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**April 13, 1989**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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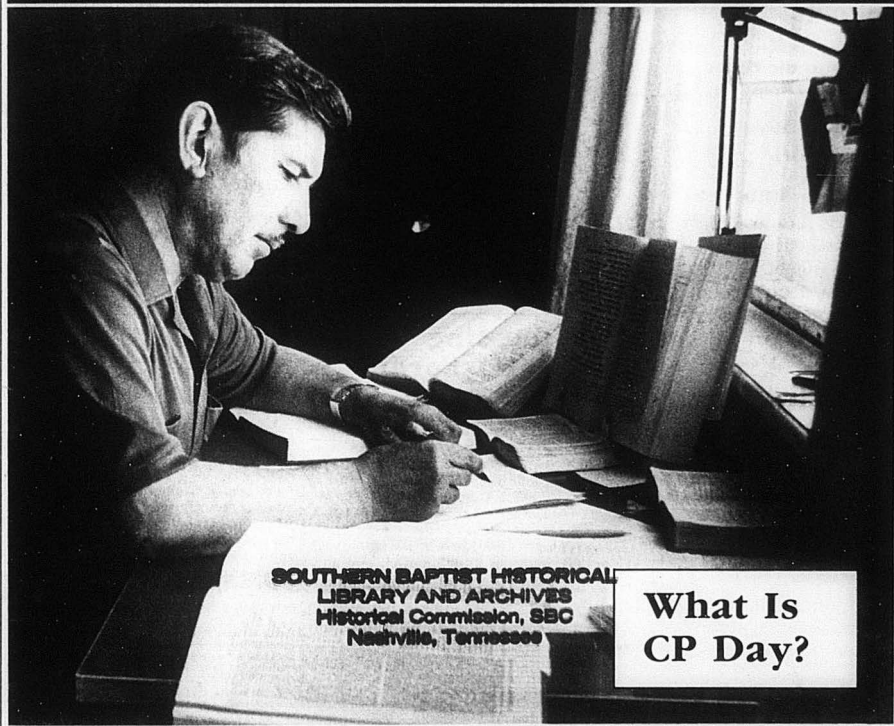
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**Beach Reach!**

# Arkansas Baptist

April 13, 1989



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**What Is  
CP Day?**

## Cover Story



(FMB) photo / Siegfried Enge

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Your gifts through the Cooperative Program help people like Oscar Periera, who produces Bible materials at the Spanish Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, to share the good news.

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# IT'S UPLIFTING

## 500 Make Professions

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—More than 1,975 people made decisions for Christ as a result of witnessing and preaching by students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during the school's spring evangelism practicum.

The decisions included 500 professions of faith in Christ made as the students led revivals in 35 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and four Canadian provinces during Southwestern's spring break.

More than 225 students participated in the practicum, said Dan Crawford, associate professor at Southwestern and director of the program. Students preached 1,284 sermons, led 84 witness training sessions, distributed more than 4,300 gospel tracts and gave away nearly 270 New Testaments.

The students also made 3,700 personal visits before and during the practicum week, he said.

Farmers, hitchhikers, hairdressers, street people, children, teenagers and grandparents all made decisions, Crawford noted: "Those stories are not unusual. For many weeks to come, we will hear stories of lives changed as a result of the week. It's strictly an evangelistic ministry to small churches."

One of those churches was in Belvedere, Ill. With only 12 members and a discouraged pastor, the church saw 31 people make professions of faith in Christ during a revival led by Southwestern student Jernal Cervantes.

"I attribute all the decisions we had to prayer," said Cervantes, a theology student. "I was able to reaffirm my faith and trust that God does answer prayer."

Before the revival, Cervantes said, the church's pastor was about to resign. The pastor prayed for a sign as to whether God wanted him to stay at the church.

The answer came. "He's got a lot of work to do now," Cervantes said.

Ken McCaskill, another theology student, said the practicum gave him useful experience. Before going to First Baptist Church in Elida, N.M., McCaskill had preached only one sermon. During the week of the spring practicum, he preached nine.

"I gained more confidence about being in the pulpit," McCaskill said. One of the unique decisions of the week for him was seeing a 76-year-old man accept Christ after McCaskill had visited with the man in his backyard earlier in the week.

Ronnie Rogers, a religious education student, went to Little Birch Baptist Chapel in Little Birch, W.Va., along with his wife, Amanda.

Ray Robinson, pastor of the chapel, said God "just sent us the right couple. The Spirit was really moving and still is moving. It (the revival) brought our people closer together. They learned how to go out of the way and how to sacrifice."

Students participating in the practicum received two hours of academic credit. Expenses for the program are paid by churches, foundations, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and individual donors.

## GOOD NEWS!

### Witnessing For Our Lord

2 Timothy 1:7-12

It is very disturbing that so many Christians feel uncomfortable talking about their best friend, Jesus Christ. Any excuse sounds hollow indeed when we read a passage like 2 Timothy 1:7-12.

*The Spirit we have been given (v. 7)*—Timidity is probably the number one reason given for not witnessing; but the Holy Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.

*The shame we must overcome (v. 8)*—Would you take someone seriously who in private claimed to be your loving friend but in public repeatedly refused to acknowledge that he even knew you?

*The suffering we should share (v. 8)*—

Ultimate truth demands total commitment. We prove the genuineness of our faith in the gospel by our willingness to share in whatever suffering is required to proclaim it.

*The Savior we serve (vv. 9-10)*—In Paul's mind, salvation was a calling. We are not only to receive God's grace but also to relay God's gospel.

*The security we enjoy (vv. 11-12)*—Paul's sense of security grew out of his service. He learned of God's faithfulness to him in the course of being faithful to his God-appointed task. You can have the same assurance of Christ's keeping power if, like Paul, you resolve to be faithful in your witnessing for our Lord.

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# Dealing With Doubt

J. EVERETT SNEED



Although the salvation experience of individuals may vary greatly, there is almost always a sense of joy and excitement when a person first accepts Christ. But later, particularly under pressure or difficulties, one may begin to doubt if he was ever really a Christian. Such doubts are not unusual, nor do they indicate that a person has never experienced a real life-changing encounter with Christ.

There are many situations in which one who has genuinely trusted Christ may doubt his salvation. A person may doubt his salvation because of sin in his life. Such a person may say, "It's not that I doubted my experience when I first trusted Christ, but I'm burdened down by guilt and feel unacceptable to God."

The fact that one feels guilt and remorse, when he is clearly sure of his initial experience, is an indication of salvation. That anyone could be good enough to be acceptable to God is completely impossible. Such a person should confess his sin and, by God's help, determine to eliminate it. The Apostle John instructed us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).

Doubts may also arise for those who are immature in their spiritual growth. As a result of temptation or a lack of the maturity that comes with a long walk with Christ, young Christians may experience doubt. Such doubts may eventually even strengthen one's spiritual relationship.

Doubts may arise as a result of difficult situations. A person may conclude that he is not a Christian because a member of his family is gravely ill, or because of an emotional experience, or because of a near fatal accident. In such instances a person should realize that God does not build a wall around a Christian. But he does provide strength to see his children through. The difficulties may provide the best opportunity for growth, if one turns to God.

The most important question is: How can a person know he is saved? First, it is essential to recognize that salvation is a gift. Paul wrote, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ep. 2:8-9).

Salvation begins with God and the only part man has in the process is the acceptance of God's gracious gift by faith in

Christ. Salvation is the work of God and no activity of man ever can obtain it.

Jesus emphasized the eternal relationship that individuals have with him as he said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (Jn. 10:27-29).

Salvation requires full commitment to God. God provides forgiveness, which man accepts by faith alone. Thus, when a person is saved, he places himself at God's disposal. Salvation is far more than saying, "God is love." It is acceptance and commitment to that love as a ground of faith and action.

Salvation and security are verified by the Holy Spirit. The Bible uses the image of a child placing his hand in the hand of his parent. The parent loves the child and would never allow the child to fall. Paul said, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Ro. 8:14).

John the beloved disciple gives several ways that an individual can know that he has had a personal encounter with Christ. He suggested that the Christian desires to keep God's commandments. John said, "Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 Jn. 2:3). This of course does not mean that an individual never fails to keep God's commandments. It does mean that the overall attitude of an individual's life is a desire to follow the commands and teachings which are laid down in God's Word.

Finally, John indicated that an individual who has had an experience with Christ has a love for God and a love for other Christians. God implants in the heart of each Christian a love for others who have been saved and a desire for fellowship.

Salvation is personal. Each person's salvation experience is different from everyone else's. Some have a quiet acceptance of Christ. This was the case of James and John, who left their nets by the sea of Galilee and followed Christ (Mk. 1:14-20). Others, such as Saul on the road to Damascus, are vivid and dynamic. God works with each person on the basis of his unique personality.

Doubts are not unusual but can nullify a person's Christian usefulness, if not dealt with. When doubts arise, they should be dealt with and placed behind so that a person may go forward for the Master.

## Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 88 NUMBER 13

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DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know

**Baptismless churches** are being offered a helping hand again this year. This will be our sixth year to provide college young people to help with prospect surveys, Vacation Bible Schools, backyard Bible clubs and revivals. They may also help with church camps where children and young people may be presented the gospel of Christ. Not many churches have taken advantage of this offer, but most of those who have, have seen people come to Christ for salvation and to the church for baptism. The Baptist Student Union, Evangelism, and Missions Departments work together in this effort.



Baptismless churches may receive assistance in securing and supporting effective evangelists for their revival meetings. Often small and limited in finances, many pastors of baptismless churches are reluctant to invite experienced evangelistic help. Baptismless churches who are willing may receive some financial assistance so that they can have gifted and experienced evangelists. This would need to be worked out with the Evangelism Department.

