptist Book Store display will be set up with a variety of Mission Friends products available for purchase.

The activities at Super Saturday promise to be both educational and motivational. Mission Friends leaders please don't miss this exciting opportunity of fun and fellowship. Remember your registration fee is due Oct. 26 in the state WMU office.

"Girls in Action, Girls in Action, mission study and mission action. Praying, giving money so the world may know of Jesus' love. Girls in Action, Girls in Action, we will know and grow in Christ. Girls in Action, Girls in Action now." All girls in grades 1-6 are invited to the statewide GA Missions Spectacular on Saturday, Nov. 17 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. GAs and leaders will have opportunities to meet these missionaries: Jim and Donna Shemwell, Donald and Betty Spiegel, Carol and Jackie Shaw, Janean Hardister and Marjorie Grober. They will share about their missions work in Brazil, South Africa, Togo and Guatemala. Bob and Karen Gross, Patty Lane and Pete Petty will be sharing about their home missions experiences in Arkansas and Texas. Sixth grade GAs will have an opportunity to hear about all the exciting opportunities available for them in Acteens during a special conference designed just for them. Mission action activities for everyone will be available, also.

GA T-shirts, shoestrings, autograph books and pencils will be available for purchase. A non-refundable registration fee of \$5 is required. All GAs and leaders need to bring a sack lunch for their noon meal. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. This exciting missions opportunity for girls in grades 1-6 is sponsored by Arkansas WMU. For more information contact the state WMU office.—Carolyn Porterfield, BYW director

# Looking Ahead

## November

- 2-3 Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat, *Camp Paron (Bbd)*
- 3 Mission Friends Leaders Super Saturday, *Little Rock Calvary Church (WMU)*
- 13 Worship Seminar, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (M)*
- 15-16 Minister/Mate Retreat, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (DT/BSSB)*
- 17 GA Mission Spectacular, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)*
- 18-21 Foreign Mission Study, *(WMU/Bbd)*
- 26-30 Church Building Tour (SS)
- 29-30 Career Assessment, *Baptist Plaza Hotel, Little Rock, (CL)*

## December

- 2-9 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering *(WMU/FMB)*

- 6-7 Evangelism Workshop, *Camp Paron (Ev)*
- 8 Cooperative Services International Fellowship, *Radisson Legacy Hotel, Little Rock (Bbd)*
- 27-28 Joy Expo '90 Youth Evangelism Conference, *Hot Springs Convention Center (Ev)*
- 27-28 All-State Band and Choir, *Hot Springs Grand Avenue Church; Hot Springs Convention Center, (M)*

## January

- 12 RA Counselor Fellowship, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (Bbd)*
- 21 Area Media Library Conference, *Fort Smith East Side Church (DT)*
- 22 Area Media Library Conference, *North Little Rock Central Church (DT)*
- 23 Area Media Library Conference, *Wynne Church (DT)*
- 24 Area Media Library Conference, *Ouachita Baptist University (DT)*
- 28-29 State Evangelism Conference, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ev)*

## Classifieds

**For Sale**—12 passenger van 1989 Ford 250 XLT, all power & super air, low mileage. Call Alton, 835-4888. 1025

**Part-Time Youth**—Marshall Road Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Arkansas is seeking a part-time Minister of Youth. Please apply by sending a resume to P.O. Box 728, Jacksonville, AR 72076 or call 982-8464. 1025

**Skid Trips**—Wanted youth-singles to join existing church groups for spring break trips. DisneyWorld and New York available, too. Call Kimberling Kids Travel, 227-8447. 118

**Wanted**—Weekday Education Director at North Little Rock Church. Bachelor's degree in education and day care experience is a must. For more information call 753-3413. 1025

**For Sale**—Spirit-filled, soul-stirring book by a church planter of twenty years. *Die? Yes But Stay Dead*. \$8.00 Homer K. Albright, 803 Windy Hill Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72703. 1025

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. 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.

