

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

5-18-1989

**May 18, 1989**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_85-89](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_85-89)



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

---

'Now I Know...'

# Arkansas Baptist

May 18, 1989



**HOLD THE  
ROPE!**

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

*Day of Prayer for the*  
**Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine**

## In This Issue

### Cover Story



### Hold the Rope! . . . . . 12

On Sunday, May 21, the Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, we want to express our appreciation for you, our faithful readers.

### Editor's Page . . . . . 3

### Speak Up

- You'll Be Glad To Know . . . 4
- Letters to the Editor . . . . . 4
- Woman's Viewpoint . . . . . 4

### Faith At Work

- 'Now I Know' . . . . . 5

### Local & State

- Church In A Day . . . . . 6
- Arkansas All Over . . . . . 6-7
- Diamond Jubilee . . . . . 7
- Conference of the Deaf . . . 10
- Youth Music Festival . . . . 10
- Centennial Celebrated . . . 11
- Landry to Speak . . . . . 11
- BSU Offers Cadets Help . . . 11

### Nation

- No Signal . . . . . 14
- Roller Coaster Budget . . . 14

### Lessons For Living . . 15

### World

- Churches Repaired . . . . . 16

## IT'S UPLIFTING

### Pouring in Like the Rain

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (BP)—Saddleback Valley Community Church doubled its attendance Easter weekend by asking members not to come to Sunday services.

The church also started three new congregations at the same time.

Pastor Rick Warren mailed letters to all church members asking them to attend a special Saturday night worship service Easter weekend. This would make room for non-Christians and Easter-only Christians to attend the two Sunday services, he said.

The nine-year-old church in Mission Viejo, Calif., has become known for Warren's innovative church-growth techniques. He started the church with seven people and has grown it to an average attendance of 3,800. Easter weekend attendance totaled 7,490.

Saddleback Valley was the first church in the Southern Baptist Convention known to offer a regular Saturday night service, which started about one year ago. However, the church had not promoted the Saturday night service because it was held in a different location than Sunday services.

The church has no permanent building but rents Trabucko Hills High School every Sunday. Beginning Easter weekend, it was

able to use that facility on Saturdays as well.

Warren said he wasn't sure how many people would show up Saturday night for Easter services, especially in a heavy rainstorm. But the people poured in as fast as the rain.

A total of 3,020 people attended the Saturday night service, parking a half-mile away in every direction. Hundreds sat in an overflow room with television monitors, 600 stood through the entire service, and the fire marshal turned away another 1,000, Warren said.

And then another 4,470 people came to the two traditional Sunday services.

Easter also is the best day of the year to start a new congregation, Warren said. He started Saddleback on Easter Sunday in 1980 and has used the same principles to start mission congregations in subsequent years.

The three new congregations Saddleback started this Easter are Searidge Community Church in Laguna Hills, Calif., with an attendance of 282; Olive Branch Community Church in Norco, Calif., with 160 attending the first service; and Scottsdale Community Church in Scottsdale, Ariz., with 76 people braving a flash flood to attend.

With these three missions, Saddleback has started 13 new congregations during its nine-year history.

## GOOD NEWS!

### Remembering Brings Tears

Judges 2:1-5

God knows that we have a tendency to forget. The Bible constantly uses the phrase "forget not" or "lest ye forget." God didn't want the Israelites to forget some things.

*Remembering some things* (v. 1)—God reminded Israel of his love and deliverance he had given them. In his own words, "I brought you up out of Egypt" (NASB). What a reminder! The account of their misery and bondage is found in Exodus 2:23-25. They had forgotten their desperate cries of bondage and their feelings of hopelessness.

*Rebelling against some things* (v. 2)—Man rebelled when God instructed him to make no covenant with the ungodly. God was even careful to tell him why: "Lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee" (Ex. 23:33). He repeated the warning in Exodus 34:12-13.

*God gives a grim reminder of rebellion's harvest* (v. 3)—Facing consequences is painful. Thorns are uncomfortable, but they are often the price of rebellion. Every generation has confronted this principle of life. Few, it seems, have learned it.