Baptismless churches may receive assistance with their young people going to Siloam Springs Assembly. A reduced rate has been worked out by our Sunday School Department so that this can be done. The assumption is that the church would try to enlist young people in their community to come with their young people to Siloam. Hearing the Word of God in a warm spiritual youth service would likely result in most of them receiving Christ and returning home to be baptized. Contact Freddie Pike about this assistance.

Churches wanting the help of BSU students, as outlined above, need to call George Sims (376-4791) now to begin arrangements for the summer.

**Why all of this?** The number of baptismless churches in Arkansas has gone from 168 in 1982 to 255 in 1988. Let's pray and work together to help every church win and baptize at least one in 1989.

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

(FMB) photo / Siegfried Engle



Oscar Pereira produces Spanish Bible materials in El Paso, Texas.

APRIL 16

## What Is CP Day?

by James L. Powell  
SBC Stewardship Commission

Every year during April a special day is observed by Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation. This special day of celebration provides an opportunity for every church member to learn more about the Cooperative Program and how Southern Baptists undergird and support their mission causes at home and around the world.

By planning for and participating in Cooperative Program Day every year, a church can reflect on its concern for sharing the gospel with the world. A part of faithful stewardship is every individual bringing offerings to the church and the church using these funds to minister at home and throughout the world. In 1925 Southern Baptists chose to unify and conduct their cooperative mission endeavor by giving through the Cooperative Program.

Our mission support task is tremendous! It is urgent! It belongs to everyone of us.

**A Day for Involving**—Cooperative Program Day is planned as an opportune time to involve every church member. God has commanded all of us to share his gospel with the whole world. Jesus, during his last days on earth, commanded us to make disciples of all nations.

No individual Christian, no church by itself, can carry the good news of the gospel to the world alone. How then can we accomplish this great task? Southern Baptists have believed for 64 years that the

Cooperative Program is the way to unify our efforts around one mission support method.

Cooperative Program Day is an excellent time to challenge every church member to (1) give boldly to his or her church; (2) support world mission efforts through the Cooperative Program; and (3) seek diligently to learn more about the needs of our world and the opportunities available for sharing the gospel around the world.

**A Day for Informing**—Cooperative Program Day also concentrates the efforts of a church toward informing members how Southern Baptists spread the gospel throughout the world. By faithfully proclaiming God's Word and relating it to the missionary task of the church, each person will become more aware of the nature and purpose of Cooperative Program support.

**A Day for Inspiring**—Cooperative Program Day is a time to inspire God's people to be a part of his redemptive work. It is a time for the church to begin to be more expressive of its concern for a lost world.

Every redeemed person committed to Christ and to his church should accept the responsibility of taking the Christian message to a lost world through a cooperative effort by the whole body of Christ. We call this cooperative missions effort—the Cooperative Program.

Plan to observe Cooperative Program Day this year in your church. Sample promotional materials are available free of charge from state stewardship offices.

# Letters to the Editor

## Penalty for Sin

I would like to respond to the letter to the editor authored by Janice Chapman of Gentry, printed in the March 23rd ABN. For the record, I support the editor's view.

When I read Chapman's letter, I could not help wonder what our Lord is thinking about Christian people like Chapman who favor reinforcing immoral behavior of young people by helping them sin "safely." We know there is no way any person can sin safely. Bro. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee sexual immorality" (NKJV). Sex with any person, other than your marriage partner, is immoral. Rather than reinforcing sin, we need to teach our young people that there is a penalty for sin. Bro. James declares in 1:15, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth

death" (KJV).

When we reinforce immoral behavior, we become party to that person's sin and endorse their immoral behavior. We send a signal to them that fornication is O.K., so long as they don't get caught. It is my opinion that this is the same as winking at sin, and that is a dangerous thing for a child of God to do.

The above is evidence that there is a penalty for sin whether it be in the form of God's direct judgment or indirect judgment of a venereal disease, such as AIDS. What our young people need to hear is God's view of sexual conduct and to be told that God commands them to abstain from sex until marriage.

To approach the teenage sexual problem the way Chapman suggests is to ignore God's laws and the penalty for sin. Also, any first grader knows he can buy condoms

at almost any food or drug store, as well as service station restrooms. To suggest that the so-called "health clinics" are the answer to the teenage pregnancy problem is about as logical as legalizing murder—which, by the way, is this country's way of disposing of unwanted babies. The answer to teenage pregnancy is sexual abstinence, not reinforcement of immoral behavior.—**Bob Richardson, Atkins**

## Stop Abortion

The Supreme Court of the United States will soon make another decision on abortion. All Arkansas Baptists should write: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C. 20543.

Tell her in Christian love that we want the murder of unborn children to stop. Please stop abortion.

People who profit from abortion will put up a big fight to keep abortion. We should put up a bigger fight.—**Russ Curry, Bentonville**

BOB PARKER

## Today's Issues

### In Style

For some reason or another, my wife is more style conscious than I. "Wear the black wing tipped shoes." "Here, take this tie, that doesn't match," and other such words are occasionally heard and heeded before leaving for work. Being "in style" has for years been of grave concern for many, male and female, of all ages. In our day such emphasis seems greater than ever.

In today's highly competitive commercial age, we are bombarded with the word that what one wears or possesses is of great importance. This includes the kind of clothes worn, the vehicle driven, the house and neighborhood lived in and even the way hair is styled.

It's doubtful that the Lord is even slightly impressed with such. Since tremendous amounts of money are involved, most likely he looks upon it all with disgust. The considerably less spent today on missions, including care of the poor, oppressed, widow and orphan, would surely cause such divine displeasure. We must consider more seriously our Christian responsibility to those less fortunate in light of both Old and New Testament teaching.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, King



James Version, he wrote, recorded in chapter three, about "style". The term "put off" is used twice. "Put on" is found three times. To be in style so far as God is concerned, Christians must "put off" fornication, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying. Paul wrote the following should be "put on": bowels of mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, and above all love.

As a lad, the first excuse I ever used for not going to Sunday School and church was related to style. I had no shoes to wear. Gratefully, my mother responded to the excuse with Samuel's word to young David's father. "Bobby," she said, "man looks on the outward appearance. God looks upon the heart" (1 S. 16:7)

This spring, summer, fall and winter, regardless of how materially stylish we may or may not be, let us be "in style" according to God's eternal standards.

**Robert A. Parker** is director of the Christian Life Council.

## Classifieds

**For Sale**—1967 GMC PD1407 Diesel Bus, 41 seats and restroom, a/c and air suspension ride, looks and runs good. Call Grand Avenue Baptist, Fort Smith, 783-5161.4113

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

## Serve the Lord With Gladness

by ministering to the needs of children at the Camden Emergency Receiving Home. Needed: a mature Christian couple to work four days every other weekend. Salary, excellent benefits, supervision. Call Earlene Clearman, 777-1896, or write P.O. Box 912, Hope, AR 71801.

# Beach Reach!

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

**CLEARWATER BEACH, Fla.**—Armed with suntan oil, a broad smile and gospel tracts, Kurtis McClazel joined thousands of other college students on the beach for spring break.

McClazel and 65 other students from Ouachita Baptist University hit the beach looking for more than sun and surf. They were among 320 Christian students from 18 colleges who participated in "Beach Reach '89" to introduce the gospel into a setting notorious for sunburns, beer and sex.

The second annual Beach Reach, sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, included ministries at Clearwater Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Daytona Beach. An estimated one million college and high school students from across the nation spent their spring breaks on Florida beaches.

Ouachita students worked at Clearwater during the peak week of March 20-24, along with students from Oklahoma Baptist University, Union University, Ohio State University and the University of Southern Florida.

Beach Reach participants at Clearwater led 93 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ and made about 1,200 one-on-one witnessing contacts, according to Sarah Driggers, a US-2 missionary who directed the ministry there.

Overall, at least 138 professions of faith were recorded at the three beaches during Beach Reach, according to Tammy Davis, director of special mission ministries for the Florida Baptist Convention.

Davis, who has ministered around Florida beaches since 1980, said she has seen the number of unchurched students growing each year. "They're getting harder and harder to reach," she said.

"We've got a whole generation of youth in America who are growing up without the church, without knowledge of Jesus Christ. The church has got to take a stand out in the marketplace and provide an op-



US-2 missionary Sarah Driggers (center) helps Ouachita Baptist University Student Phillip Fields put on a green wristband to identify him as part of "Beach Reach '89."

portunity for them to hear the gospel, some for the very first time."

Students witnessing at Clearwater Beach met this challenge with undaunted enthusiasm. "I was dreading getting down here at first, but I just jumped right in and it's going great," said McClazel, who is from Whitehall, Ark.

McClazel and other students used a simple survey as a means of starting conversations with people on the beach. The survey asked questions such as "What in your opinion is the basic problem of humanity?" and "If you could know and experience God personally would you be interested?" which led easily into a gospel presentation.

"The survey makes it easy to witness," said Jennifer Massey, a Ouachita student from Greenville, Texas.

On the first day, Massey strolled along Pier 60 toward the ocean and encountered a college-age girl walking alone. "Would you like to take our survey?" Massey asked.

While seagulls flew overhead and a cool breeze blew off the water, Massey completed the 15 questions of the survey with ease. Then, based on the responses to key questions, she turned the conversation to share about how she had found meaning for her own life.

Massey unfolded a small white tract printed especially for the spring break crowd and explained three simple diagrams of man's separation from God. By the time Massey completed the tract, her companion said she would like to trust the Jesus she had just heard about.

Without drawing attention to themselves

as crowds of spring break revelers continued passing by, the two women prayed.

