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### December 6, 1990

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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**'You Fed Me'**

# Arkansas Baptist

December 6, 1990



**Cover Story**



Photo / Jeffrey J. Blaser

*The old tabernacle is gone, and a new worship center is rising in its place at Arkansas Baptist Assembly near Siloam Springs.*

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

**For Future Generations**

*Arkansas Baptists near completion of a \$2.25 million campaign to renovate Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs, where almost 5,000 young people have come to know Christ since 1969.*

by Mark Kelly  
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

SILOAM SPRINGS — Over three generations, untold thousands have been saved and hundreds of others have been called to Christian service at Arkansas Baptist Assembly near Siloam Springs. Thanks to the generosity of Arkansas Baptists, the way is being paved for thousands more in future generations to discover God's will for their lives.

Sixty-seven years ago, the first young people were touched for Christ under the open-air tabernacle. Since 1923, that facility has been expanded and improved, and rustic dormitory-style cabins have risen in this Ozark valley in western Arkansas. The purpose of the assembly, however, has remained the same: to point children and young people toward Christ and help them discover God's will for their lives.

In September, Arkansas Baptist Assembly's beloved old tabernacle was torn down, clearing the way for construction to begin on a new million-dollar worship center. The new facility, completely funded through the generosity of a northwestern Arkansas foundation, is one part of a complete renovation of the assembly grounds. Other projects include remodeling the dormitories and family units, building a new business office/book store, and converting a dormitory into a retreat center.

The superstructure of the new worship center is rising into the air just as Arkansas Baptists are closing down the formal phase of their campaign to raise as much as \$2.25 million for the Siloam Springs project. The campaign has reached its primary goal of \$1.65 million for the worship center and dormitory work. Another \$600,000 is needed for the other projects. A general appeal to Siloam supporters will be made in January to complete the campaign.

Construction is expected to be complete by May 1, 1991, just in time for the 68th camping season.

Arkansas Baptist Assembly was organized in 1923 on a 180-acre tract of land, most of which was donated by the city of Siloam Springs. Camp facilities include sleeping accommodations for 1,400 and an 800-seat cafeteria.

In the last 21 years, 101,242 children and youth have been enrolled at Arkansas Baptist Assembly. During that period of time, 4,920 have registered professions of faith in Christ and 963 have committed their lives to Christian service. Those numbers do not include more than 40 years of assemblies conducted prior to 1969 or the more than 3,000 campers registered each year during encampments not sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

In 1990, Arkansas Baptists registered 8,688 children and youth in six weeks of encampments at Siloam Springs. The state convention contributed \$182,274 to the assembly's operation, enabling the registration fee to be kept to an affordable \$47 per child.

More than 750 volunteers are recruited each summer to assist with the six weeks of camp. The program is coordinated by the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The summer program focuses on Bible study, witness training, and helping youth deal with the serious challenges they face, such as drug abuse, sexual pressures, and suicide. A broad recreation program also is provided, which includes softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, and horseshoes.

# Understanding Islam

J. EVERETT SNEED



Sunni.

Everyone is aware of the explosive situation in the Persian Gulf. The news is crowded with information on the military buildup on both sides. But little attention has been given to the religious aspect which greatly intensifies the situation. Obviously, many of the normal elements which precipitate war are involved. These things include land, money, oil, and pride. But to fully understand the situation we need to look at the history of Islam.

The religion is one of submission. Indeed, the word "Islamic" means to "submit." The religion is one of submission to the will of Allah as taught by the prophets.

The Islamic faith is traditionally dated from A.D. 622, the year that Mohammed made his migration from Mecca to Media, making the start of the Moslem calendar. Mohammed lived in the desert of Arabia in the city of Mecca and traveled to Damascus in the Holy Land, coming in contact with Christians and Jews. Islamic writings tell us that Mohammed fasted for 40 days, whereupon God gave a revelation to him through the Archangel Gabriel. Thus, the Qu'an (Koran) was born. In the Islamic faith there is no question of interpretation of the Koran. Mohammedans teach monotheism, the existence of one God. All believers are to follow this God whose name is Allah. Mohammed argued with the people in Mecca and his assassination was attempted, causing him to run to Media.

Until Mohammed moved to Media (the city), church and state had been separate. Under his leadership, church and state became one and all idols and symbols were removed. As Mohammedan forces grew they returned to Mecca and took the city. Within 100 years the Islam faith had spread into Persia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa, Spain, and France.

The control that certain Arab leaders are able to exercise over their people can best be understood in light of the split which occurred in the Islamic faith following Mohammed's death and his followers vow to adhere to all of their precepts of "faith and practice." The early and unexpected death of Mohammed had left his followers without a leader. Controversy over the qualifications for this position split the religion into two groups, the Sunni, and the Shi'ites. The larger group elected Uthman as Mohammed's successor. The smaller group appointed Ali, Mohammed's brother-

in-law and nephew, as their leader. Following Ali's assassination, his son, Susayn, became the leader of the group of Moslems who today are called Shi'ites. The group which followed Uthman became known as

Of the 900 to 950 million Moslems today, 90 percent are Sunni and only 10 percent are Shi'ites. However, in Iran and Iraq the percentage of Shi'ites is much higher than in many of the other Moslem countries. Shi'ite Moslems believe in union of church and state. The Shi'ites also resist cultural change as paganism.

The rulers in countries where the Shi'ite faith is practiced intensely are much more powerful. A quick review of the five major "pillars" of the faith depicts for us the dogmatic nature of the religion: (1) the absolute adherence to the creed, "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is the prophet of Allah;" (2) the observance of five stated daily prayers; (3) 30 days of fasting during the month of Ramadan, during which the faithful are to abstain from food, drink, and bodily pleasure from sunrise to sunset; (4) alms giving, which is to be generous and secretive; and (5) a pilgrimage to Mecca, which every Moslem must make once in his lifetime.

Even with our ally Saudia Arabia, where the Sunni Moslems are in the vast majori-

ty, the religion has a strong impact on the culture, as well as our military. For example, Bibles cannot be distributed even to the American military unless they are sent directly to an individual. Chaplains will not be allowed to be addressed as chaplains or ministers, but will be considered counselors. They will not be allowed to wear their crosses, identifying them as chaplains. Saudi women are not allowed to appear in public without their faces being covered and are not allowed to drive a car.

Several important implications can be drawn from the Islamic background. First, one cannot over emphasize the role that religion plays in the behavior of individuals and governments. The most closed part of the world to the gospel is that in which the Moslems have total control.

Second, this reminds us of the importance of separation of church and state. It is clear that religious control can hurt the state, as well as the state can harm the church.

Third, Christians need to be able to say, "They are wrong," especially if they are religious leaders. One should always question individuals who declare their own infallibility or demand submission.

Finally, we need to recognize the impact of our own Christian example. We as Christians should conduct ourselves in such a way that those who are non-Christian or those who adhere to other religions would be impressed with our conduct.

The situation in the Persian Gulf is extremely tense. It holds the potential for many thousands of individuals to lose their lives. The best hope for preventing bloodshed is through divine intervention. All of us should make this a matter of daily prayer.

## Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 89

NUMBER 32

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . Editor  
Mark Kelly . . . . . Managing Editor  
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. . . Editor Emeritus

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Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6506) is published by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$7.99 per year (individuals), \$5.64 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.36 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request.

Address: Send correspondence and address changes to Arkansas Baptist, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Telephone: 501-376-4791.

DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know



Everywhere I go, nowadays, people are still talking about our fine convention. Some have even expressed hope that Arkansas might set the pattern and provide a model for the SBC. Now, it isn't that Arkansans agree on everything. It's just that our disagreements are not significant enough to make a big issue over them. Restraint, respect and wise judgment resulted in us having a convention that one writer said "approached revival."

I do not know that Arkansans could become a vital catalyst for the SBC, or if the convention approached revival for many. I do know that the Holy Spirit was not grieved by ugly-spirited remarks.

We need to continue to work and pray for the very best relationships possible. In your church or in your convention, God doesn't get much done if people can't get along. We've had a taste of what it means to work together in harmony. I think most everyone liked leaving the convention with the feeling that there were no losers.

There are so many to whom we are indebted, I dare not start a list. I must say that Immanuel Baptist Church made our convention as delightful as possible. And Mike Huckabee did a splendid job of leading us both in the president's address and in presiding over the sessions.