*Repenting of some things* (v. 4-5)—The children of Israel wept. Weeping does not always indicate repentance, but in this case weeping was followed by worship. The place was even named *Bochim*, which means "weepers." *The intensity of their repentance can better be understood by a study of the word bochim. It is taken from the verb bakab, meaning "a deep wail".* This kind of grief is described in Genesis 21:16, as a mother weeps for the life of her son. The same intense feeling was used by the Israelites to repent over their sins.

Jesus put it this way. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4). Man repents; God redeems.

Adapted from "Proclaim," Jan.-March 1980. Copyright 1980 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For subscription information, write to Material Services Dept., 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

# Imperative Doctrines

J. EVERETT SNEED



An individual's theology will shape his evangelistic fervor to a large extent. The statement, "As a man thinks in his heart so is he," certainly applies in this area. The doctrines of revelation, incarnation, sin, atonement and eternal punishment all are integrally related to the fervor with which an individual seeks to reach the unsaved.

First, a commitment to the word of God is essential if a group is to be truly committed to evangelism. Christianity is a historical religion. The character and message was given to Christians by the Lord and his apostles. For the gospel to be called "Christian" it must conform to the message that is set forth in the scriptures. Basically the evangelist is a "herald" sent forth to provide the message of eternal life.

In the past hundred years, a flood of literature has been published which declares the Bible to contain numerous errors. Many of these so called scholars maintain that the miracles recorded in the scripture are only myths. They further assert that these myths are helpful in that they illustrate certain truths. Such teaching, however, totally undercuts the reason for commitment to Christ and destroys evangelistic fervor. If the miracles are untrue, human reason would say that the atonement of Christ is untrue. Perhaps God's teaching regarding sin also is untrue.

The glorious truth, however, is that the Bible is truthful, relevant and totally dependable. There are many proofs of the reliability of the scripture. Among these are: (1) since God revealed himself to man, it is reasonable that he did so in an accurate and truthful manner; (2) Jesus gave attestation to the validity of the Old Testament Scripture, therefore, they are true; (3) our Lord sealed the validity of the New Testament as he commissioned the apostles as teachers and provided the supernatural aid of the Holy Spirit for them; (4) the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies provide attestation to the validity of the scriptures; (5) the unity of the scriptures declare it to be the word of God; and (6) archaeological discoveries that have been made give attestation to the absolute trustworthiness of the Bible.

A second doctrine which relates directly to an individual's evangelistic fervor is the doctrine of the incarnation. The person and work of Jesus relates directly to who an individual believes Christ to be. If

one believes that Jesus was the incarnate son of God who came into the world to provide atonement for sin, it then becomes obligatory for Christians to spread the gospel. The Bible is clear: Jesus was the virgin-born son of God. Certain systems of modern theology maintain that Jesus became the son of God at some period late in his life. Others go so far as to state that Jesus was only a great and good man. Such theories leave little reason for individuals to carry the gospel to others.

If an individual is to be committed to the spread of the gospel he must believe that man's basic problem is sin. Some contemporary theologians virtually deny the reality of sin in the lives of individuals. Evangelism hinges on the belief that the primary need of man is deliverance from the penal consequences of sin, which pro-

duces the wrath of a holy God. The apostle Paul stated man's plight clearly as he said, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Ro. 3:23).

The doctrine of atonement is closely related to a belief that all are sinners. Because of man's sin problem, God has made divine provision for the guilt of all mankind, which God provided through the atoning death of his son Jesus. Apart from this atoning act, man's plight is hopeless. When an individual believes that man's only hope is through the redemption provided by Christ, evangelistic fervor will be evidenced.

Finally, the doctrine of hell will give great impetus to one's evangelistic fervor. If one believes that those who are outside of Christ are eternally doomed to hell, carrying the gospel to the lost becomes an imperative. The Bible clearly emphasizes that both physical and spiritual suffering will occur in hell. The worst suffering that one can imagine is banishment from the Lord. No one can fully conceive of eternal separation from God, since none of us have ever been apart from his love. Yet, because God has made us as free moral agents, each one of us has the personal responsibility to God for our choice.

