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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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### May 18, 1995

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Nashville, Tennessee

Volume 94, Number 10

May 18, 1995



ROYAL AMBASSADORS  
work together during the  
tug-of-war event at the  
RA Congress and  
Track Meet held  
recently at  
Ouachita  
Baptist  
University.

**BUILDING LIVES ♦ BUILDING CHURCHES**



**NAILBENDERS**  
Robert Miller (left)  
and J.L. Coker nail  
insulation into place  
as they and other  
members of Nailbenders  
for Jesus construct a new  
facility for Calvary Church  
near Malvern.

# Arkansas Baptists among '95 SBC nominees, appointees

Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry has announced his 1995 SBC committee appointments. The convention's 1995 Committee on Nominations also has released its slate of nominations for messengers to consider during next month's SBC annual meeting in Atlanta.

Henry named Mark Cortis, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., as chairman of the 1995 Committee on Committees. The 70-member committee will nominate members of next year's Committee on Nominations which is then responsible for nominating trustees to serve on the 19 national entities of the SBC.

Arkansas Baptists appointed to this year's Committee on Committees are Barry King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, and David Uth, pastor of Immanuel Church in El Dorado. King also currently is serving as chairman of the 1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention nominating committee and Uth is ABSO second vice president.

Jim Lagrone, pastor of First Southern Church in Bryant, has been appointed to the 1995 Credentials Committee. Henry named Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, as committee chairman.

William Hatfield, pastor of First Church, Dierks, will serve on this year's Tellers Committee. Bob Agec, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, has been appointed as committee chairman.

Henry appointed Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., as chairman of the Resolutions Committee. There are no Arkansas serving on the committee.

Among the nominations recommended by the Committee on Nominations, eight Arkansas Baptists are being nominated for a second term of service.

Among the new nominees, J. Kirk Thompson, a member of First Church, Springdale, is being nominated as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. He would replace Ken Lilly of Fort Smith who resigned as a trustee.

Larry Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation and a member of South Highland Church in Little Rock, has been nominated as a trustee of the American Baptist Seminary.

Ed Saucier, a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, is being nominated as a seminary representative for the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Arkansas Baptists being nominated for a second term of service are:

■ SBC Executive Committee: Rex Terry, a member of First Church, Fort Smith.

■ Foreign Mission Board: Stephen P. Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, and Wallace Edgar, pastor of Trinity Church, Texarkana.

■ Home Mission Board: Wyndham Cook, a member of Memorial Church, Waldo.

■ Baptist Sunday School Board: Ben J. Rowell, pastor of First Church, Rogers.

■ Radio and Television Commission: Gary Underwood, director of media, Beech Street First Church, Texarkana.

■ North American Baptist Fellowship: John Finn, pastor of First Church, Parkin, and Jack Kwok, director of the ABSO cooperative ministries department.

## Cover Story

ABN photo / Russ Dilday



## Building lives 9

More than 840 Arkansas Baptist Royal Ambassadors from 50 Arkansas Baptist churches participated in the 1995 RA Congress and Track Meet held April 28-29 at Ouachita Baptist University.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# Partnership needs abound

*Prayer, communications cited as key factors in effective partnership*

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

A recent fact-finding trip to Europe and a state meeting by missions leaders have shown that there are still many needs in the missions partnership between Arkansas Baptists and European Baptist Convention churches.

Harry Black, Brotherhood department director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Doyné Plummer, stateside EBC partnership coordinator, visited churches in England and held a retreat in Germany to discover needs and build relationships for the partnership.

The trip "represented the beginning of Harry taking a more active role in the partnership," said Plummer.

"The plan is that Harry will be picking up more of the partnership as I will be phasing out in July," he explained. "Harry had come on as Brotherhood director and we saw this as an opportunity for him to become involved in the partnership."

Plummer, a member of First Church, Cabot, has been the stateside partnership coordinator since the death of ABCS Brotherhood department director Glendon Grober in July of 1994.

"This trip was significant for me," Black noted, "because it was the first personal contact I have had with the pastors there in any location in a leadership role."

Black will coordinate Arkansas Baptist efforts with the partnership from July through the projected partnership completion date of Dec. 31, 1996.

Plummer said the pair made a stop in England, visiting the EBC's three churches there before traveling to the retreat in Germany.

"We hadn't had any direct contact with the churches in England and so this was a good opportunity to go and see the work that was going on there and pull them into the partnership," Black commented.

Plummer noted that "although there had been some phone contact and correspondence, no one had been to see them." He said some "wonderful relationships" were established in all three locations. "I don't think I could have envisioned it going any better."

Black said that the England stopover

"helped those pastors and churches see the value of the partnership."

"It helped the (British) pastors see that this is a cooperative partnership," he added. "That not only do we want to do things there, but it would be nice if a representative of that church could come here."

The pair then traveled to Germany and met with EBC officers and leaders at a pastors and wives retreat in Wiesbaden.

Plummer also led a Total Quality Management seminar for 25 pastors and their wives during a retreat in Dorfweil, Germany. He explained that TQM "is a customer-oriented, employee-participative type management style."

Black said the retreat also offered relationship-building inroads to the participating pastors.

"Nobody approached me with any negative feedback at all," he said, "although there were some who had not had any contact at all with their partner churches."

The biggest hindrance to the partnership, according to Black, is the "fast turnover" among pastors in Europe. Plummer noted that "more than half of the churches represented at the retreat had new pastors in the last year."

Black said the two men also were able to determine partnership needs during the trip. He said prayer and communication between partner churches is still the greatest need for the partnership.

"We're talking about personal communication by telephone, or where RAS, GAs and others write letters," Black suggested. "It lets these churches know that we are serious partners."

"We are so event-oriented, we feel like we have to travel over for this partnership to be a success," Black added. He noted, however, that real keys to success include "mutual encouragement and communication."

Plummer said specific partnership needs include office equipment, including a computer for a church in Celle, Germany, and religious tracts and two overhead projectors for the EBC offices.

He said other priority needs include:

■ Arkansas Baptist churches or associations to partner with Netherlands churches in Antwerp and Eindhoven as well as in Naples, Italy.

■ Ministers to serve as pastors of EBC churches for lengths of three months to three years.

■ Taking initiative in partnership efforts. "Arkansas churches need to take more initiative with their churches, instead of waiting for requests to come in," he said. "Activity has slowed in the last few months and Arkansas churches need to step up their communication with their partners."

In other partnership planning efforts, a May 9 meeting attracted more than 30 participants who heard a partnership update and shared testimonies about their churches' involvement in the effort.

Marck Gibson, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, said members of his congregation participated in a recent construction project at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Gibson said that "about a third" of the members of Faith Church move away from the area each year. "They have a new church every three years. It's amazing that they have been able to grow."

John Gerlach, minister of education for Immanuel Church in Little Rock, also noted that Immanuel's partner church has experienced membership losses. "We will send a third group to Bethel Baptist Church (in Frankfurt, Germany) to remodel the church. They have gone from 250 members to 125 in one month because of (an American military) base drawdown."

Participants also offered fund-raising possibilities for church members wishing to participate in EBC mission projects. The suggestions ranged from budget designation to bake sales, garage sales and a "hoopfest."

Black also offered "troubleshooting tips" for ABCS partner churches.

"I've received some comments about the unresponsiveness of EBC pastors," he acknowledged.

"You need to be the one to stay in there," he urged the group. "Build a relationship, one-on-one, with the pastor or someone else who is a front man."

Plummer reported during an update session at the meeting that 49 of the EBC's 64 churches have requested Arkansas partners, with only a few vacancies remaining. He also reported that Arkansas churches have completed 45 projects since the beginning of the partnership, involving 140 Arkansas Baptists.

The completed projects include 18 seminars and conferences, six revivals, construction projects, interim pastors, witness training, Vacation Bible School, and medical team projects.



## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

Nothing excites the heart of God and people in heaven more than people on earth experiencing genuine salvation. "There is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents." He "came to seek and to save that which is lost."

I expect if we are in step with God and have anything like His heart we also will be excited about people being born again. Yet many of us have found a number of other things to do to try to make ourselves feel good without engaging in this most crucial of all spiritual works. We need to repent! The crime of unconcern and inaction on behalf of the eternal welfare of the lost will be eternally more damaging than the damage done by the cruel and inhumane action of those who created the recent tragedy in Oklahoma City.

We are not making much of an impact upon our communities. Only two of five people baptized in Southern Baptist churches come from the pagan pool. Six of every 10 baptisms are of people who have already been immersed. No wonder Arkansas Baptist churches showed a net increase last year of one member per church. Atrocious! Heart-breaking! Shameful! If we can't be moved to repentance and prayer for revival over such conditions in our churches, we are beyond being touched.

What have we been doing? What are our priorities? Where is our focus?

There are an estimated 550 million lost people in Europe. The English-speaking churches there need our help. There are 20 requests for churches in Arkansas to take them as a partner in prayer, leadership training, evangelism, etc. Could your church be a partner? Call the Brotherhood office at 376-4791, ext. 5190.

Our partners in Iowa are crying out. We have requests for us to help those struggling churches with 70 projects. Only 11 of those projects have been adopted by Arkansas Baptist churches. Call 376-4791, ext. 5149, to help.

My greatest concern is that we may experience a revival that will get our churches in line with the redemptive work of God at home and abroad.