That marked Massey's third convert for the day. "I didn't come just to sit on the beach," she explained. "I came to witness." Ouachita students combed the beach surveying for several hours each day. At certain times they held a tug-of-war on the beach to attract attention or drew a crowd with the help of Christian mime Doug Berky.

As people gathered to watch Berky perform or to participate in the tug-of-war, surveyors made their way through the crowd, striking up conversations and presenting the gospel.

At Clearwater, there were no other planned beach activities for the 50,000 vacationing students on hand. They roamed aimlessly up and down the beach and sidewalks for hours. Most would gladly stop and visit with anyone who approached them.

A small percentage, however, did ridicule the Christian witness. But neither sunburned feet, heckling or outright rejection deterred the surveyors.

"This is an encounter with reality for many of our students," said Ian Cosh, Baptist Student Union director at Ouachita. "They may leave with a few bruises, but training is sometimes painful.

"It has toughened some of them up. When they go back home they will grab more of their opportunities to witness because they won't seem so intimidating," he added.

Whether despondent from rejection or elated from a conversion, every student met with an enthusiastic affirmation from Driggers, who directs resort ministries for Suncoast Baptist Association.

Driggers stood at the lunch line each day hugging students, asking how their day was going and giving advice for confronting various situations that arose. She constantly reminded the group to wear sunscreen and to remember that the witness, not the results, was what mattered.

Throughout the day and in a nightly "share time," the students also encouraged each other and rejoiced with each other. On the beach, they eagerly introduced each convert to other members of the group for affirmation.

Although not every student saw immediate results from their witness, all had the chance to share their faith daily. Many had their first experience of leading a person to faith in Christ.

"God has given me a boldness I never knew before," said Scott Reynolds, a Union University student from South Lyon, Mich. He expressed his enthusiasm in the language of a beach packed with college students: "I'm pumped!"

## Crusade Leaders Meet

A "Leadership Breakfast" was held April 1 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock in preparation for the Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade scheduled for Sept. 17-24 at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock.

David Hocking, pastor of Calvary Church in Santa Ana, Calif., addressed an estimated 1,200 pastors and lay leaders assembled for the Saturday morning meeting.

Hocking related his experience as a member of the committee which organized a 1985 Billy Graham Crusade in Anaheim, Calif. He told the gathering that, as a result of its involvement in the crusade, the congregation he pastors had registered 1,200 professions of faith and more than

doubled in size to a membership of 5,000. The church baptized 237 persons in the first month after the crusade, Hocking said.

Hocking challenged the leaders to make the crusade the focus of all their congregational activities during the next few months and promised that, if they would get personally involved and give a high profile to the crusade, God would bless their efforts. He said more than 12,000 professions of faith were recorded on the final night of the Anaheim Crusade because people worked and prayed for the event.

A youth-oriented concert sponsored by the Billy Graham organization will be held Saturday, April 15, at 7:15 p.m. in the Robinson Center Music Hall in Little Rock.

The event will feature the Christian groups DeGarmo & Key and DC Talk. Advance tickets are available for \$5 from the Crusade office at 1120 Marshall St. and at area Christian book stores. Tickets at the door will be \$7.

Two rallies for church leaders will be offered April 17 at Geyer Springs Baptist Church and April 18 at Agape Church, both in Little Rock. The rallies will be identical in content and will feature Cliff Barrows and other members of the Billy Graham team. Scheduled for 7:30 p.m. each evening, the rallies will provide instruction and inspiration for local church members involved in preparing for the crusade.

Another series of events designed to help churches prepare for the crusade are the Christian Life and Witness Classes planned for 14 locations during May. The classes, which run for four sessions, will help equip Christians to share their faith in Christ and prepare them to serve as counselors during the crusade itself. For more information about class schedules and locations, contact the Crusade office at 501-375-1989.

## State Pastor-Deacon Conference

for Pastors, Deacons & Wives



May 5-6, 1989

Olivet Church, Little Rock

Friday, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

### Conference Leaders

James Hightower Jr.

Nashville, Tenn.

Deana Blackburn

Kerrville, Texas

Topics: Pastors-Deacons—Making Deacon Ministry Effective, Developing Caring Skills, Developing Skills in Conflict Management. Wives—Your Place in Ministry, The Ministering Couple, The Ministering Family

No Preregistration

No Registration Fee

## 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.

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## OBU Yearbook Receives Honor

ARKADELPHIA—The 1988 yearbook of Ouachita Baptist University was one of four yearbooks in the nation to receive the highest honor a publication can receive from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

A Gold Crown was presented to the staff for outstanding work in concept, design, writing, coverage, and photography. This is the *Ouachitonian* yearbook's fourth Gold Crown award in the past eight years.

Also receiving the Gold Crown awards were Villanova University, Ball State University, and Missouri Western State.

The *Ouachitonian* staff also was awarded an All-American rating from the Associated Collegiate Press in the National Critical Service of the National Scholastic Press Association at the University of Minnesota. The ACP judging is another national competition and the *Ouachitonian* has won 10 consecutive All-American awards from the critique service.

## Scholarship Given

WALNUT RIDGE—Harry Belk of Hoxie recently gave a \$10,000 gift to endow a third annual scholarship for students attending Southern Baptist College.

Belk, a retired Lawrence County farmer, has given \$70,000 in scholarship endowments in recent years.



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**John Holston** of North Little Rock completed his service April 5 as interim pastor of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, following six weeks of service. He has served as pastor of First Church of Nashville and First Church of Batesville.

**Ray McClain** resigned April 5 as part-time minister of music for Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock. **Lester McCullough**, director of the ABSC Church Music Department, is serving the church as interim minister of music.

**Billy White** observed five years of service April 1 as pastor of Second Church in Little Rock.

**Mike Lindley** was ordained to the ministry April 2 at First Church in Clarendon. He is serving as pastor of a church in St. Charles.

**Richard Arnett** and **Fred James Whitman**, both of Texarkana, recently received Seminary Extension diplomas. Arnett, a member of Faith Church in Texarkana, received a diploma in pastoral ministries and Whitman, a member of Gold Point Church in Texarkana, received a diploma in educational ministries.

**Gene Carpenter** has resigned as pastor of Tipperary Church at Knobel.

**Leonard Williams** is serving as pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church at Batesville, coming there from Sage.

**Bernard Rusert** resigned March 15 as pastor of Martindale Church in Little Rock.

**T. Earl Ogg** is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Crossett. Ogg is pastor emeritus of College Place Church of Monroe, La. He attended Carson Newman University and Southwestern Seminary.

**Ray Brownholtz** resigned March 26 as pastor of Sweet Home Mission at Perryville.

**Christy Lynn Wilson**, 18, and **Shannon Duane Wilson**, 14, were killed March 26 when the car in which they were riding collided with another car in North Little Rock. They both were members of Rosie Church and students at Oil Trough High School. Their funeral services were held March 27 at the Oil Trough School Gymnasium. Survivors are their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Duane Wilson of Rosie.

**Mark Neese** has accepted a call to serve Batesville First Church as summer youth worker. He is a graduating senior at Ouachita Baptist University.

## Briefly

**Immanuel Church** in Little Rock chapel choir has announced plans for a 1989 mission tour to Grand Canyon Association in Flagstaff, Ariz. The choir will minister to the various churches and neighborhoods in the Grand Canyon area by hosting eight three-day backyard Bible clubs and presenting concerts each night in churches and tourist area. Lynn Madden, minister of music, Tom Daniel, and Mike and G.G. Hoffman are serving as directors and sponsors for the tour which is scheduled for June 14-25.

**Ingram Boulevard Church** in West Memphis was in revival March 19-24 with Johnny Green of Wynne serving as evangelist and Dale Walker of Ingram Boulevard, serving as music director. Pastor Henry Applegate reported nine professions of faith and four additions by letter.

**North Arkansas Association Woman's Missionary Union** has scheduled a "Missions Fling" for April 14 that will feature Phyllis Powers and Rena Treat as speakers.

Photo / Glen Ennes

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A total of 321 handbell ringers, representing 24 choirs, were registered when the annual state handbell festival was held recently at First Church in Little Rock. Glen Ennes, associate in the Church Music Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, coordinated the event. R.E. Thompson from Broadmoore Church in Memphis, Tenn., was guest conductor.

The meeting, to be held at Batavia Church from 7 to 9 p.m., is planned for all Baptist Young Women and Girls in Action.

**Congo Road Mission** at Benton has launched a missions education program for Mission Friends, Royal Ambassadors, and Girls in Action.

**Mena First Church** sponsored a city-wide youth rally March 18-19 that featured Witness, a contemporary music group, and Al Fike, a nationally known humorist and communicator. Youth of the church filled Sunday School leadership positions and presented the musical, "Positive ID."

**Fayetteville First Church** will host Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, April 17-18. April 17 activities will include a dinner and a 7 p.m. program. The April 18 program, beginning at 9 a. m., includes a look at the past directors and Weatherford will speak on "A Future and A Hope."

**New Liberty Church** near Blytheville held a Bible conference April 3-5 which featured Jimmy Milliken of Memphis, Tenn., Doyle Wesson of Winfield, La., Jim Marlar of Elvins, Mo., Paul Kirkindall of Blytheville, Bengy Massey of Manila, and Roger Haney of Jonesboro as speakers. Sedric Wesson is pastor.

**Roland Church** will observe homecoming May 7 with activities that will include a 10 a.m. service, a potluck luncheon, and an afternoon musical program. Wes Kent of Arlington, Texas, will be speaker and will launch a revival which will conclude Thursday evening, May 11. Leroy Patterson is pastor.