Most Southern Baptists believe these doctrinal truths. But all too often we allow good things to take the place of the best. Jesus said, "While you're going, 'discipline' " (Mt. 28:19). It is interesting to note that, of the three priorities ("disciplining," baptizing and teaching), the only one which is in the imperative case is "disciplining." Let's make this our priority. Our theology is correct; let's make our actions such that they will be approved of God.

## Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 88

NUMBER 17

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

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc. Board of Directors:  
Lane Strother, Mountain Home, president; Jimmy Anderson,  
Leachville; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Nelson Wilhelm,  
Waldron; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock;  
Phean Boone, El Dorado; Harold Gately, Fayetteville; and Don  
Heuer, Batesville.

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed  
double space and may not contain more than 350 words. Let-  
ters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete  
policy statement is available on request.

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when  
accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only  
black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in  
brief form when information is received not later than 14  
days after the date of death.

Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6506) is published weekly,  
except Easter, Independence Day, the first week of October,  
and Christmas, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.,  
601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates  
are \$6.99 per year (individual), \$5.52 per year (Every Resi-  
dent Family Plan), \$6.12 per year (Group Plan). Foreign ad-  
dress rates on request. Second class postage paid at Little  
Rock, Ark.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist,  
P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. (376-4791)

## Letters to the Editor

DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know



Finding a way. The implication of the reading is that there is confusion and bewilderment, if not lostness. Only those need to find a way who have not already found one. There is a gospel song entitled, "Love Found A Way." We, as a family of churches, need to find a way.

One who finds a way when there isn't one already marked out is usually known as a pioneer, or in social areas as a crusader. Southern Baptists were once characterized in such complimentary ways. We seem to have taken refuge in our size, our structures, and our success, and have pulled back from pioneering. We have turned the risky over to Campus Crusade for Christ, Interspersed Fellowship, Navigators, and Young Life. They have moved out on the cutting edge and left us to play it safe. There is a false sense of safety in sameness. So, we have with great ritual done the same things over and over, even when they were not working.

We must find a way to get our hearts back into evangelism and missions. Our heads and our mouths have been there, but not our hearts. We must find a way to change our "y'all come" attitude to a "we're coming after you" attitude. We must find the heart and strategy to reach the crime ridden cities. We must find a way to break out of structures that have turned off the progressive-aggressive young adults who would really like to give themselves to a cause that would change the world. But they will not give themselves to just maintaining organizations, systems, and structures. Their numbers are filling the non-denominational Bible churches.

We must find a way to love, accept and win those who are not like us. Both the down and outs and the up and outs are strangers to most Baptist churches. "They're not like us" is a major excuse given for not reaching them.

We must find a way to bring our affections and our commitments back in line with the Lord's. His were "to seek and to save the lost." Most of us stop somewhere short of this high calling. Our own spirits, our churches and our society reflect the tragedy of us not finding a way.

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

## Immodest Dress

After a prolonged, much-welcomed absence, the mini-skirt is once again finding its way into Southern Baptist churches. I can understand why unsaved women and girls would dress this way, but for Christian women and girls to do dress. I can see no earthly reason, except, they just do not know what they are doing, they do not care what they are doing, or else they do know and are so dressing so as to cause men and boys to have impure thoughts.

Now some may say, get your mind out of the gutter and it won't bother you. I beg to differ. There are certain portions of the female anatomy that God Almighty never intended to be on public display and when

such takes place, it's going to cause men and boys to have lustful thoughts.

I would to God that Southern Baptist preachers would speak out against this highly immodest type dress. When semi-nudity prevails, it cannot help but induce passion and lust.

Men of God, speak out against this ungodly, indecent, immoral, way of dress. I sincerely believe that women and girls will listen and take heed if you will only dare to speak out against such practice. If you do not speak out against it, it's going to get worse.—**Ned R. York Jr., Blytheville**

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request.

