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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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April 6, 1989

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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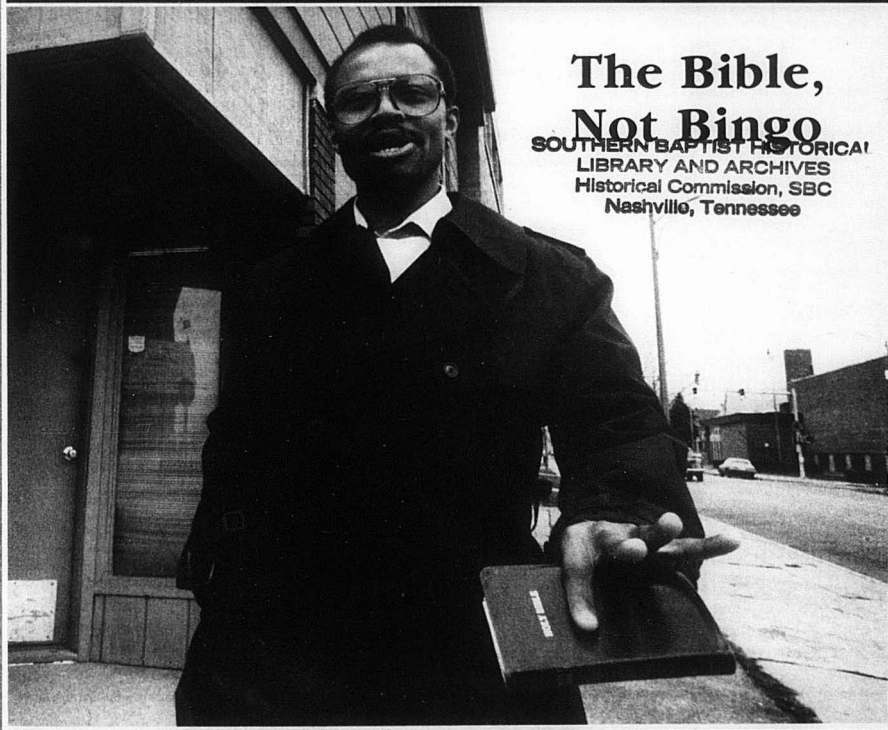


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A Heart for Missions

Arkansas Baptist

April 6, 1989



**The Bible,
Not Bingo**

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

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Photo / Ken Touchton

The Bible, Not Bingo . . . 6

While many of Buffalo, New York's churches are wryly called "St. Bingo," two Southern Baptist mission pastors are building their work on the Word of God.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Changing An Ex-Con's Life

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (BP)—A newly released ex-con came to Christ when an ice storm brought him together with a stranded group of students from Houston Baptist University at the Hospitality House in Huntsville, Texas.

It was Earl's mandatory discharge date after 13 years in the Texas Department of Corrections. But since all administrative TDC offices and parole offices in Huntsville were closed due to a paralyzing ice storm, he had to be released without being formally processed.

With just a few dollars in his jacket pocket, no parole papers, no family, no way of leaving town and no plans for the future, Earl wandered aimlessly before approaching the operator of a gas station to ask for help. The attendant directed him to the Hospitality House, a Texas Baptist ministry supported by the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

"Earl walked in our front door and said, 'I need help,'" said Bob Norris, director of the Hospitality House. "He was literally freezing and had not eaten in about 21 hours."

Although the mission of the Hospitality House is to provide a temporary refuge for

the visiting family members of TDC inmates, not primarily for prisoners themselves, Norris recognized the extenuating circumstances in Earl's case.

"We brought him in, gave him some food and hot coffee and got him warmed up," Norris said.

Word arrived that a group of more than 30 students were returning to Houston from Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference in Waco, Texas, when icy road conditions left them marooned.

"When Earl heard that 30 some-odd college kids were going to be spending the night here, he couldn't handle it. He went to bed in his room and almost literally pulled the covers up over his head."

One student, Dwight, was led into the room with Earl. Inspired by the conference, Dwight had been praying for opportunities to share his faith. "He began visiting with Earl, slowly drew him out of his shell and introduced him to the Lord," Norris said.

Dwight then called his parents in Houston who found a place for Earl to live and lined up a job opportunity for him.

"The next morning," Norris said, "before he left for Houston in the car with Dwight and the kids, Earl told me, 'You know, you were right. These are great kids! My whole life is changed.'"

GOOD NEWS!

Marvelous Methods

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

How should we give? What are the methods by which we can carry out financial responsibility before God? There is no single passage that embraces all of these marvelous methods, although 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 comes close.

Individually—Paul said, "Let each one of you put aside and save" (v. 2, NASB). The Amplified New Testament puts it like this, "Let everyone of you (personally) put aside something." Our relationship with God is a personal, individual thing.

Systematically—Paul said, "On the first day of every week" (v. 2, NASB). The first day of the week was the day early Christians gathered to worship. Paul was saying that whenever they gathered with other Christians to worship a regular part of their expression of faith and devotion should be the giving of an offering to God.

Proportionately—Each should give, Paul said, "as he may prosper" (v. 2, NASB).

Jesus said, "And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required" (Lk. 12:48, NASB). In simple language Jesus was saying that the more you have, the more you should give. The more God blesses your life, the more you should return unto him.

Liberally—Romans 12:8 says, "He that gives, let him give with liberality." The King James Version translates that verse as give "with simplicity." In some cases the Greek word used here can mean "sincerity" or "unostentatious simplicity." Its most common usage, however, is to refer to an openness of heart which manifests itself in liberality.

Cheerfully—In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul said, "For God loves a cheerful giver" (NASB). The Greek word for "cheerful" is *bilaron* which is the word from which our word "hilarious" comes. What Paul was saying is that God loves a hilarious giver, one who gives in a spontaneous way.

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No New Agencies

J. EVERETT SNEED

This editor joins with Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis in opposing the creation of a new Southern Baptist Religious Liberty Commission and plans for a new Southern Baptist Alliance seminary. (See story on page 14.) Dr. Lewis is correct that the creation of new agencies will drain resources away from home and foreign missions during a time in which finances are extremely tight. We also feel that the creation of these new entities will further intensify the division within the SBC.

The creation of a new Southern Baptist Alliance seminary duplicates the quality theological education which is already provided by the six seminaries funded by the Cooperative Program. The creation of this school is unneeded and will also require funding which could be better spent through existing CP causes.

Lewis is correct as he emphasizes that the denomination does not have adequate financial resources to fund another agency. He is exactly on target as he said that the proposal of a new Washington-based Religious Liberty Commission would duplicate efforts being made by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Baptist Joint Committee has served Southern Baptists well for the last quarter of a century in the area of government relations, research and legal services, denominational services, and information services. The Washington-based bureau of Baptist Press has served Baptist state paper editors with dependable, accurate and fair coverage of the activities of the federal government that would touch the lives of Baptists. It has also served to provide information and interpretation of possible legislation which would affect Southern Baptists in any way.

Perhaps the most important and effective area of the Baptist Joint Committee is the area of government relations. This simply means keeping in touch with officials who are entrusted with the function of government. During a briefing in 1986 we had the opportunity to observe first hand the relationship the BJC has with a wide range of government officials. We were impressed with the fact that the employees of the BJC are on a first name basis with many of the legislators. Many legislators (such as our own Senator Dale Bumpers) work closely with the BJC.



An example of the effectiveness of the BJC in the area of legislative relations is shown in the passage of the "Equal Access" legislation. The "Equal Access" legislation provides for both secular and religious non-school sponsored groups to have equal access to any limited open forum created in a public school where students meet on their own initiative without official encouragement or sponsorship. Simply stated, this legislation means that high school students can meet to have free exercise of religion (prayer and Bible reading) in any school that has such things as a Young Democrats Club, a Young Republicans Club, or a Stamp Club.

Through the efforts of the BJC, Baptist pastors have been saved untold amounts of money. Darold Morgan, president of the SBC Annuity Board, observed, "The An-

nunity Board has had a unique and essential relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee. This partnership has resulted in exciting and helpful victories through congressional action relating to tax, annuity and social security matters. The committee's staff experience, knowledge of 'the hill,' and sense of timing are absolutely essential to us in our work at the Annuity Board."

R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, said, "The Baptist Joint Committee's knowledge of how things work in Washington has saved Southern Baptist missionaries over a million dollars each year in overseas income taxes . . . and has helped us gain stronger reassurance that the CIA will not allow CIA agents to act under the cover of mission identification overseas."

The effort to establish separation of church and state was exceedingly difficult at the time of the inception of our country. Baptists led this fight and won it. Today there are forces that would destroy separation of church and state. The BJC feels that the future in church state relationships is rooted in the past.

The Baptist Joint Committee also has served Southern Baptists exceedingly well for approximately a quarter of a century. Our cooperation with other Baptist groups not only reduces the cost to Southern Baptists but also provides the Joint Committee with more prestige than an agency that is sponsored by a single religious body. Let's continue as we have in the past and use the money for world missions that would be spent on additional entities. There are many who have never heard the good news of God's saving grace. Let's communicate God's message to them.

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



One of Arkansas Baptists' most significant moments is drawing very near. Your prayers and attendance for this occasion are most important! I am referring to the Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service, April 11, at the Statehouse Convention Center!

Why are your prayers so needed? The surrender and commitment of lives to foreign mission service is one of the most serious steps a Christian can take. An untold price is paid by our missionaries. Subjected to diseases, isolation, terrorism, national upheavals, constant spiritual attacks in pagan societies, separation from earth's most meaningful relationships, often robbed and exposed to much physical harm (12 have been murdered), I would think that our prayers for those being appointed and for their families should be strong.

Another reason we should pray is to secure the power of God in speaking to those who should be in the service and who should respond to God's call to missionary service. Pray for the call and convictions to be clear and the response to be "yes!"

Why should you attend? The rarity of the occasion. The support you can be to the appointees and their families is another reason. Our Foreign Mission Board, their administrative staff and office staff will have moved their total operation to Little Rock for their work beginning on Monday, April 10, and closing on Wednesday, April 12. They have done this at great inconvenience and expense so that you could become more closely involved in missions.