**West Memphis Calvary Church** will observe its 35th homecoming July 16.

**Ward First Church Brotherhood** has voted to send an \$85 contribution to be used to help provide Bibles for the citizens of Russia.

**Woodland Heights Church** at Conway ordained Ed Eason, Jim Favre, and Joe McCartney to the deacon ministry April 9.

**Life Line Church** in Little Rock sponsored a community clean-up day in southwest Little Rock area March 25. A total of 126 people from Life Line, Greater Grace and St. Theresa's Catholic churches participated, collecting a total of 8,000 pounds of trash.

**Pine Bluff First Church** has launched a new program called, "Project Love," in which volunteers will provide members with transportation to the doctor, pharmacy, and grocery store. Volunteers also will do minor household repair jobs.

# 97

## Missionaries Couldn't Go

A record number of 733 missionaries were appointed or approved last year for service on home mission fields throughout the nation. But 97 qualified candidates were unable to go because there were no funds to send them.

Easter has passed, and many have given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Many still have not.

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WMU ANNUAL MEETING

# Commitment Renewed

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Imagination, Risk, Renewal, and Commitment were the watchwords for the 1989 Annual Meeting of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, March 21-22 at Rogers First Church.

Each of the convention's four sessions carried a different theme which challenged Baptist women to renew their pledge of support for courageous, creative missions around the world.

Among the business items adopted during the two-day meeting was the report of the WMU nominating committee. More than 600 women unanimously elected their officers for 1989-90: Marjorie Grober of Little Rock, president; Ina Miller of Mountain Home, vice-president; and Polly Reynolds of Gould, recording secretary.

Baptists must free their imaginations to envision creative missions in impossible situations, said Beverly Hammack, director of church and community ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Hammack praised missionaries who "didn't know it couldn't be done" and established vibrant ministries under the most difficult circumstances. She told the women about missionaries who have blazed trails in blighted inner cities and boarded foreign vessels docked in American ports in order to share the gospel. Because of their imagination, she said, thriving

works have been established and people are being won to Christ who never would have heard the gospel but for the efforts of a missionary who "didn't know any better."

Wana Ann Fort, a pediatrician who serves as a Southern Baptist missionary to Zimbabwe, shared a moving testimony about the risks she and her husband have taken as missionaries overseas.

She recalled the pain of separation when she was unable to be present at the death of her parents and when they sent their children off to boarding school hundreds of miles away. She related the frightening experience of being robbed or having their home looted and remembered the trauma their missionary family experienced when fellow missionary Archie Dunaway and several African Baptist leaders were murdered during a civil war.

And the audience was visibly moved as Dr. Fort shared the pain of failure when limited knowledge and technology meant that some patients — in one case a small child — would be lost when they might have been saved at a stateside hospital.

Their experience taught them that "so many things we major on are really minor," Fort said. "Sanyati Baptist Hospital was the end of the world for us, and God was with us there."

She asked the participants, "Where is the end of the world for you?" and challenged them to answer that question for

themselves, whether it meant working with girls at church, witnessing at work, volunteering for missions, or increasing their commitment to give or pray for missions.

A challenge to renewal was presented Tuesday evening by two speakers, both of them men.

Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association in Fort Smith, told the women that hands-on, personal involvement in overseas missions will "profoundly change" both individuals and whole congregations.

He explained how a four-year partnership between Concord Association and another association deep in the interior of Equatorial Brazil had not only brought thousands of Brazilians to a saving knowledge of Christ, but also had transformed the missions commitment of the association. As evidence he cited double digit increases which occurred during 1988 in both Cooperative Program giving and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

And the enthusiasm for missions has been focused at home, as well as overseas, Morgan said. He named four sites in the association where new congregations are being started and said these were just a few of the 21 locations in the area identified by a survey.

He challenged the women to pray that the results of Arkansas' approaching partnership with Guatemala would "far eclipse" the tremendous results of the Brazilian partnership. Guatemala is "ripe for the gospel," Morgan declared, and called for Arkansas Baptists to boldly pray that God would touch all 8 million people in Guatemala during the three-year partnership which begins this fall.

Charles Carroll, a Southern Baptist missionary to Singapore, closed the Tuesday evening session with a challenge to renewal based on the prophet Isaiah's call to missions (Is. 6).

When Isaiah saw God for who he really is, he also saw himself as God saw him, Carroll said, and the prophet repented under the conviction he felt. Only then was God able to cleanse and empower him for the mission he had prepared for the prophet. Only then was the prophet able to hear God's call to mission.

"If God is ever going to use you to impact the world, first he must change you," Carroll declared. He told his audience that the United States today, like the people of Isaiah's time, were a people with their priorities completely out of order.

"We have our own idols," he asserted. "We worship leisure, pleasure, physical beauty, money, cars, clothes, houses, even church buildings. None of those things are bad in themselves, but we have them out



A clown's skit reinforced the need for stewardship.



Beverly Hammack

of priority.

"It's no wonder we are not baptizing people," he continued. "It's no wonder missions giving is struggling and that people are fussing and fighting and feuding. Southern Baptists have everything it takes to reach the world, but we never will unless we let God change us. We need renewal!"

When Southern Baptists have been individually cleansed of their bitterness, pride, anger, lust, and selfishness, then God will be able to renew them and they will be able to hear God speak, Carroll said. Then they, like Isaiah will be able to truly commit themselves to reaching the world for Christ.

"Southern Baptists today need to be restored and renewed. That includes church members, pastors, staff members, and even missionaries," he concluded. "I don't want to spend my life laboring in vain."

"God wants to use us, and he will use us, but first we must come before him in worship and see him as he really is. Then, we can see ourselves as we really are and pour our hearts out in confession. Only then can we truly say, Here am I. Send me."

The fourth element of the meeting's theme — Commitment — was addressed by both Beverly Hammack of the Home Mission Board and Marjorie McCullough, national president of Woman's Missionary Union.

Hammack told her audience that commitment to missions means personally caring for the needs of individuals. She mentioned Mildred McWhorter, a Southern

Baptist missionary in Houston, Texas, who has won more than 50 women to Christ just by inviting them to sit down and drink a cup of coffee with her.

"Commitment means taking the time to listen to someone on the telephone or over a cup of coffee," Hammack said. "It involves time and it requires listening. But we need to focus our concern on two or three persons, so that we don't wind up loving the world in general but no one in particular."

Marjorie McCullough lamented the fact that Southern Baptists are entering the last decade of Bold Mission Thrust — the denomination's commitment to take the gospel to every person on earth by A.D. 2000 — and people seem to have lost their enthusiasm for the mission.

She noted that there are 137 million lost persons in the United States alone and told the assembly, "There are people hurting all around us, and we are not doing our job."

The Lord has been so good to us," she concluded. "We have the good news, and we must share it or face the consequences. We haven't yet done Bold Mission Thrust right."

Arkansas Acteens director Angela Lowe warned WMU members that Arkansas Baptists are "raising a generation of missions illiterates" by failing to involve young persons in missions organizations.

Lowe told the convention that only 19 percent of all Arkansas Baptist churches have mission organizations for their teenage members. That failure, she said, places in jeopardy the future of every missions enterprise.

"We must have creative, interesting mission organizations that involve direct missions activity, and those organizations must have priority time on our church schedules," Lowe said. She told the audience that they could "hold the rope" for world missions by building youth missions organizations in their churches.

During their annual meeting, WMU members also heard testimonies from three women who have been active in volunteer missions through their local churches. Barbara Blue of Rogers told about trips she has made to Mexico and Honduras. Agnes Coppenger of El Dorado shared about her five trips to Brazil, Maine, and Indiana. Patsy Hossler of Little Rock recounted a 1985 medical mission trip to Mali which she said was "life changing."

The report of the WMU Executive Board was presented during the final session Wednesday morning. Katsy McAllister of El Dorado was recognized for her five years of service as state president. The assembly was told that special mission offerings in Arkansas during 1988 had raised \$3.7 million for missions causes. They also heard that 19 associations in Arkansas

reported increases in the number of WMUs during the year. Elma Cobb of Little Rock was honored as chairman of a committee which raised \$42,576.15 to furnish a conference room at the new WMU, SBC building in Birmingham, Ala.

The women also adopted a goal of \$550,000 for the 1989 Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions. The 1988 goal was set at \$475,000, but receipts totaled more than \$525,000, setting a new record for the annual offering.

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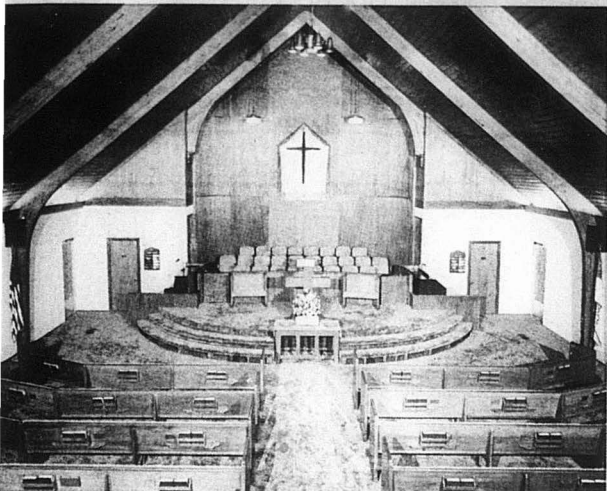
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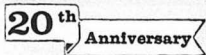
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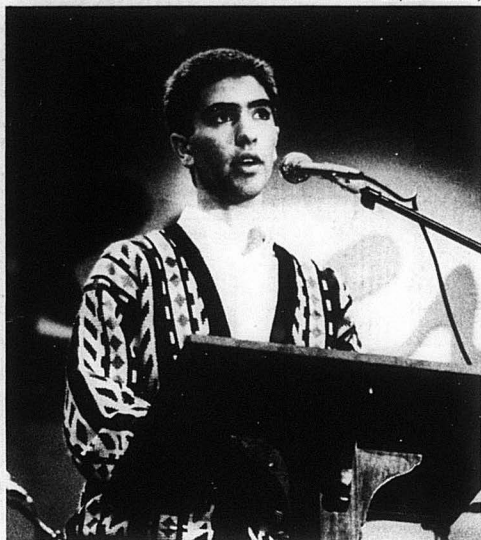
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# Make A Difference!