## Woman's Viewpoint

## Closed for Inventory

LISA TUCKER



Cleaning out closets is the job I love to hate. So many needless things find their way into my clothes closet. Like the pair of shoes that match absolutely nothing I own but I bought because they were on sale. Or the dress I had to have at the time but have seldom worn since. Not to mention the high school cheerleading sweater and pom poms. Without a periodic cleaning, useless treasures might take over the entire house!

In much the same way, lives can become cluttered with needless things. It takes careful checking on a daily basis to keep things in perspective. More than hurried prayers before meals and bedtime, quality time must be spent with God. Time must be made to "close for inventory," from from telephone, television, and distracting conversations, in order to take serious stock of the

things in life. Four steps included in most retail inventories may be helpful in taking personal inventory as well. First, survey. Idols creep into everyday life under the guises of money, career, possessions, and relationships. Such things can quickly invade a relationship with God if given too much importance.

Secondly, clean out. Unconfessed sin stifles the growth of a believer. A few things hidden away may be bitterness, pride, envy, lying, gossip, or worry. "Let us throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance..." (He. 12:1 NIV). God is waiting to forgive.

Thirdly, appraise work and goals. Misplaced priorities create certain downfall. Stay on target by asking such questions as: "Do my ambitions further the cause of Christ?" and "Does my work merely fulfill a selfish motivation?" According to 1 Corinthians 3:12, our workmanship will find itself in one of two categories: gold, silver, and precious stones, or wood, hay and stubble. After God tests with fire, how much present workmanship would remain?

Finally, restock. No need for souvenirs. A host of blessings awaits the child of God willing to do away with needless things. Isn't it time to close for inventory?

**Lisa Tucker** is youth director of Maple Grove Church in Trumann where, her husband is pastor. She also is a substitute teacher with the Trumann School District.

## 'Now I Know...'

by Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Three years ago, Paula Davis came to Texas as an unwed mother with no job, no home and no hope. But thanks to the ministry of Urban Allies and Cornerstone Baptist Church in Fort Worth, today she offers hope to others as a productive, growing Christian.

When Davis arrived at the bus station in Fort Worth in April 1985, she brought plenty of hard-to-handle baggage: pain from a fractured marriage and a broken live-in relationship, a one-year-old daughter who needed heart surgery, uncertain prospects and a problem-laden pregnancy.

One thing she didn't bring was her life savings of \$1,300. It had been stolen somewhere along the way.

"Fortunately, we were able to stay at the Union Gospel Mission for about two weeks until I could get on welfare," she said. "Then we went to the Salvation Army. They graciously let us stay there until my baby was born.

"You see, I couldn't work while I was pregnant. I've had three pregnancies and problems every time. I lost my first child, and then I was sick with Andrea. When I had the baby, Clarissa, I had morning sickness for seven months."

Eventually, Davis found permanent lodging at the Caville Housing Project, where she met David Freeman, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, who was a community coordinator for Urban Allies.

Urban Allies is a ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and local associations, designed to link established churches to inner-city congregations and to provide resources through the churches as they minister and witness in poverty-stricken areas. Texas Baptists participate in the ministry by giving through the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

Not long after moving to Caville, Davis was hospitalized. Needing someone to care for her children and knowing no one else to call, she contacted Freeman. Through Tarrant Baptist Association and Buckner Baptist Benevolences, Freeman was able to provide temporary licensed foster-home care for the children.

Soon after Davis was released from the hospital, Andrea returned home to her mother. Later, the child had successful heart surgery to correct a congenital defect.

Four months later, arrangements were made and the baby, Clarissa, was adopted by a couple her mother knew in Kentucky. Although the decision was made in the child's best interests, Davis still had dif-

ficulty dealing with it emotionally.

"I was overcome with total exhaustion. I guess you'd call it a breakdown," she said. "After giving up my child, the guilt began to set in. I was in the hospital again for two weeks.