The big question we are facing is space. It will cost at least \$10,000 more to go to the Little Rock Convention Center. It may be that we will have to do the more crowded sessions by video to adjoining rooms. That is a good problem to have.

Reports from the Minister's Wives meeting, the ABREA and the Pastors' Conference were encouraging. Good attendance and gracious spirits prevailed.

During these next days we will face a crucial question. "Will Southern Baptists support enough missionaries to enter the doors being opened to them around the world?" We will answer half of that question by what we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The other half will be answered by our gifts to the Cooperative Program during the coming year. Just say Yes! Say it with your generous, record breaking gifts!

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Heart Concerns

It is a matter of great concern to me that some pastors and churches are considering dropping the Cooperative Program from their budget and designating their mission giving. One reason for this is they feel some good people in our convention have been hurt. Let me assure you that dropping the Cooperative Program would hurt many more good and godly people.

Our work even in Arkansas is so diverse that there is no way our churches can possibly know of all the responsibilities God has given us as Arkansans Baptists, not to mention the financial needs of each. Therefore, if we start designating funds, some of our present ministries will die.

The significance of the work God has led us to put together around our world must be considered. We have become the largest evangelical mission organization in the

world with 3,780 missionaries on the foreign field in 116 different countries. We have 3,800 home missionaries serving across our land. Worldwide, we are involved in so many ministries that I could not begin to list them. God has given us the program and the resources to impact this world for the Lord Jesus as no other group on the face of the earth.

I truly believe that we are living in one of the most significant times in history. Southern Baptists working together are better able to fulfill the prophecy of Jesus, as stated in Matthew 24:14; "And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." I believe God has raised us up for this time. We have the program, the resources, and are the people most able to accomplish the task.

Dear fellow Southern Baptists, you cannot know nor support all of the needs in

JACKIE ROBBINS

## Woman's Viewpoint

### Take Time to Talk

When our children were pre-school age many times they would say to me, "Let's go for a walk." If at all possible, I would take time to do so because it gave us an opportunity to talk.

I am very concerned about what is happening to the "family talks." It breaks my heart to see families being torn apart because of the lack of communication. God made happy families possible when he paid the price and gave us the instructions. We need to study them and determine to make them our constant guide.

You can have the accurately measured ingredients for a cake in the mixing bowl, but they do not become a cake until they are blended enough to become a part of each other and are exposed to enough heat in a controlled environment to hold them together.

I think communication is as vital to produce a happy family as blending and baking are to produce a beautiful cake. When we take time to share the happy and not-so-happy events of the day, it strengthens the tie that binds us together.

When we take time to remember via phone or mail our extended family members on special days in their lives,

it keeps the lines of communication open and helps to make the times we are privileged to meet in person more relaxed and enjoyable.

After a recent dinner at our house, family members from four generations, ranging in age from two to 82, enjoyed a time of sharing. After the guitar and mandolin were tuned with the piano, we sang hymns of praise, shared memories of loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord and expressed our gratitude to Jesus for making it possible for families to be reunited. Everyone participated, including the two year old who quoted John 3:16.

There was a lot of neck-hugging, back-slapping and expressions of love spoken as we got up from the table. God had kept his promise to be in the midst where two or more are gathered in his name. We all realized we had been blessed by his presence. We have a precious memory because we took time to talk.

Jackie Robbins is an active member of First Church, Fayetteville, and is the mother of two and grandmother of three.

our state, much less in our world. If my church were to tell me to designate our mission giving, I would designate it through the Cooperative Program. Please, would you do the same?—Horace Gray, Perryville

## Stay United

While Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church has not sought to draw attention to itself with its recent move to the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program and away from the Cooperative Program, they certainly have received much attention. It is very evident that in our day those who do not understand the life of Southern Baptists grasp at every opportunity to see division and defection.

I hope that in the days ahead, that Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church will continue to be a strong part of the Southern

Baptist Convention. However, their recent move has at least fractured the cooperative spirit which has been such a strength in our state convention and our association. Pastor Ross Woodbury states that Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church still maintains their activity in the association, in the state, and for Bold Mission Thrust in the Southern Baptist Convention. However, such an action, even though inadvertently, does seem to undermine the very work of Bold Mission Thrust.

The Pulaski Baptist Association in its annual meeting, unanimously approved a resolution encouraging Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church to prayerfully reconsider their move. I still hope that this will occur. I also hope that other churches within our state will stay united around the time honored Cooperative Program, as we strive to reach our world for Christ.—Frank C. Gantz, Little Rock

RANDALL O'BRIEN

## A Pastor's Perspective

### Puppie Love



Let's face it. Ours is the age of the disposable Porsche. Luxury lust. Fashion passion. Things fling. Success. Glamour and gold. Yuppie's the name; glitter's the game.

Money magazine's circulation skyrocketed from 800,000 in 1980 to nearly 2 million in 1987. Lee Iacocca's success-saturated memoirs were the best-selling autobiography of the decade with more than 6,100,000 copies in print.

Yuppie ads whisper "you can have it all" and even preachers are listening. The Reverend Jim Bakker once flew from home to home, five in all, one with gold plated bathroom fixtures, and another with an air conditioned doghouse.

Donald Trump still dreams of remanaging Earth, Planet Trump. And Guru of Greed, Ivan F. Boesky, once intoned, "Greed is all right. I want you to know that. I think greed is healthy. You can be greedy and still feel good about yourself."

Were there such a thing as a Yuppie Bible, Boesky would write the first book, Trump the second, and some of us, "Lamentations." But God would still write the last one: "Revelation."

"For you say, I am rich, I have pro-

spered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:17)

Let us Yuppies who have ears to hear, hear.

If Yuppie means "Young Urban Professional Person;" upwardly mobile, maybe we in the church should think more about "Poor Urban Penniless People." Call them Puppies.

Presently, 22.9 million whites and 8.9 million blacks live below the poverty level in our land. One in every five children in America lives in poverty!

Remember Christ's "Inasmuch" sermon? Inasmuch as you have done it or done it not unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me? Remember? Well, what with the holiday season on us and all, what are you thinking? Reckon while we Yule Yuppies shop for our favorite Cool Yuppie this Christmas, we might remember some poor Yuppie?

After all, the One for whom the season lives, spent more time with Puppies than with Yuppies.

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

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Sixth in a Series of Seven Articles

## 'Intentionalizing' Growth

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Our goal has been to intentionalize our growth, both numerically and spiritually," declared Billy White, pastor of Second Church, Little Rock, an inner city church. "After the congregation saw the need, a long range planning group was assembled. Their job was to develop a response plan which would meet the needs of people and provide long range growth."

The primary vehicle used by Second Church has been Sunday School.

When Dr. White came to Second Church in 1984, the church was averaging 336 in Sunday School. The congregation had experienced a decline for six consecutive years and the decline continued for the first two years of White's ministry. Last year the church averaged 514 in Sunday School and during White's tenure the congregation has had 705 additions, 132 by baptism. This represents a net growth of 177.

The pastor and staff have worked intensely on outreach, as well as to stop the loss of members at the back door. For several years the church was losing more than 120. Last year the congregation lost only 53.

Consultants say that it requires three times as much effort to reach individuals in a downtown, inner-city church as it does in a suburban church. This would include energy, money, and personnel.

Second Church has planned its growth through the Sunday School. Careful priorities were set. First, the church must trust God, love the people, and desire growth. Second, a church must have a plan. Third, the church makes every effort to meet people where they are.

There must be a structure for carrying out the plan. At Second Church, this structure has been the Sunday School. In the Sunday School, people are known by name, they are loved individually, and the Bible is taught in a stimulating fashion. Small groups are the key to caring for people.

The church then set solid goals for growth and ministry. The congregation plans to double in attendance in a five year period. All other goals in the church flow



Second Church Pastor Billy White

ABN photo by J. Everett Sneed

from this basic Sunday School goal. This includes such things as renovation of buildings and increasing space, parking, outreach, and publicity.

Regular workers meetings have been scheduled and key leaders have been sent to Ridgecrest or Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers for training. National Sunday School leaders have been brought to Second Church to train the workers.

There is a constant effort to make everyone aware that the pastor, staff, and church leadership are serious about the Sunday School. Sometimes goals are set by Sunday School classes and they are moved upward other times they are set by the church staff.