RONNIE ROGERS

## The President's Corner

### The pastoreess?



Some believe that a woman can serve in any area she desires including the pastorate and deaconate. As demonstrated in a previous article, the Scripture is clear that women can serve the church in a whole galaxy of ways which are essential to the life of the church; however, the Bible is equally clear that does not include the pastorate or deaconate. It is obviously impossible for her, by God's design, to meet the requirements God has established for the pastor.

For example:

■ The pastor must be husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2) which is an obvious impossibility.

■ The pastor is the manager of his home (1 Timothy 3:4) which would contradict every other scripture on the home, especially the immediate context, if the pastor was a woman.

■ The pastor has to be a man, since the terms that describe the person are masculine in gender and usage, such as bishop in 1 Timothy 3:2 and elder in Titus 1:5.

■ She would have to violate

1 Timothy 3:9, "I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet." Notice it says "or," not "and." She would not be able to lead because she can't exercise authority over a man, which is essential to be the overseer (Hebrews 13:17). Further-more, she is not to teach men, and that is an essential qualification for the elder (1 Timothy 3:2).

■ The order of submission and leadership of the home would be turned upon its head. At home the woman pastor would be under the leadership of her husband, but at church he would be under her leadership. These kind of inconsistencies are found in the whimsical interpretations of men and not in the plan of God.

The question is not whether a woman is capable, most indeed are, but whether we will submit to God's creative order and His Word. We honor God, not by doing all we could but by doing all we should.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Personal perspectives

"It's been a blessing to us to hear from these people. It's given us a lot of food for thought and ideas to consider..."

—Billy Kite, chairman of the ABCS executive director search committee, evaluating recent listening sessions held to gain Arkansas Baptist input

"It is astonishing to see how tremendously generous our Baptists have been....I don't have the words to express thanks for the great kindness Baptists have shown."

—Charles Graves, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, voicing appreciation for Baptists' financial response to bombing victims

"Preparation for ministry is incomplete without a heart that is fully prepared."

—Ken Hemphill, newly inaugurated president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

# Maximizing the message of ministry

Southern Baptists have a wonderful heritage of focused prayer each year for foreign missions and home missions. On the state level, Arkansas Baptists also pray faithfully for such ministry efforts as state missions, associational missions and children's homes ministries.

One additional prayer emphasis highlighted on the Arkansas Baptist calendar each May is the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* Day of Prayer. Compared to worldwide missions endeavors and other frontline ministry needs, why should Arkansas Baptists bother to set aside a special day of prayer for their statewide news publication?

One clear reason is that the Newsmagazine is a committed ministry partner in all that Arkansas Baptists seek to accomplish. In addition to providing news coverage about significant events and actions throughout Baptist life, the Newsmagazine highlights current ministry opportunities and needs through feature stories and promotional articles.

While the Newsmagazine—as the name proclaims—is primarily a news publication, our staff also is committed to providing a vital ministry awareness tool and an up-to-date prayer resource through the pages of the Newsmagazine. "Maximizing the

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

Message of Ministry" is the goal of each issue of the Newsmagazine. It provides Arkansas Baptist readers an unparalleled opportunity to stay informed about issues and activities that impact our shared ministry goals.

The Newsmagazine staff also remains committed to fairly and accurately addressing newsworthy issues across the broad spectrum of Baptist life. As our denomination prepares for effective ministry in the 21st century, the cherished principle of editorial freedom remains a key ingredient. At the very time that some Baptists would prefer to hear only one side of complex issues, we should be reminded of the timeless words of Winston

Churchill: "A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that free men prize." That is true not only in the secular world, but in Baptist life as well.

One of the latest ways the Newsmagazine is preparing for future ministry is through the introduction of an on-line computer version of major Arkansas Baptist articles. Those stories are now available through SBCNet, an electronic communications service that can be accessed through the CompuServe network. The Newsmagazine highlights are available to SBCNet subscribers through the network's publications library. While ABN On-Line is only one step in addressing future communications needs, it is a significant step as the Newsmagazine seeks to remain a vital communications resource in a world of rapidly changing technology.

With those priorities in mind, Arkansas Baptists have the opportunity to set aside Sunday, May 21, as the 1995 *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* Day of Prayer. Just as God's Word counsels Christians to "pray one for another," this Sunday's emphasis is a reminder to congregations and individuals throughout the state to pray for the Newsmagazine as we strive to "maximize the message of ministry" for the benefit of all Arkansas Baptists.

## Muslims need witness

I am grateful for Southern Baptists' emphasis this year on prayer for Muslims. It is a most urgent social, political and spiritual necessity.

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism is probably the greatest threat to world peace existing around the globe. This Islamic fundamentalism has come to our shores in the bombing of the World Trade Center and in other terrorist conspiracies.

Yet, it may surprise many to know that the University of Arkansas has set up a Department of Middle East studies with more than \$20 million in grants from Saudi Arabia for the teaching of Arabic, Islam and Muslim customs in Arkansas.

In Saudi Arabia, according to the U.S. State Department, there are "severe restrictions on the freedoms of speech and press, peaceful assembly and association and religion; denial of the right of citizens to change their government; systematic discrimination against women and ethnic and religious minorities; and suppression of workers' rights."

No public worship of any religion other than Islam is permitted in Saudi Arabia. To deny the Islamic faith is punishable by death. Yet, Islam is welcomed here and taught in our university where the Christian faith cannot be taught.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We certainly need to pray for our university presidents and for those Muslims who come to teach and study here. We need to pray for our Baptist Student Union workers and for all Christian students who come into contact with those studying Islam on our college campuses. We need to live the true Christian faith before these Muslims. We need to win these followers of Mohammed by the superior faith, love and ethics of Jesus Christ.

Along with all of that, we need to quit giving non-Christian religions preference over the Christian faith in the use of our taxpayer-funded facilities and in opportunities to lead astray our young college students.

W. Trueman Moore  
Barling, AR

## Combatting confusion

Dumbing down is a current, politically correct term to describe the process of keeping people ignorant. Its methodology

is multi-optional. Revision is one of the most common means employed. Example: Multicultural education which eliminates all references to Jesus Christ or Christians being the founders of civilized America, such as the facts document.

We may wonder where and how this originated? Could it be that Baptists have done a great job of teaching by example? Since a child, I have been taught we are only one generation away from being pagan. While boasting of our membership numbers, bodes and baptisms, an accurate correlation will show that the parallel for alcohol consumption, crime and family destruction must be related.

Most Baptists I am acquainted with today are producing and promoting confusion and ignorance. Example: Anything resembling civilized society has order; the first imperative. If we ask for order today among too many so-called Baptists, we are accused of being legalists, Pharisaical or worse. May God help this generation. Heresy is rampant and unrestrained today....This is not biblical Christianity.

We say Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever. In practice, we erect Jim Joneses and Jonestowns. Jesus said, "Except ye be born again, ye cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jim Glover  
Heber Springs, AR

## Christian Discipleship Institute covers current lifestyle issues

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Keys to an effective prayer life, Christian discipleship, grief recovery and positive lifestyle changes were among topics addressed during a three-day Institute for Christian Discipleship held April 8-10 at Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. The event was sponsored by the discipleship and family ministry department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The Monday afternoon general session featured a review of *In God's Presence*, a daily guide to a meaningful prayer life written by T.W. Hunt and Claude V. King. David Carter, LIFE/MasterLife specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board, led the conference session.

"The purpose for this study is to help develop a meaningful, well-balanced and daily prayer life and to help one pray effectively with other believers," Carter explained. He noted that the six-week prayer course can either be done individually or in small groups.

The six kinds of prayer taught in the study include: confession, praise, worship, thanksgiving, petition and intercession. Carter said the course helps people understand how to magnify, exalt, bless and glorify the Lord.

Encouraging participants not only to pray for others but to seek prayer support from others, Carter said, "When you ask others to pray for you it shows your dependence on God, demonstrates a lowliness before God and humility before others. It also increases the amount of praying in your behalf, broadens the understanding of how to pray for your specific need or needs and blesses those who have the privilege of praying for you."

Darrell Copeland, pastor of Jersey Village Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, reviewed *The Mind of Christ*, another life course written by Hunt, sharing how this resource became the tool which led to a dramatic change in his congregation.

"I am a discipling pastor and see my role as equipping the saints to do God's work with prayer as my foremost tool," Copeland explained. "As a result of this study and much prayer we now have a discipling congregation that has grown in six years from an average attendance of 240 to 1,259."

"This work, taken from Philip plans 2:5-11, is not a spectator sport but calls for a lifestyle of servanthood," he continued. "The characteristics of a servant mind as

described in the Beatitudes include modeling Christ in expressing emotions, in relationship to things and people, in relationship to the Father and the Holy Spirit, the use of Scriptures in prayer, the character and behavior of holiness and the actions of Christlike love."

Copeland said the study is designed to help participants focus on how God set them free from the bondage of sin, Christ's humanity, understanding how love and holiness work together and how God exalts Christ through His names.

Copeland suggested that *The Mind of Christ* should be publicized as a lifelong course in which individuals must be willing to say, "God I want the 'mind of Christ' so things will not be my way but His ways."

**"God is the ultimate pathway to growth and healing.**

**One must grow spiritually if he is to change the way he acts."**

— Tim Sledge

Author

*Moving Beyond Your Past*

*Recovering from the Losses of Life*, a resource dealing with all types of losses, was reviewed by David Walley, coordinator of LIFE Support Ministries for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"What kind of losses are you expecting in the next five to 10 years?" Walley asked workshop participants. He noted that individuals continually experience loss in life, ranging from traumatic experiences to the gradual aging process.