"Through it all, David Freeman was very supportive. Urban Allies really helped me out."

In addition to providing counseling and prayer support, Freeman and others associated with Urban Allies helped to provide for physical needs through domestic hunger funds supplied by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"The most important thing David and Urban Allies did for me was to put me in contact with Cornerstone Baptist Church," she said.

The Fort Worth congregation helped to meet some emergency physical needs for her, and soon she began attending church services.

"When I heard Pastor James Reeves preach, it was like a ton of bricks hit me in the head. It got my attention. I realized my priorities had been all wrong," she said.

In August, Davis made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized, and she now is an active part of the singles' group and music ministry at Cornerstone.

"Since I became a Christian, things have started falling into place for me. Now I know that it doesn't do any good to fear. I know God will care for me," she said. "I know he watches over me and loves me."

Davis has moved from the housing project into an apartment, and she currently holds down two full-time jobs. By day, she supervises the work of 26 mentally retarded and handicapped adults at Goodwill Industries. In the evenings, she works at a hospice in Arlington.

While Davis works at her daytime job, four-year-old Andrea stays in the day-care center of the Baptist Community Center, a ministry of Tarrant Baptist Association.

When she is not at one of the jobs, Mrs. Davis often can be found working with other volunteers from Cornerstone Church in the Whispering Oaks Housing Project, another Urban Allies target area.

"After Christmas, I hope I can start a training program there. Maybe I can do literacy work or help women study to prepare for their GEDs.

"I just want to help anyway I can. I love helping people now."

### Copeland Bus Sales and Service

Quality pre-owned school buses

Many sizes, makes, models,  
and price ranges

St. James, Mo. 314-265-7408

### ACADEMIC WORLD OF COSMETOLOGY, INC.



10 Months To A New Career  
Financial Assistance

5300 W. 65th St.

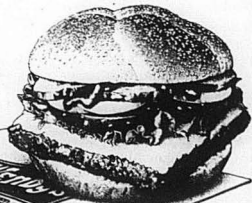
565-4609

Little Rock

# Wendy's

## A Special Offer From Wendy's

# 99¢ Single



Present coupon when ordering.  
Not valid with any other offer or discount.  
Good at all Central Arkansas Wendy's.

Expiration Date:  
August 15, 1989



# LOCAL & STATE

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**Mark Arnold** has joined the staff of Eagle Heights Church in Harrison as minister of education, coming there from Ford Park Church in Shreveport, La. A native of New Mexico, he is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jackie, have two children.

**Tim Porter** is serving as pastor of First Church in Marshall. Porter, who has served for two years as a full-time evangelist, moved there from Melbourne. He and his wife, Sabra, have a daughter.

**Jerry Flagg** recently resigned as pastor of New Providence Church at Leachville.

**Mike Talley**, currently interim music director at First Church of Redfield, is moving to Rocky Mount, N.C., where he will begin serving May 26 as minister of youth and music at Sunset Avenue Church.

**Gary Thomas** is serving as associate pastor and minister of youth at Crestview Mission at Midway, coming there from Walcott, where he served as youth minister at Mount Zion Church.

**Tom Smith** has resigned as pastor of First Church of Bentonville. He and his wife, Margaret, will be appointed May 23 as missionaries to the Philippines in a Foreign Mission Board appointment service in Richmond, Va.

**J.D. Woodard**, a junior at Ouachita Baptist University, has joined the staff of First Church in Horatio as children and youth minister.

**Mike Syputl** will begin serving July 30 as minister of music and youth at Trinity Church in Blytheville, following his graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Stuttgart, he is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University at Russellville and has served churches in Texas and Arkansas. He is married to the former Pamela Dufford.

**Tona Wright**, coach of the Ouachita Baptist University women's tennis team, has been named AIC Coach of the Year for women's tennis. She led the OBU team to the AIC championship this spring.

**Jim Wright** has resigned as associate pastor of music and education at First

Church in Dumas to serve as minister of music at First Southern Church in Evansville, Ind.