We need a reversal of anti-mission trends. The churches in 18 of our 42 associations are giving a smaller percentage of their tithes and offerings to the Cooperative Program now than they were in 1975. There is also the great neglect of missionary education in our churches. So many are unwilling to give their time or their money to get our Lord's glorious salvation out to those who do not know him.

I urge you to pray! I urge you to bring the largest group possible from your church. The Kingdom of God and the destiny of the multitudes is at stake.

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

'Am I My Brother's Keeper?'

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday April 9

by **Robert Parham**
SBC Christian Life Commission

"Cigarettes kill more people each year than AIDS, heroin, crack, cocaine, alcohol, car accidents, fire, and murder combined," warned Surgeon General C. Everett Koop at a Jan. 11, 1989, press conference where he released a 679-page progress report on the health consequences of smoking made during the last 25 years.

"The number of people that die in this country every day from smoking," Koop said, "is the same as if two jumbo jets crashed and not a single person walked away alive."

Despite the fact that 390,000 deaths were attributable to cigarette smoking in the United States in 1985, Southern Baptists have made only a few scattered public statements against smoking. Prior to the Southern Baptist Convention resolution on tobacco products passed in 1984, the most recent one was in 1969.

On the other hand, Southern Baptists have long recognized and spoken against the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The first resolution that a Southern Baptist Convention ever passed was in 1896, and it was against alcoholic beverages. The essence of the resolution was that a Baptist church ought to withdraw fellowship from any member who drank, manufactured or sold liquor, or leased property used for such manufacture or sale.

Opposition to illegal drug use has not been addressed in terms of church fellowship. But it has been strongly condemned in convention resolutions.

Indeed both the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs remain significant social problems in America. The most recent data on substance use and abuse is frightening:

- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse cost society in economic terms nearly \$117 billion a year.

- Ten percent of newborn babies have been exposed to illegal drugs by their pregnant mothers.

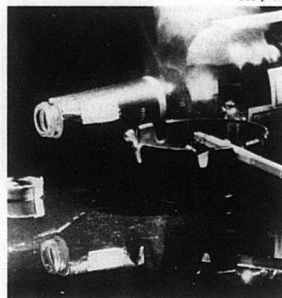
- Two million Americans are addicted to cocaine.

- An American child today will see 100,000 beer commercials by age 18.

Without question, churches and church members must increasingly address through education and action the nation's drug crisis. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday is placed on the denomination's calendar on April 9 to encourage and to support this effort.

On Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday, think about the age-old biblical

CLC photo



question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Then think about America's drug problem, considering what you and your church have done to address it in the last year.

The issue of moral responsibility is raised in the story about Cain and Abel. When God confronted Cain with the question about the whereabouts of his brother Abel, Cain pled ignorance at first: "I do not know." Then he sought shelter with the question of the degree of his responsibility: "Am I my brother's keeper?" God answered with a thundering "yes."

The story of Cain and Abel teaches us many things. A central point is that we are morally responsible human beings. We can neither avoid our responsibility with a plea of ignorance, nor escape it through the door of limited responsibility. We are to be concerned for the well-being of all.

Observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday:

- Preach a sermon on Christian individual and social responsibility in a sinful world where drug use and abuse cause enormous harm.

- Distribute copies of the 1984 SBC resolution on smoking.

- Obtain information from the American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association. Share it with Sunday School classes.

- Begin planning to get your state legislature next year to pass laws restricting smoking in restaurants, offices, and public areas. Support legislative efforts to ban tobacco advertising. Encourage higher taxes on tobacco products. Press for government incentives to help tobacco farmers to switch to other crops.

- Have a drug awareness seminar for young people in the church.

Letters to the Editor

Against Clinics

In response to Dr. Sneed's editorial of Feb. 9, I want to voice my support for his stand against school-based clinics.

SBCs, primarily supported by Planned Parenthood, which is funded by private foundations (including *Playboy*) and taxpayers, is a direct link in obtaining contraceptives and abortions/referral.

An informative book exposing SBCs entitled *School-Based Clinics* by Richard Glasow, Ph.D., sheds light upon their deceptive activities.

Once the door is open they can initiate any program they desire. Joy Dryfoos, leading SBCs advocate, stated in 1987, "As long as you don't ask schools to provide services, but simply get approval . . . you can do all kinds of things you never dreamed of."

Schools are in the education business. They are not "one-stop centers for social problems in a community," as Dr. Glasow

explains.

SBCs undermine parental authority; encourage children to deceive parents; and send a wrong message to teens: everybody's doing it or planning on it.

There is the disturbing question of medical liability. Who is responsible when something goes wrong? The school? State? Parents?

As for "proven statistics" there are misleading claims regarding teen pregnancy reduction. They collect data on numbers of births—not numbers of pregnancies! Even married teens are counted. Douglas Kirby, Center for Population Options (SBCs supporter) stated on March 2, 1988 that SBCs have had "no measurable impact" on teen pregnancy reduction.

We've had easy access to contraceptives over the past two decades with devastating results: illegitimacy and abortion!

As Christians there should be absolutely no question about where we stand on this subject. Obedience to Christ should

come first. Proverbs commands us to "depart from evil." All Scripture denounces immorality; Isaiah declares "woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil. . . ."

The human arguments for SBCs sound good, but they cannot work in the long run. As Proverbs 14:12 reminds us: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."—**Deborah A. Donner, Manila**

'Disappointed'

I would like to take issue with Delton M. Beall's letter to the editor in the Feb. 23 edition of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. I will not sit back and let our Newsmagazine readers, most of whom are laypersons, be influenced by Mr. Beall's letter.

First, Dr. Sneed gave reasonable coverage of the Evangelism Conference. We don't need every detail, only highlights.

Secondly, few men are received in Arkansas as Dr. Wayne Ward. Since he teaches at Southern Seminary, the object of a great deal of prejudice and often unfounded judgment, what Dr. Ward has to say about the SBC controversy from his viewpoint is of great importance to Arkansas Baptists.

Thirdly, advertising in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* is a means our Executive Board approves for the generating of some revenue to offset the increased cost of postage and printing so Arkansas Baptists pay less for our fine Newsmagazine. As a former member of the Executive Board, and chairman of the Liaison Finance Committee of the Newsmagazine to the Executive Board, I presented our Newsmagazine budget two years for their approval. Both budgets contained an anticipated amount of the budget to be generated by advertising. If it is Wendy's or Quality Van Sales . . . the charge per advertising column inch is the same.

Finally, there are challenges to revival-renewal, growth, and ministry opportunities in every issue. The press releases are informing. Do you know of these things before you read them in our Newsmagazine?

Our Newsmagazine is neat, well spaced, and easy to read. Compare it, if you dare, to some others. I appreciate Dr. Sneed, our Newsmagazine staff, and the work they do. If they make a mistake, just think, could you, over the long haul, do a better job without a mistake? If so, apply for the job. If not, discuss it with them in private, as Scripture teaches, and pray for them.—**Winfred P. Bridges, Paragould**

MICKIE PAGE

Woman's Viewpoint

A Matter of Life or Death

The other day my sister explained to her nine-year-old son about abortion. He looked at her incredulously and replied, "But that's not legal is it?"

Unfortunately it is legal; in 1973 the highest court of our land ruled that the constitution granted to a woman the right to have the life of her unborn child terminated. To many of us, that decision could only imply that the unborn child is not a person. Pro-abortionists have succeeded in convincing some that unborn children are nothing more than "products of conception" or "pregnancy tissue." Are they?

At the moment of conception the sex of the "pregnancy tissue" is determined. Three weeks later a heart is beating. At six weeks brain waves are measurable. Pain can be felt after eight weeks. At three months all organ systems are present and functioning. The little one sucks his thumb, sleeps, wakes, and reacts to touch. Yet this little child is completely disposable.

Since 1973 over 22 million children have been aborted in America. That's one baby every 20 seconds. How can this

have happened? Have we not buried our thoughts in other things, minded our own business, and ignored the cries of these most helpless ones?

In our home we have a reminder of this great atrocity. It is a card bearing the photo of a newborn baby. On the reverse side is a photo of a baby killed by abortion. The child's dismembered body graphically reveals the murder of innocent life in our nation today. My five-year-old carries it with her on occasion. "To remind me to pray for the babies, Mommy."

"Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?" (Pr. 24:11-12 NIV)

Mickie Page is an active member of South Highland Church in Little Rock and is home schooling her three daughters.

(BP) photo / Ken Touchton



Don Thomas stands in front of his storefront church in Buffalo, N.Y.

The Bible, Not Bingo

by Mark Wingfield
SBC Home Mission Board

BUFFALO, N.Y. (BP)—Two young Southern Baptist ministers are starting new churches in the inner city of Buffalo, N.Y., with more Bible than bingo.

Many of the inner-city churches are known more for their bingo games than their gospel, reports Ed Stetzer, one of the Southern Baptist mission pastors. Locals commonly call churches "St. Bingo," referring to the signs prominently displayed in churchyards advertising weekly bingo games.

Church buildings of various denominations stand amid the multi-colored row houses and cracking pavement of these inner-city neighborhoods. But the churches, like the neighborhoods, aren't what they used to be.

Middle-class families who built the steady church houses decades ago slowly have been replaced by a poorer and more ethnically diverse population. The older churches now supplement their incomes through bingo because they no longer reach enough people to finance church ministries, Stetzer explains.

"People have asked me, 'When's your bingo game?'" says Stetzer, pastor of Buffalo Bible Ministry, a new Southern Baptist congregation in downtown Buffalo.

Stetzer's church, like other Southern Baptist congregations, doesn't have a bingo game. Instead, his congregation meets in home "cell groups" in three communities during the week for Bible study, prayer and

personal evangelism.

In East Buffalo, mission pastor Don Thomas leads a home Bible study on Friday nights while other churches in his community play bingo.