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## Across the Country

### Cooperative Program Grows 2.46 Percent

Southern Baptists contributed a record \$140.7 million to their convention-wide budget during the 1989-90 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

The program received \$140,710,282 in 1989-90, an increase of \$3,377,759 over the 1988-89 budget, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, which dispenses the money. That gain is a 2.46 percent increase. It means a decrease in spending power, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau has determined the cost of living rose 5.6 percent in the United States for the 12-month period that ended Aug. 31.

### BJCPA Changes Bylaw to Trim SBC Members

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs during its Oct. 1 annual meeting changed its bylaws to trim the official delegation from the Southern Baptist Convention from 18 to 11 members.

The bylaw change cuts the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee delegation while adding a new "national member body," the Religious Liberty Council, an umbrella organization representing state conventions, churches and the Southern Baptist Alliance.

### PAC Opposes BJCPA Bylaw Change

The Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee voted to oppose a proposed bylaw change which would reduce SBC representation on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from 18 to 11 members and provide for representation from the Religious Liberty Council.

The PAC held its semi-annual meeting in Washington Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

### CLC Opposes End of 'X' Rating

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has expressed strong objections to the new motion picture rating system which will replace the "X" designation with a new "NC-17" rating.

The commission's executive director Richard D. Land said the new rating "waters down the 'X' rating and opens the way for material that is objectionable and pornographic to work its way into neighborhood theaters."

## HMB Trustees Adopt Budget

ATLANTA (BP)—Adopting a \$78.87 million budget and responding to motions from the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention topped the agenda for the fall meeting of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustees.

Trustees also heard that receipts for the 1990 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering have reached \$34.6 million, an increase of 8.5 percent over the same date last year.

The approved 1991 budget of \$78.87 million is an increase of 1.6 percent over the current year's budget of \$77.65 million.

The budget anticipates \$27.4 million in income from the Cooperative Program unified budget and \$34.5 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Additional funds will come from sources such as designated gifts, earnings on investments and retained income.

### Lewis Says Alternate Funding Destructive

Unless stopped, alternate missions funding plans "will likely destroy the Southern Baptist Convention as we have known it," Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis told his agency's trustees.

Lewis said he believes it is important for SBC agency heads "to voice their strong support for the Cooperative Program as the preferred method of support for world missions."

However, Lewis said he will "affirm the right of any church or any state convention to support missions in whatever way they feel most appropriate."

Lewis listed five other reasons he opposes alternative funding plans: (1) alternative plans are "divisive and will further polarize our denomination"; (2) diverted funds will cause needy agencies to suffer; (3) wide acceptance of alternative plans will destroy the Cooperative Program; (4) erosion of the Cooperative Program will force a return to the societal method of mission support; (5) with multiple methods of funding, budgeting and book-keeping at most agencies will become burdensome.

**HMB**

HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

### \$7,000,000 Series F Church Loan Collateralized Bonds

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphases of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable quarterly. The Bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from eighteen months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 8.5% to 11% depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus. Minimum purchase is \$500.

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## Convention Uniform

### Answers in The Book

by S. D. Hacker, Harrison

Basic passage: 2 Kings 22:12-20a

Focal passage: 2 Kings 22:13, 19

**Central truth:** We are accountable for our sins and can only find God's mercy and grace when we seek repentance with a submissive heart.

Have you heard the question asked: "Why has this happened to me?" In verse 13 of our text, Josiah evidently felt he had found the answer to that age-old question. The answer was in the Book. I've observed that all those who refuse to confess their participation in sinning will preface their testimony with: "If I have wronged anyone, I apologize for it." The person makes an effort to cleanse his heart, but quickly stops short with the inference: I may have wronged someone, but I doubt that I have.

King Josiah had no doubt that his forefathers had their part in transgressing God's law (v. 17). He found it in the Book. Being ignorant of God's written law was no excuse. He had no excuses for himself, so he tore his clothes, a sign that he bore a great burden for his kingdom (v. 19).