Visitation and publicity are extremely important to the growth of the church. Publicity includes the writing of letters to prospects, articles in both of the state papers, spot announcements on all of the major radio stations in the central Arkansas area, and occasionally television ads. White observed that in times past, a church steely may have served to let people know that a church was available. But, today this is no longer true. Publicity serves as the church steely.

The most important vehicle for outreach is still personal contact. Visitors evaluate to see if the congregation is warm, friendly, and a redemptive fellowship. The congregation strives to make everyone welcome.

Each Sunday afternoon the deacons visit, if possible, everyone who was a first time visitor in the church. On Tuesday evening, approximately 35 members go out with follow up visits. In addition to the personal visits, many contacts are made by telephone and mail. Last year the congrega-

tion made over 38,000 total contacts with 5,065 of these being personal visits.

Second Church has a growing and thriving singles ministry. This is one of the largest groups in the church, second only to the married adult group. The primary age range of singles is from 18 to 35.

Singles are involved in almost every area of the church. Recently the church employed a part-time singles minister. The church has a complete singles division which includes four departments. This normally is graded by age groups. Occasionally the church has a special needs single group, such as a divorce recovery group or a beginning again group.

The corporate worship experience is extremely important in a growing church. White plans his sermons to meet the needs of the people.

Since Second Church is a very diverse congregation, music becomes extremely important. Some of the members enjoy classical music while others prefer more contemporary music. White said, "It is always a challenge for our minister of music. But, our congregation knows that if the kind of music it prefers is not part of the worship experience this week, it will be soon."

Second Church also uses special events to reach people. In the spring, there are three graduated high attendance days winding up with Easter. The church also uses such things as dinner theaters and musicals.

White believes that stewardship is essential in undergirding all that a church does. He said, "There are no growing churches that are not giving churches."

Currently, Pastor White, the staff, and the congregation have developed a financial campaign which they call "Jesus Is the Lord of My Giving." During this four week campaign, testimonies were given in every service. Dr. White delivered three messages on stewardship. There were four Bible studies on stewardship presented in the Sunday School.

In conclusion, White emphasized the importance of planning and evaluating the plans that have been made. He said, "A pastor and staff must realize that they are responsible to the congregation for what is occurring in a church. But more importantly they are responsible to the Lord. It is impossible to know how a church is doing without setting concrete goals and continually evaluating how close you are to reaching them."



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## Heard Honored For Service

S. Cary Heard completed 15 years of service in November as pastor of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Heard has served as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and as a member of the Board of Trustees for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Heard also has held other ABSC leadership positions. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas and has served as moderator of North Pulaski Association. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors, Parkway Village, a retirement community sponsored by the Baptist Medical System of Arkansas, and as a member of the Baptist Medical System Corporation.

Park Hill Church, under his leadership, has grown from a weekly average attendance of 695 to 1,377. Baptisms recorded have been 923 with 2,682 other additions,



Heard

totaling 3,605. Financial gifts have grown from \$618,633 to \$2,519,200. Missions gifts have grown from \$100,127 to \$401,770.

Heard is married to the former Mary Lou Bryan. They have two children, Sarah Callie, and Daniel Cary.

## Hot Springs Missions Awards

Five Arkansans were recognized for their missions service when Hot Springs First Church held its annual John and Jewel Abernathy Missions Banquet on Oct. 27. The banquet kicked off a weeklong stress and conflict management seminar sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for 33 furloughing missionaries.

Recognized for their mission service were Frank Allan of Williford, for his work with the Arkansas Nailbenders for Jesus volunteer construction group; Diane O'Connell, for her eight years in home missions with Baptist student ministries; Glendon and Marjorie Grober, for their service in Brazil as 30-year career missionaries and in their current positions as state Brotherhood director and state Woman's Missionary Union president, respectively. Randy Jones of Jacksonville, who is prepar-

ing for mission service at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, received the William and Gertrude Hall Scholarship.

The scholarship is named after two longtime church members who were active in missions support. The Halls bequeathed timberland to the church. Harvest proceeds from that land provide the scholarship funds.

The banquet is named in honor of John and Jewel Abernathy, who served 40 years as missionaries in China and Korea. The Abernathys' story was the subject of a book, "Living Sacrifices," published by Broadman Press.

## Fellowship Formed

Ministry to veterans in Arkansas hospitals and half-way houses will be a major focus of a new Baptist Men's fellowship organized in Batesville.

Baptist Veterans Plus is sponsored by Independence Association. It will encourage ministries to veterans, emphasize home and foreign missions, and promote Royal Ambassador work with boys and young men.

At the group's fall organizational meeting, Leonard Williams, pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church, was elected associational chairman.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



**Mission Constitutes**—(Left to right) Tumbling Shoals Pastor Kelly Weaver; Kay Mansell, pastor of South Side Church, Heber Springs; Ralph Hawkins, a member of First Church, Heber Springs, presenting the membership roll and financial report to Donald Dace, a member of Tumbling Shoals Church; Larry Lewis; and Jerry Kirkpatrick, pastor of First Church, Heber Springs.

## Tumbling Shoals Organizes

Tumbling Shoals Mission, near Heber Springs, was organized into a church Oct. 28. The work was started March 2, 1989 under the Macedonian Missions Plan with First Church, Heber Springs, South Side, Heber Springs, and Highway Church, North Little, serving as sponsors.

When Kelly Weaver came as pastor in June of 1989 there were 14 attendance. On the organizational Sunday there were 62 in Sunday School. The church was organized with 60 charter members, 26 of these having been saved since Pastor Weaver came to serve the congregation. All property is debt free and has a replacement value of approximately \$50,000.

The speaker for the occasion was Larry Lewis, president of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. He spoke in the morning service on "The Future of the Church" and in the afternoon organizational service on "The Purpose of the Church."



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**Lendol Jackson** recently completed 10 years of service as pastor of New Hope Church near Hardy when the church surprised him and his wife, Dorothy, with a small tree decorated with cards and gifts. They also presented the Jacksons with a wall clock. In his 10 years, Jackson has led the congregation in an average attendance from 36 to 88; offerings have grown from \$4,980 to \$44,258; missions gifts have increased from \$978 to \$6,300; and there have been 144 additions with 83 of these by baptism. There have been physical additions to the church, including an educational building and enlargement of the fellowship hall.



**Len Young**, a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, is serving as

interim pastor of Dell Church.

**Wes George**, a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, is serving as pastor of Central Church, Dyess.

**Carey Deaton** is serving as pastor of Brinkley Chapel, Osceola.

**Carl Huddleston** is serving as pastor of First Church, Henderson.

**S.D. Hacker of Harrison** is serving as interim pastor of Summit Church.

**Steve Muller** is serving as pastor of Tomahawk Church, Saint Joe.

**Catherine Maples** retired in November as financial secretary for First Church in El Dorado, following 24 years of service.

**Lewis E. Clarke**, pastor emeritus of First Church, Marianna, has been appointed as promotion representative for the National Fellowship of Baptist Men of the Brotherhood Commission.

**E.L. Ward** of Camden died Nov. 14 at age 58. He was a retired Baptist minister and

school teacher. He was a member of the Eagle Mills Church where his funeral services were held and where memorials may be made to the building fund. Survivors are his wife, Mattie Moore Ward; two sons; three daughters; three brothers; three sisters; and seven grandchildren.

**Stewart Bedillion** has resigned as pastor of First Church, Concord, to serve as pastor of First Church, Columbia, La.

**Jeff Shepherd** has resigned from the staff of Central Church in Jonesboro to join the staff of a church in Sarasota, Fla.

**Bryan Parks** has resigned as pastor of Cash Church to serve as pastor of First Church, Alexander.

**David Mote** is serving as pastor of Lunford Church.

**Gary Kleinpeter** has resigned as minister of education and evangelism at Nettleton Church, Jonesboro.

**John Edward** of Paragould is serving as pastor of Rowes Chapel Church, Caraway.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



**Woodland Church, Clarksville**, dedicated a new fellowship hall, celebrated its 40th anniversary, and held a home gathering Nov. 3-4 with the dedicatory services being held on Sunday afternoon. Activities included a presentation of the history by Deacon Harold Pitts, a history of the dedication by WMU Director Mrs. Avol Patterson, and a roll call of former pastors by Deacon Jim Martin. Pastor Sam Howell preached the Sunday morning message and performed a baptismal service. Scripture reading and a dedicatory prayer were by Clear Creek Association Director of Missions George Domerese and the dedicatory message was by Editor J. Everett Sneed. The new 900 square foot fellowship hall will seat approximately 125 people and was erected at a cost of \$40,000.