After graduating from seminary, Thomas moved back to Buffalo and began praying for ways to minister there. He began the weekly study in 1986 after a few people asked him to teach them how to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others.

"This Bible study has been the most productive, fruitful and Spirit-filled group I've ever been a part of," he says. "Most of the people in the group have been led to the Lord by someone else in the group."

The Bible study formed a core group for starting a new church. With the help of a sponsoring church, Fillmore Baptist, Thomas conducted backyard Bible clubs and surveyed the neighborhood before opening the doors to his new church last December. With an average attendance of 12, the new congregation already has baptized three new converts.

The Friday night Bible study still meets as a separate group to minister to those skeptical of coming to a Southern Baptist church.

After Thomas already had begun his Bible study, Stetzer and his wife, Donna, came to Buffalo as volunteers with a burden for a multi-racial downtown church.

"Most of the evangelical churches in Buffalo are in the suburbs," Stetzer explains. "I have a burden for the inner city. There

is a pattern here that when a downtown church reaches about 100 in membership, they move to the suburbs.

"The city people feel deserted."

Through neighborhood cell groups, Stetzer hopes to anchor a stable downtown church with links to the suburbs. He has targeted neighborhoods along the major inner-city freeways to begin additional cell groups.

After three months, the new church averages 30 in attendance and is searching for a larger meeting place. Stetzer's goal is to have 100 members by next June.

The two new Southern Baptist churches are part of an overall revitalization of Buffalo. Blackened smokestacks at the deserted Bethlehem Steel yard stand silent now, a symbol of the city's industrial past being replaced by glistening office buildings and a thriving major league baseball stadium downtown.

"The city is trying to make downtown a hotspot," Stetzer says. "We want the church to be part of the urban renewal."

The metropolitan Buffalo area of Erie County encompasses nearly 1 million people. Manufacturing remains the largest employer of the 350,000 people who live in the city of Buffalo, where the median family income is \$15,000.

One-third of the population claims no church affiliation, reports Terry Robertson, director of missions for Frontier Baptist Association. He estimates about 90 percent of the population has no personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Although Southern Baptists began work in Frontier Association 30 years ago, the churches still struggle, Robertson explains. There are no Southern Baptist "superchurches" in this association. Most of the 30 congregations average less than 100 in attendance.

Despite the obstacles, the association has determined to double its number of churches in the next five years through new congregations such as Thomas and Stetzer have begun. In 1988 alone, the association started seven new congregations.

While other churches play bingo, Robertson is encouraging Southern Baptists to start new churches. "Such a large segment of the population does not know Christ," he says. "We're here to reach the lost."

A SMILE OR TWO

Intelligence is spotting a flaw in your boss's reasoning; wisdom is not mentioning it.

—Kirk Kirkpatrick

Experience is something that when you've got enough of it, it seems that you're too old for the job.

“A book that speaks profoundly to people who are hurting and need help!” — W.A. Criswell

THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE

By **Dr. Robert McGee**
President and Founder of *Rapha*



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Dr. McGee makes dear the answers to problems of our society and emphasizes the freedom through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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I recommend THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE for your counseling ministry. God will greatly use it!

Dr. Fred H. Wolfe, Pastor
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Dr. Morris H. Chapman, Pastor
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Dr. Robert McGee presents a copy of his book, *The Search For Significance*, to Dr. W. A. Criswell, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas



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MILLIE GILL

People

David Masterton will begin serving April 23 as pastor of Park Place Church in Hot Springs, going there from East End Church near Little Rock, where he has served for four years. Masterton and his wife, Marla, have two sons, David, and Daniel.

William C. Hatfield was ordained to the preaching ministry recently in First Church of Russellville. A graduate of Mid-America Seminary, he currently is serving as associate pastor of Unity Church in Memphis. Hatfield is the son of the late Charles N. Hatfield and Mary Hatfield, a member of First Church of Russellville.

Dave Griffin, pastor of Cabot Second Church, retired April 2 following more than seven years of service there and 35 years of service in the ministry. He and his wife, Mary, have served churches in Arizona and Arkansas and worked in missions in Nevada and Kentucky.

Lloyd Hunnicutt, pastor emeritus of Central Church in Magnolia, recently observed 45 years of service in the ministry.

Dale Wooten is serving as interim pastor of Sylvester Church at Fouke.

Otis Makey has resigned as pastor of Pleasant View Church at Russellville.

Charles White died March 6, at age 61, as a result of a massive heart attack. He was pastor of Liberty Church near Norman. Survivors are his wife, Mary Evelyn White, eight children, and 16 grandchildren.

Clifford W. Shelder joined the staff of Calvary Church in Texarkana April 3 as minister of music. He is a graduate of Texarkana Community College. He has served as an evangelist and on the staff of three churches. He moved to Texarkana from Maud, Texas, where he has served on the staff of Rock Creek Church for more than four years.

William P. Steeger is serving as interim pastor at Beech Street Church in Gurdon, coming there from Camden, where he had been serving as interim pastor of First Church. He is a professor in the religion department at Ouachita Baptist University.

Joe Wofford has joined the staff of Graves Memorial Church in North Little Rock as minister of music, coming there from First



Masterton

Hatfield

Church of Marianna. He and his wife, Shirley, have three children, Callie, Trey, and Josh.

Ruth Wilson Hall of Little Rock died March 16 at age 90. Her funeral service was held March 18 at Calvary Church in Little Rock where she was a member. She also was a member of the Ouachita College Club, the Sewing Club, and was a past president of the Little Rock Parent-Teachers Association and the Girl Scout Council. Survivors are a daughter, Nancy Lou Dutton of Little Rock; a sister; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Calvary Church Mission Fund.

P.E. Turner, a former Arkansas pastor and associational missionary, is residing in a nursing home in Miami, Fla. Correspondence may be sent to his daughter, Martha Stuckey, 14211 North Kendall Drive, EI09, Miami, FL 33186. Mrs. Turner is at their home in Jonesboro.

Ron Taylor recently completed five years of service as associate pastor of Calvary Church in Batesville.

Troy Sharp Jr. began serving April 1 as pastor of Vine Prairie Church at Mulberry. He has been serving as a bi-vocational pastor in Banks, Ore. He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Northwest Center in Portland, Ore.

Felix Franklin Goodson of Harrison, a former minister of music and education in several Southern Baptist churches, died March 24 at age 81. He was a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a former assistant to the president at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., and a founding board member of North Arkansas Community College in Harrison. Survivors are a brother and three sisters. Memorials may be sent to First Church in Harrison, where his funeral services were held March 27.

Briefly

Clarksville Second Church held a spring revival March 5-10 that resulted in five professions of faith and two additions by letter. Clarence Shell, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Evangelism director, was evangelist, and Clarence Hill of Hot Springs directed music. Marvin James is pastor.

Conway Second Church recently baptized the first convert from Brookside Mission, a cooperative mobile park ministry of the church and Faulkner Association, assisted by the ABSC and Home Mission Board.

Smackover First Church mission team will be in New Albany, Ind., June 24-July 1 to assist the Charlestown Road Church with a variety of mission work, including backyard Bible clubs, survey work, and a vacation Bible school.

Rocky Mound Church at Fouke ordained Pastor Jay Rowton to the ministry April 2. A.V. Smith preached the ordination message and Carroll Caldwell, director of missions for Southwest Association, served as moderator.

Shiloh Memorial Church at Texarkana has launched a monthly community-wide senior adult noon fellowship which will include a covered dish meal for men and women ages 50 years and older.

Dardanelle First Church is conducting two morning worship services due to increased church attendance and has launched a telephone Sunday School class.

Batesville Calvary Church adult choir presented the Easter cantata "Lest We Forget" March 25-26 under the direction of Ron Taylor.

South Highland Church adult choir presented "The Wondrous Cross" March 19, directed by Alan Moore.

Centennial Association hosted a youth rally March 18 at Almyra First Church. Tommy Mosley and Lane Harrison of Ouachita Baptist University presented the program.

Jonesboro Central Church women will hold a retreat May 19-20 at Mount Zion Association Camp with Nancy Kintner as speaker.

Fisher Street Church in Jonesboro will hold a Lay Evangelism School April 7-9.

Beck Spur Church at Forrest City observed homecoming March 26 with a noon meal, worship service, and gospel singing.

Richland Church at West Memphis hosted a marriage enrichment Sunday March 12 with John Mahone of Mid-America Seminary as speaker.

Union Avenue Church in Wynne has voted to begin construction on a new church mission in Wynne.

Atkins First Church single adults conducted an organizational meeting March 18. The event was coordinated by Angie Durmire and Stephanie Dollan.

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro recently ordained Gary Gookin, Pete Gambill, and Terry Massey to the deacon ministry.

Grace Church in Camden ordained Charles H. Wolfe to the deacon ministry March 19.

Wilson First Church held its spring revival March 12-17. Johnny Jackson of the Paul Jackson Evangelistic Association in Little Rock was evangelist. Glen Pool, music director of West Memphis Second Church, led the music. Pastor Delton Cooper reported three professions of faith and two additions by letter.

Woodland Heights Church in Conway youth held a lock-in March 30-31 at Pleasure Park in Hot Springs.

Lancaster Road Church in Little Rock will hold a Victory Celebration April 9, celebrating the reduction of its monthly indebtedness from \$1,000 to \$200. Members have worked to have \$24,000 on deposit to retire church bonds issued in 1976. Glenn Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association, and J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist*, will be speakers. John S. Ashcraft is pastor.

Powell Street Mission in Springdale celebrated its first anniversary April 1-2 with Pete Petty, associate in the ABSC Missions Department, as speaker.

Russellville First Church youth choir has planned a mission trip to Muncie, Ind., July 21-29.

Cherry Hill Church at Mena has renovated its sanctuary with the installation of carpet, insulation, new walls, and refurbishing of pews.

Grannis Church at Gillham ordained Dale Heagwood to the gospel ministry and Wayne Wise to the deacon ministry April 2.

Vandervoort Church ordained Ben House and Jack Weaver to the deacon ministry March 12.