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"Make A Difference!" was the theme of the 1989 Arkansas Baptist State Youth Convention, which was held Friday, March 24, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Among the highlights of the annual conference were (clockwise from top left) a testimony by North Little Rock teenager Jerry Cound, who received a heart transplant in 1986; three messages by Dean Finley, a youth evangelism consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga.; a morningtime "Get

Acquainted" session; and a Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament during the afternoon. Drill and tournament winners were (left to right) DeAnna Brooks of Vandervoort First Church, second place, Bible Drill; Karen Cowling of Foreman First Church, first place, Bible Drill; Charlotte Stone of Hope First Church, first place, Speakers' Tournament; and Susan Shackelford of Cabot Old Austin Church, second place, Speakers' Tournament. "Harbor" of Nashville, Tenn., was the featured musical group.



1989 Christian Civic Foundation officers are: (left to right) Norman Carter, president; Beverly Williams, first vice-president; J. Everett Sneed, second vice-president; Linda D. Harris, secretary; D.L. Rousey, third vice-president; and John Finn, executive director. Not pictured is Don Hook, treasurer.

## Focus on the Lottery

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"A lottery wouldn't generate a lot more (income) than the Oaklawn Race Track, but its corrupting influence would be much worse," declared James O. Powell, retired senior editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*. Powell was the featured speaker for the Christian Civic Foundation Annual Meeting on March 23 at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

Powell observed that lottery opponents could have a brief moment of reassurance because the lottery was not placed on the ballot by the Arkansas legislature. The longer Arkansas waits to place the lottery on the ballot the more likely it is to fail. History often is cyclical and it appears that our nation is moving back to a position where the lottery holds less favor.

Powell observed that the lottery contributes a minute percentage of the state's revenue. Lottery advocates have claimed it would raise \$30 million a year for Arkansas. An extensive *Arkansas Gazette* study determined that not more than \$17 million could be raised. Powell said, "This would be peanuts, even in Arkansas, where the state's budget reaches into the billions."

Since the advocates of the lottery keep coming back, it is likely the moral forces of our state eventually will have to organize in the same way that they did in 1984 when an amendment to permit casino gambling failed overwhelmingly, he said.

Powell challenged the estimated 150 in attendance at the CCF meeting to make the

climate as forbidding as possible against the lottery. He said, "Just because much of the country has gotten into the gambling racket doesn't mean that we have to follow suit. It is indeed a drain upon the society or state that sustains it. The people who dissipate their earnings on the lottery are mainly the people who are least able to indulge in the quest to get something for nothing."

He said that several myths are used in advancing the cause of lotteries, among them: (1) that it is a great producer of revenue for states; and (2) that multi-million dollar prizes are won by working people. He gave statistics to show that both of these statements are completely untrue.

In conclusion Powell referred to an article in the *Wall Street Journal* which shows the lottery isn't "a windfall for education."

Items of business included a report by Executive Director John Finn, a treasurer's report, and the adoption of the 1989 budget. The 1988 budget was \$105,700. The Foundation actually received approximately \$90,000. The 1989 budget is \$111,444. The Foundation lived within the funds that were received but it was observed that with the lottery on the horizon, additional income is desperately needed.

The meeting was presided over by Norman Carter, president of the Christian Civic Foundation and District Superintendent of the Arkadelphia District of United Methodists. Wayne Jarvis, associate director, Council on Ministry for the North Arkansas Conference of United Methodists, also spoke in opposition to the lottery.

## May Volunteer Conference

The Arkansas Volunteer Directions Conference 1989 is slated for May 1-2 at the Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock. The conference will feature Marlene Wilson, a trainer in the field of volunteer/staff management. Fee for the conference is \$60 and the registration deadline is April 21.

Of particular interest will be a 7:30 p.m. Monday workshop, "Volunteerism in The Church," which may be attended separately for \$5.

For more information, contact the Office of Volunteerism at 1-800-482-5850, ext. 27540.

## Wiles Named Development Head

Jerry Wiles was recently named vice-president for development for Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. He was formerly president of Bible Pathway Ministries, an international Christian publishing and communication organization.

A native of Izard County, Wiles is a graduate of Southern Baptist College and Middle Tennessee State University.

Wiles and his wife Sheila have two children, Jonathan, 13, and Sara, 10.



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# Pilot Looks to God

by Joe Westbury  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—When Eastern Airlines pilot Jim Hopkins found himself in the middle of a strike at the 60-year-old airline, he didn't expect to learn a spiritual lesson from the labor strife.

But Hopkins, a member of First Baptist Church of Newnan, Ga., an Atlanta suburb, has turned potential career disaster into a ministry to other pilots affected by the strike. Nearly 1,100 Eastern pilots are based in Atlanta at the airline's largest hub.

"Eastern employees have been under tremendous stress since the airline was sold to Frank Lorenzo three years ago," Hopkins explained. Unions did not take to Lorenzo's management style, and contract negotiations have been at the boiling point since the acquisition.

The Chattanooga, Tenn., native was in his 24th year with Eastern when the three-year-old labor dispute grounded the international carrier March 4. Today, instead of flying Boeing 727 jets around the nation, Hopkins is part of a lay ministry formed to minister to pilots caught in the dispute.

Hopkins is no stranger to personal ministry. For 15 years he has been a volunteer in lay renewal with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission. But the ongoing stress at Eastern had taken his mind off the spiritual dimension of dealing with the labor strife, he said.

Much of his current ministry can be traced to the day his wife, Karen, challenged him to use his faith to help others at work.

"Karen said this was the perfect opportunity to witness in the marketplace to remind others that God was ultimately in control of the future," he recalled. "She reminded me that we needed to look to him for our security and daily needs, rather than our employer.

"That changed my whole attitude and opened up a lot of doors to ministry. I started going to work with a smile on my face. People began asking what I had to be so happy about, and that's when I shared my faith.

"I was able to remind friends that God, not an employer, was in control of my life. That's when I came to the realization that there is life after Frank Lorenzo and Eastern Airlines."

Hopkins' biggest test came when the International Association of Machinists struck the carrier in early March and called on the pilots for support.

"It wasn't a struggle whether the unions were right or management was right," Hopkins said. "My struggle centered around my obedience to God in that situation.

"Because people were using Scripture to justify a variety of stands on the issue, I began to study my Bible even more closely. Though I respected the authority of my employer and felt obligated to cross the picket lines, my decision eventually changed.

"I decided that unless it was illegal, immoral or unethical, the Air Line Pilots

Association (pilots union) was the recognized bargainer for my contract with Eastern, so I should follow their decision to honor the picket lines."

Consequently, Hopkins joined 11 Christian pilots who also were seeking a biblical response to the strike. The group, which called itself the Concerned Christian Pilots Committee, has now grown to 55 members as it seeks to minister to others in the profession.

"Since we formed this group, pilots are coming out of the woodwork who are struggling with these same issues. We're hoping it will eventually provide a witness to other pilots who are not Christians," he said.

Hopkins, 50, said although he didn't want to go on strike, the hours he is spending in Bible study—and extra weekdays he's giving to the Home Mission Board's lay renewal department—may have far-reaching effects on his career.

"This has brought me to realize God may be calling me into another vocation. I don't want to leave the airline industry, but I'm more open to the Lord's direction than at any other time in my life.

"Karen and I thought we might one day be involved in some form of evangelistic missions after I retire, but that may be coming sooner than we expected. I have 10 years left as a pilot, but God may be calling me into another vocation.

"What I've been able to share with other Eastern employees is that God never promised us wealth, riches or a life without pain or hurt. What he did promise us is that through faith in Jesus Christ, he would give us the strength and grace to endure them."

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# RTVC Cuts Staff

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will reduce the size of its staff by 20 percent, effective March 31.

The cuts are the result of a budget crunch created when the sale of the commission's ACTS television network failed March 14, said officials of the RTVC, located in Fort Worth, Texas.

The RTVC will drop 12 full-time and six part-time employees through a combination of attrition and layoffs, RTVC officers said. The cutbacks will reduce the RTVC staff from 91 employees to 73.

Trustees voted to continue operating the RTVC's American Christian Television System after the sale of the cable TV network could not be completed. Friends of ACTS, a group based in San Antonio, Texas, had contracted to buy ACTS for \$34 million but could not raise the money by the mid-March deadline.

"Extraordinary expenses" related to the attempted sale of ACTS caused the budget problem, RTVC officers said.

Those expenses included legal fees paid to RTVC attorneys, fees paid to auditors to prepare for the sale, a \$435,000 exit penalty incurred when ACTS left the Spacenet satellite transponder and moved to the Galaxy III satellite requested by Friends of ACTS and continued employment of people who would have been let go when the sale originally was to be completed last fall, said RTVC Executive Vice President

Richard T. McCartney.

"We needed to trim the 1988-89 budget by almost \$500,000, and that made it necessary to reduce personnel as well as other operational expenses," McCartney said. "The Radio and Television Commission has a loyal and talented staff, and we regret that we are unable to keep everyone at this critical time."

Some employees elected to take early retirement, and the commission helped others find alternative employment in the Fort Worth area, he said.