### Resumes Sought

Resumes sought for position of Executive Director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. Submit material by Feb. 1 to:

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State Missions Department

**Jim Davis** recently was honored by Westvale Church, Jonesboro, in recognition of five years of service.

**W. Trueman Moore** has resigned as pastor of East Side Church in Fort Smith, effective Dec. 31.

**Wayne Pipkin**, a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, is serving as pastor of Immanuel Church, Wabash.

**R.L. Williams** of Kennett began serving Nov. 11 as pastor of Greenway Church.

**Rickle Hawkins** of Imboden is serving as pastor of Mount Pleasant Church, Maynard.

**Ralph Stone** is serving as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Wynne, coming there from Blooming Grove Church in Woodland, Tenn.

**Rick McKinney** has joined the staff of Second Church in West Memphis, serving as music and youth director.

**Garland Anderson** of North Little Rock died Nov. 24 at age 84. A retired Baptist minister, he was a member of Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock. Survivors are his wife, Helen Mae Dougherty Anderson; a daughter, Sue Anderson of North Little

Rock; and four sisters. Memorials may be made to the Lottie Moon Season of Prayer Offering or to Project Cross.

**Troy Akers** has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Perryville, because of health problems.

**Nick O'Nale** is serving as interim pastor of Center Point Church, Gurdon.

**Cell Burch** was honored Nov. 11 by Second Church, Arkadelphia, in recognition of 30 years of service in the nursery.

**Lillian Roseman** died Nov. 26 at age 90. A member of Markham Street Church in Little Rock, she was the widow of L.H. Roseman, a Baptist minister. Survivors are two daughters, Louise Blair of Little Rock, and Jane Talley of Denver, Colo.; a sister; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the church of the donor's choice.

**C.A. Smith** of Dell died Nov. 17 at age 75. He was a member of Dell Church where he served as a deacon and trustee. Survivors are his wife, Juanita Berry Smith; one daughter, Gail Cook of Blytheville; one son, Jimmy Smith of Blytheville; and three grandchildren.

## Briefly

**Tomahawk Church** at Saint Joe recently dedicated a new two bedroom parsonage built and paid for by members. Ken Hilton, a former pastor, led the invocation and Pastor Steve Muller preached the dedication sermon. Ed Powers, director of missions for White River Association, led the prayer of dedication.

**Clear Lake Church** near Blytheville recently held a reach out dinner as part of a church growth program designed by Pastor Glenn Norris and his wife, Greta. Speaker was Maurice Hitt, pastor of First Church, Black Oak. Music was by Earline Price and Tom Gothard Jr. Marvin Reynolds, director of missions for Mississippi County Association, and his wife, Beth, were special guests.

**Clarendon First Church** held a dedication service Nov. 11 to dedicate, debt free, new stained glass windows. The windows, designed by Soos Stained Glass of North Little Rock, were paid for from memorial gifts given the past two years. Pastor Doug Grubbs delivered the dedication sermon which included biblical references for every symbol of the windows. Special music was presented by Sheryl Newby, Karen Saunders, and the church choir.

**Nettleton Church** in Jonesboro ordained Jerry Seats, Joe Gordon, Darwin Davis, and Mike Miller to the deacon ministry Nov. 18.

**El Paso First Church** ordained Jim Drennan to the deacon ministry Nov. 18.

**Spring Valley Church** at Springdale recently launched a bus ministry that is averaging approximately 18 riders each Sunday. Tony Byler is pastor.

**Arkadelphia Third Street Church** recently ordained Joe Cathey, pastor of Dalarik Mission, to the ministry. Program participants were Pastor Gary Turner and Tim Fowler.

**Arkadelphia Second Church** recently ordained Brent Bridges, Wesley Kluck, Ken Ramsey, and Danny Studdard to the deacon ministry. Randy Turner delivered the ordination message.

**North Crosssett First Church** observed its 46th anniversary Oct. 28 by observing Zeph B. Sisson Day, recognizing his 40 years of continuous service as church treasurer. He was presented a plaque by Pastor David Talbert.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



*The Independence Association dedicated a new office facility Nov. 11. The 750 square foot building was purchased at a cost of \$80,000 from Production Credit Association. The building contains a lounge, a secretarial office, a director of missions office, a counselor's office, a conference room, two restrooms, a kitchenette, and a large fire proof vault for storage. The 9,000 square foot lot has parking for 12 cars in the rear, but additional parking space is available nearby at nights or on weekends. A brief message was delivered by Editor J. Everett Sneed and the dedicatory prayer was led by Moderator Jerry Cotbren. Pictured is Lyle Koone, pastor of Floral Church and chairman of the planning committee, Association Director of Missions Eddie McCord, and Cotbren.*

## Arkansan Named To Task Force

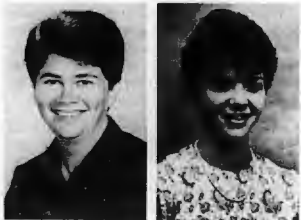
Jonya Davis of Russellville, Ark., has been asked by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman to help plan a session of the 1991 SBC annual meeting that will be devoted to a call for spiritual awakening.

Davis will serve on a 10-member task force led by Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla. The group is charged with planning the Wednesday evening session of the convention, which is scheduled for June 4-6 in Atlanta.

Henry said the task force will "respond to what we are sensing throughout the country — a heart-cry for reality and renewal, borne on the wings of repentance and a return to our first love, Jesus Christ."

## Two Rejoin BSU Staff

Two women have rejoined the staff of the Student Ministries Department to fill vacant BSU positions at Little Rock's



Stephens

Landreth

Baptist Medical System Schools and at Southern Arkansas University's Technical Branch at Camden.

Teresa Stephens returned to Arkansas after completing her studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a one-year internship at Auburn University in Alabama. She served as outreach coordinator at Henderson State University, where she led students through evangelism training and outreach Bible

studies. Her home is Dierks.

Beginning her work at Baptist Medical Systems Schools' BSU Director is Carol Landreth. She served for two years as youth director for Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock. After graduation from Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia, she served one year as outreach coordinator at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

## Phone Blocks Available

Outraged parents continue to file complaints about staggering phone bills run up by minor children calling "900" toll numbers, according to the Arkansas Attorney General's office.

Although such charges may run into the thousands of dollars and often are made without parental knowledge or consent, the person who owns the phone is responsible to pay all legitimate fees billed to that number, said Robert Fisher, a spokesman for the attorney general.

Some firms conduct legitimate business through such numbers, Fisher explained, but other unscrupulous persons exploit

weaker individuals through widely advertised sex-talk, trivia, and sports lines. One line offers small children the opportunity to talk to a popular cartoon character.

Advertisements for such numbers do warn consumers about the charges they will incur, but those warnings often are difficult to understand, and small children do not always follow the televised advice to "ask your parents before you call."

One parent recently received a bill for \$20,000 for toll calls made in one month by a child, Fisher noted. In spite of the enormous charge and the calls being made without consent, the young person's parents were held responsible, he said.

If the thought of such a bill horrifies a parent, a simple phone call can prevent the situation from ever occurring, Fisher said. Parents can call their local telephone company and ask that 900 toll calls be blocked on their phones. The company will oblige, and the service will be performed without charge, he said.

## Correction

In the Oct. 25 issue of the ABN the gifts presented to Keo Church were made by J.D. and Katherine Cobb. Elvis Smith is pastor.