Altheimer First Church recently held a spring revival led by William Blackburn of Fort Smith, evangelist, and Kent Dixon, music director. Pastor Joe Bagwell reported eight professions of faith, three rededications, and one addition by letter.

Pine Bluff First Church held its spring revival April 2-5. Don Moore, ABSC executive director, was evangelist and Lester McCullough, ABSC Church Music Department director, conducted the music. John McClanahan is pastor.

Charleston First Church recently closed a revival which resulted in 12 professions of faith, nine baptisms, and two additions by letter, according to Pastor Larry Horner. Angel Martinez was evangelist.

Benton County Association 20-member mission team, representing 10 churches, has returned from Boa Vista, Brazil, where they assisted with the construction and dedication of a church, did dental work, and conducted personal visitation which resulted in 48 professions of faith.

Marianna First Church recently observed the Annie Armstrong Home Missions Season of Prayer with a service led by Randy Cash, ABSC language missions director. Interim Pastor Lewis Clark reported a \$3,257 offering, which exceeded the \$2,500 goal.

Rolling Hills Church at Fayetteville will have Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, as guest speaker April 16 in its 7 p.m. service.

Montrose Church men's Bible class recently sponsored a Home Mission study for fourth through sixth graders.

Delta Association recently awarded MasterLife certified leader certificates to Lydia Kelly, Ruby White, Exie McCuin, Julia Williams, and Nora Baucom.

Tumbling Shoals Mission held its inaugural service March 26 in a building recently purchased from Tumbling Shoals United Methodist Church. Sponsoring churches are Heber Springs First Church, Heber Springs South Side Church, and Highway Church in North Little Rock.

Batesville West Church youth elected as 1989 officers Jeff Huskey, president, and Amy Brunt, vice-president and secretary.

Little Rock Immanuel Church will host a single adult conference April 7-9 with Harold Ivan Smith, author and lecturer, as leader. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. Friday and the conference will conclude at 4 p.m. Saturday. Other activities will include a skit, a musical concert by Margaret Nelson, and a Friday evening fellowship. Dianne Swaim is coordinator.



ABN photo / Millie Gill

International Friendship, a ministry to wives and children of internationals which is sponsored by 11 Southern Baptist churches in Pulaski Association, held its annual program and fair March 23 at First Church in Little Rock. Ann Rice is general director and Irene Murphy co-director of the organization in which 140 internationals and 120 Americans participate weekly. Sessions include English as a second language and information on obtaining citizenship. In addition, members are taught American customs and crafts and are assisted with practical daily helps, such as grocery shopping, making doctor and dental appointments, and shopping for personal items.

McAlisters to Serve In Nevada

John and Katsy McAlister left in March for Las Vegas, Nev., where they will serve as volunteers for the Christian Service Corps of the Home Mission Board. He will be helping with building construction for Highland Hills Church and assisting with the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

She will be active in the associational office, helping make assignments for volunteers and registering Campers on Mission. In addition, she will lead the WMU Convention for the Southern Nevada Association and will help organize the SBC WMU annual meeting.



Contest Benefits Children's Home

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello recently received a new television set as a gift from the Stone Container Corp. of Little Rock. The set was given to the home as a prize in a company-sponsored contest in which employees wrote essays about deserving charities.

The Monticello home was the subject of an essay written by Tommy Green of Little Rock which praised the upbringing and education provided by Arkansas Baptists to Green's wife, Claudette, and her two brothers, Ronald and Floyd Greenwich. All three children have gone onto successful careers, one as a Southern Baptist missionary.

Johnny Biggs, executive director of Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services, received the TV set on behalf of the home. Green, Vernon Withers, SCC personnel director; and Ken Harless, plant manager, made the presentation.

Magee Awarded Doctorate

Bob G. Magee, assistant professor of voice and director of choral activities at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, has fulfilled the degree requirements of the doctor of musical arts in performance and pedagogy, to be awarded by the University of Southern Mississippi.

Prior to coming to Southern, Magee served as a foreign missionary in Colombia. He is a graduate of William Carey College in Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary.

'Catching Chariots'

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Approximately 700 people crowded the auditorium of First Church, Heber Springs, March 15 to hear Jerry Vines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, speak. Dr. Vines, pastor of the First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., told those in attendance that his major goal this year was to encourage Southern Baptists to witness. He said, "Southern Baptist leaders and pastors believe in witnessing. But all too often we all miss opportunities to tell others about

Christ. If we're going to be all that God desires, we must be more effective in telling others about Christ."

Vines message, "Catching Chariots," was based on Acts 8:26-40. He introduced his message by telling about leading a young man to Christ on the train while he was a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He said, "Any time an individual trusts Christ it is a divine intervention."

The passage dealing with deacon Philip witnessing to the Ethiopian eunuch gives a good picture of the various stages an individual may go through prior to his salvation. It also shows us how God's divine intervention works.

The passage first describes a "prepared sinner." The eunuch was probably the secretary-treasurer of Ethiopia. He was a man of greatness, wealth, responsibility, and influence, but he was lost. Vines said, "All too often we neglect the up and out."

The Ethiopian eunuch also was a very religious man. He had been to Jerusalem but because of his physical condition he could not enter in to the temple proper.

The eunuch was receptive. Every individual who is without Christ has a hunger for the things of God. Hence, every

opportunity should be utilized to communicate God's marvelous message of salvation.

Second, Vines said the Scripture told us of a "prompt soul winner." Philip was involved in preaching and testifying in many of the villages of the Samaria. Individuals were responding to the gospel when the angel of the Lord told Philip to go South. Without hesitation Philip responded. When the Holy Spirit instructed Philip to join himself to the eunuch's chariot, Philip ran in response.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Jerry Vines

When Philip observed that the eunuch was reading the book of Isaiah he inquired, "Do you understand what you're reading?" When the eunuch responded that he could not understand unless someone guided him, Philip immediately began to preach Christ from the passage in Isaiah.

Vines closed his message by emphasizing a "pertinent Scripture." He observed that the eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8. Vines said that every book in the Old Testament looked forward to Christ. He took each book one by

one and described the emphasis that it gave to the coming Messiah.

The eunuch accepted Christ and Philip experienced great joy. One of the happiest times any Christian can have is when he leads another to accept Christ.

The meeting was preceded by an associational youth rally in which most of the 18 churches of the association were represented. This event transpired in the dining hall of the First Church, Heber Springs.

Prior to Vines' message, the First Church of Heber Springs brought special music and Jerry Kirkpatrick of First Church, Heber Springs, presented a report on the Tumbling Shoals Mission, which is to begin in the near future.

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APRIL 17-18

New Staff Orientation

Pastors and staff members who have come to serve Arkansas Baptist churches during the last year will want to plan to attend the New Pastor-Staff Orientation April 17-18 at the Baptist Building in Little Rock.

This annual event is designed to acquaint newcomers to the state with the programs and personnel that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention has available to assist with their ministry.

All pastors and staff members and their wives who have taken the field since April 1, 1988, are invited to attend this very helpful introduction to the work of the state convention.

Partial expenses will be provided by the state convention to assist churches in sending their new pastors and staff members. Persons planning to attend should contact the state convention offices.

For more information, contact Paul McClung, chairman of the New Pastor-Staff Orientation Committee, at 376-4791.

February Cooperative Program Report

Received \$1,054,912.78
 Budget \$1,083,333.33
 Under \$28,420.55

Year-to-date
 Under \$28,420.55

Same time last year
 Over \$173,957.30

We made up some ground in February. In January, we only reached 93.29 percent of the budget. Through February we are up to 95.33 percent of budget. March could be a good month, even though many churches had to cancel services on March 5. Our projections for the year indicate that we have an excellent opportunity to reach our budget.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for your continued faithfulness in giving. Don't forget the Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service on April 11. This could impact Cooperative Program giving significantly. Plan to be one of the 7,000 attending this event!—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

Land Addresses Rally

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, was in Arkansas March 10 to address an anti-abortion rally sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Land addressed an assembly of 45 persons at Little Rock's First Baptist Church.

He updated his audience on friend of the court briefs recently filed by the Christian Life Commission with the United States Supreme Court in the "Webster" case, which many see as an opportunity for the court to reverse its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion on demand in the first two trimesters of pregnancy.

Land compared the current "pro-life" movement to the abolition movement of the 1800s. Like many Christians today who are opposed to abortion, others in the previous century opposed slavery, but were content to "wring their hands" and insist they did not want to "impose their morality" on anyone.

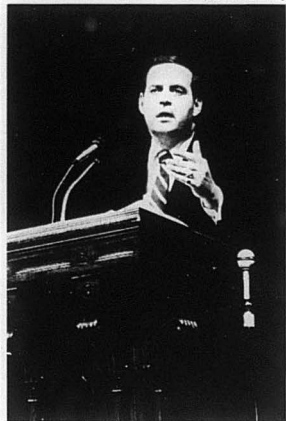
"In opposing abortion on demand, 'I'm not trying to impose my morality on women,'" Land insisted, "but I am trying to keep them from imposing their morality on their unborn children."

And just as the Supreme Court was wrong in its declaration that Negroes were not human and therefore could be owned as chattel, so the court was wrong in 1973 when it declared that a woman had the right to abort her unborn child, Land said.

Disregard for fetal life leads to a lack of respect for other stages of human life, Land asserted. And unless the United States puts the "evil genie (of abortion) back in the bottle," the country will "submerge itself in wanton, pagan disregard for human life," he said.

As evidence, he pointed to statistics which indicate that child abuse in the United States has increased 500 percent

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Richard Land

since the *Roe v. Wade* decision. The "Baby Doe" case, in which parents of a seriously-deformed newborn infant ordered doctors to withhold nourishment from the child, is another indicator that people are adjusting to the idea of exercising absolute power of life and death over other who are helpless, Land said.

Southern Baptists must be rallied around their opposition to abortion on demand and challenged to help reverse the plague of abortion before it creates a callous attitude toward human life in general, Land said.

"If not this issue, then which one?" he asked. "If not now, then when? If not here, then where? If not us, then who?"