Walley said the nine-week recovery course addresses such issues as the meaning of grief, coping with loss, obstacles to recovery and learning how to say goodbye.

"Some individuals, especially men, tend to hide the more intense grief, thereby lengthening the grief process," Walley explained. "The most important step in recovery is not to isolate oneself but rather enlist others to assist you in the grief process."

Walley listed sexual abuse, drug abuse and individuals who do not want to look back as types of unresolved grief. Emphasizing the importance of moving beyond a "stuck pattern" of unresolved grief, he added, "Facing the reality of grief and relating to what is lost will enable one to reinvest his energies in things that will facilitate the grief process."

"However, some gain so much attention during the grief process that recovery becomes a matter of choice," Walley noted. He explained that effective grieving brings an individual to an awareness of his powerlessness and helps one come to grips with the fact there is a God who can bring him through his losses.

Affirming the importance of seeking help either professionally or through groups, Walley added, "As one grows beyond the self-centeredness of grief than he can go beyond it and become a minister to others."

Author Tim Sledge, pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas, shared an overview of *Moving Beyond Your Past* which he has written as a follow-up to his support ministries book *Making Peace With Your Past*.

Noting that his new resource deals with the present, he explained, "Recovery from compulsive behaviors is okay if it helps one deal with the past but is not okay if it does not help one deal with the present."

Sledge said keys to facing present challenges in life include saying no to old patterns of behavior, learning new ways to respond to troubling situations and going through an intense period of lifestyle changes.

"God is the ultimate pathway to growth and healing," Sledge emphasized. "One must grow spiritually if he is to change the way he acts. When this occurs then he will experience freedom from compulsive behavior and learn how to care for others without destroying himself."

Sledge said effective cycles of recovery include the inward cycle which deals with a cleansing attitude of honesty and confession by sharing with others and the upward cycle that includes vulnerability, sharing and intimacy.

"These cycles become a model for growth," Sledge remarked. "Some end a lot of time behind a mask that leads to loneliness but when one learns how to share with someone who is safe, it leads to cleansing and recovery."

"One of the reasons I believe in support groups is because they are a place where one shares weekly," he concluded. "This resource is designed for two-hour sessions for 13 weeks and will lead to the healing of individuals as they experience weekly confession on a powerful level, one with another."

# 'This is missions'

## *Nailbenders assist small churches to provide affordable facilities*

By Russell N. Dilday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Drivers passing by Calvary Church on Highway 67 four miles south of Malvern probably raised an eyebrow when a row of travel trailers obscured their view of the small facility. They may have raised both eyebrows when the frame of a larger building rose from behind the trailers.

The new structure was built with labor provided by the Nailbenders, who arrived on the site May 1 and spent 12 days framing, roofing, insulating and hanging wallboard for the Calvary congregation.

Nailbenders, a volunteer group composed primarily of retired Arkansas Baptists, builds church facilities for small churches around the state.

The Calvary project is the third one of the year for the group. Volunteer Richard Ogden, a member of First Church, Conway, said Nailbenders members also plan to build church facilities in West Helena, Mountain View, Crossett and Hamburg this year.

Pointing to the new facility, Nailbenders volunteer Lewis Cogburn, a member of Immanuel Church in El Dorado, emphasized, "This is missions."

Cogburn, who served as "tool man" for the Calvary project, operated the group's mobile tool truck. He noted that group members are "thrilled when a church we have built calls us back and says they baptized their first one."

The 29 members of the Calvary congregation currently meet in a 900-square-foot, double-wide trailer provided by Central Association. The property for the church was provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention through the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering.

Calvary Church's new facility will be a 2,900-square-foot building, with a sanctuary and six classrooms.

"That's our favorite size," Cogburn pointed out. "When we leave here the sheetrock will be hung and the church will be ready for the finishers."

Calvary Church pastor Eddie Elrod said that after members voted to build a new facility, he called the Nailbenders about the project because of financial needs and the volunteer group's expertise.

"When Nailbenders comes in, they come in and make it complete," Elrod pointed out. "We needed a complete church."

Elrod said the new facility will be built at about \$20 per square foot. "It would cost us \$40 per square foot for a contractor to build it," he added.



Volunteer Lewis Cogburn works on a recent Nailbenders project at Calvary Church near Malvern.



Volunteer Robert Miller works on a recent Nailbenders project at Calvary Church near Malvern.

Cogburn said the group specifically assists small churches which need assistance. "We refuse those churches that show us money. The small churches need us. They usually can rake up enough money for materials, but there is a need for us because they can't afford the labor."

He said their client churches also must fulfill some basic construction obligations. "They have to have a slab or wood floor down before we agree to come," he explained.

Once the decision is made to provide building services to a church, Cogburn said, "A lead man is assigned to each church. He calls a tool man, two guys to assist in laying out the building and two guys to set up campers with water, power and sewer."

Elrod said Nailbenders members contributed more than just labor — they provided practical church-building experience. He said Cogburn and fellow volunteer Dennis Hill "looked at the blueprints and repositioned some things like the nursery and the restrooms to save us room."

Nailbenders maintain "a good, spiritual fellowship," Elrod said. "Every morning the men have a prayer time and devotional. There is a spirit of cooperation. They all know what they're doing and they do it."

Charter member Robert Miller of First Church, De Queen, agreed. He said that

when the Nailbenders formed in May 1988, he was "looking for something to do after I retired."

While on his first job as a Nailbender, he said he felt a confirmation of the ministry. "I can hardly explain the feeling I had, knowing what it was we were doing.... This thing has grown bigger than we'd ever thought it would," Miller said.

Cogburn said the organization supports itself through "donations strictly on a volunteer basis. We don't charge churches."

"Some small churches put us in their budget," he added. "My church is a great contributor. We started with \$300 a year and are now giving \$1,200 a year."

The wives of Nailbenders' members also get involved. While their husbands work on the church, the women are busy with several missions-related projects.

Kathleen Miller, Robert's wife, said the group is "doing what the Lord wants us to. So many people, when they retire, say, 'We don't have anything to do.'"

"The Lord has something for you to do," she answered. "This is a rewarding fellowship that loves each other."

The women are a formidable missions group in their own right, leading worship services at local nursing homes, making lap robes for nursing home residents and conducting community surveys.

In camp, they hold devotions and prayer times, prepare the noon meals — much of which is provided by area churches — and prepare break refreshments. "We even have our own laundry trailer," Mrs. Miller noted.

Cogburn issued a call for additional volunteers.

"We need help," he acknowledged. "We have 15 of us here, but there is still a lot of need. We have a lot of little churches out there and we hope to do two churches a month instead of one a month."

"The only requirement we have on a man is that he can breathe," Cogburn joked. "About half of us have had heart surgery."

He noted that construction expertise is not a requirement for new members. "If you could poll the men here, there is not one of us who earned their livings through carpentry."

"All it takes is one day of work, the food and fellowship and a guy is hooked" on working with Nailbenders, Cogburn emphasized.

"We need volunteers," echoed Miller. "We are looking for a man willing to be a part of the group and who can take a few orders, but mainly who will just be willing to work for the Lord."



## Search committee for executive director holds listening sessions

The search committee for a new executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention officially launched its search effort May 11 with a series of listening sessions.

The four sessions, held at the Baptist Building in Little Rock, provided an opportunity for convention staff members, directors of missions and ministers from across the state to share their views about needed qualifications for executive director Don Moore's successor. Moore recently announced that he will retire no later than February 1996.

The 10-member search committee, chaired by Ashley County Association director of missions Billy Kite, also scheduled a listening session for laymen but it was cancelled due to no participants attending the session.

Kite said the sessions were scheduled due to the committee's "desire to hear from the broad spectrum of Arkansas Baptists." More than 50 participants attended the four sessions.

"It's been a blessing to us to hear from these people," Kite affirmed. "It's given us a lot of food for thought and ideas to consider in putting together a profile" for the executive director search.

Primary qualifications highlighted in each session included someone called by God to the task and someone able to relate

well to Arkansas Baptist congregations of all sizes.

Other suggestions included seeking an individual who is a good communicator, a good listener, a problem-solver, an effective administrator, a "people person," a visionary leader and an encourager as well as someone who is humble, accessible and has a cooperative spirit.

Participants also suggested that qualifications include a person with Arkansas ties, a person of spiritual maturity, someone "with a pastor's heart," a record of personal involvement in all levels of Baptist life, a knowledge and appreciation of Southern Baptist history, missions and evangelism, and not politically aligned in convention controversy.

"Your ideas will be considered and many of them will be incorporated into the direction we will go," Kite assured participants. "We're going to be very sensitive to folks from all across the state and all backgrounds." The search committee met following the listening sessions to develop a candidate profile and procedures for conducting the search.

Individuals interested in giving additional input to the committee may write to Kite at P.O. Box 1184, Crossett, AR 71635. Recommendations, which may be mailed to Kite until June 28, should include a cover letter and resume.

## Flynn to lead ABCHFM programs

Charles Flynn has been named director of programs for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

Flynn, who has served as director of the ABCHFM's Little Rock area services since 1991, began his new duties May 1. He succeeds David Perry, who recently was elected as the agency's executive director.

As director of programs, Flynn will supervise and coordinate direct care services through the agency's area offices, satellite offices and other facilities.

Flynn said he is "excited about an opportunity to expand on what I have been doing."

"For the past four years, I have been working in more direct care of children," he noted. "Now I will be able to work with people around the state who are doing the direct care and counseling."