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

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*Sulphur Rock Church near Batesville dedicated a new 280-seat sanctuary in services Nov. 18. The 4,300 square foot facility is the first of a three-phase building project, which will eventually include completion of a 3,500 square foot basement fellowship hall and remodeling the congregation's existing facility. The project cost \$120,000 and was completed with the assistance of the Arkansas Nailbenders construction team and local volunteers. The afternoon program included a potluck luncheon and a gospel singing with the Ambassadors. Eddie McCord, director of missions for Independence Association, delivered the dedication message. Charles Sberley chaired the building committee and drew up the construction plans. David Coleman is pastor.*

# Discovering Christ Through Bible Study

Student Day at Christmas is an annual worship emphasis usually held in the church the first Sunday after Christmas. It is a service designed to be conducted entirely or partly by college students who are in the church during Christmas break. Churches who conduct SDAC services comment how the congregation is impressed with the spiritual commitment of many of its college students. Whether you have 100 or five students in your congregation during Christmas, you can observe this emphasis.

The theme for this year, Discovering Christ Through Bible Study, was chosen because it allows students to share how they have come to know Christ through Bible study. One of the strengths found in a student being involved in the Baptist Student Union (BSU) on their campus is the Bible study program. The college church that provides consistent and meaningful Bible study each Sunday enables a student to experience Christ every week. The apostle Paul shared with young Timothy, "Do not let anyone look down on you because

you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity" (1 Tim. 4:12, GNB). As college students enter college to prepare themselves for a meaningful vocation, Bible study enables them to relate their studies to God's will and direction for their lives. Through the suggested worship formats, students are given the opportunity to share how they are "discovering" Christ anew every day through Bible study.

As students are chosen to participate in the worship experience, seek to provide them with various opportunities to share. A student that attends church occasionally in school may be willing to help usher, but not speak publicly about his involvement in Bible study. Involve students who are in the BSU or in a college Bible study to share publicly. Use as many students as possible as ushers, reading Scripture, leading music, as soloists, and so forth.

How can a congregation begin preparing for this event? Several suggestions will help you in making this a meaningful worship event.

(1) Make a commitment to conduct this type service and place it on the church calendar. The suggested date this year is Dec. 30, 1990.

(2) Contact students attending college and let them know the church has made a commitment to this type of service and request that they participate in it.

(3) Suggest that there be a time when the pastor and several of the students can meet to plan the actual service.

(4) During the actual planning time, recruit those who will be needed to help. For example, who will be leading music? Will you have several students reading Scripture? Who will preach the sermon? Will testimonies be given, and who will do them?

(5) Before the actual worship experience, the pastor or person in charge from the church staff should be in contact with all those participating in the worship experience. Pray with the students that God's Spirit might care for their every need as they lead in worship and share how God has touched their lives as students.

The Christian care and love expressed to students through the opportunity to participate in a worship experience is experienced by students. By its willingness to allow students to lead in worship, the church affirms the college student much in the same way as the apostle Paul affirmed his young colleague Timothy. As students grow in Christ through Bible study in college, they seek ways to serve in Christ's spirit. Student Day at Christmas is one way the church can affirm their growth and willingness to serve.

For additional help in structuring the service, contact your local director of student ministries at the Baptist Student Union (BSU) on a campus near you, or contact your state convention director of student ministries.



**Students Celebrate**—The International Student Conference, co-sponsored by the Student Ministries Department, Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, and the State Missions Department, was held at Camp Paron again this year. Twenty-three nations were represented in this gathering of students studying in Arkansas from most of the continents of the world. For the first time, a student from the Soviet Union participated in the conference, which followed the theme "World Without Walls." Students heard Dr. Stan Nelson from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; Len Sehested, a popular speaker from Fort Worth, Texas; and met their peers in fellowship, recreation, and interchange of ideas. One student made a profession of faith in Christ during the weekend.

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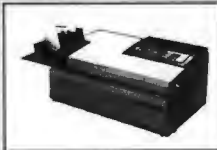
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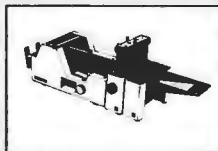
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# 'You Fed Me'

*A Fort Smith congregation does God's will and receives a miracle in return: 8,000 are fed, 105 saved.*



*Members of Fort Smith First Church sacked an extra 500 bags of groceries on Tuesday morning to meet the larger-than-expected demand.*

text and photos by Mark Kelly

As many as 8,000 people were fed and more than 100 accepted Christ as Savior when Fort Smith First Church conducted a "Feeding of the 5,000" Nov. 20.

More than 2,000 persons packed the sanctuary and foyer after church leaders announced they would distribute 1,000 sacks of groceries on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Each sack contained the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal for a family of five. At day's end, 1,600 food sacks had been handed out, and volunteers had made three extra trips to grocery stores to meet the demand, according to First Church Associate Pastor Bob Lever.

A decision service was held prior to the food distribution. William Blackburn, First Church staff evangelist, preached to the crowd, and more than 200 decisions were registered. Of those, 105 came to accept Jesus as Savior and were counseled following the service. Fourteen were baptized before they left that day.

The service was an extension of First Church's weekly Bread of Life ministry, which provides 150 or more food baskets to the area's needy. Blackburn also shares the gospel during those sessions, and professions of faith are registered regularly.

First Church Pastor Ron Herrod said, "People don't care what we know until they know we care. They don't care about our



*More than 2,000 people packed the sanctuary and foyer for the message.*



*Staff Evangelist William Blackburn preached to the crowd, and more than 200 responded to the invitation. More than 100 professed faith in Christ.*

doctrine; they want to know we love them.'

Lever called the event "one of the most heart-warming, life-changing things we have done in a long time." He said the church's Tuesday evening dinner reflected the moving experience many of the feeding ministry volunteers had had earlier in the day. "There were several heart-warming testimonies from people who had helped with the project," he said. "Several of those who cared for children in the nursery that day were just heart-broken by the needs they saw."

Members of the church and community responded very positively to the food distribution, Lever noted. In fact, he said the congregation's benevolence fund had more in it after the event than before, even though a great deal of food had been purchased to meet the larger-than-expected demand.

Because of the response, Lever said the congregation will make this an annual event. He is available to talk to other churches interested in the Bread of Life and Feeding of the 5,000 ministries.

ABN photo / Missie Gill



*The Don Alley Memorial Prayer Chapel and Prayer Garden were dedicated Oct. 28 by Mountain Home First Church with Leroy Stringfield, associate pastor, officiating. The memorial for Alley, a long time active church member, was given by his wife, Clema, and his daughters, Pat Stubblefield of San Antonio, Texas, Peggy McCracken of Jonesboro, and Jeannie Alley of Dallas, Texas. Construction was begun in April and completed in October with church members doing most of the work.*



*Arkansas Baptist Neusmagazine Board of Trustees convened Oct. 30 in the Gilbreath Conference Center of Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, electing as officers for 1990-91 (left to right) Bert Thomas of Searcy, vice president; Joanne Caldwell of Texarkana, secretary; and Nelson Wilhelm of Waldron, president.*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Vice-Presidents Elected

NASHVILLE — Two new vice-presidents have been elected by the officers of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

Mark Coppenger, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, was elected vice-president for public relations, and Richard Rosenbaum Jr., manager of the conference center marketing section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, was elected vice-president for business and finance.

Letters were sent Nov. 16 to the 77-member committee notifying them their six officers elected the two. Coppenger resigned his Indiana position on Nov. 20, effective at the end of the year.

An official announcement of the election has not been made by the SBC Executive Committee. Harold Bennett, president and treasurer of the Executive Committee, said, "There will be no announcement until there has been sufficient time for the recommendation process" to the full Executive Committee.

Executive Committee bylaws empower the committee to authorize their six officers to employ personnel "as they deem appropriate to serve until the next full Executive Committee meeting." The bylaws also require committee members be notified in advance of the employment of "interim" personnel, giving them "time to respond before such interim employment is made."

The Executive Committee authorized the officers to employ personnel at their September meeting.

One Executive Committee member, who received the packet of information from

Bennett Nov. 21, the day after Coppenger resigned in Indiana, said the elections "appear a done deal. I guess they consider letting us know a day after the guy has resign his present job 'sufficient time.'"

Coppenger said he felt he needed to announce his election to the Indiana board since rumors were circulating and he did not want them to hear about it "through the back door."

Rosenbaum replaces Tim A. Hedquist, who resigned in January to become administrator at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. Coppenger fills a position vacated by the termination of Alvin C. Shackleford in July. Another position, vacated by the July termination of Dan Martin, news editor for Baptist Press, has not been filled.