Nail Benders Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following Nailbenders for Jesus construction projects.

- April 3-15, Millwood Church, Ashdown
- May 8-20, Twin Lakes Church, Diamondhead
- June 5-17, New Hope Church, Jonesboro

For more information, contact Frank Allen, Rt. 1 Box 25, Williford, AR 72482.

Interested in a Ministry of Love?

Arkansas Baptist Home is looking for dedicated Christian singles, or couples (with two or less children) to live and work with children in a home-like setting. Salary, fringe benefits, and training are provided. Call or write Royce Aston, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 501-367-5358.

A Heart for Missions

by Mark Kelly
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

First Baptist Church of DeQueen is the kind of congregation many pastors dream about.

A congregation of about 700 with a nearly 100-year heritage, First Baptist Church has a strong sense of mission and a broad base of leaders dedicated to carrying out the work of the church in the community.

The congregation's sense of mission is so strong, in fact, that it has done what few congregations would even contemplate: make major decisions and take bold steps in the absence of a pastor.

That is precisely what the church did in 1988 when, with the pulpit vacant, it ordained several new deacons and launched a new mission.

According to Mike Archer, chairman of deacons, the idea of a new mission to reach the area's Hispanic population had been among several possibilities for new ministries discussed in 1987 by First Church's deacons and their pastor at the time, Victor Gore.

But the time did not seem right, Archer said, and the idea was not pursued. Soon after, Gore resigned.

The burden remained with Archer, however, because he could see the growing Hispanic presence and knew there was no evangelical work reaching them with the gospel. Archer and Al Mallette, chairman of First Church's missions committee, kept the idea alive between them.

But when they discovered that others in the church also had been praying about a new Hispanic work, Archer and Mallette began actively pursuing the idea. They contacted Jimmy Barrentine, a former director of missions in the DeQueen area who had moved to Texas and had some success there in starting Hispanic work.

Barrentine recommended the congregation invite Oscar Salazar, an Hispanic church planter from Texarkana, to come to DeQueen and evaluate the need for an Hispanic mission.

The results were dramatic. The survey revealed that DeQueen had about 1,000 permanent Hispanic residents, approximately 20 percent of the total population, and no evangelical witness to reach them.

The need for a new work was apparent, and Archer and Mallette believed the church had the resources to pursue it. "We felt the Lord leading us," says Mallette. "We knew we had strong leadership in the church and believed we had additional leadership resources that were still untapped. We felt like the time was right, so we went ahead and did it."

The mission, Iglesia San Juan Bautista, was launched in September 1988 with Salazar commuting from Texarkana to pastor the work. They met in First Church's fellowship hall until January, when the mission moved into a mobile chapel. In February 1989, First Church voted to make their empty parsonage available to Salazar so he and his family could move to DeQueen and work on the field full time.

Salazar began visiting door to door, sharing the gospel and inviting Hispanics to a Sunday afternoon service. By March, he had won 38 persons to the Lord and the new mission was straining the mobile chapel to capacity.

Several doors for ministry have opened since the mission was launched, Salazar ex-



Oscar Salazar preaches at the mission.

plains. The new federal amnesty laws, which allow certain undocumented workers to qualify for resident status, have meant that the mission has opportunities to help Hispanics who for the first time must deal with an intimidating government bureaucracy.

Literacy classes also are being conducted which are designed to prepare individuals for the next phase of the amnesty program, which requires proof of English proficiency in order to qualify for permanent resident status.

In addition, a local AM radio station recently allowed Salazar to start a 30-minute radio program which airs each weekday. The show offers Spanish-language news and music and closes with a 10-minute Bible study.

Prospects for the mission appear bright since industrial expansion in the area may bring in as many as 1,700 jobs during the next year, according to Salazar. That would mean not only higher levels of Hispanic employment, but also new workers, many of them Hispanic, moving into the area.

First Church pastor Faron Rogers, who only came to the church in late January, says it has been "refreshing" to serve a church which involves its laypeople in ministry like First Church does.

"I have never been part of a church where people exercised their spiritual gifts like they do here at DeQueen," Rogers says. "Even though their pastor had left, they had not slowed down with their work."

"This is a church that lets a man exercise his pastoral leadership, but at the same time the people do much of the work. In the case of the mission, they knew what the Lord wanted them to do and pressed on with the work. That's refreshing."

"I always wanted to be part of a church that was exceptionally missions-minded," he concludes. "These people see that giving and praying for missions is very important, but they go way beyond that. They really have a heart to be involved in missions."

ABN photos / Mark Kelly



Billie Wiles of First Church, DeQueen, teaches a Sunday School class at the mission.

Lewis Voices Opposition

HMB Head Against New Agency, SBA Seminary

by Joe Westbury
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Wrestling with shrinking funds for home missions, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis opposes creation of a new Southern Baptist Religious Liberty Commission and plans for a new Southern Baptist Alliance seminary.

Creation of the new agencies would drain resources away from home and foreign missions, Lewis told trustees during the board's spring meeting March 10 in Atlanta.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has recommended creation of the Religious Liberty Commission to represent the convention in Washington. The Alliance, an organization of convention "moderates," has approved plans to begin a new seminary in Richmond, Va.

The denomination does not have adequate financial resources to fund another agency, Lewis charged, and said the new Washington-based Religious Liberty Commission would duplicate efforts being addressed by the SBC Christian Life Commission and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"Please do not misunderstand me. I do not oppose the decision to fund an office of the Christian Life Commission in Washington to represent Southern Baptists

regarding critical moral and social concerns. I simply fail to see the wisdom of having three offices representing Southern Baptists in our nation's capital," said Lewis.

The new commission, in order to become a reality, must be approved by majority votes by messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings. The new commission would eliminate the current Public Affairs Committee, through which SBC representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee are named. Lewis is a voting ex-officio member of the PAC.

Lewis noted that at the same meeting in which the creation of the new agency was approved, the SBC Executive Committee proposed a 2.05 percent decrease for the denomination's allocation budget, the Cooperative Program.

"During a year in which the Home Mission Board's Cooperative Program allocation is being cut by about \$1 million, it is not good stewardship to propose creation of a new agency," Lewis said.

He reminded the board members that the Executive Committee estimated funding of the new agency would require a minimum of \$500,000 to \$750,000 a year—money that normally would be channeled to home and foreign missions endeavors.

SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks "rightly pointed out to the Executive Committee that 50 percent of the new agency's Cooperative Program alloca-

tion will come from the Foreign Mission Board, and that 20 percent will come from the Home Mission Board," Lewis said.

"If the proposal is approved, missions will be crippled and hobbled at a time when we need to move forward unhindered in our efforts to achieve the goals of Bold Mission Thrust," he said. Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's plan to present the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

Lewis then said he equally is opposed to plans announced by the Alliance to start its seminary.

Citing the lack of resources and the duplication of the denomination's six existing seminaries, Lewis said the move "is divisive and will weaken foreign and home missions by draining resources that might be used to support our cooperative mission efforts."

Lewis challenged board members "to oppose anything that might weaken Cooperative Program support of home missions."

"For the next 10 years, we do not anticipate receiving any additional funds for programs, projects or personnel. We most likely will be in a cut back mode for the remainder of this century under the budget structure proposed by the Executive Committee."

The new Executive Committee guideline links Cooperative Program budget goals to the previous receipts. In addition, it directs any overage to be distributed equally between "program advance" and "capital needs."

Benny Jackson begins 15th year in full-time evangelism!

Averaging 30 meetings a year since 1974, Benny Jackson has held crusades in 23 states and 11 foreign countries. He is a graduate of Howard College (Samford University) in Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Before entering evangelism, he was pastor of churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee for 14 years.

For more information, write:

Benny Jackson Evangelistic Assn.
2873 Belgrave Drive
Germantown, TN 38138
Phone 901-757-2829



FIRST COMMERCIAL N.A.

Going 'Independent'?

by Toby Druin & Greg Warner
Baptist Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)—Concerned that Southern Baptist Convention leaders are "more interested in establishing a lobby in Washington than reaching people for Christ," Richard Jackson said he is considering leading his church to go "independent" or possibly to cut its support of the SBC budget to the level given by churches of the denomination's presidents of the last decade.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., for the last 25 years, told the Florida Baptist *Witness*, Florida Baptists' weekly newjournal, he is considering the "independent" route.

Jackson noted the presence of independent Baptist Jerry Falwell on the program of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Las Vegas, Nev., in June and added some SBC leaders had approached him (Jackson) about welcoming Falwell into the convention.

"I said, 'Not until he becomes a cooperating Southern Baptist,'" Jackson said, noting Falwell has spent much of his time criticizing Southern Baptists.

"Who would have thought in 1980 that in 1989 Jerry Falwell would be preaching at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting and Richard Jackson would be considering being an independent Baptist?" Jackson said.

Every Baptist church is independent and autonomous in the strict sense of the word

"independent." The difference between Southern Baptist and "Independent"—capital "I"—churches is that Southern Baptist churches support the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, and Independent Baptist churches do not and often are critical of the Cooperative Program.

Jackson's church has contributed more than \$1 million each year for the last three years—more than \$7 million this decade—in support of the CP and has baptized almost 12,000 new converts in the last 10 years—1,106 in 1988.

"By independent, I meant just what I said," Jackson told the *Baptist Standard*, Texas Baptists' weekly newjournal "that is, not affiliated with the convention as we have always been.

"Now understand this is me, Richard Jackson, talking and not North Phoenix Baptist Church. I see the convention moving where I am not. We hear a lot of talk about reaching people for Christ, but I see a lot more emphasis on establishing a lobby in Washington.

"Down that road I can't go. If the convention goes down the road of church interference with the state or over-concern about Washington, D.C., I am not going. I am a died-in-the-wool church/state separatist."

Jackson's mention of a Washington lobby was a reference to the proposed establishment by the SBC of a new Religious Liberty Commission in Washington to represent the denomination

in church/state affairs. Jackson opposed the proposal while attending the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

The Phoenix pastor said he has led his church to trim its budget to the bone to maintain its Cooperative Program support, but in light of the direction the denomination is taking, he can "no longer look my people in the face and ask them to sacrifice the way they do and neglect local programs."