The process of deciding on employee cuts and other cost-saving measures has taken about two months, McCartney reported, noting RTVC officers and managers "have been working on where we needed to be if the sale did not go through."

"The bottom line for each director has been to cut according to what we could get by with for the next six months," he said. Managers were involved in the discussions because "the people having to suffer ought to get to participate in the decision-making process," he added.

The payroll percentage of the \$500,000 savings "is not computed," McCartney said. Other cuts include postponement of the annual ACTS ceremony awards until the fall, after the start of the next fiscal year; elimination of "internal services" for RTVC departments, such as program promotion and gifts offered to program listeners; and

delayed production of some RTVC programs until the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

"We're looking to the next six months, to get into the next budget year," McCartney explained. "The \$500,000 cut this year is to be restored next year, except for the \$113,000 to be cut from the Cooperative Program." The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified budget, which helps fund convention agencies and institutions. Its basic budget is to be reduced by 2.05 percent in the next fiscal year.

Following the \$500,000 reduction, the RTVC annual budget is \$7.8 million, McCartney noted.

"Although we will not be able to do many of the things we would like to do in the next few months, most people will see very little immediate difference in the look of the network," he predicted.

Remaining staff will spend their time and energy on priority projects, and other activities will be put on hold until funds are available, he added.

## Land Named to Anti-Porn Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has been named to the executive committee of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography.

The alliance, made up of religious leaders of most major denominations in the United States, has as its main focus opposition to hard-core and child pornography.

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HOME MISSION BOARD

## Evangelism VP Elected

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—A new vice president for evangelism, a record year for conversions and church starts, and a plan to reduce 1989 budget expenditures by nearly 10 percent highlighted the spring meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., unanimously was elected vice president for evangelism during the March 10 meeting. He succeeds Robert Hamblin, who left the board last December to become a full-time evangelist and direct a religious foundation.

"There is no position in Southern Baptist life any more important than this one because of the urgency of winning America for Christ," said HMB President Larry Lewis.

After his election, Robinson told the board: "Only God can do what must be done to reach America for Christ. God cannot do that through me alone, but he can do that through Southern Baptists working together."

During his annual report to the board, Lewis announced year-end gains in baptisms, missionary appointments, church starts and volunteerism. However, he warned that these records may not be repeated if funding for the board does not increase.

The board receives the majority of its funds from the unified giving plan of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program, and from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, promoted by the SBC Woman's Missionary Union.

The Cooperative Program 1989-90

allocation budget features a 2.05 percent decrease to most agencies, as the SBC moves to a "performance-oriented" rather than "goal-oriented" budget. The Annie Armstrong offering has increased only slightly in recent years.

Because of projected decreases in funding, Lewis announced that each HMB section had been asked to reduce 1989 budget expenditures by an average of 9.69 percent. Cuts will come from Atlanta-based operations and will not affect funding to missionaries, he said.

"We are not proposing across-the-board cuts," he told directors. "We will reduce expenditures based on staff evaluation of priorities. We want to assure our missionaries that field ministries will not be cut."

The board will operate on a contingency budget for the remainder of the 1988-89 fiscal year, Lewis said, because of reductions in Cooperative Program funding, less retained income available, and the small increase in receipts from the 1988 Annie Armstrong offering.

Lewis explained the action is typical of what most Southern Baptist agencies are facing in light of anticipated changes in the way the convention will structure its budget process.

"In spite of these actions, the cash flow and the financial position of the agency is healthy," he added. "We are seeking to act responsibly in budget management. We have good reserves. The financial position of the agency is solid."

Lewis also cited highlights of HMB accomplishments in 1988. They include:

— A record 75,943 people led to faith in Christ by home missionaries, chaplains

and national staff personnel. "This conversion ratio of one to 13 is far better than the national SBC average of one to 43," Lewis noted.

— A new high in appointment of home missionaries and endorsement of chaplains. An increase of 81 missionaries, or 2.1 percent, pushed the total to a record 3,827 serving across the nation and assigned territories. A total of 2,014 chaplains now serve in the United States and 14 foreign countries.

— A net gain of 285 churches and 953 church-type missions, the largest gain since 1965, pushed the denomination closer to its goal of 50,000 churches and missions by A.D. 2000. The convention now has 42,217 churches and missions.

— A 17.9 percent increase in volunteers for mission service, with 8,597 new volunteers contributing to a record 49,781 individuals seeking short- and long-term assignments.

— A record 775 churches participated in lay renewal weekends and lay ministry weekends, and more than 115,000 lay people were trained in personal evangelism.

— More than 50,000 individuals have completed training in a Prayer for Spiritual Awakening seminar, committing themselves to pray daily for revival.

In other action, the board of directors elected two additional staff members, appointed missionaries, elected new board officers, and pledged to pray for the Woman's Missionary Union search committee named to find a successor to Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford.

Floyd Tidsworth, church extension director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was elected associate vice president of the extension section. Tidsworth will work with Vice President Charles Chaney in directing the new section, which was created during a previously approved staff reorganization.

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# Focus on Sanctity

by Dan Martin & Louis Moore

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—More than a dozen speakers explored sanctity-of-life issues ranging from abortion to human sexuality during the annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission March 27-29 in Kansas City, Mo.

"We were trying to address the questions of life in its sanctity and sacredness," said Richard D. Land, the commission's executive director.

"We wanted to help people understand this is a comprehensive subject. People have complained that sanctity of life is more than an abortion issue. We have tried to address that. We talked about abortion but also about many other issues such as hunger, euthanasia, pornography, genetic engineering, teenage suicide, sexuality, and alcohol and drug abuse."

During the conference, which drew 209 registered participants, two speakers concentrated on abortion, although others touched on the issue as they spoke on other topics.

Gary Bauer, a former White House staff member and now vice president of Focus on the Family, who spoke on child pornography, announced a letter-writing campaign to the U.S. Supreme Court on a pending abortion case.

He said four justices favor current abortion rulings, while four are opposed. "I encourage you to write to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor whose vote is in doubt," he said.

In a keynote address, author Calvin

Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., told participants, "With every little life we scrape from the womb, we die a little more." The United States, with 1.8 children per family, "is an aging, dying nation," he said.

"By 2025, a scant 35 years from now, the U.S. will have twice as many grandparents as babies. Our burials will soar as our births decline," he said, noting the "command of God to be fruitful and multiply. The whole point of this paper is that being fruitful and multiplying go together ... (and) we sin by being unfruitful and vanishing from the face of the earth."

Kenneth Kautzer, former editor of Christianity Today, now emeritus dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., traced a position that would allow abortion when the life of the mother is threatened, in cases of rape or incest, or when severe fetal deformity occurs. Such cases, he said, "account for only one-half of 1 percent of all abortions."

Commenting that a "careful appraisal of the American scene makes it evident that no absolutist law or constitutional amendment (banning abortions) has the remotest chance of passing in the near future," Kautzer said: "Some sort of law that would at least eliminate one of the most frightening trends of our day—abortion on demand—is well within our reach."

"If evangelicals and their political and social allies who support laws against abortion would prove far-sighted enough and cooperative enough to pass such a law,

would be prepared for the consequences? Tens of thousands of babies, now aborted, would be brought to term. Many would prove viable; would live and some would grow to maturity but would be deformed.

"Are we prepared to share in the care of these handicapped babies? If we cannot answer yes to these questions, we have no right on moral grounds to oppose their abortion," he said.

On pornography, Thomas Parker, professor of counseling at Dallas Theological Seminary, told participants enough anti-pornography laws already exist—if enforced—to begin making a dent in the pornography industry. He urged the CLC to publish materials on helping citizens pursue passage of other anti-pornography laws.

Death—suicide and euthanasia—were addressed by two other speakers.

Dallas psychiatrist Paul Warren said children and adolescents are "in a state of crisis" because of rampant drug abuse, spreading teenage suicide, parental divorce and other psychological problems. He urged Southern Baptists to work to lead parents to a deeper commitment to parenting and to strive to give children a biblically based sense of self-esteem.

Thomas E. Elkins, professor of medical ethics at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, said now is the time for Christians to develop a thoughtful, carefully constructed, biblical approach to the thorny and difficult issues involving euthanasia and to offer to society a model for how to approach the issue.

Richard Foster, professor of theology at Friends University in Wichita, Kan., said: "One of the real tragedies in Christian history has been the divorce of sexuality from spirituality. That fact is all the more lamentable since the Bible holds such a high celebrative view of human sexuality."

Charles Lowery, director of counseling services at First Baptist Church of Dallas and professor of counseling at Criswell College in Dallas, told participants that just saying no to drugs and alcohol is not sufficient. "We have to make an end run. We have to replace them with something else" he said.

"Don't forget what the church has to combat drugs and alcohol. That is the power source, the power of Jesus Christ" he said.

## Skip Notice

The *Arkansas Baptist* will not publish an April 20 issue due to financial constraints. Sunday School lesson commentaries for both April 16 and 22 are carried in this issue.

## ASC Sound Tip #2:

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# In the Courts

## Equal Access

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two federal appeals courts have issued contradictory decisions in cases involving equal access.

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals held high school members of a Bible study club had the same right to meet as any of the school's other non-academic groups. But the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals denied that right to a similar student religious group.

Both cases involve the 1984 Equal Access Act, which prohibits any public secondary school that receives federal funding and has a "limited open forum" from denying equal access to or otherwise discriminating against students who wish to conduct a meeting based on the "religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings." A limited open forum, according to the law, exists whenever non-curriculum related student groups are provided an opportunity to meet on school grounds before or after the school day.