The vice-president for public relations position formerly included responsibility for both public relations and Baptist Press. However, the president and six officers of the Executive Committee reportedly have recommended separating the two functions. Under the revised position description, the public relations vice-president would share responsibilities with the business and finance vice-president for managing the annual meeting of the SBC. Previously, that task was the responsibility of the business and finance vice-president alone.

The material mailed to committee members notes Coppenger will begin his new duties Jan. 1, 1991, and Rosenbaum will start Dec. 15, 1990.


Coppenger, 42, has been executive director of SCBI since September 1988. Previously, he was pastor of First Baptist Church in El Dorado, Ark., 1983-88, and on the philosophy faculty of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. 1975-81. Between 1981 and 1983, he completed a master of divinity degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He also is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and holds a doctorate from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. He and his wife, the former Sharon South, have three children.

Rosenbaum, 36, is a native of Columbia, S.C. In addition to being manager of the Sunday School Board's conference center marketing section, he also is coordination specialist in the office of church programs and coordinator of the church program training center.

He has been an employee of the SSB since 1980. Previously, he worked for a bookstore, a publisher, a printing company, and was assistant director for public relations at Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

Rosenbaum is a graduate of Carson Newman College and currently is enrolled in a master's degree program through the external education program of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He and his wife, the former Joann Burnette, have five children.



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

Sincerely,

*John H. Butler*  
Principal

## Joel Gregory Elected

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, has been elected co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas.

Gregory, 42, will become the successor to W.A. Criswell, 80, who has pastored the downtown church for 46 years. With 27,000 members, Dallas First is the largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Criswell has said he wants to devote his full attention to Criswell College. The Dallas school, founded by Criswell in 1970 and owned by First Church, is accredited to train Christian teachers, ministers, and counselors.

Gregory is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was assistant professor of preaching at the seminary for three years. He has been pastor of the Travis Avenue congregation since 1985.

He recently was named permanent preacher of the Baptist Hour, Southern Baptists' longest-running radio program, which will celebrate its 50th year in January. The Baptist Hour is produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and is carried on 450 radio stations across the nation.

## Brotherhood Invites Nominations

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—The Brotherhood Commission's presidential search committee confirmed at its first meeting Nov. 10, the procedure for seeking the replacement of retiring president James H. Smith.

People wishing to recommend a candidate for president of the Brotherhood Commission should submit the candidate's name in writing to Wendell Reed, Presidential Search Chairman, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

Smith's tenure at the Brotherhood Commission will end June 30, 1991, if a successor has been chosen by then. If necessary, he will remain as president beyond then until another person is appointed.

The five member search committee includes: Tommy Knotts, director of missions, Aiken, S.C.; Robert Hill, pastor, Cleveland, Miss.; Joe Lenamon, banker, Fort Worth, Texas; Billy Summerlin, hospital administrator, Gadsden, Ala.; and Reed.

## LIBERIA

## Violence Continues

by Donald D. Martin  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LOME, Togo (BP)—Stripped of clothing and standing at gunpoint in a churchyard, a Liberian Baptist pastor and others were asked, "Who of you knows Jesus?"

The question was posed by an armed rebel—part of a force that captured the port city of Brewerville, Liberia, during last summer's rebel march toward Liberia's besieged capital, Monrovia. As they combed the captured area, a band of rebels found a small group of refugees hiding in a church.

The rebel leader ordered the huddled group outside and told them to undress. Among the refugees was the pastor, his wife and their four children. The family had escaped Monrovia and walked north to Brewerville. There they had hoped to evacuate by ship to safety. For more than a week the family had lived on grass and water.

Both the pastor and his wife answered the question. Yes, they knew Jesus. At this the leader motioned them from the group, turned to his men and ordered the family shot.

When he heard the order, one rebel soldier balked. Another soldier who recognized the pastor said, "Take your family, get your clothes and go."

But at this the pastor balked. He looked to the group of refugees and said, "But they are my family also. I cannot leave without them."

The rebel leader paused and then said, "OK, all of you go."

The refugees eventually boarded a boat for Ghana and there found food and shelter in a refugee camp.

Jane Park, a Southern Baptist missionary nurse, heard the pastor's story while helping at the Ghana refugee camp. Mrs. Park and her husband, James, of Paduchak, Ky., are temporarily assigned to the Baptist seminary in Ghana. In Liberia, Park taught at Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Park was the seminary nurse. The Liberian pastor was a recent graduate of the seminary and one of Park's students.

His story and others were shared during a meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Liberia but displaced because of the fighting there. Many of the stories ended in tragedy. Others spoke of courage and strength.

The missionaries met in Lome, Togo, Nov. 12-16 not only to share news but to grieve for lost Christian brothers and sisters and pray for Liberia's future. The group of

about 40 missionaries also discussed where they will go from here.

"It was a beginning," said Billy Bullington, west Africa area director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "Some (missionaries) have been able to handle what has happened in Liberia. For others the deep hurt and loss of friends and relationships in Liberia, not to mention the loss of their mission family, is just now coming to the surface and it's very painful."

Fighting continues in Liberia as three groups vie for control of the nation. The National Patriotic Front of Liberia, led by Charles Taylor, controls the largest region. Another rebel group is led by Prince Yormie Johnson, who broke away from Taylor. His troops now hold parts of Monrovia. The third group is a peacekeeping force sent into Liberia by the Economic Community of West African States. So far this multinational force has seen little success, but it has the support of Liberia's neighbors.

All three forces have occupied areas in and around Monrovia. Earlier, reports of cholera, contaminated water and rampant starvation streamed from the city, while bags of rice packed docks in neighboring countries because no group could assure safe entry into Liberia's ports. Recent reports say some food is now reaching

Monrovia, but life in the city is far from normal.

During the mission meeting, Bullington met with individual missionaries to discuss their future. Some plan to continue in temporary assignments they took after evacuating Liberia early in 1990. Others will commit to two- or three-year assignments in other African countries.

In time, missionaries hope to restart Liberian mission work on two tracks, Bullington said. One track will focus on church planting, evangelism and leadership training while the second will meet social needs.

When the fighting does stop, missionaries likely will have to start from scratch. In the Monrovia area looting has been so severe that scavengers have stripped buildings of plumbing, windows and doors.

Not all Southern Baptist missionaries have left Liberia. In Yekepa, a small town near the Guinea border, Earl and Jane Williams of West Monroe, La., and Knoxville, Tenn., are working with Lawrence and Alice Hardy of Savannah, Ga. They are distributing medicine and food and holding church services.

In Mano River, near the Sierra Leone border, Ed and Fran Laughridge of Rock Hill, S.C., and Great Falls, S.C., have set up a small food distribution center and are conducting worship services.

The Foreign Mission Board has spent more than \$300,000 in food and medical relief in Liberia and neighboring countries since fighting broke out in December 1989.

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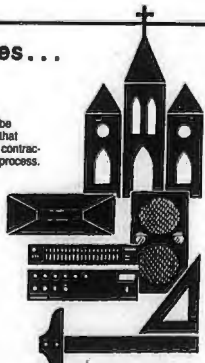
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## Typhoon Mike Hits Hard

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—Baptists and missionaries in the Philippines are trying to determine how to aid the people hit hardest by 'Super' Typhoon Mike.

Hurricane-strength winds slammed into northern Mindanao and the Central Visayas Islands Nov. 13. At least 270 people died and more than 1 million others were reported homeless.

Philippine President Corazon Aquino declared nearly half of the country's 73 provinces disaster areas after the typhoon. Initial estimates said more than 36,800 houses and thousands of acres of crops were damaged or destroyed.

Southern Baptist missionaries were attending a meeting in Davao when the storm hit and were out of affected areas. Some experienced difficulty in returning to their homes. No deaths among Philippine Baptist families have been reported, but missionaries are still trying to reach remote churches to check on families there.

In Cebu, the country's second major commercial and transport center after Manila, electricity and telephones will be out for one to two months. Water supplies are scarce, and food is being brought in by boat and plane. Gas for cooking also is scarce; most people have switched to charcoal or firewood. Reports indicate long lines for water, kerosene and gasoline.

Two of three Baptist churches in the Cebu area were completely destroyed.

"Government agencies, non-government organizations and even private individuals do not know where and how to start relief operations," said Sampaguita Juarez, Baptist World Aid supervisor on the island of Panay. "Everybody is affected. We are cut off from civilization."