"My problem is I feel so bad about calling myself a Southern Baptist and even talking about cutting support of the Cooperative Program," he said.

"These other guys (SBC presidents over the last decade) talk about not cutting back on the Cooperative Program or continuing support, and it's easy for them to say because they never have supported it much in the first place."

Jackson again raised the question of the Cooperative Program support of "conservative" leader Paul Pressler of Houston, with whom he broached the issue during a confrontation at the Executive Committee meeting in Nashville in February.

Pressler, contacted by the *Baptist Standard*, said he didn't know what he "did or didn't do 20 years ago" and said he wondered why it "would have any bearing on whether Richard Jackson supports the Cooperative Program."

He did make contributions to the Cooperative Program and to CP institutions, he said, but he did not indicate if the contributions were through Second Church, Houston, where he was a member.

Arkansas Baptist Conference of the Deaf

May 5-7, 1989

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Conference Preacher

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Workshop Leader

Chuck Tabor
Minister to the Deaf
Greenwood Baptist Church
Greenwood, Arkansas

For more information, contact Randy Cash, ABSC Missions Dept.

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Trustees Approve Budget

Ken Lilly Re-Elected Southwestern Board Head

by Scott Collins

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved a reduced 1989-90 budget and re-elected Ken Lilly, a physician from Fort Smith, Ark., as chairman of the board March 13-14.

The \$18.5 million budget passed by the trustees is a 1.2 percent cut, or \$226,410 from 1988-89. The new budget freezes salaries and cuts back some programs.

The budget was passed amid concern by

CP Tops Pace, Behind Inflation

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists' unified budget continues to stay ahead of last year's pace, but it lags more than 1.5 percentage points behind inflation.

The national Cooperative Program received \$11,428,715 in February, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the denomination's Executive Committee. That amount is a 1.74 percent increase over February 1988.

At the end of five months of the fiscal year, the Cooperative Program's year-to-date total is \$58,670,856, Bennett reported. That total is 3.18 percent more than receipts for the first five months of 1987-88.

The most recent U.S. Department of Labor figures show the country's current inflation rate is about 4.7 percent.

"I am glad that the amount received in February was not less than February of last year," Bennett said. "I still hope that the churches will increase Cooperative Program giving."

FBC's Most Wanted List

Former staff and members of First Baptist Church, North Little Rock, needed for 100 Year Homecoming Celebration, April 30, 1989. Any information on their whereabouts, call 753-1221.

Peggy Beason, Craig Bell, Jim Boyd, C.E. Carroll, Roy Hilton, Leland Hurt, Terry Jackson, Larry & Linds Parker, Charles Sewell, Simmons, Mrs. T.A. Spencer, Clarence White, Dr. Ron White.

the trustees over a reduction of Cooperative Program funds allocated by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. As a result, the board passed a resolution calling for the Executive Committee to reconsider its procedures for administering the unified budget funds of the denomination.

Wayne Allen, trustee from Carrollton, Texas, who offered the resolution, called for trustees to "express our concern about the way the Cooperative Program dollars are allocated and our concern about the support of the Cooperative Program by all of our churches. The purpose is to say to the grassroots churches. This is where it hurts," Allen said.

Allen and other trustees said the resolution was designed to support the school and its president, Russell Dilday, when the Executive Committee distributes funds.

During his report to the trustees, Dilday said Southwestern's 2.8 percent cut in Cooperative Program funds is a result of money being used for capital needs in other agencies and a no-increase budget adopted by the Executive Committee.

"This will be the first time in over 30 years, and maybe in the entire history of the seminary, when the amount of denominational support will be less next year than it is this year," Dilday said.

"We are grateful for the Cooperative Program and we must continue to promote that and motivate our churches to increase

the amount of denominational support," Dilday said. "All of these efforts to hold money back or to get our way in the Convention by saying we're not going to give through the Cooperative Program are destructive. I oppose that kind of effort, no matter where it comes from. That's not the way to do the Lord's business."

Dilday emphasized the budget represents the school's commitment to a balanced budget with no debts.

Trustee Jimmy Draper of Eules, Texas, expressed a fear the salary freeze could cause a morale problem among faculty and staff at the seminary. Draper was joined by the board in expressing "our concern and anticipation that it's going to be better in the days ahead. We're not happy with the decrease."

Budget planners pointed out that although there is no increase in salaries, the new budget reflects a "significant increase in the cost of benefits" paid by the seminary for career employees and their families.

In addition to Lilly, trustees elected Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, as vice chairman, and re-elected John McNaughton, a layman from Fort Worth, as secretary.

Two new faculty members were elected unanimously. Marion (Bud) Fray, chairman of the religion department and director of the Center for Christian Ministries at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., was elected professor of missions. Angela Cofer, assistant professor of voice at the University of Arizona in Tucson, was elected assistant professor of voice in the school of church music.

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Paul R. Sanders, Pastor

Panel OKs ABC Bill

by **Kathy Palen**
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (BP)—Church-state concerns precipitated the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee's amending a major child-care proposal before voting to send it to the full Senate.

The panel March 15 approved the Act for Better Child Care Services—known as the ABC bill—by an 11-5 vote.

A similar bill was killed by a Senate filibuster during the 100th Congress.

The current legislation—which was introduced by Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn.—has undergone a number of changes and picked up a former key

opponent—Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah—as one of its 39 co-sponsors.

Dodd told the committee he hoped his proposed amendment would resolve a conflict over the use of federal funds to subsidize child care in religious institutions. Churches provide approximately one-third of the nation's child-care services.

An array of religious and educational organizations had charged the bill, as originally drafted, violated the separation of church and state. But a number of those organizations—after working with Dodd and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., on amendment language—have agreed not to seek further church-state changes.

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"I am not a constitutional scholar," said Dodd. "My goal is and has always been to ensure that church-based providers—among the safest and most prevalent care givers in the nation—are full members of the ABC partnership in a constitutionally permissible manner."

The ABC bill would allow child-care centers sponsored by religious institutions to qualify for federal funds if they avoid religious instruction, worship or other sectarian activities.

Dodd's amendment—which the panel adopted without objection—would prohibit religious discrimination in admissions and employment by all ABC funded providers. It would, however, permit a provider to exercise limited preference in hiring and admitting individuals who have a pre-existing relationship with the organization that owns or operates the child-care center.

But if 80 percent of a provider's operating budget comes from federal funds, not even limited preference would be permitted.

Although voting in favor of the amendment, Sen. James M. Jeffords, R Vt., warned the panel that in his opinion the legislation—even in its amended form—most likely would violate the First Amendment's establishment clause.

The ABC bill would authorize \$2.5 billion in fiscal 1990—and additional funds in the following four fiscal years—for child-care services.

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SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Responses Ratified

by **Marv Knox**
Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have ratified their responses to the two agencies currently investigating the school's accreditation.

They twice voted 19-7 to "approve and adopt" the documents at the conclusion of their semi-annual meeting March 13-15 on the seminary campus in Wake Forest, N.C.

They also approved procedures for developing an "institutional response" to one of those accrediting agencies. And they changed procedures for selecting faculty, a move recommended by both agencies.



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The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada are evaluating Southeastern Seminary following 17 months of controversy.

Southeastern is "a very troubled campus and divided institution," the initial ATS report states. "The provisions and principles internal to an academic institution have been severely threatened and in some instances abrogated."

The SACS report says Southeastern does not conform to some accreditation standards in matters of faculty selection, academic freedom, and organization and administration. It also raises "serious questions" about the effectiveness of the school.

The seminary trustees' instruction committee wrote draft responses to the agencies during the winter. Baptist Press received a copy of the response to SACS, and trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley said that document is "basically the same" as the one drafted for ATS.

The 60-page SACS response says former seminary president Randall Lolley's failed leadership and the faculty's "public opinion campaign" precipitated the accreditation crisis. Trustees, on the other hand, acted in accordance with SBC mandate and seminary bylaws when they made the policy changes that started the turmoil.

The report also claims SACS treated the seminary unfairly—first in assuming trustees made belief in biblical inerrancy "a requirement for faculty eligibility" and second in reviewing events "in a light most favorable" to faculty, former administrators and some students.

James W. Bryant, a pastor from Fort Smith, Ark., and chairman of the trustee

instruction committee, began the special session by noting: "We recognize this is a report that comes from a particular perspective. There will be those on the board who do not agree. . . . There are not any known factual errors in this report. We did try to verify it."

Trustees rejected 7-19 a proposal to substitute the documents with letters to the agencies stating: the trustees received the "report of your investigation"; a majority of trustees "feels your report does not reflect sufficiently our need to comply with our controlling body," the SBC; the seminary "will meet your guidelines and . . . comply with your criteria"; trustees have taken steps that a majority "feels responded to your concerns regarding faculty election"; and trustees ratified a plan to create a committee to respond to the agencies' concerns.

Instead, trustees decided to "approve and adopt" the documents "with the understanding that factual inaccuracies will be corrected." Most of those dealt either with Lolley or the investigation of Southeastern by a subcommittee of the SBC Peace Committee.

Among the references to Lolley, trustees dropped a sentence saying he resigned because of his "unwillingness to assume" the responsibility for implementing the school's new faculty-selection process. They also removed two sentences that said he threatened to complete his administration with the appointment of adjunctive faculty rather than submit candidates for permanent positions to votes by trustees. They deleted a charge that the conduct of the Peace Committee's subcommittee was "controlled by Dr. Lolley," and they cut a paragraph that expressed judgment about the propriety of that subcommittee's investigation.

They voted 9-15 not to remove "Exhibit P"—minutes from a 1987 closed-door meeting with Lolley—from the documents.

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Bush Elected Amid Protest

by Marv Knox
Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—L. Russ Bush III survived faculty disapproval and a split vote by trustees to be elected academic vice president/dean of the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trustees of the Wake Forest, N.C., school discussed Bush behind closed doors for more than three hours March 13, before electing him on a secret ballot vote, 22-8.