**Bob Johnson** will join the staff of Atkins First Church in June as minister of youth and music.

**Jonathan Brobston** is serving as pastor of Combs Church at Elkins. He and his wife, Tammy, moved there from Jane, Mo.

**Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Erle Halsell** of Louisville, Ky. and former Arkansans, have been approved by the Foreign Mission Board to serve in Hong Kong for one year. Halsell, a professor in Boyce Bible School, will serve in theological education there.

**William Philliber**, pastor of Runyan First Church in North Little Rock, observed his 50th anniversary as an ordained Southern Baptist minister April 19 by returning to his first pastorate in Talala, Okla., for the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of the first couple he married.

**Warner William Kennedy**, pastor of Central Church in Livingston, Texas, for 15 years, died April 24 at age 48. He had pastored Evening Shade Church in Waldron

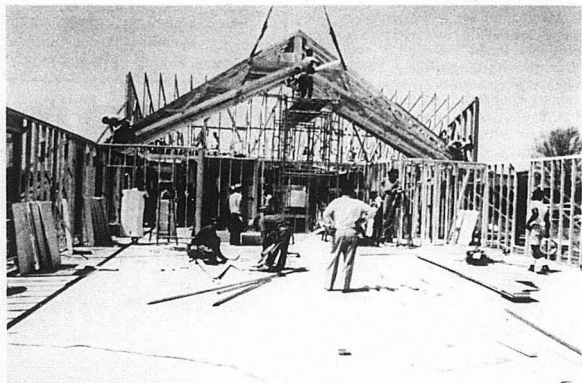
and Star City First Church in Arkansas. He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Survivors are his wife, Becky Kennedy; two daughters, Kathy and Kristy Kennedy; his parents, W.D. and Kathryn Kennedy of Camden; and a sister, Sharon Kennedy of Rockford, Ill. Memorials may be made to Central Church Improvement Fund.

### Briefly

**Danville First Church** ordained Tom Gray, Don Pool, and Chuck Zieammerman to the deacon ministry April 30.

**Little Rock Second Church** will continue observance of "Celebration '89" with homecoming, member dedication, and building renovation dedication June 11. A traditional Sunday morning schedule has been planned with former pastors Dale Cowling of Little Rock and Larry Maddox

ABSC photo / Glendon Grober



*Sixty Arkansas Baptist Men pitched in Saturday, April 22, to raise a "church in a day" for the Zion Baptist Church in Alma. By 5:30 p.m. the crew had the building in the dry and all cabinets and fixtures had been installed in the kitchen. Russell Miller of Mountain Home served as foreman for the project. Arkansas Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober said the Church-In-A-Day crew still could use another 10 to 20 volunteers for projects as large as the Alma building. He also said two persons made professions of faith when workers witnessed to them as they delivered materials to the construction site.*

of Orlando, Fla., and former interim pastors Luther Joe Thompson and John Lockhart as program personalities. Guided tours and a fellowship hour will conclude activities. Billy White is pastor.

**El Dorado Ebenezer Church** will hold its spring revival May 21-26. Greg Kirksey, pastor of Hillside Church in Camden, will be evangelist and Barry Bates, music director at Hillside Church, will direct music. C. Phelan Boone is pastor.

**Piney Grove Church** at Lewisville will celebrate its 100th anniversary July 1-2. Saturday activities will include organized sports events, followed by a potluck meal. Sunday morning services will be followed by a 2 p.m. program of gospel music. Former members and friends will be special guests. James Crabtree is pastor.

**Holt Springs Second Church** will host Gary McSpadden in concert May 27 at 7 p.m.

**Everton Church** recently held its first meeting of Royal Ambassadors with eight members and their leader, Rick Healea, present.

**Woodland Heights Church** in Harrison recently purchased a 19-passenger bus for use in its outreach ministries. Members also recently planted one acre of potatoes, which will be harvested for use at Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello.