## Refugee Thankful For Aid

DAVAO DEL SUR, Philippines (BP)—Safe and sound back home in the Philippines, a refugee from the destruction of Kuwait took time during the Thanksgiving season to thank Baptists who helped her survive the exodus.

"I want to thank you for the kind and special attention you extended to me while I was a refugee at the Baptist gymnasium," wrote Adjurgita Tanquilon in a recent letter to Southern Baptist workers Gerry and Arlyis Milligan in Jordan.

Tanquilon was one of several hundred Philippine workers who found food and shelter at the Amman Baptist School gymnasium in Jordan after fleeing Iraqi-occupied Kuwait in August and September. Thousands of Filipinos and other Asian workers living in Kuwait passed through Jordan on their way home.

Both the Milligans, of Tulsa, Okla., are trained as nurses. They worked with the school doctor to care for refugees who became ill during their exhausting trek from Kuwait to Jordan.

## Classifieds

**Wanted**—Broadman Commentary, 5 La Canada Lane, Hot Springs Village 71909, 922-1898. 12/8

**For Sale**—1983 Ford Econoline Champlon, 29 passenger people mover. First Baptist Church, Fordyce, Arkansas 372-7133. 12/20

**Wanted**—Music/Youth Program Director, Part-time Bi-Vocational. \$100 per week, use of parsonage and other benefits. Send resume to Search Committee, Sulphur Springs Baptist, Rt. 11, Box 81 Lowman Rd., Pine Bluff, AR 71603 or call 501-879-3777. 12/6

**Needed**—The Search Committee for Springlake Baptist Assembly is now receiving resumes for Camp Director. Resumes should be sent to Oscar N. Golden, 612 Valley View Road, Benton, Arkansas 72015 by January 1, 1991. 1/17

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABM office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple in-

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# AN OPEN LETTER TO SOUTHERN BAPTISTS



## ANNUITY BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Dear Fellow Southern Baptists:

In light of the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, we want to be sure that all those we serve understand our mission and the spirit in which it is being undertaken. We also wish to reassure any who might be concerned about the status of the Board and the security of their funds.

The staff and trustees of the Annuity Board remain united in our task of serving the best interests of all who participate in our programs. A spirit of cooperation and dedication characterizes our work.

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is the second largest church pension fund in the United States. The growing assets of the Board total over \$2.8 billion, consisting of contributions and earnings managed for the benefit of members and their beneficiaries. The Board has adopted sound investment policies and retains the services of more than two dozen of America's most outstanding professional outside investment managers. Retirement contributions are credited to members' individual accounts in compliance with Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b). Plan members receive regular reports of the performance of the plan funds they have selected.

The mission and spirit of the Annuity Board remain the same. The trustees and staff of the Board are working faithfully to "serve those who serve the Lord."

B. J. Martin  
Chairman of the Board

The above letter was  
unanimously adopted by the Board of  
Trustees at the October 30, 1990, meeting in Dallas, Texas.



# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### True Wealth

by Jim Lagrone, Bryant First Southern Church

Basic passage: Lk. 14:12-24

Focal passage: Lk. 14:16-24

Central truth: God will save those who will respond to him.

Giving of yourself, whether it be time or money, is always a troublesome issue with some. Jesus began the introduction to this parable by relating that true giving occurs only when no response is called for. If someone gives only to receive something in return, they have not discovered what the joy of giving is.

Jesus further illustrates his passage by telling an elaborate story about a great feast prepared for many people. However, excuses were being given on why many of those invited could not show up. One said, "I just bought a field, I must go see it." Another said, "I just bought five yoke of oxen, I must try them out." Still another said, "I just married and cannot come." The owner became very angry and decided to invite anyone else that he could. The poor, the cripple, the blind, and the lame were invited. He illustrated the fact that true riches are not necessarily born through the people who appear to be wealthy, and appear to be of higher stature on this earth.

True wealth comes as we respond to God through Jesus Christ. Salvation is opened to all persons regardless of race, physical situation, or physical handicapped. When the Lord comes the distinction of those who serve God and those who have not served God will be very apparent.

This parable also contains another basic truth. Excuses, regardless of how good they sound, are never accepted by the kingdom of God. There seems to be little doubt, that's a direct statement toward the mission of the church. God's invitation has gone out to the prophets and to the preachers and through his people as they continue to share in the market place.

Jesus gave the ultimate invitation, but when those of the religious elite refused to go in, the church was to bring in those within the city and around the rest of the world. The church's mission is to harvest the souls of the people that walk on the face of this earth. We are to carry God's invitation and true worth and true value are going to come as we share the priceless news of the gospel.

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## Life and Work

### The Living Bread

by Bobby Tucker, Maple Grove Church, Trumann

Basic passage: John 6:26-29, 42-51, 66-69

Focal passage: John 6:47-51

Central truth: The living bread offers himself for a lost world.

Jesus was the master of the metaphor. In these verses, he calls himself the "bread of life" (v. 40).

Those to whom he spoke understood the necessity of bread in the daily diet. Jesus not only uses this to his advantage, but utilizes it to stress a more important truth—he is God's Son, therefore, able to save.

Notice that Jesus says those who have "believed in him have everlasting life" (v. 47). That is to say, they are already in possession of everlasting life. Once the bread of life is received, heaven is our declared home. That is a rare theme in preaching and teaching today. Heaven is our home. We will have eternal life.

Jesus then compares his "bread" with the manna that Israel ate in the wilderness. They ate it and died. Jesus emphatically states that once we partake of the bread of life, we will never die (v. 50). Such a comparison needs to be emphasized today. People all around us take part in cults and other pseudo-religious activity. That is the bread that once eaten does not prohibit death, but causes death.

Finally, Jesus shared with his hearers that he was the ultimate sacrifice. "The bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world" (v. 51). Those words dramatically convey the awesome price Jesus paid for our sins. The phrase "I shall give..." (v. 51), indicates the Lord was thinking of a one time, definite act, namely his atoning sacrifice on the cross. In the same verse, Jesus also declares the scope of his sacrifice in that it is for "...the life of the world" (v. 51).

The good news of Jesus is not for a particular country, group, or race. God has decreed that we share the gospel of Christ with all men, not just those in our comfort zones. Jesus shared with Jew and Samaritan, Roman citizens and slaves of Roman citizens, male and female. We should do no less in offering the bread of life to a lost world.

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## Bible Book

### Life's Focus

by Bill Howard, Salem Church, Benton

Basic passage: Luke 10:25-37, 38-42; 11:1-4

Focal passage: Luke 10:25-11:4

Central truth: Our focus must be upon worship of God and service to others.

To be in proper focus with God, our goals and motives must be clearly outlined and well defined. The account of the lawyer who tried to put Jesus on the defensive and justify himself (Lk. 10:25-29) is a picture of a man out of focus with God. The lawyer did not even know who his neighbor was whom he had seen, so how could he know God whom he had not seen?

Jesus' parable that follows (Lk. 10:30-37) spotlights three groups of people, each with a different focus on life.

The thieves reasoned and acted upon the idea that "what is yours is mine and I am going to get it if I can." This is the philosophy of a lost world. Nations take this position, and war is sure. Sin driven businesses, such as drugs, pornography, alcohol, gambling, and anything that seeks to take from people, live by this rule and give only hurt and ruin in return.

The second group was the priest and the Levite. Their way of life said, "What is mine, is mine, and I'm going to keep it if I can." It would cost them time, trouble and means to get involved. Besides they would get dirty tending to a wounded man on the road.

The Samaritan acted from a heart that said, "What is mine God gave me and I'm going to share it." He did more than expected of him. His focus on life came from God the giver of life.

The next focus we see (Lk. 10:38-42) is between worship and work. Martha worked while Mary worshipped. Work is an outgrowth of worship and not a substitute for it.

The third focus (Lk. 11:1-4) is part of the worship experience of prayer. The disciples witnessed Christ praying and they desired this fellowship with the Father and requested "Lord teach us to pray" (Lk. 11:1c). Notice "how to" is implied in the request and understood in our Lord's answer. However, the main request is "to pray." As we are moved to pray, the "how to" will fall into place. The focus of our life must be a clear view of God and his will for us in worship, service, and sharing.