Bush, 44, is associate professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he has taught since 1973.

During his acceptance speech, he pledged to be a peacemaker at Southeastern. The campus has been marked by controversy since October 1987, when the seminary's new "conservative" trustee majority changed the way the school chooses its teachers, vesting more responsibility with the president and trustees.

New President Lewis A. Drummond nominated Bush for the academic post. But the faculty twice voted non-support for Bush.

They cited "his total lack of administrative experience" in a statement prepared by the seminary's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

They also faulted him for "bias in his writing, his expectation that this faculty would support inerrancy in some form, his affiliation with the fundamentalist leadership in the convention and his lack of understanding of the history or traditions of Baptists in this area."

The statement charged that his nomination "over the reasoned opposition of the faculty violated... the criterion of accreditation that calls for the faculty to have a substantial voice in such matters."

After the election, C. Michael Hawn, professor of church music and president of the AAUP chapter, said the faculty's votes against Bush and its stated reasons for opposing him speak for themselves: "We have made such a clear, strong statement that there is nothing else to say. He is our dean. We will work with him."

Trustee Mark Caldwell, a pastor from College Park, Md., and the most outspoken "moderate" on the board, called Bush "the wrong man at the wrong time." He added: "We could have had an inerrantist the faculty supported. They supported other inerrantists. (Drummond) could have been a champion of the faculty and of the inerrantists, but he did not do that. He lost a chance to reconcile."

But Drummond joined Bush's trustee supporters in defending their new vice president.

"He demonstrated a wonderful Christian spirit of graciousness," said Roger Ellsworth, a pastor from Benton, Ill., and the trustee who nominated Bush. "Even the trustees who opposed him were impressed by that. There are a lot of tensions in the seminary family, but I am confident Dr. Bush is the man to bring about healing."

Bush's election was the "clear leadership of God," said James Bryant, pastor from Fort Smith, Ark., and chairman of the trustee instruction committee. "It was affirmed by the strong trustee vote and Dr. Bush's strong spirit of service, peace, reconciliation and humility exhibited in his acceptance speech."

The majority of trustees disagree with the faculty's assertion that Bush is not qualified for the job, Bryant added: "The president and Dr. Bush both prepared responses to the faculty's criticisms. They satisfied us that the faculty's criticisms were not objective, though we listened

carefully to what they had to say."

"Dr. Bush is suited spiritually, intellectually and in his personality not only to work with Dr. Drummond, but to work with the faculty," said trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley, pastor from Rockville, Md. "He was careful to consider each question raised. I was amazed at his insight into every ramification that has gone on. I cannot imagine the faculty will not embrace him."

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Mohler Elected Georgia Editor

ATLANTA (BP)—Fifteen months after ousting the editor of the *Christian Index* by a 57-54 vote, the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention March 14 unanimously elected a new editor.

Richard Albert Mohler Jr. will succeed Jack Harwell as editor of Georgia's weekly Baptist newspaper June 1. Mohler, 29, currently is director of capital funding/assistant to the president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also is associate director of the Southern Seminary Foundation.

Team Named Indiana Editors

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—A husband-wife team from Lancaster, Texas, Gary and Tami Ledbetter, have been named editors of the *Indiana Baptist*, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, effective April 24.

The selection was announced by SCBI Executive Director Mark Coppenger, who told Baptist Press: "When we began our search (for an editor) it never occurred to me that we would find a couple for this task. As we explored this prospect, we were struck by how wonderfully they were suited for our setting."

Hawaiians Pick Efurd As Leader

HONOLULU (BP)—O.W. (Dub) Efurd has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

A native of Fort Smith, Ark., Efurd is a missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's metropolitan missions department. Efurd has been director of missions for the Central Leeward, Honolulu and Windward Baptist associations on the island of Oahu since 1986.

High Leaves Biblical Recorder

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)—Lawrence E. (Larry) High, managing editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, newsjournal of North Carolina Baptists, since 1982, has resigned effective April 15.

High, 38, has accepted a position with a Raleigh, N.C., firm for landscape design and implementation. High has maintained a hobby interest in landscape design and has taken professional training in the field.



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LESSONS FOR LIVING

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The Mind of Christ

by Michael D. Johnson, First Church, Pine Bluff

Basic passage: Philippians 1:27-2:11

Focal passage: Philippians 2:5-11

Central truth: In order to please the Father, we must become like Christ.

Who are your heroes? Who do you admire and seek to be like? In our fast-paced world, those in the national spotlight today are often just a faint memory tomorrow. Yet there have been stellar personalities who have greatly influenced others. Who can ignore the impact that people like Martin Luther King, Elvis Presley, and Jesse Owens have had on so many?

For the Christian, the one to imitate is Christ himself. This is the message that Paul has for the Philippians and ourselves in this second chapter. Most scholars agree that verses 6-11 were a Christian hymn used in the worship of the early church and inserted by Paul at this point. Even though Paul probably did not compose it, it did clearly express the idea that Paul was emphasizing.

This hymn clearly paints a beautiful picture of Christ as a servant. Even though Christ was divine by nature he did not demand his divine rights. Unlike the first Adam who sought to be equal with God (Ge. 3:5), Christ, the second Adam, sought to be servant to God (vv. 6-7).

Even as a servant, Christ did not seek royal treatment which he could have justly demanded. Instead, Christ sought to be a servant to all men. By doing so Christ did what man was originally created to do: he lived by the will of God.

Christ was obedient even unto death (v. 8). Few men would freely choose to die in order to be obedient, and fewer still would freely choose to die the kind of death that Christ experienced.

Yet in keeping with the paradox of the Christian faith, it was through this servant attitude of obedience that Christ was ultimately made the ruler of the universe. Through his humble service, Jesus had pleased the Father.

The one aim of Jesus was to serve others no matter what that service might cost. The follower of Jesus must therefore always be thinking, not of self, but of others; not his own glory, but the glory of God. When he has done this, then he will have found the mind of Christ.

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Life and Work

God's Faithfulness

by L.B. Jordan, DOM, Red River Association, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Joshua 3:5-6,9-10,15-17

Focal passage: Joshua 3:9-10,15-17

Central truth: God always keeps his promises.

The Lord promised Abraham that the land of Canaan would belong to his offspring forever (Ge. 12:7). Both Isaac and Jacob heard the promised renewed to them. God never forgets his promises. To do so would compromise the very character of the Almighty.

As we come to today's text, God is seen in the very act of bringing Abraham's descendants into their inheritance. In spite of the sins of his chosen people and the problems relating to crossing the Jordan at flood stage, at the close of verse 17 we see Israel standing in the promised land. God's will and power are sufficient! Faithful obedience on the part of God's people is required.

Many believers have had grave problems as to how God could be so cruel concerning the Canaanites and other inhabitants of the land. All they seem to see is God favoring one people over another as some capricious despot. Such was not the case. God was exercising judgment on a segment of humanity which was unspeakably cruel, immoral, and lawless.

The Canaanites are typical of the peoples of the region. They worshipped Baal and his wife, Astoreth. Their temples were usually together, and in their worship priestesses and sodomites (female and male prostitutes) were prominent. The rites consisted of extravagant orgies and the temples were centers of vice.

A second feature of Canaanite worship was the sacrifice of children. Archaeologists have found many jars containing the remains of children sacrificed to Baal and Astoreth. Also, when these people built a house they would sacrifice a child and enclose the body in a wall to bring good luck to the family. In a way the land was like Sodom and Gomorrah on a national scale. Such people were destined for destruction.

By giving the land of Canaan to Israel, God did two things consistent with his character. He judged a depraved people on the one hand, and established a nation which was to live by his laws on the other hand.

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Bible Book

God's Plan Prevails

by Dianne Swaim, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 14:1-10,19-22

Focal passage: Acts 14: 1-3,5-7,19-22

Central truth: God's plan for carrying the gospel is greater than any obstacle we will face.

God's plan—that's what really counts! It tramples obstacles erected by the opposition and it soars above any weaknesses of the witness. Last Sunday's focal passage clearly pointed out that God's plan is to spread the gospel into all the world. And that he will do—he will not be defeated!

Paul is committed to God's plan. Again and again in his epistles he states that he has died to self and risen to live with Christ. Today's lesson gives certain evidence to the truth of his declaration.

It is interesting to note that Paul and Barnabas always entered the Jewish synagogue first when there was one available. Never did God proclaim to exclude the Jews from the gospel, only to include the Gentiles. But once again, it is the unbelieving Jews who bring the greatest pain to Paul. Uncanny, isn't it, that many times it is an unbelieving church member who provokes dissent! And the result of such dissent is a delayed victory. See in verse 3 that Paul and Barnabas "therefore abode a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord." Remember, however, that delay is not defeat.

When Paul became aware of the plan to stone him, he simply relocated to another mission field. Verse 6 tells us that they "fled unto Lystra and Derbe . . . and unto the region that lieth around;" and (good old Paul and Barnabas!) "there they preached the gospel." What an example to us to use problems as stepping stones to further challenges. God's plan has continued.

But alas! They caught up with Paul and this time they succeeded. They stoned him to death. Well, he certainly looked dead. In verse 19 we discover that his attackers certainly supposed he was dead. But, once again, God's plan prevailed. Paul rose up, came into the city and departed the next day to Derbe only to preach again.

A very important phrase for all of us to examine is found in verse 20: "as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up." We are a family, a team. No one person fulfills God's plan alone. When we commit to God, we commit to each other. That's the Kingdom!

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STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNED

MISSION 90

by Frank Wm. White
Baptist Sunday School Board

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Backyard Bible clubs, street witnessing and work with inner-city missions are only a few of the missions opportunities Southern Baptist college and seminary students will have during MISSION 90, a national student missions conference to be held Dec. 27-31 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lifelong involvement in missions will be the focus of the conference to be held at the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Convention Center. As many as 6,000 students are expected to attend.