He earned the bachelor of social education and bachelor of arts in social work degrees from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, the master of social work degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and the master

of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Flynn and his wife, Lana, are members of First Church, Sherwood. They have four children.

An ordained minister, he previously has served as minister of education, music and youth in churches in Louisiana and Texas. In addition to his ABCHFM duties, he currently serves as interim education and music director for Highway Church in North Little Rock. Flynn noted that his church staff experience "gives me an understanding of what is going on in the local church and will let me communicate better to the local church."

Perry said Flynn was his candidate for the position because "he is very stable, has had good experience and he is well accepted with the staff. They appreciate his solidness."

"He is very steady whether things are going terribly or great," Perry added. "He has a very steady nature about his work and commitment. He makes solid, firm, well-thought-out decisions."

## Hinkson elected Pulaski Association director of missions

Ed Hinkson, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department, has resigned his position effective May 31 to become director of missions for Pulaski Association.

Hinkson, who has served as the Sunday School department's assistant



Hinkson

director since 1984, said he is "looking forward with excitement to my new opportunity of service."

In addition to his service on the state convention staff, he previously served

as pastor of Markham Street Church in Little Rock, Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff, and Baptist churches in Mulberry, Jacksonville, Aberdeen and Heber Springs.

An Arkansas native, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He said he hopes his experience as both pastor and Sunday School leader will give him a broad base of leadership as a director of missions.

"I feel I can identify with problems or challenges that pastors have because I have been there," he said. "My experience may give me credibility when dealing with those challenges."

Hinkson said he sees his new role as director of missions as "being a resource person, a motivator, an innovator and a challenger."

He said the "greatest challenges" that face associations are "maintaining harmony, unity and fellowship, and a cooperative spirit in channeling resources in the best way to carry out the Great Commission."

He also indicated that he would continue to emphasize Sunday School in the association's 59 churches. "I am convinced that as goes the Sunday School, so goes the church."

He and his wife, Sandra, have two grown children. They are members of Markham Street Church, where she serves as minister of education.



Sports, missions & fun  
at  
**RA**  
CONGRESS



More than 840 Royal Ambassadors from 50 Arkansas Baptist churches met for the 1995 RA Congress and Track Meet April 28-29 at Ouachita Baptist University's A.U. Williams Field in

Arkadelphia. In addition to a slate of running, jumping, frisbee tossing and slot car racing events, participants gathered around the flags of the European Baptist Convention (left) to pray for the missions partnership between European Baptists and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The missions emphasis also featured a parachute team jump over the stadium.

**Different styles of flying ...during the long jump competition**



## Training set for Crossover volunteers

ATLANTA (BP)—Training sessions for Crossover Atlanta volunteers will be held Friday, June 16. Most Crossover activities will take place Saturday, June 17.

Crossover is the evangelistic thrust before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Volunteers will help local churches conduct a myriad of evangelistic events, from door-to-door surveys to block parties.

Training for neighborhood surveys will begin at 7 p.m. at Briarcliff Baptist Church, 3039 Briarcliff Road in Atlanta. More than 80 Atlanta-area churches will participate in the door-to-door surveys, said Keith Walker, Home Mission Board associate director of personal evangelism.

Training for block parties and street evangelism will be at Piedmont Baptist Church, 570 Piedmont Road in Marietta. At least 30 churches will host block parties said Toby Frost, HMB associate director of mass evangelism.

Block parties typically are held on a parking lot, with free food and Christian entertainment to draw a crowd. Volunteers will learn how to witness to people gathered for the event, Frost said.

Individuals interested in participating in Crossover Atlanta may register by calling the Georgia Baptist Convention evangelism department at 404-936-5233.

## Nursing fund to honor Marjorie Grober

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—The national Baptist Nursing Fellowship has established the Marjorie Grober Special Projects Fund to assist members involved in missions projects at home and overseas.

The BNF, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, named the fund in memory of the late Marjorie Grober, who was president-elect of BNF when she and her husband, Glendon, were killed in an automobile accident in July 1994.

The Grobers served for 30 years as missionaries to Brazil before moving to Arkansas in 1984. At the time of their death, he had served 10 years as director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department and she had recently completed a five-year term as president of Arkansas WMU.

Launched earlier this year during BNF's annual meeting, gifts to the Grober fund totaled \$5,897 at the end of April. Included in that amount is a \$2,000 gift from the Arkansas WMU.

The first project the fund will help sponsor also is in memory of Grober. One of her goals as president-elect was to establish an international BNF organization.

In July, six members will represent BNF at the executive leadership conference of the Baptist World Alliance's women's department in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in order to help launch BNF International.

BNF is designed to provide nurses with Christian professional fellowship, promote continuing professional education for its members and missionary nurses, and encourage nursing service evolving from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Contributions to the Grober fund may be sent to: BNF, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

## FMB issues priority request for volunteers

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has issued a priority request for missions volunteers. Sixteen people are needed to conduct a day camp for the children of first-term missionaries who will be in a field orientation conference at Brackenhurst Conference Center in Limuru, Kenya.

The dates for the project are Aug. 9-26. Individuals interested in additional information about the project should contact Sharon Vincent at national Woman's Missionary Union by calling 205-995-4831.

## HMB to get new address, phone number

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board is scheduled to move into its new office building Memorial Day weekend. The board will close Thursday evening, May 25, and reopen Tuesday morning, May 30, said Joe Gatlin, HMB facilities management director.

The agency's new address will be 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA, 30202-4174. The board's main telephone number will be 404-410-6000 until Sept. 1. Afterwards, the area code for Alpharetta will change from 404 to 770.

Toll-free numbers for the HMB prayer line, 800-554-PRAY; volunteer information, 800-HMB-VOLS; and customer service, 800-634-2462, will not change.

## Volunteers reap harvest in Venezuela

VALENCIA, VENEZUELA (BP)—Eighty-nine Southern Baptist medical volunteers recently treated 14,245 patients in clinics near Valencia, Venezuela, leaving in their wake 2,295 new Christians.

The volunteers provided free, basic medical care in poor communities in and around Valencia. They served in 22 locations, chosen by Venezuelan Baptists as potential church planting sites. Volunteers worked with Southern Baptist missionaries and Venezuelan Baptist translators, who were available to give patients spiritual counseling and a chance to respond to the gospel. The 2,300 people who accepted Christ included a 112-year-old Venezuelan, the oldest patient treated.

Such medical campaigns have had "a significant impact" on opening doors for Christian witness in Venezuela, said Dickie Nelson, administrator of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Venezuela. Besides those who became Christians in the Valencia project, hundreds more said they wanted to participate in Bible study groups or get more information about the gospel.

This cycle of spring medical clinics, coupled with summer evangelistic campaigns, forms the core of the "Open New Works 2000," a Venezuelan Baptist church starting plan. Its first three-year phase was completed last fall, resulting in 38 new Baptist works. The Valencia clinics are the first step in a new three-year emphasis.

## Haiti medical volunteers denied permits

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI (BP)—The Haitian ministry of public health has denied work permits for Southern Baptist medical volunteers who planned to lead rural clinics in Haiti. The project was the final stage in a Haiti relief program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and the Foreign Mission Board.

Earlier phases included food distribution and water well repair. Meanwhile, other Southern Baptist volunteers are needed to help repair simple hand pumps on about 500 wells in Haiti. No experience in well-drilling is required. The next teams will head to the island nation May 27 and June 10 and 24.

Transitions in Haiti's government since October played a part in denial of medical permits, said Mark Rutledge, a Southern Baptist missionary in Haiti. "In the past months...the country has gone from a time when no one was responsible for public health to a period of adding new rules and qualifications," Rutledge wrote in a fax to the medical volunteers. "Some of the changes contributed to the denial by the (public health) minister."

The medical volunteers have been rescheduled to work near Montego Bay, Jamaica. Seven doctors, nine nurses and two support people will lead evangelistic medical clinics May 20 to June 3 through Jamaican Baptist churches.

## Ken Hemphill inaugurated at Southwestern

FORT WORTH, TX (ABP/FP) — Kenneth Hemphill was officially inaugurated as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 1 with a promise to keep the world's largest seminary tied to the Bible and in tune with its Southern Baptist constituency.

"I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me," Hemphill told the inauguration crowd. "I am challenged by the opportunity before me. I am confident because of the power of God that works through me. I am prepared to expend my life for the cause of this seminary and the Kingdom."

Hemphill, who was elected four months after trustees fired former president Russell Dilday, reaffirmed his commitment to nurturing seminary students' evangelistic passion while informing the mind.

If the seminary is to build Christian character into its students, they must be taught how to walk in dynamic relationship with their God, Hemphill said. "Preparation for ministry is incomplete without a heart that is fully prepared."

The Bible will remain "the seminary's textbook and plumb line by which all teaching is measured," Hemphill emphasized.

Nilson Fanini, president-elect of the Baptist World Alliance and president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, delivered the inaugural address. "God is the only person in the world who can accomplish all things alone, without the help of anyone," declared Fanini. "But He permits us to work with Him."

Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper, former chairman of Southwestern's board of trustees, urged Hemphill to "keep this institution 'lashed to the book,'" as B.H. Carroll challenged L.R. Scarborough, and keep us focused on the theology of our fathers."

"The great crisis in American education today is leadership, and the great crisis of leadership is character," Draper added. "Lead us boldly and with integrity, but always with humility and love."