In *Mergens v. Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools*, the 8th Circuit Court rejected a claim by the Westside Board of Education in Omaha, Neb., that all non-religious clubs—including a chess club, scuba club and two service clubs—were curriculum related and, therefore, that no limited open forum existed.

Instead, the court held Congress intended the term "non-curriculum related" to be interpreted to include any clubs only peripherally related to the curriculum.

"Allowing such a broad interpretation of 'curriculum related' would make the Equal Access Act meaningless," wrote the appeals court. "This is exactly the result that Congress sought to prohibit by enacting the EAA . . ."

Just a few weeks earlier, however, the 9th Circuit ruled in an opposite manner in *Garnett v. Renton School District No. 403*.

Although the school in Renton, Wash., had at least 15 other non-academic student clubs—including a bowling club, dance squad and ski club—the court held no limited open forum had been created. In addition, the court ruled equal access would violate the Washington state constitution and neither the free speech clause

nor the free exercise clause of the U.S. Constitution required the recognition of a religious club.

Equal access might violate a state constitution that prohibits the appropriation of public money or property for any religious worship, exercise or instruction or that mandates all schools maintained by public funds be free from sectarian control or influence, said Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. But, Thomas added, the U.S. Constitution—not a state constitution—is the "supreme law of the land."

## Sunday Employment

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed an individual's right to refuse Sunday employment based on personal religious beliefs.

In a unanimous opinion issued March 29, the high court overturned an Illinois Court decision that denied unemployment benefits to William A. Frazee, who refused to work on Sunday because of his "personal faith in the Lord."

The state panel rejected Frazee's free exercise claim because he was not a member of an established religious sect with a tenet or belief against Sunday work.

Writing for the court, Justice Byron R. White said, "Undoubtedly, membership in an organized religious denomination, especially one with a specific tenet forbidding members to work on Sunday, would

simplify the problem of identifying sincerely held religious beliefs, but we reject the notion that to claim the protection of the free exercise clause, one must be responding to the commands of a particular religious organization."

A number of religious and civil liberties organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, filed a brief in support of Frazee's right to refuse Sunday employment.

## Counterclaim to Suit

NASHVILLE (BP)—Seventeen Nashville Baptist Association churches are among congregations that have filed a counterclaim to a lawsuit from the city's metropolitan government.

In late December 1988, Metro government sought to tax 141 tax-exempt properties, including parsonages owned by the Nashville Baptist churches, which the city claimed were not used for religious or charitable purposes.

The response to the lawsuit, filed by Nashville attorney Robert C. Taylor on behalf of the churches, noted "The real properties subject to plaintiff's action are parsonages used for religious and other exempt purposes under the authorization" the state constitution.

The response also said the church parsonages were exempt from taxation prior to 1986, "and their status and use as parsonages have not changed since the plaintiff, through its assessor of property, unilaterally denied exemptions to defendants' parsonages."



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## Convention Uniform

### *Running the Race*

by Michael D. Johnson, First Church, Pine Bluff

**Basic passage:** Philippians 3:7-21

**Focal passage:** Philippians 3:12-16

**Central truth:** For the Christian, spiritual growth is a life-long process.

Last summer was a new experience for our family. Our two boys, ages five and seven, played T-Ball for the first time. This was an exciting time for the whole family. We were all out in force as we cheered these young ballplayers on. There were many father-son discussions regarding doing our best, practicing the basics, and what really matters is how the game is played. In our lesson today, we are the ones who find ourselves on the playing field and Paul is giving us some good words of advice.

The apostle Paul used many sport analogies in describing the Christian life. The one found in our focal passage today is well-known. Here Paul likens the Christian pilgrimage to a foot race where the runner represents the individual Christian. Several lessons can be found in this analogy.

I have not heard about many athletes who claim that they have achieved perfection. Even those who are regarded as the top in their field do not let up on their training schedule. Paul makes the same point in verse 12. If Paul, for all of his contributions to the cause of Christ, felt this way, how much more should we continue to strive to be the very best that we can be?

During the race the runner's focus is always on the finish line. The runner presses on, never looking back, for to do so could mean the loss of stride and speed. Likewise, the Christian should never rest on that which he may have accomplished (v. 13). The focus should always be thinking about all that which he still has to do. The prize for the Christian is the crown of eternal life found in Christ Jesus (v. 14).

When we do these things we find ourselves to be "mature" (vv. 15-16). This is to say, when we always remember our goal and the demand that goes with it while never deceiving ourselves to believe we have attained it, we will be conditioning ourselves for further progress. God's subsequent revelations are only available to those who remain open to the leading of God's Spirit.

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## Life and Work

### *Refocusing on Covenant*

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

**Basic passage:** Joshua 5:3,7,9-12

**Focal passage:** Joshua 5:3,7,9-10

**Central truth:** Every generation must be taught the requirements and blessings of being a covenant people.

One generation had died and another was on the scene. The generation that had passed had understood that they were in covenant with God even though they were punished for their unbelief in the wilderness. They had the mark of covenant in their flesh. They were circumcised. The origin of circumcision is seen in Genesis 17:12. The Israelites that crossed the Jordan with Joshua were without circumcision.

Those who left Egypt with Moses and Aaron experienced the mighty deliverance from slavery, saw the great plagues, walked across the Red Sea on dry ground, received the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai, and ate God's miracle food, manna, and quail. But, they did not keep their part of the covenant and never experienced the Promised Land.

Mighty lessons should have been learned by this younger generation, but nothing can replace the act of personal, individual commitment to Jehovah. Submission to his sovereignty was signified by each man as they submitted to circumcision. In this act each man identified himself as one of God's covenant people. This was, of course, the old covenant.

Today those of us who call ourselves "Christian" have our own means of identifying ourselves as part of God's new covenant people. We make what we call a public profession of our faith by presenting ourselves to the church. Then as a further step, we submit to public baptism.

Both circumcision in the Old Testament and baptism in the New Testament are symbolic of spiritual realities, of submission to God's will and identification with his people and his purpose.

Only when we, as a people of covenant, live by faith in God can we experience the joy of the rest God promises. Even the people of Joshua's day failed to realize all that was available to them (He. 4:6-10). Let us, by faith and obedience, realize and experience all that God has made available to his people. By so doing we will honor God and people will be drawn to him.

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## Bible Book

### *Saved by Grace*

by Dianne Swaim, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

**Basic passage:** Acts 15:1-2,7-12,28-31

**Focal passage:** Acts 15:1-2,7-12

**Central truth:** God's plan of salvation is sufficient and has no need of revision.

Occasionally I have what I suppose could be termed an irrevocable feeling—an almost overwhelming sympathy for God. Of all the things he has asked from us—trust, obedience, love, devotion, etc.—sympathy is not one of them! But I just can't help it. He gave so much in his only Son in order to make salvation free and simple, and we continue to attempt to redesign his plan and make it burdensome. How he must grieve. They did it in the days of Paul and Barnabas, and we do it in today's world.

Circumcision was the issue in Paul's day. The Jewish leaders had come a long way in their willingness to accept Gentiles into the church at all. But they just could not give up on their stand on circumcision. Peter, however, realized that the issue of circumcision was only the beginning. The Jews were, in reality, superimposing the Law on the Gentiles and insinuating, if not directly stating, that their salvation would depend on their ability to keep it.

Peter, in verses 7-11, reminds the apostles and elders at the Jerusalem conference called to this purpose, that salvation by grace was God's idea. Not only was it God's plan to include the Gentiles as they were (uncircumcised) but he verified it by giving to them the Holy Ghost. This fact may have been hard to swallow for the church leaders, but it was undeniable.

Peter reached the heart of the matter when he said in verse 10: "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?" What could they say? Verse 12(a) says, "Then all the multitude kept silence." Perhaps there is no better way to silence the criticism or unjust demands of others than to point out their own weaknesses.

Paul and Barnabas followed Peter's address with a review of the miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles. Once again, actions spoke louder than words. The church leaders were left with no argument. It was a simple matter of "Case closed!"

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## Convention Uniform

### *Think on These Things*

by Michael D. Johnson, First Church, Pine Bluff

Basic passage: Philippians 4:4-19

Focal passage: Philippians 4:8-9

**Central truth:** Thinking on the positive dimensions of life enables the Christian to better identify the will of God.

Just how is individual character and personality developed? Is it the environment? Is it heredity? Is it just chance? Or a combination of all the above? This is a question that has been the subject of debate, study, and speculation by psychologists and sociologists for hundreds of years.

In our lesson today, Paul suggests that the formation of the Christian character is directly related to the kinds of things that one thinks about. In our focal passage for today, eight virtues are listed. While they are not distinctively Christian attributes, they are traits that should be found in all disciples of Christ.

Things which are true are unchanging. They can be relied upon and will never deceive. We are reminded that Christ is the truth.

That which is honorable is honest. Other translations use the word "worthy" or "noble." We come to understand that Paul is encouraging us to focus on that which is serious and dignified as opposed to the multitude of attitudes which are flippant and disregards others.

That which is just involves duty. While some may focus on themselves, only the call to justice reminds us of our duty to man and God.

Purity suggests that which is morally pure. The Christian should always be able to have his thoughts examined by God and need not be ashamed.

Kindness, sympathy, and love are the kinds of lovely things that Paul was describing. People whose minds are set on criticism and hate only call forth resentment in others.

Words of graciousness are words we all like to hear. There are ugly, false, and impure words that abound in everyday language. That which is spoken graciously could be spoken to God himself.

We seem to hear a great deal about the "search for excellence" in so many areas of our life together. For the Christian, we are to model only the excellent things that life offers.

Think on these things!