Highlights of the conference, in addition to hands-on missions involvement, include a commissioning service for Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries, more than 80,000 square feet of exhibits related to Southern Baptist missions, choices from as many as 40 missions seminars during each of the nine different seminar times and a concert by gospel recording artist Cynthia Clawson.

Featured speakers include R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; Bill O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board; Esther Bur-

roughs, consultant for women at the Home Mission Board; Nathan Porter, consultant for hunger, disaster relief and migrant ministries at the Home Mission Board; and Dwight and Mary Nortstrom, Cooperative Services International volunteers in China. CSI is an arm of the Foreign Mission Board involving volunteers in countries where missionaries are not allowed.

The conference is coordinated by the student ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and also sponsored by the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, six Southern Baptist seminaries, Southern Baptist Woman's Ministry Union and Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

News Network and other sources with a bank of 30 television monitors, said Art Herron, consultant for student ministries and chairman of the marketplace subcommittee.

A personal life profile test will help students evaluate their abilities and how they can be involved in missions, he said.

Specific ministries will be demonstrated in the ministries exhibit area, with missionaries available to talk about their work. For students who want to discuss missions possibilities with a missionary, a counseling area will be centrally located in the exhibit area, Herron said.

About 35 to 40 options during each of the nine seminar times will be missions-related, said Nell Magee, consultant in the student ministry department and chairman of the seminar subcommittee.

Included in the range of seminar topics will be a series on world religions, sessions

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"Our total concept for the meeting is to lead all students to a life of commitment to missions," explained Brad Gray, chairman of the MISSION 90 steering committee and missions consultant in the board's student ministry department.

In addition to encouraging consideration of career missions, the conference will present ways students can be involved in bivocational and short-term missions and support Southern Baptist mission efforts.

"This conference gives Southern Baptist agencies an opportunity to influence a generation of students who can impact the world," Gray said. "These students will be the ones who lead Southern Baptists into the next century."

By arriving a day early to attend special sessions, students may earn college or seminary credit. The seminaries are developing plans for the course credit option, Gray said. The "marketplace" exhibit area will feature a high-tech view of the world using video material from Cable

on various careers for Christian service overseas, mission trends and missions opportunities.

Students will spend seven hours during the conference in "family" groups of about 50 students, where they will participate in Bible studies and case studies on missions situations.

Information about students who make public decisions during the conference will be provided to local campus ministers and church pastors for follow-up. Students also will be provided information about what their next step might be to carry out their decision, explained Joyce DeRidder, director of the missionary nurture department at the Foreign Mission Board.

Registration for the conference will be \$40. Registration forms are available from MISSION 90, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203. Hotel registration is available for three downtown Fort Worth hotels at a reduced cost through the MISSION 90 registration office.

MK Volunteer Dies

by Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MEZZEZO, Ethiopia (BP)—A Southern Baptist volunteer in Ethiopia died March 17 shortly after he plunged down a mountain-side trapped in his pickup truck.

The volunteer, Stan Cannata, reportedly died about 20 minutes after the fall. An Ethiopian co-worker and a local farmer took 10 or 15 minutes to reach his body, which had been thrown from the truck, said John Faulkner, who directs Southern Baptist mission work in eastern and southern Africa.

Cannata, 27, was trying to free the truck from soft mud at the edge of a cliff about three miles from the village of Mezzezo. The incident occurred about 2:30 p.m. Ethiopian time.

Cannata and Ethiopian co-worker Wosenseged Berhanu had been driving out of the Ethiopian highlands toward Addis Ababa, the capital city. Cannata pulled off the road to shoot photographs of surrounding canyons.

Early reports from Southern Baptist missionaries indicated Cannata had shoved Berhanu out of the truck as it started to roll or slide off the edge. But an investigation by missionary Paul Gay, administrator for Southern Baptist work in Ethiopia, indicated the Ethiopian might already have been out of the truck before the incident occurred.

Members of the local farmers association helped Berhanu carry the body and luggage back up the mountain and into Mezzezo.

Cannata, a child of missionaries who grew up in Africa, began a planned one-year stint in Ethiopian water development work last May. He was engaged to be married this summer to Elizabeth Chism of Dallas.

Most recently, Cannata had been working in the Lalomedar area capping springs to produce clean water. With an Ethiopian team there, he was helping to prepare a Baptist center that eventually will offer veterinary and agricultural assistance.

Berhanu is one of a handful of Ethiopians who helped Southern Baptists open their first feeding operation at Rabel during Southern Baptist famine relief efforts in 1985.

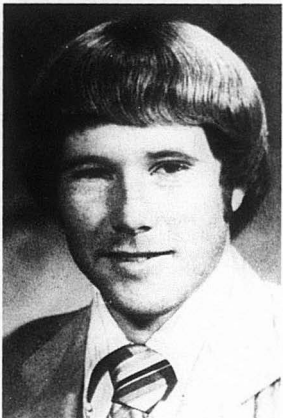
Cannata was the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Sam and Ginny Cannata, whose most recent assignment has been on the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania, just off the African mainland. The Cannatas worked in medical evangelism for several years in Rhodesia, now called Zimbabwe, and in the Ethiopian highlands. They also worked in Kenya and the Sudan. He is a medical doctor from Waco, Texas; she is from Hollendale, Miss.

Contacted just hours after their son's death, the Cannatas decided he should be buried on Ethiopian soil. Missionaries secured a burial plot next to that of Southern Baptist missionary Troy M. Waldron Jr., who was killed in August 1987 in a helicopter crash just north of Addis Ababa. Waldron was flying to survey crops with Ethiopian officials in one of the regions where Baptists operated feeding stations.

Cannata was born in Sanyati, Zimbabwe. He received the bachelor of science degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He met his fiancée at Highland Baptist Church in Waco while studying for his master of science degree in geology at Baylor University in Waco. She works as a news tape editor for a television station in Waco.

Chism and her father arrived in Ethiopia at about 6 a.m. March 20 for the funeral that afternoon. U.S. Embassy officials in Rome personally escorted them through customs without a visa.

Besides his parents, Cannata is survived by a 29-year-old brother, Michael, of Nome, Alaska, and a 24-year-old sister, Catherine Buchanan, of Fort Worth, Texas. His family asked that any memorials in his name be sent to the Foreign Mission Board designated "Water for Africa."



Stanley Cannata

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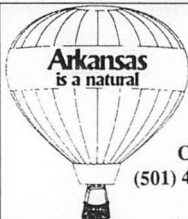
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WORLD

Polish Freedoms May Be Codified

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Baptists and other evangelicals in Poland are hoping negotiations between the government and Roman Catholic leaders will put more religious tolerance into Polish law.

Konstanty Wasowski, president of the Polish Baptist Union, said the freedoms practiced by Poland's churches are "much ahead of what is written in (the nation's) documents."

But incorporating greater freedom into Polish law depends, Wasowski said, on the success of negotiations over legalizing the Solidarity trade union and the launch of other political and economic reforms, as well as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's success in achieving broad reforms in Poland's large neighbor to the east.

Wasowski visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., in mid-March to make final arrangements for a partnership with North Carolina Baptists, enlisting their help for two or more years in building a Baptist educational center in the Warsaw suburb of Radosc.

North Carolinians won't be the only foreign volunteers in Poland, Wasowski noted. Young Catholics from Western Europe are helping to build a large facility in Warsaw honoring Pope John Paul II, the only Polish pope in Roman Catholic history.

The Polish Baptist Union consists of some 3,000 members of 56 congregations—a tiny minority in a country of 38 million people, at least 90 percent of whom are Catholic.

Any fruits of the negotiations between government and Catholic officials will apply to all denominations in the country, Wasowski said. Authorities may liberalize laws concerning public meetings, censorship and prison ministries, he said.

The Polish Baptist Union already is sponsoring the writing or translation of religious books for adults and children. Last year the union published eight titles, Wasowski said. Also, 3,400 copies of the union's Word of Truth magazine are circulated each month. The new educational center will have a small printing press.

Radio broadcasts also have been aired, although Wasowski said government officials have warned, "Don't talk to communists or atheists, because they are not listening. Talk to believers."

Baptists also have begun ministering in prisons, Wasowski said. In the past, such efforts were discouraged by Polish officials, who asked, "If there are no Baptist

prisoners, why bother the others?"

Two mistaken notions in Poland pose a stiff ongoing challenge to Baptists, Wasowski said. The first is the idea that "every good Pole is a Catholic." Most Polish Catholics feel, "I have been born such and I will be as my forefathers were," he explained. Parents sometimes disown children who become evangelicals.

The second misconception is the accusation that Baptists are an American sect, "because Baptists are usually connected with America," Wasowski said.

"Every minority has such problems," the Baptist leader said. "You have to go against the current. The power of the majority is influencing the minority. You have to really know what you believe."

Korea Approves Seminary Site

TAEJON, South Korea (BP)—Korean government leaders have cleared the way for relocating the Korea Baptist Theological College and Seminary in Taejon to a larger campus 10 miles away, a move that eventually could double the student population.

Seminary President Huh Kin announced March 20 that the Korean Ministry of Education has approved the new 50-acre site. Neither the move nor sale of the existing property could go forward without the ministry's clearance, Huh said.

The Baptist institution already is among the world's largest seminaries. Within 10 years, the new campus will be able to accommodate 3,000 students, compared to the 1,500 who now study in cramped facilities on a 15-acre site. Groundbreaking is expected to be held in April, with the first phase of construction to be completed by spring 1991.

"Because of restrictions placed on our work with limited facilities, we have not been able to provide all the thorough and constructive educational programs that we want to," Huh said.

Southern Baptist missionary Arnold Peterson, associate seminary president, said the next step will be finding a Korean development firm to buy the existing campus in the central downtown area and to contract the building of the new \$18 million facility. Baptists hope the existing campus will sell for between \$12 million and \$16 million, Peterson said. Donations will cover the cost difference between construction and property sale, he said.

The new campus also will provide continuing education for experienced pastors as Korean churches develop, as well as a missionary training center for graduate students throughout Asia, Huh said.

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