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## Convention Uniform

### Jesus Gave Himself

by Jim Lagrone, Bryant First Southern Church

Basic passage: Lk. 2:8-12, John 10:11-18

Focal passage: John 10:11-18

Central truth: Only Jesus has the power!

Christmas is a time of great celebration! It should be a time of great joy and excitement over the peace and goodwill that comes through Jesus Christ.

Sometimes, however, our joy is tempered as we strive to buy the right present, spend the various amounts of money, and take care of all the relatives and friends that we must purchase gifts for.

The joy that the shepherds expressed in Luke 2 was not joy over gifts, it was not joy over the possibility of eating a great feast, it was not joy of even seeing a vision. The joy came because they were told of the coming Messiah.

The glory of God was shining around about them. They had realized the Messiah that they had hoped and prayed for generations was finally here. They were celebrating Christ. The passage in John 10 is where the central part of this lesson should be. There are two gifts recorded this Christmas and these gifts should have the central place in your heart.

First of all, Jesus was born. The gift that God gave us forever changed the destiny of all humanity and gave us the privilege to see God walk on the face of this earth. He demonstrated the joy and the peace that comes from the perfect relationship with God, because he was God. He gave us the ideas to live by and the character to show what truth really is. The ultimate gift of Christmas was the birth of Christ.

But there was a second gift that John reminded us about through Jesus' own words. Jesus was and is the Good Shepherd and he was willing to lay down his own life for his sheep. We celebrate his birth, but we cannot celebrate his birth without remembering the ultimate price as he gave his life for all people. You see he had the power, no one took his life from him. He gave of himself freely on the cross so that we might know him and forever have the penalty of sin paid.

This time of the year, let one and all remember the ultimate gift that was given and then the ultimate gift of sacrifice. Only then can one begin to understand the true meaning of the Christmas season.

## Life and Work

### The Christmas Miracle

by Bobby Tucker, Maple Grove Church, Trumann

Basic passage: Matthew 2:1-11

Focal passage: Matthew 2:1-11

Central truth: The miracle of Christmas magnifies the God we serve.

Christmas, without a doubt, is my favorite time of year. The season is filled with a refreshing joy and excitement, especially for those that are born again.

In Matthew, chapter two, the world into which Jesus was born is described for us. By careful study, we can see some parallels with our day and age.

First, notice how wicked men sought and still seek to destroy the Son of God. Herod, upon hearing about the birth of the "King of the Jews," became agitated. He therefore, set his mind on destroying Jesus.

Have you noticed the current attacks on organized Christianity? The church? The Savior? If "modern" theologians aren't denying the deity of Jesus, then the secularist attempts to strip all visages and references of Christ from our culture. Remember, wicked men will always attempt to destroy the things of God.

Secondly, notice the wonder of the fulfilled Word of God. Seven hundred years before Christ was cradled in the arms of Mary, Micah prophesied his birth. Christmas should remind us all of the accuracy and integrity of God's Word. Why not gather your families on the holy holiday and read together the Christmas story from Matthew chapter two?

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this passage speaks to the worship of Christ. These Wise Men from the East followed the star to the place where they found Christ. I appreciate their reaction—"they fell down and worshipped him" (v. 11). This typifies what we should do this Christmas. Before Christmas Day is over, the food eaten, the family visited, and the gifts exchanged and opened, we should make sure that we fall down and worship our Savior and Lord. He should be praised for his humility on becoming man and he should be exalted for emptying himself for us.

Christ deserves not only our allegiance, but also our worship and praise. Have a great day celebrating his birth and remembering his sacrifice.

## Bible Book

### Breakthrough

by Bill Howard, Salem Church, Benton

Basic passage: Luke 1:26-2:20

Focal passage: Luke 1:76-78; 2:1-20

Central truth: Jesus Christ is God's own Son of the world's only Savior.

Luke 1 records minute details of the preparation for the birth of both John and Jesus. In the miracle birth of Jesus, God chose a virgin named Mary to be the mother of his Son (v. 27). When God selected a young woman to be the mother of the Savior, he did not take a worldly girl. He chose a young lady who had lived a life of perfect physical purity and who delighted in doing the will of God.

John's birth is a twofold miracle. First, Zacharias and Elisabeth were past child bearing age (v. 7). Second, John was to be the forerunner of Jesus and this birth had to be on God's timetable.

Because of his doubting, Zacharias was stricken mute from the time of Gabriel's announcement until John was born (v. 20). After nine months of silence this Spirit filled father had much to say (v. 64). In Luke 1:67-80 his speech consisted of praise, prayers, and prophecy. He spoke of the blessings of God, the mission of John, and the redemption of Israel by Jesus. Zacharias was aware and from the beginning, and he passed this to his son that John's mission was to point people to Jesus. Later it would be John who said, "Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the World" (Jn. 1:29,35). That is our mission today. We fall in all if we fall in this point.

Zacharias points out at least three things Jesus would do. He would bring salvation by pardon (v. 77), eternal heavenly light (v. 78), and the dispelling of darkness to all people in all places (v. 79). Jesus is the breakthrough or dawnspring from heaven. Jesus is the light from God of his redemptive plan. Jesus truly is "The Light of the World." He is God's eternal daylight.

Luke's record of Jesus' birth (Lk. 2:1-7) provides proof that God is in charge of history. It was no accident that Caesar forced taxes and there were no accommodations in Bethlehem at this time. God then sent a choir of angels to proclaim to the shepherds that the new born baby in Bethlehem was Christ the Lord. The message through Zacharias was Savior and Redeemer. The angels proclaimed him to be Lord. The entire message of Christmas includes the lordship of Jesus Christ.

## Missionary Notes

**Roberto and Kathy Diaz**, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are on the field (address: Apartado 20, Bulevares, Edo de Mexico, 54140 Mexico). He is a native of San Antonio, Texas, and she is the former Kathy Haygood of Little Rock. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

**David and Janet Frierson**, missionaries to Senegal, have completed language study in France and arrived on the field (address: B.P. 196, M'bour, Senegal). He is a native of North Little Rock. She considers Piggot her hometown. They were appointed in 1988.

**Albert and Karen Hodges**, missionaries to Zaire, are on the field (address: BP 4748, Kinshasa 2, Zaire). He lived in Alpena while growing up. The former Karen Atwood, she was born in Paragould. They were appointed in 1978.

**Gilbert and Deane Nichols**, missionaries to Paraguay, are in the States (address: 18 Jay Circle, Cabot, AR 72023). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Mountain View, and she is the former Deane Marshall of Cabot. They were appointed in 1958.

**Gerald and Penelope Pullen**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 32, Limuru, Kenya). He is from Florida. The former Penelope Taylor, she was born in Little Rock. They were appointed in 1989.

**Donna Rye**, Baptist representative to Mexico, is on the field (address: Apartado 6-715, Guadalajara, Jalisco 44600 Mexico). She was born in Little Rock. She was appointed in 1982.

**Donald and Betty Speigel**, missionaries to Brazil since 1958, have retired from active missionary service. They served in Teresina, Piaui, Brazil, where he was a general evangelist and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Missouri, and she is the former Betty Wooton of Ohio. They may be addressed at 515 Woodland Dr., Benton, AR 72015.

**Mr. and Mrs. William E. Wardlaw**, mis-

sionaries to Japan, report a change of address (8-19-19 Noka, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka 811-11, Japan). He was born in Texarkana. The former June Mills, she is from Florida. They were appointed in 1984.

**Robert and Nancy Calvert**, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). He is a native of Little Rock, and she is the former Nancy Felts of Georgia. They were appointed in 1990.

**Lloyd and Betty Farmer**, missionaries to Malawi, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 467, Lilongwe, Malawi). He is a native of Crossett. The former Betty Christilles, she considers Texarkana her hometown. They were appointed in 1990.

**Thomas and Sharon Nowlin**, missionaries to Japan, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: 11-9 Okamoto 5-chome, Higashi Nada-Ku, Kobe 658, Japan). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Brinkley and considers Marlon his hometown. The former Sharon Kinsey, she was born in Stuttgart and considers West Memphis her hometown. They were appointed in 1990.

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*All Heaven was singing, and the joy spilled over;  
The Angels knew the wonder of His birth.  
The joy of Heaven; tumultuous, deep and holy,  
Then burst upon the weary, waiting earth.*

**Rejoice!**

*The Editor and Staff of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*

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