Draper challenged the new president to "keep your eyes fixed on the Lord and keep your heart tender with His love."

## SBC restructuring committee rejects WMU amendment request

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—A request by Woman's Missionary Union to amend the proposal to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention has been turned down by the Program and Structure Study Committee, which drafted the proposal.

An April 11 letter by WMU executive director Dellanna W. O'Brien to committee chairman Mark Brister requested an insertion of WMU's program statement in the restructuring proposal.

Amending the report would "calm the fears expressed by many that there is an attempt to alienate WMU from the cooperative efforts of the SBC," O'Brien wrote in her letter. "It will also serve to confirm your statements regarding the desire for the continued commitment of WMU in the missions cause."

Brister responded that the WMU request is a "misunderstanding and misperception of the PSSC report as it relates to the WMU" and can be "clarified simply."

In a teleconference call April 25, members of the PSSC voted unanimously to "stand by our report," Brister said.

In an April 25 letter to O'Brien, Brister wrote: "While we have profound appreciation for the WMU's initial promotion of these offerings and friendship supporting the offerings over these many years, the greater cause is the cause of Christ. The Program and Structure Study Committee believes that we will ultimately reach more people for Christ in our world desperately in need of Jesus if our beloved Convention maximizes the efficiency of our operations."

"Despite the assurances that nothing

has changed, it's quite clear that things have changed," O'Brien insisted. "People say we haven't been deprived of anything, but we have. Otherwise, there would be some statement in the report at least acknowledging WMU's contribution."

In a letter to constituents, Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin noted, "This recommendation implies no change whatsoever in the way the Foreign Mission Board has worked with the WMU in the past, nor does it diminish the role WMU organizations will continue to have in promoting the offering and sponsoring the annual weeks of prayer. It would be foolish and counterproductive to even propose denying this role to the WMU."

"Certainly the committee could have been more sensitive to the potential perception that programs of the WMU were being reassigned and made a point of affirming WMU's auxiliary role," Rankin added. "But I believe this was an oversight rather than intentional."

In related actions, FMB trustees voted unanimously to express "approval and appreciation" for the restructuring plan as it relates to the Foreign Mission Board. They commended the study committee for "courage in facing difficult issues and making wise decisions that will result in greater efficiency and better coordination of our work."

The FMB trustees also asked "all Southern Baptist entities, ... especially our historic partner Woman's Missionary Union," to help them promote the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

## Historical Society examines options

AUGUSTA, GA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Historical Society, an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, voted to become independent if the commission is eliminated in a denominational restructuring set for a vote in Atlanta in June at the SBC annual meeting.

Meeting with the commission May 8-10 in a celebration of the 1845 formation of the SBC in Augusta, Ga., members of the society voted to change their charter and bylaws — but only if the Historical Commission is abolished.

Albert W. Wardin Jr., a retired Belmont College church history professor, said the restructuring proposal is the "most serious challenge" the society has faced since its founding in 1938.

Wardin, president of the 750-member society, said it became an auxiliary of the

Historical Commission in 1952, the year after the commission was formed by the SBC.

"Southern Baptists need an independent historical voice," Wardin emphasized. However, he said the society needs to cooperate with the SBC and not become a "dissident body." He stressed both the society and the commission were "not acting in a spirit of antagonism nor seeking any hostile takeover," but taking measures to develop its own independent status.

In a related development, the Southern Baptist Library Association has voted to request the SBC Executive Committee to reconsider the restructuring proposal.

Elizabeth Wells, spokesman for the 50-member library association, said the group met in Atlanta May 6 and "decided plans to eliminate the Historical Commission."

# Sesquicentennial affirms Lottie Moon, missions

By Louis Moore

SBC Foreign Mission Board

CARTERSVILLE, GA (BP)—On the eve of celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention, leaders of the Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union returned to Cartersville, Ga., where Lottie Moon first heard God's call to foreign missions.

FMB president Jerry Rankin and WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien came to pay tribute to the "school marm from Virginia" whose life has come to symbolize Southern Baptist foreign missions commitment.

They recounted in special services at First Baptist Church of Cartersville how Charlotte Diggs "Lottie" Moon—then 33—felt called in May 1873 to leave her successful teaching career in Cartersville for mission work in faraway China.

By late 1873—just six months later—Moon was in China, laying the foundation for a career that today is remembered annually in Southern Baptists' foreign missions offering that bears her name and will raise more than 46 percent of the FMB's 1995 budget of \$186 million.

## Holding the rope

Nearly 20 years after her call to missions, Moon returned—in May 1892—to thank the women of the Cartersville church for their support of her work.

"Right noble have you held the rope," Moon said as she rose to thank the women.

"Right noble have you gone down into the well," they responded.

In the 1995 services, O'Brien said, "We all carry Lottie Moon in our hearts. She has become for us what it takes to take God's Word around the world."

O'Brien, who recounted the history of Moon's missionary career, presented the Cartersville church with a plaque of appreciation for its support of Moon's ministry.

Rankin noted Moon's call came after her pastor, R.B. Headden, preached on the need for Christians to heed God's call to foreign missions. Earlier, Headden had attended an associational meeting, where he became convicted of his need to preach on missions.

Headden's preaching, Rankin said, provided the link for God to steer Moon in His direction.

"We're celebrating the life and ministry of Lottie Moon, but more than that we're celebrating not so much Lottie Moon but the reality of a local church pastor and the power of God to reach down and touch Charlotte Diggs Moon," Rankin declared.

## SBC's anniversary celebration recalls past, anticipates future

AUGUSTA, GA (BP)—Dramatic presentations, historical interpretations, sermons and a declaration of repentance were among highlights of a May 8-10 celebration in Augusta, Ga., of the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sponsored by the SBC Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society, the event drew nearly 900 to a special worship evening May 9 at First Baptist Church and more than 300 registered for the full three days of activity. The actual date of the birth of the SBC was May 8, 1845, at First Baptist Church when it was located in downtown Augusta.

At the Tuesday evening service, Charles B. Bugg, pastor of Provident Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., brought a sermon recalling Jesus' response to His disciples the night before He died. Using Jesus' words, "This do in remembrance of me," Bugg suggested Southern Baptists would do well to remember their past and the admonition of Jesus in looking to the future. Bugg was pastor of the historic Augusta congregation in the mid-1980s.

The evening event featured Southern Baptist officials bringing greetings and remembrances, including Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; and James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

A "Declaration of Repentance and Rededication" was read by the congregation and led by Slayden Yarbrough, chairman of the Historical

Commission board of trustees who was elected May 8 as interim executive director of the commission.

The declaration spoke of the issue of "slavery and the defense of the right to own slaves" as a contributing factor in the founding of the convention in 1845. The declaration pledged "ourselves to repentance in order to commit ourselves to be agents of Christ's reconciling peace and to combat publicly the sins of racism and exclusion in our communities."

In conclusion, the declaration said, "It is our fervent hope and prayer that by acknowledging and repenting of the sins of our past we will be freed to live in justice and peace in the present."

Southern Baptist historians who brought interpretations of the 150 years of SBC life included Jesse Fletcher, chancellor of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas; Marty Bell, associate professor of religion at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn.; Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Yarbrough, church history professor at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Topics addressed by the historians ranged from "Shapers of the Southern Baptist Spirit" to "Cooperation and Crisis as Shapers of Southern Baptist Identity."

Lynn E. May Jr., retiring executive director of the commission, was also honored for his 39 years of service with the agency.

The SBC's sesquicentennial celebration will continue at the annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta, where major presentations are planned on Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Rankin encouraged Southern Baptist pastors to continue to preach about the need for people to respond to God's call to carry the gospel to people around the world.

Before the May 4 service at the Cartersville church, Rankin and O'Brien visited the original church building—now a large home currently being remodeled—where Moon announced to the congregation that God was calling her to China.

Rankin used the occasion to "pay tribute to WMU's past support for our missionaries," noting that "part of the

reason the Foreign Mission Board today is out of debt is because of the work of WMU."

WMU has been—and continues to be—a vital support unit for foreign missions, Rankin emphasized.

Rankin also said Moon's life reminds Southern Baptists that God is still at work today calling Christians to full-time cross-cultural missionary work overseas.

"God is still saying to us today, 'Lift up your eyes...the fields are ripe unto harvest,'" he declared. "If we're to be like that generation that has gone before us, there's a commitment to be made."

## Church news

**Malvern Third Church** burned a note April 16, recognizing the recent retirement of a \$250,000 indebtedness on the church's education annex and exterior renovation. The note, paid 12 years ahead of schedule, was burned by project building committee directors Louise Brumley and W.J. Brumley, chairman of deacons Don Walsh, associate pastor Dinky Deos and pastor Rick Hyde.

**Hardy First Church** held a revival April 17-23 that resulted in 11 professions of faith, one addition by letter and one by statement. Bob Shoemaker of Henryetta, Okla., was the evangelist and Shannon Byrd directed music. Wes Pruitt is pastor.

**West Church** in Batesville recently voted to co-sponsor Emmanuel Baptist Church, a mission congregation in Ohio located near the three communities of Dresden, Nashport and Frazeyburg. The proposal was a joint recommendation of the church's Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood councils and finance committee. The congregation voted to contribute \$200 per month for one year for the new church start which is a joint ministry venture of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and two Ohio Baptist congregations.

**Mountain Home First Church** recently voted to launch a contemporary Christian music ministry on KKTZ, 107.5 FM. The one-hour program will be aired each Sunday at 8 p.m. The effort also will include four one-minute spots Monday through Friday.