**Newport First Church** recently closed a revival that resulted in 20 professions of faith and 16 baptisms. Delton Dees was evangelist and Barry Bates directed music. Gene Crawley is pastor.

**Booneville First Church** was in revival April 23-30 with William Blackburn of Fort Smith serving as evangelist. Pastor Allen Thrasher reported 36 professions of faith and two commitments to full-time Christian vocations.

**Woodland Heights Church** in Conway deacons have launched a Shared Ministry program and have received assignments for ministering to church family members.

**Elkins Church** will honor Pastor Paul Bond May 21 in recognition of 12 years of service. His son, Paul Bond Jr., will be speaker for the worship service, which will be followed by a luncheon.

**Sulphur City Church** recently completed revival services which resulted in four professions of faith. Larry Catcher was evangelist. John Summers is pastor.



*Pine Bluff First Church recently held a Sunday School worker appreciation banquet at which Sandra Jones, Rosalind McClanaban, Rachel Atkinson, Harry Reed, and KarLynn Roberts (left to right) were recognized as having served with distinction in various Sunday School positions.*



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

*Sparkman First Church celebrated its 75th anniversary with "Diamond Jubilee" festivities Sunday, May 7. An estimated 287 persons gathered for morning worship, where they heard Ben Elrod, president of Ouachita Baptist University and twice an interim pastor for the congregation, deliver the message. After a noontime picnic and afternoon fellowship time, the congregation held an evening worship service in which Bernes Selph, pastor emeritus of Benton First Church and a former member of Sparkman First, preached. Former pastors John Basinger and Wayne Smith were present for the activities. The Sparkman church adopted the Cooperative Program when it was introduced in 1924 and currently gives 25 percent of undesignated receipts to the Southern Baptist unified giving plan. In 1988, the congregation contributed almost \$43,000 to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions. Paul Holt serves as pastor of the congregation.*



## TABLE ROCK RESORT

JUST NORTH OF EUREKA SPRINGS  
AT HOLIDAY ISLAND ON TABLE ROCK LAKE

### Family Vacation

- Golf
- Tennis
- Fishing
- Boating
- Swimming



253-7733  
1-800-255-9381

Groups of 12 to 160:

Enjoy the Great Passion Play  
while staying at



Keller's Clean Comfortable  
Country Dorm Resort

— Eureka Springs, Ark. —

Just \$23 ea. includes Tickets, meals,  
swimming, air-conditioning,  
and supper cook-out!

Call 501/253-8418 for Reservations

**OZARK MOUNTAIN**  
HOEDOWN  
Music Theater

### A Eureka Springs Tradition

- \* Tremendous Group Rates
- \* Quality Family Entertainment
- \* Bus, Van, Handicapped Parking
- \* Now in Our 9th Season  
of Award-Winning Entertainment!

Hwy. 62 East, Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
501-253-7725

### Best Western Inn of the Ozarks

"The Ozark Mountains are all that we overlook"

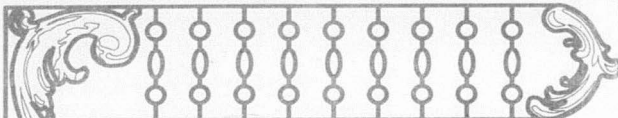
- Large, spacious family rooms
- Beautiful, kidney-shaped pool
- Country Kitchen Restaurant
- Tennis court
- Miniature golf
- Family game room
- Trolley stop for the historic downtown
- Children under 18 stay free with parents
- Free family discount coupon book for area attractions
- Special packages for religious groups

P.O. Box 431 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
(501) 253-9766



**INN OF THE**  
**OZARKS**

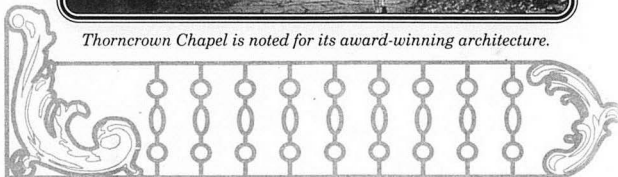
Each Best Western is independently owned and operated.