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## Life and Work

### *Blessing or Hindrance*

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

Basic passage: Joshua 7:4-5,7,10-13

Focal passage: Joshua 7:4-5,13

**Central truth:** Disobedience among God's people brings judgment and hindrances progress.

The Lord had laid special claim to everything in the city of Jericho (J.s. 6:17-19). Joshua had faithfully warned the people to take nothing, for to do so would bring trouble and destruction on Israel. With the collapse of the great walls of the city the men of Israel, with one exception, faithfully carried out the mandate of God.

Most everything in the city was to be destroyed, but some things were to be placed in the treasury of the Lord's house. Silver, gold, bronze, and iron were designated for the treasury. One man, Achan, believed he could steal from God and get by with it (J.s. 7:1,19-23). Achan was wrong!

One of the powerful and sobering lessons from this episode in the history of Israel is that the innocent often suffer because of another person's sin. So far as the story indicates, only Achan disobeyed God, yet the army of Israel was defeated by the few men of Ai (J.s. 7:4-5) and at least 36 Israelites were killed.

In addition to the humiliating defeat, the invasion and conquest of the rest of the land was postponed until the culprit was found and punished. Also, the enemies of God surely were encouraged by the defeat Israel suffered.

Sometimes believers, church members, Christians exhibit a spirit that implies that we can live life as we choose and nobody else will be affected by what we do. How mistaken we are in such thinking! One person's obedience blesses and even one person's sin can bring judgment.

Often I have seen just one key person stand in a business meeting and carry the day for good or for ill. If influence is used in the wrong way, it sometimes takes years, even decades to rectify the damage.

Often we see a whole family suffer for years because one member is an alcoholic or one of the parents commits adultery or abuses the children. So while it is true that the Bible says, "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father the guilt of the son" (Ez. 18:10a NKJ), sin does have fall-out.

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## Bible Book

### *Miracle in Macedonia*

by Dianne Swaim, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 16:9-10,25-31; 17:2-4,11-12

Focal passage: Acts 16:9-10,25-31

**Central truth:** God's call on our lives often brings hardship before victory.

A few years ago there was a popular song entitled "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden." It is incredible how often the secular songwriter can unwittingly grasp a spiritual truth and put it to music. Even though many of today's evangelists and television preachers refute this truth, the Bible is clear that often God's call on our lives brings us to places and allows us to fall into circumstances that are anything but pleasant. Such is the case in Paul's Macedonian call.

Luke leaves no doubt about God's call to Macedonia. In verses 9-10 there are at least two indications that Paul had heard from God. The first one is indirect, stating that "a vision appeared to Paul in the night." It was customary for the Bible prophets and Christian leaders to hear from God in a vision.

But alas! Paul's obedience to God's call landed him in prison, bound in chains. Surely this could not be God's will! If Paul had heard and believed our modern "rose garden" theology, he would have immediately given Satan credit for having tricked him.

Instead of doubting God, Paul praised him. The result was an earthquake that literally shook the foundations of the prison, freeing Paul and the other prisoners. The fruit of Paul's praise in the midst of suffering was the salvation of the jailer and all his house. Two of the best-loved verses in the New Testament resulted from this experience. Acts 16:30-31 relate "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." The jailer and his household are only the first of many to benefit from Paul's prison experience.

Obedience to God's call on our lives will not pave our roads with gold. Rather, we will necessarily experience pain, rejection, isolation, and a host of other uncomfortable or nearly unbearable circumstances. But what a small price to pay for the privilege of being used in God's miraculous plan of spreading the gospel.

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LIFE IN YEMEN

## Far From Boring

by Irma Duke  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

JIBLA, Yemen (BP)—Jesus spent a lot of time meeting physical needs. So does Jean Dickman, the only certified surgeon at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen.

"It might be the most effective way to break down barriers," the Southern Baptist physician says about her work in the Middle Eastern nation, where Christian evangelism is illegal. Churches and steeples are not seen in Yemen, a Muslim country where only expatriots are allowed to practice Christianity.

The Daytona Beach, Fla., native says her job is very different from what it would be in the United States, where general surgeons often refer cases to specialists. Dickman has no other surgeon to take her referrals. She may perform five or six operations a day, sometimes with a medical book nearby because she's never done the operation before.

"It's definitely not boring," she says. Dickman is frustrated when she has to delay a surgery because of overload, particularly since many patients come in with advanced illnesses. During clinic duty, she sees enough surgical needs in one day to keep her busy for a week. "The needs are

practically unlimited," she acknowledges.

Five other physicians and contract workers pick up some of the slack, but two of them are nearing the end of their contracts and another plans to go into mobile clinic work.

But what bothers Dickman most is having to send a patient out of the country for medical care when the needed facilities and expertise are not available at Jibla or any other hospital in Yemen.

One man was referred to the hospital with a tumor in his face. His eyeball protruded and his sinuses were swollen. But Dickman knew of no one who could help him, because radiation therapy is not yet available in Yemen.

"It's hard to forget that he won't have the same medical opportunities as others," she says.

Jibla Baptist Hospital has a good reputation with many people who drive for hours and pass other hospitals to get there. The 75-bed hospital and clinic are fairly well equipped and the patients get good nursing care, according to Dickman.

"If you're going to practice medicine, you've got to be in the upper 10 percent of quality in the country. Otherwise, you don't glorify God's name," she says. "We

(BP) photo / Don Rutledge



Baptist physician Jean Dickman is the only certified surgeon at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen.

can't do second best."

Dickman first heard about overseas work as a small child in church. She remembers building sandboxes of African villages with thatched-roof huts and palm trees. She accepted Christ as her savior when she was 5 years old and dedicated her life to full-time Christian Service while in high school.

She intended to marry, but "that didn't work out," she explains. In fact, she broke up a relationship with a young man because he changed his mind about living overseas. "God had worked so many miracles to get me through my medical training that I couldn't give up what I'd gone to school for," she explains.

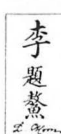
Southern Baptist workers in Yemen have requested additional surgeons and medical personnel to relieve Dickman and others. At 61, she plans to retire in a few years. Ideally, someone already should be training to take her place.

She prays that God will send more surgeons. "quick."

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June 16-July 2	July 28-Aug. 13	Sept. 8-24	

Further dates in 1990 are available. Some 1990 dates coordinate with the Baptist World Congress meeting in Seoul, Korea.

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## WORLD

# Belgian Purchase Possible

by Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP)—Criswell College of Dallas is negotiating for the purchase of a financially troubled evangelical school near Brussels, Belgium, and the talks have stirred concern among European Baptist leaders and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, is at the forefront of the college's negotiations with the Belgian Center for Biblical Education. Patterson also is a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board and a leader of the conservative movement within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Criswell College, also known as the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, is an arm of First Baptist Church of Dallas, where W.A. Criswell has been pastor 44 years.

Patterson described any purchase as "extremely tentative." Criswell College trustees have not voted to buy the property, nor has the Belgian institution's administrative council voted to sell it, he said.

"All that is transpiring at the present time is that we are exploring those possibilities further," Patterson said during a telephone interview. He was in Alexandria, Va., for a Bible conference. He said he hopes Criswell College trustees will arrive at a decision on the purchase within 60 days.

Patterson would not disclose a possible purchase price, but the 500-room Belgian facility was up for sale last fall for \$3 million. Formerly the campus of a Jesuit (Roman Catholic) seminary that closed in the early 1970s, it was purchased with funds supplied by the Greater Europe Mission in Wheaton, Ill., and European evangelicals.

The 10-acre site is on the outskirts of Louvain, Belgium, 16 miles east of Brussels. The evangelical school has about 160 students, a minority of whom are Baptist. The school has operated in the red for a number of years, according to Robert Johnson, European director for Greater Europe Mission.

"I foresee that it could be a rather serious problem" if Criswell College buys the Belgian school, said Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, the representative body of 26 Baptist unions, or conventions, in Europe.

Criswell College "is going to bring to us something which we haven't asked for," Wumpelmann said March 6 in a telephone interview from Washington, where he was attending a Baptist World Alliance Council meeting. Wumpelmann is one of the BWA's vice presidents.

The European Baptist Federation asked last October for ownership of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, Wumpelmann said. Foreign Mission Board trustees approved the request by a 59-8 vote the same month. Patterson cast one of the dissenting votes.

"We are deeply thankful to the Southern Baptist Convention" for founding the Swiss seminary in 1949 and for placing it in European hands, Wumpelmann said. "We as European Baptists have never received a greater gift." The seminary played a key role in healing divisions among European Baptists after World War II, he said.

Wumpelmann said he is concerned that the Belgian school, if affiliated with Criswell College, "could create division by emphasizing the differences (among European Baptists), which of course always will exist, but we do not need to have the problems enlarged."

Causing controversy among European Baptists is not Criswell College's aim, Patterson said. "If (the Belgian school) proves to be divisive, it will not be because of anything we do, (but) because of attitudes that some European Baptists might develop toward it," he added.

## Pastors to Visit North Korea

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Fourteen Korean-American Southern Baptist pastors have received an invitation to visit the Peoples Republic of Korea, March 24-29, representing a first for communist North Korea which has forbidden the practice of religion since it was separated from South Korea in 1945.

"Not only is this the first Baptist group to be invited to North Korea, it is the first time in North Korea's history to host a Korean ministers group of any denomination," said Choong Lin Chun, publisher of *New Korea Times* in Toronto.

Chun, also chairman of the Organization for Reunification of Separated Korean Families, acted as liaison between the North Korean government and the Southern Baptist delegation.

According to Chun, the government approved invitation comes from Ko Kijung, general secretary of the Korean Christian Federation in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital city.

Dan Moon, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board consultant for Korean church growth and church-planting and director of ethnic Brotherhood programs, will lead the delegation.