## Staff changes

**Jim Watkins** is serving as pastor of First Church in Crawfordsville, coming there from Temple Baptist Church in Caruthersville, Mo. A native of Arkansas, he previously served in Jonesboro and Harrisburg as well as other churches in Missouri. Watkins attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), and is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received a diploma in clinical pastoral education from the University of Missouri in Columbia and was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the International Bible Seminary in Plymouth, Fla. Watkins and his wife, Ann, have three sons, Jim, Daniel and Andy.

**Emmett Sherman** has announced his retirement as pastor of Calvary Church in



## ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

**Mena**, effective June 4. Sherman, who has served as a minister for more than 39 years in Ouachita Association, has served the Mena church for more than 10 years. He previously was pastor of New Hope, Cove, Hatton and Lower Big Fork churches. He and his wife, Ruth, will continue to reside in Mena.

**Troy Sharp** is serving as pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Blytheville. He and his wife, Dee Dee, moved there from Mulberry.

**Henry Van Ravensway** began serving April 16 as pastor of Bethany Church in Manila. He and his wife, Carolyn, moved there from Texas.

**Danny Smith** is pastor of Memorial Church in Blytheville. He and his wife, Loretta, and their two children live in the Lone Oak area.

**Milton E. White** began serving May 4 as bivocational pastor of Riverside Church of Donaldson. He and his wife, Tina, formerly resided in Texarkana. They have three children, Amber, Megan and M.J.

**Stan Moore** is serving as interim minister of music for Second Church in Little Rock. He currently is associate professor of church music and chairman of the music ministry department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has served as music professor for South Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in Rio de Janeiro.

**Les Stanley** is serving as interim pastor of Antioch Church at Royal. He previously served as interim pastor of Pincey Church in Hot Springs. He also has served as vice president for institutional development at Luther Rice Bible College and Seminary in Atlanta.

**Mason Boudurant** is serving as interim pastor of Berea Church in Jacksonville. A former pastor of First Church in Jacksonville and a retired Southern Baptist foreign missionary, Boudurant has served as interim pastor of several other Arkansas churches.

**Brandon Barnard** is serving as interim youth minister for First Church in Benton. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Ryan Clark** will serve as summer youth intern for First Church in Morrilton. He is a junior at Arkansas Tech University where

he serves as president of the Baptist Student Union.

**Christine Brown** will serve Pleasant Valley Church in Heber Springs as summer youth worker. She is a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Bruce Smith** resigned May 14 as minister to youth at Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. He will serve as youth minister for a church in the Netherlands.

**Joe Ward** has resigned as pastor of Long Ridge Church of Booneville. He and his wife, Melissa, will move to Louisville, Ky., where he will enroll in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Mike Wilbanks** has resigned as youth director for West Helena Church to continue his education at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

**Jeff Gongwer** has resigned as pastor of Central Church in Dyess to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Lynsol Richmond** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Luxora to become pastor of a church in Mississippi.

## People

**Vaughn Blue Jr.** received his master of arts degree in theology May 5 from Louisiana Baptist University in Shreveport, La. He is pastor of First Church in Wilson. Blue and his wife, Shirley, have one daughter, Beth.

**Trennis Henderson**, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, was elected 1995-96 president of Baptist Public Relations Association during the organization's annual meeting held recently in Williamsburg, Va. BPR is the national association of Southern Baptist communications professionals.

## Obituaries

**Ansel Dixon Corder Sr.** of Bald Knob died May 3 at age 75. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he was a member of Trinity Church of Searcy. Corder had been pastor of Harmony Church in Perryville, Pleasant Valley Church of Heber Springs, Calvary Church of Timbo, First Church of Mountain View, Central Church of Bald Knob, Bayou Meto Church of Jacksonville and First Church of Gentry. Survivors are his wife, Olga Corder; two sons, Ansel Corder, Jr. of Bearden and Stephen Corder of Lynn; a daughter, Marilyn Junyor of Greenbrier; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

## Couples with Arkansas ties named missionaries

Two couples with Arkansas ties were recently appointed to missions service.

Michael and Linda Ray were among 58 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 28 during an appointment service in Huntsville, Ala.

The Rays will live in Ukraine, where he will promote religious education.

Born and reared in Crossett, Ray is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ray of that city. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Since 1992, he has been minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church in Martin, Tenn.

Ray was previously minister of education and music at Mount Olive Church in Crossett and minister of



Michael and Linda Ray



Randall and Frances Harvey

education at First Baptist Church in Bastrop, La.

Mrs. Ray, the former Linda Robinson, considers Poplarville, Miss., her hometown. She is a graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., and has been an elementary school teacher.

The Rays have two children, Rebekah

Lauren and Hannah Michelle. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Randall and Frances Harvey were appointed recently by the Home Mission Board's executive committee to be home missionaries in Louisville, Ky.

Harvey will serve as director of the Jefferson Street Baptist Center, where he has been serving as interim director since August 1994. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Harvey, a native of North Carolina, will serve in family and church ministries. Since 1991, she has served as a social worker for the Bridgehaven mental health center in Louisville.

## Family Enrichment Leadership Training Workshops Immanuel Baptist Church • Little Rock June 5-6, 1995 • 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

### Christian Sexuality Education Workshop MONDAY, June 5, 1995

This workshop is for parents and church leaders who want to make a difference in today's world. The workshop will equip parents to teach their children and youth. It will also equip church leaders to reach church and nonchurch children and teenagers whose parents need help in this vital area of life.

The workshop will interpret the *Christian Sex Education Series* and the new annual *True Love Waits* plan.

#### \$8.50 REGISTRATION FEE

Includes required resource, *Christian Sex Education: Parents and Church Leaders Guide*.



#### Workshop Leader

**ROBIN NICHOLS**  
Associate, Church Minister  
Relations & Annuity Department,  
Mississippi Baptist Convention.  
Robin was formerly the Family Ministry  
Director in Mississippi.

### Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Workshop TUESDAY, June 6, 1995

This workshop will interpret the ministry of marriage enrichment and introduce a variety of resources and implementing it in a local church or association. It will equip participants to train others to plan, promote, and conduct *Covenant Marriage* courses.

*Couple leadership of marriage enrichment events is recommended. Therefore, it is best if your spouse can attend with you.*

#### \$26.50 REGISTRATION FEE

Includes the required *Communication and Intimacy: Covenant Marriage Leader's Notebook* (couples may pay one registration fee and share a notebook).

The Family Enrichment Leadership Training Workshops are cooperative projects of the Arkansas Baptist Discipleship & Family Ministry Department and the Sunday School Board Discipleship and Family Development Division.

## Baptists' Oklahoma City relief fund tops \$260,000

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Baptists from across the nation and around the world have responded to the needs of the Oklahoma City bombing victims by providing more than \$260,000 in relief funds.

The relief fund was set up by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to help with funeral expenses, hospital costs and related expenses in the wake of the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

A total of 166 people died in the explosion that damaged more than 200 buildings and left an additional 400 people injured. One rescue worker also died after being hit by falling debris.

Charles Graves, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and William G. Tanner, executive director, said

they were not surprised that Oklahoma Baptists and others responded to people in a crisis situation, but they were surprised at the amount given.

"I'm just greatly impressed," said Graves, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. "It is astonishing to see how tremendously generous our Baptists have been."

Graves noted that the committee decided to handle assistance requests through local churches. The pastors will be responsible for verifying there is a legitimate need, and for delivering the funds once they are approved.

Graves said he could not thank Southern Baptists enough. "Thank you is too small," he said. "I don't have the words to express thanks for the great kindness Baptists have shown."

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## Arkansas senior adults join Georgia World Changers project

SAVANNAH, GA—Senior adults from First Church in Searcy joined more than 120 senior adults in Savannah, Ga., to participate in a national World Changers work project, April 22-29.

World Changers, a ministry of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, stresses "hands-on" missions involvement through youth, collegiate and senior adult projects. Participants renovate and repair homes for elderly, disabled and residents in low-income areas.

Senior adults from nine states arrived April 22 to participate in a week of work, fellowship and worship. Work on 11 sites began Monday and included painting, repairing floors and porches, hanging sheetrock and building cabinets.

Arkansas team members included Ross and Carol Pyeatt, George and Naomi Harlan, Dale McDaniel, John Jackson, Joy Lewis and Mary Gentry, all from First Church.

Team leader Ross Pyeatt noted, "I felt it was an excellent experience," adding

that it was an opportunity to get to know other volunteers from across the nation.

"I would give it a good strong 'A,'" Pyeatt affirmed. "The fellowship was great and planning by the World Changers staff was excellent. All the people in our group had a positive experience."

"I've never had anything like this in my life," said Savannah resident Dorothy Mills, 70. "I feel like I'm in a dream. I won't ever forget it." A World Changers crew repaired her front porch, replaced the floor and hung sheetrock in her bathroom, and painted, laid linoleum and added cabinets in her kitchen.

To be involved in Senior Adult World Changers, participants paid \$235, which covered lodging, meals and materials. They also completed *Setting A Course*, a missions trip preparation workbook.

Other World Changers projects scheduled for 1995 include a youth project scheduled for July 29-Aug. 5 in West Memphis.