There will always be the consequences for sins, whether the sin is of neglect or of disobedience. God's Word is the standard by which God's people can measure their obedience. If it is seldom opened, seldom memorized, and seldom taught — then it is lost to our preservation.

Ignorance of God's Word did not exempt Judah from God's anger, and neither is our generation exempt. The king responded with prayer and by sending seekers for spiritual understanding. As with Abraham, who believed God and for whom it was accounted unto him for righteousness, so it was with Josiah. God gave peace and assured him of where and how he would be buried (vv. 19-20).

God's written revelation can direct people to the way of truth and righteousness. This path does not lead to destruction, but assures us with an everlasting hope. Because Josiah promised to obey the Word, God promised protection.

Do you feel as Josiah did — that the law book of God's authoritative Word for your life? Josiah found the conditions that precede revival, as is shown in 2 Chronicles 7:14. The answers are in the Book!

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## Life and Work

### The Eternal Word

by Bobby Tucker, Maple Grove Church, Trumann

Basic passage: John 1:1-5, 14, 29-34; 3:16

Focal passage: John 1:4, 14; 3:16

**Central truth:** The living Word provides a life worth living.

The first chapter of John's gospel contains a great quantity of truth. It describes our Savior as the Eternal Word and places him in a position of equality with the Father. Indeed, this passage even offers us a glimpse of the pre-incarnate Christ. In verse four, John maintains a crucial point about this eternal Word of God. He states, "In him was life. . . ." This is an important phrase, no doubt, for those searching for truth at the end of the first Christian century. Speculative philosophies abounded, abstract forms of theology were plentiful, yet for John, life was both found and summed up in his Lord, the Son of God. How quick are we to recognize that our Jesus is not only the eternal Word, but also our ever present Lord, who longs to fellowship with those who know him?

A second important fact John mentions in chapter one is that the Word became flesh. Here is God's infinite wisdom manifested. Skeptics for centuries have discounted the virgin birth, but without this magnificent miracle there would not be a sinless, unblemished sacrifice for our sins. Could a mere man remedy the sin problem? Of course not! Only the God-Man, the Word becoming flesh, could undertake such a task. Paul perhaps sums up the same truth by saying, "He who knew no sin became sin for us" (2 Co. 5:21).

Have we recognized that since Jesus was the God-Man that he too suffered, hurt, and was brokenhearted, just as we are today. The great promise of Christianity is that our God is not aloof and out of touch with our conditions and needs, but instead, that he is ever aware of them.

A third point that must be mentioned with regard to the Living Word becoming flesh is its relationship to God's sovereign plan. John 3:16 is a marvelous summary of that grand plan. Martin Luther referred to this verse as "the gospel in a nutshell." What more motivation do we need to share the gospel when we ponder the price tag of God's great love?

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## Bible Book

### Called into Controversy

by Wayne B. Davis, North Park Church, Van Buren

Basic passage: Luke 5:27 to 6:11

Focal passage: Luke 5:27-39; 6:7-10

**Central truth:** A commitment to follow Jesus thrusts the new disciple into the controversy between spiritual obedience to God and social conformity to the world.

This encounter between Jesus and Levi (Matthew) is a snapshot of the experience of everyone who is asked to come to Jesus and leave the world and its priorities behind. It is not just an evening of discussion over a meal or a decision to see if one is religious. It is not an effort by Jesus to start one moving toward God. It is a call to leave the worldly way of social or political direction. It is a call to accept God's eternal plan and to identify yourself as a participant in that plan.

This act of decision places you firmly on God's side of the controversy. It further sets you in the path of all who oppose God's plan in part or in whole. When the controversies begin, you do not have to choose sides. You are already set as God's child and are in the middle of the controversy. The Bible is your guide. The Holy Spirit is your teacher. Jesus is your example.

Controversy followed this new convert from this first act as a disciple. The feast for Jesus at Levi's home brought a heated discussion about eating with sinners (vv. 29-32). Jesus said the sick, not the healthy, need the physician.

This spiritual encounter led the detractors into religious comparisons. John the Baptist's fasting disciples were compared to Jesus' feasting approach. Jesus introduced the concept of Messiah as bridegroom. He began a discussion of the old and new covenants, using illustrations from garments and cloth to wine and wineskins and the need to separate them to protect the integrity of both (vv. 33-36). He explained the danger of being so satisfied with the old that you allow no space to the new. This could result in missing the coming promised blessings of God.

They responded by looking even closer for a reason to legally accuse him of heresy. Healing on the Sabbath would do fine (6:7-10). They found him willing to be controversial in his effort to minister to man's need and at the same time call them to commit themselves.

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## WORLD

### Around the Globe

#### Teacher Confirmed Dead in China Air Crash

Chinese government officials confirmed Oct. 5 that Southern Baptist teacher Mary Anna Gilbert, 23, of Alexander City, Ala., was among 127 people killed in the Oct. 2 crash of a hijacked Chinese jetliner in Guangzhou, China.

#### Refugee Shelter Closed at Jordan Baptist School

The sheltering of refugees from Iraq-occupied Kuwait at the Amman Baptist School in Jordan has ended.

Refugee aid at the Baptist school, and at a Catholic school in Amman, was discontinued at the request of the Jordanian government. The government has moved most of the thousands of refugees in Jordan to a large camp at Azrak, 40 miles northeast of Amman, the capital.

Jordanian Baptists still are preparing and delivering food to other refugees from Kuwait.

#### Mission Board Warns of Phony Foreign Fund Raising

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials are warning U.S. churches about fraudulent letters from a Zambian pastor soliciting church construction funds.

A pastor of a church in Kabwe, Zambia, sent an unknown number of letters to U.S. churches asking for money to complete a stalled church construction project. In fact, the money was intended for the pastor's personal use, said Zeb Moss, FMB associate area director for eastern and southern Africa.

Officials decided not to release the name of the pastor, a young man in his 20s, because he has repented and asked forgiveness, according to Richard Kuter, a Southern Baptist missionary in Zambia, who counseled with him.

#### FMB Trustees Elect New Africa Vice President

Billy Bullington was elected regional vice president for Africa Oct. 10 by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The former missionary will succeed Davis Saunders after Saunders retires from the board at the end of December.

Bullington, 55, from Charleston, Ark., will oversee mission work in sub-Saharan Africa, where nearly 1,000 Southern Baptist missionaries work in 35 countries. He also will work with the Global Strategy Group, a long-range planning body composed of top FMB administrators and planners.

Bullington is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He has also pastored churches in Arkansas and Missouri.

#### FMB Approves Record Budget, Enters Bulgaria

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees, pointing toward the challenges of the future amid sobering realities in the world and the denomination, voted a record \$182.76 million 1991 budget and appointed 48 new overseas personnel at their October meeting.

They also voted to send missionaries to Bulgaria and heard reports of a Baptist seminary scheduled to open in Moscow, worldwide mission advances despite change and unrest, and new approaches to reach the 1.3 billion people in the world who live where Christian witness is virtually nonexistent.

In other action, trustees held a dialogue with pastors from across the Southern Baptist Convention, tabled until December a motion to study criteria for moving the FMB headquarters, appointed a committee to coordinate policy interpretation with staff and honored 71 retiring missionaries with 2,164 years of service.

Trustees also clarified policy on mission service by divorced people, and received a report endorsing continued open and unbiased news reporting by its communications staff.

FMB President R. Keith Parks said the budget, a \$7.9 million increase over 1990, reflects his belief that Southern Baptists will continue to give cooperatively amid talk of alternative funding programs which has arisen in the Southern Baptist Convention's theological/political controversy.