## Nominations

### Executive Director

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

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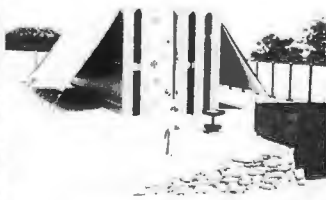
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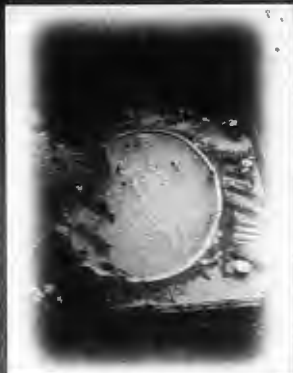
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## ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

# Little Rock attorney Paul White named Foundation vice president

Paul White will become vice president-general counsel for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation effective June 5, following a vote by the agency's board May 11.

According to Foundation executive director David Moore, "We were looking for someone with the right heart for this work and we found him in Paul.

"We like his people skills," Moore added. "He relates well to people, he is an excellent speaker and has a great sense of humor."

White currently is an attorney for the City Attorney's Office in Little Rock, acting as lead counsel and co-counsel in representing the City of Little Rock and its employees in civil rights, contract law, employment law and personal injury defense cases.

He previously served as clerk for the Little Rock City Attorney's Office and the firm of Skokos, Coleman and Rainwater, P.A. in Little Rock.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law.

White and his wife, Angela, are members of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. They have one son, Zachary.

"When I first considered the job," said White, "I thought that it would be an opportunity for me to work in the Lord's work."

"But as I thought and prayed about it, I realized that it was something I needed to be doing all along," he recalled. "It's an opportunity that God is going to give me

to work with His people and to help the Foundation to grow and to grow myself."

White's election to the vice president's position marks the Foundation's return to employing a full-time attorney. He succeeds Larry Page, who resigned as full-time attorney for the Foundation in 1991 to become executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation in Little Rock. Moore said Page has continued to provide legal services for the Foundation in a part-time capacity.

"How can I praise Larry Page for all he has done for us?" Moore asked. "Larry has worked at nights and during the weekends for us and has been a blessing to us. But we are growing and doing more and need someone in the office on a day-to-day basis."

Moore described the position as "a multi-faceted job."

"There will be a lot of legal work for the Foundation itself, for our assets and what we do," he said. "Paul also will be doing a lot of estate planning, he will help us in all areas of accounting and investments, he will be doing a lot of field work in churches and he will be conducting conferences for professionals such as attorneys and accountants."

Moore added that White will be available to Arkansas Baptists as "a service. He will be able to answer questions.

"People call us all the time for church questions," Moore explained. "He can advise them on steps they need to take legally."

## TEACHERS TO CHINA

The Teachers to China '95 project is an intensive language immersion program with a primary focus in conversational English. Be a part of this exciting missions opportunity to share Christ with the students of China. Dates for the project are July 2 - August 7, 1995.

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Teachers to China is a project of Cooperative Services International. The Brotherhood Commission, SBC, is responsible for the recruitment of volunteers.

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## New children's worship center to be dedicated at Siloam

All Arkansas Baptists are invited to a dedication ceremony June 16 of the new Children's Worship Center at Arkansas Baptist Assembly near Siloam Springs, according to the camp's director.

"Come see what you have," said Pat Batchelor, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School

department. He noted that the new facility belongs to all Arkansas Baptists, "so come see your new worship center."

Batchelor said the ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at the worship center. The event will include music, testimonies and special recognitions, with a snack reception following.

The recently-completed worship center replaces an "open-sided wooden tabernacle built in the late '50s," Batchelor noted. He said the new facility "is marvelous and functional. It's what we needed."

He said the air-conditioned facility, built with a gift from Bernice Jones of Springdale, "will seat approximately 200 people and has a top-rated sound system and large meeting room."

In addition to the worship center, participants will dedicate the Mary Emma Humphrey Memorial Plaza in honor of the ABC's first children's Sunday School associate.

Batchelor said the new building also may be used during the year as a retreat center for church groups. "It will be great for deacons, choirs and other types of retreats. We now have the capability of housing about 200 people in the off-season."

### Classifieds

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**RN/LPN** — or other health care professional to provide direct care and coordinate other services for a private individual in the Little Rock Area. Schedule of 7 day/24 hours needed. To apply, send resume to P.O. Box 3373, Little Rock, 72203.

**Music/youth director** — Keo Baptist Church, Keo, Arkansas. Send resume to: P.O. Box 87, Keo, AR 72083.

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

**Church secretary needed** — First Baptist Church of Maumelle is needing a financial/church secretary. The position will be 30-35 hours per week. Qualifications include secretarial, financial, and computer skills as well as a sweet Christian spirit. Call 851-3547 for further information, or pick up an application at 120 Millwood Circle, Maumelle, during business hours.

**Accepting resumes** — for summer recreation director. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 5025 Lynch Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72116.

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

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

**Needed** — Bivocational music director, Moro Baptist Church. Call 501-768-4483.

**Accepting resumes** — for full-time youth minister. First Baptist Church, 322 West First Street, DeWitt, AR 72042; 501-946-4361.

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

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

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## Convention Uniform

### The love of God

By Rich L. Kincl, pastor,  
Central Church, Magnolia

Basic passage: I Corinthians 13

Focal passage: I Corinthians 13:1-13

Central truth: We cannot begin to understand love until we apply it in our lives.

God is love (1 John 4:16). This is how God describes Himself. Does the love that is basic to Christian character characterize your life?

Love was missing in the church at Corinth. They had the spiritual gifts and much right doctrine (v. 11:2) but found it difficult to be loving. Some find it easier to be orthodox than to be loving and easier to be active in church work than to be loving. Yet, God demands love.

■ *God's love is unnatural to human nature* (vv. 1-3).

Self-giving love, love that demands something of us, love that is more concerned with giving than receiving is something rare in a Christian life. Our world has defined love as "romantic feeling" or "attraction" which has nothing to do with *agape*, God's love.

A Sunday School teacher said, "I thought I loved girls in my class. I prepared a lesson, but I never made any personal sacrifice for those girls." She sensed she lacked the key ingredient of *agape* love, love that is self-giving and self-sacrificing. When God's love is absent, emptiness permeates the life.

■ *God's love is active* (vv. 4-7).

These verses includes the most comprehensive biblical description of love. *Agape* love is active, not passive. It does not simply have kind feelings, it does kind things.

Paul lists 15 Greek verbs to describe God's love. Are these characteristic of your life? They include: patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

■ *God's love lasts forever* (vv. 8-13).

Love will never end. Let us give ourselves to these things which are most meaningful. Showing love, practicing love and living love now are of utmost importance.

## Life and Work

### Signs of revival

By Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus,  
Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Acts 19:8-20:1

Focal passage: Acts 19:8-20

Central truth: Revival came to Ephesus.

■ *Paul came to Ephesus and spoke to the church about the Holy Spirit.*

■ *Twelve men were filled with the Spirit and started preaching throughout the city.*

■ *In this atmosphere, Paul started preaching in the synagogue and other places in the city.*

Paul preached boldly. He first preached in the synagogue for three months. His central theme was the Kingdom of God. Some in the synagogue disagreed with him and he left them and started preaching daily in the school of Tyrannus. He preached there for two years. Imagine the blessing that came to all the people of that surrounding area with Paul preaching every day on the Kingdom of God. In verse 10 we are told "that all they which dwell in Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."

Miracles were in evidence. "God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul." During times of true revival we witness miraculous workings of the Lord. God worked the miracles, but He needed the hands of Paul.

The counterfeiters were exposed and punished. At times of true spiritual revival there will spring up those who imitate the true workings of the Lord. This happened at Ephesus. There were some who were trying to "use Jesus" to further their own program and gain. Don't you wonder how many religionists there are today who are trying to "use Jesus" for their own glorification or goals?

But there were true signs of repentance by some believers. Fear fell upon all the people as the name of Jesus was preached and magnified. Many who believed "came and confessed, and shewed their deeds." Some brought books on magic, astrology and the occult and burned them.

The net result of this Holy Spirit-wrought revival was clear. In real revival, which is wrought by the Spirit, there will be outward signs of inward change in individuals and in society. The Word of God will grow mightily and will prevail.

May God give us a genuine Holy Spirit revival!

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## Bible Book

### Living like Jesus

By Greg Stanley, pastor,  
First Church, Warren

Basic passage: Mark 9:30-10:52

Focal passage: Mark 9:30-10:45

Central truth: Our daily lives are to be controlled by the Spirit of Jesus.

Mark is indeed known as the gospel of action, emphasizing Jesus' works more than His teachings. In these passages, however, we have the account of Jesus' private teaching ministry to His disciples. The time for His death was drawing near. Jesus' emphasis was on the disciples' living out the sacrificial spirit of their Lord.

Jesus set the tone for His teaching in His statements in verses 9:30-32 and 10:32-34. Through several incidents, He taught in word and deed that His followers were to live out His life-giving spirit in all the following relationships of life:

■ *Service in the body of Christ* (vv. 9:33-41). Settling disputes among the twelve disciples, Jesus emphasized an humble, self-giving, servant spirit.

■ *Not offending weaker believers* (vv. 9:42-50). Jesus pronounced harsh judgment on those who allow their own selfish lifestyles to lead less mature Christians into sin.

■ *The sacredness of marriage* (vv. 10:1-12). Our Lord used a "trick question" about divorce laws as an opportunity to stress the priority of marital fidelity and sanctity.

■ *The value of children* (vv. 10:13-16). A disciple's attitude toward the most defenseless and vulnerable is a good measure of the reality of his faith.

■ *The proper place of material possessions* (vv. 10:17-31). Jesus encouraged abandoning the hindrance of temporal riches in order to attain eternal rewards.

■ *Rewards in the Kingdom* (vv. 10:32-45). Facing imminent betrayal and death by crucifixion, Jesus found it necessary to remind His followers that greatness and honor in God's kingdom comes to those who give their lives in sacrificial service.

If we would live God-pleasing, Christ-honoring lives, we must apply His servant spirit in each day's events and challenges. Every decision and relationship is affected. That is only possible as we live constantly surrendered to the Holy Spirit's moment-by-moment control.

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## Convention Uniform

### *Power serve!*

By David Welch, associate pastor, Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock  
**Basic passage:** I Kings 11:26-12:24  
**Focal passage:** I Kings 12:1-16  
**Central truth:** A refusal to humbly serve others spells the worst kind of disaster.

It is the moment of critical mass for the kingdom of Israel. Solomon's excesses and abuse reach the point of fission upon his death. The putrid source of all his sin was a hidden carcass in his character called self-sufficiency. His incalculable wealth, vast knowledge and honed political skills caused him to forget his desperate need for a dependent walk with God.

When his son ascended the throne, we discover that Rehoboam's character had been permanently carved from the excessive likeness of his father. The kingdom splits, torn apart by the unwillingness of one person to powerfully serve others.

A refusal to serve others is born out of selfish pride. Rehoboam refused his experienced counselors' advice "to be servant to this people today" (v. 12:7) because he was more arrogant than his father (v. 12:14). You and I must vigorously examine our characters every day, searching to eradicate the virulent infection of pride. It blinds us to our own faults, it causes us to use others rather than love them and, most frightening of all, it makes us independent from God.

A refusal to serve others blinds you from reality. Rehoboam couldn't see the danger in his unwillingness to serve his people. They were suffering (v. 12:5)! The consequences were obvious. When he refused to humble himself and serve, it set off national rebellion. Our families and churches yearn for servant-leaders. Your business longs for leaders who serve as sources and resources rather than iron-fisted bosses who demand to be obeyed.

A refusal to serve others ultimately destroys any relationship. In paraphrase, the people responded, "We're outta here!" (v. 12:16). The core of the conflict in almost any fractured relationship is selfishness. When you are unwilling to sacrifice self and humbly serve your spouse, employer, friend or enemy, you have nailed the coffin shut on the relationship. Your priority must be no different from that of your Lord - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). It creates a power serve.

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## Life and Work

### *20/20 vision*

By Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus, Central Church, Jonesboro  
**Basic passage:** Acts 20:13-38  
**Focal passage:** Acts 20:17-21  
**Central truth:** Adopt a 20/20 vision for your church.

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). This applies to the individual, to families, to the church and to nations.

We must have a revealed goal to motivate us, challenge us, and to keep us on target.

Acts 20:20 is a perfect vision for us all.

■ **Paul's ministry** (vv. 17-19).

Not Paul's ministry at Ephesus. Paul served the church with all humility of mind. In other words, he served as one being a servant, not expecting or demanding that others serve him.

He said that he served with many tears. He had a tender and compassionate heart. Some of the most effective soul winners are those who are concerned and so frightened that they weep as they witness.

Then Paul said that he had served the Lord in the midst of trials, troubles and temptations. We, like Paul, must be good soldiers of the cross and learn to endure hardships to serve Christ.

■ **The method** (v. 20:20).

Paul said that he had preached the whole counsel of God. He showed them by doing. He told them to go, and he went. He taught them "publicly and from house to house." This should be our strategy. This should be our method of work. Many preachers and teachers can say that they taught the people publicly, but the key to Paul's success was that he taught from house to house. This is the only way you can win your community or city to Christ. This is the vision we need.

■ **His message.**

It was the two inseparable graces - repentance and faith. Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the message to both the Jews and the Greeks. When we turn from sin to the Savior, it is what we call "to the rear, march" in the military. We were headed toward sin and destruction and we turned completely around and walked toward Christ and eternal life.

■ **Pastor and people, adopt this 20/20 vision for your church.** Teacher, adopt this vision for your class. Believer, let this be your goal, your vision, your purpose in life. God will richly bless you.

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## Bible Book

### *Who's in charge?*

By Greg Stanley, pastor, First Church, Warren  
**Basic passage:** Mark 11:1-12:44  
**Focal passage:** Mark 11:1-12:17  
**Central truth:** Jesus is the supreme authority in all of life.

The final events pushing Jesus to His awful death on the cross have led some to see Him as a helpless victim of circumstances. He has been portrayed as a good man at the mercy of corrupt religious authorities and a bloodthirsty mob. He has been called a martyr, at best, and an inept failure, at worst.

A careful study of the last six chapters of Mark reveals a different picture. Jesus is very much in control of events. He is a master conductor orchestrating events, people and words to accomplish salvation for a lost world. In His final week before the cross, we see His authority stated in several areas of life.

■ **Authority in God's Kingdom** (vv. 11:1-33). In Mark 11, Jesus is presented as God's prophet, priest and king. In what has come to be called the Triumphant Entry, Jesus presented Himself to Israel as God's promised king and messiah. His clearing the Jerusalem temple of corrupt merchants and moneychangers demonstrated His authority as the true priest of God's temple.

In cursing the fig tree and His answer to the religious authorities who questioned Him, Jesus proclaimed Himself as God's unquestionable prophet in deed and word. Today Jesus is God's ultimate word in any issue related to God's kingdom and spiritual truth. He is the measuring standard for all truth.

■ **Authority in judgment** (vv. 12:1-12). Jesus' parable of the vineyard owner and the disloyal tenants confronted Israel's hollow, unfruitful religiosity. He made Himself the key factor in the matter of judgment. Jesus is final judge of this world. Our relationship to Him is the final standard for that judgment.

■ **Authority in earthly priorities** (vv. 12:13-17). Jesus' wise reply to the Pharisees' and Herodians' trick question underlines our responsibility to earthly authority while stressing the things of God as the top priority in our lives.

Jesus' life and words as revealed by the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit are still our ultimate authority. This is true not only in matters related to the church, Christian doctrine and final judgment, but also in our day-to-day lives. He is Lord!

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### Storms damage Baptist facilities in Dallas, New Orleans

DALLAS (BP)—A series of killer storms that swept across Texas May 5-7 claimed 20 lives, devastated a Baptist encampment and flooded the emergency room at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

As the storm system moved into the New Orleans area May 8-9, a number of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's ground-floor Gently student apartments took on 13 inches of water and several cars were damaged.

A tornado hit High Plains Baptist Assembly in Canyon, Texas, destroying the camp manager's home and the encampment dining hall, leveling at least one cabin and ripping the roofs off several other buildings. There were no injuries reported at the assembly grounds.

About 400 miles to the southeast, more than two dozen patients being treated in the emergency room at Baylor University Medical Center had to be moved to higher ground when rising water began to fill the below-ground facility just before 10 p.m. on May 5. The emergency room remained closed throughout the weekend.

### Court rejects school's effort to display portrait of Jesus

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear a Michigan school district's plea to permit a portrait of Jesus Christ to be displayed in a high school hallway. By refusing to hear the case, the high court left standing lower court rulings that the portrait's display violated the Constitution's requirement of church-state separation.

The 2- by 3-foot copy of Warner Sallman's "Head of Christ" was donated to a Bloomingdale, Mich., high school, where it hung in a hallway for 30 years before a 1993 senior class member sued to have it removed.

Siding with Eric Pensinger, a federal appeals court ruled that the school district's practice violated all three elements of a legal test used to determine when government unconstitutionally establishes religion.

The school district did not show a secular purpose to hang the portrait, the court said. Additionally, display of the portrait advanced religion and entangled government and religion, the court said.

The appeals court noted that the case would have been different if the school had displayed representative symbols of many of the world's religions on a common wall. But in this case, the court said, the display could be viewed as the school district favoring one religion while downplaying others.

### Accrediting agency to evaluate changes at Southern

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), accrediting agency for seminaries in the United States and Canada, has contacted Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to arrange a "focused site visit" to examine concerns raised by members of the seminary's Faculty Committee.

Seminary representatives said they anticipate a visit will take place in the fall and will focus on the institution's faculty hiring process.

The ATS contact comes following the March 20 dismissal of Diana R. Garland as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work. At the recent meeting of the seminary's trustees, the board affirmed Mohler in the dispute and approved additional hiring guidelines, including criteria opposed to women as pastors.

The most recent visit to Southern Seminary by ATS was in the fall of 1993. Concerns raised at that time were reviewed again in the fall of 1994, and the ATS commission on accrediting reported the seminary was in compliance with all ATS standards.

### Women sweep Southern Seminary's preaching awards

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP)—Female students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary swept the top three awards in the seminary's annual preaching competition. This year's Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Awards went to Kimberly Baker of Lincolnton, N.C., Mary Beth McCloy of Philippi, W. Va.; and Dixie Petrey of Knoxville, Tenn.

The winners, selected by an all-male committee, were announced one week after trustees affirmed president Albert Mohler's belief that prospective faculty members must interpret the Bible to prohibit women from serving as pastors.

The initial field of 28 entries was narrowed to three finalists based on a review of written manuscripts. Only after the three finalists were selected did the judges hear audio tapes of the sermons to determine first-, second- and third-place rankings.

Recipients of the two top awards preached their sermons in seminary chapel services. Baker, who won the first-place award, preached May 2, and McCloy, who won the second-place award, preached May 4.