# Bring your group to Eureka



Thorncrown Chapel is noted for its award-winning architecture.



### Enjoy the excitement of a real steam railroad show

The ES&NA Railway takes you back to those glorious days when steam locomotives ruled the rails.

- Excursion trains depart hourly
- Eureka Dining Car for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Vintage rolling stock, equipment displays
- Snack bar • Gift shop • Great family fun
- Special group arrangements available

Eureka Springs & North  
Arkansas Railway  
P.O. Box 310  
Eureka Springs,  
Arkansas 72632  
(501) 253-9623



### Arkansas' Original Live Country Music and Comedy Stage Show

Join us for the fun as Pine Mountain Jamboree celebrates its 15th year

- Family entertainment
- Showtime 8 p.m.
- Air-conditioned
- Comfortable cushioned theater seats
- A tour group favorite
- Shopping and dining at Pine Mountain Jamboree Village
- Eureka's most attended show

(501) 253-9156

Hwy. 62 East • Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632



# For a mountaintop experience

There's no place quite like Eureka Springs for refreshing church group and family retreats. This is the season to catch the Ozark Mountain countryside blooming and blossoming with new foliage. This is the place to enjoy a full schedule of history, shopping thrills and attractions that include religious-themed drama and things to see and do.

Come explore our stair-step mountain village. Shop our historic downtown. Experience the drama of The Great Passion Play and visit the Christ of the Ozarks Statue, Thorncrowne Chapel, St. Elizabeth's Church (the church with the bell tower entrance featured in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not"), and all the other religious-themed projects and attractions.

Here you can relax, refresh and find new inspiration.

Our country music shows offer fun-filled family entertainment. A real steam railroad is here to thrill your group. See gingerbread-trimmed Victorian homes and visit our historical and natural wonders to learn their fascinating stories in-person.

Why not talk to your group and start planning your visit now. We're fun, affordable and the perfect place for your adult or youth group.

Send for a free, colorful visitor's guide to help plan your trip.

Write or call:

Eureka Springs  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 551, Dept. 8958  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632  
(501) 253-8737



## eureka springs

ARKANSAS



Eureka Matterhorn Towers

"The Ozarks' Finest Lodging"  
800-426-0838

Call us. It's Free!

- Eureka Springs' Newest  
• Suites • Jacuzzi
- Special Honeymoon Accommodations
- Continental Breakfast • Heated Pool
- Auto-remote T.V. • Elevator

98 Kingshighway • Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
901-253-9602

## 1876 INN & RESTAURANT

800-643-3030

Call us. It's Free!

- Ask about our Church Package. Includes: Passion Play Tickets, Meals & Lodging.
- We are experienced in handling groups.
- Fine Accommodations and dedicated service.

Check with us for Special Events  
throughout the year.

Rt. 1, Box 247 • Eureka Springs, AR 72652  
501-253-7183

### The Great Passion Play

EUREKA SPRINGS,  
ARKANSAS 72632-0471



Your Church Group and family are invited to attend

The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas nightly April 28 - October 28 except Monday and Thursday at 8:30 P.M.; after Labor Day, 7:30 P.M.

Admission:

\$7.00, \$8.00, also a \$10.00 pre-paid box seat

## 501-253-9200

Experience the re-enactment of the Life, Death, Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus Christ.



### THE GREAT PASSION PLAY TICKET ORDER 1989

PLEASE RESERVE # \$7.00,  
# \$8.00, # \$10.00 prepaid box seats for Date.

Children 4-11, 1/2 price. (No performances (Mon. & Thurs.) Box Seat orders will be filled upon receipt of payment. Please send check or money order payable to the **Elna M. Smith Foundation**. (No credit cards)

GROUPS of 12 or more: (Circle choice) #

Package A: 10% discount on \$7.00 and \$8.00 tickets.

Package B \$8.50: includes \$8.00 ticket and program.

\*Package C \$11.50: Includes \$8.00 ticket, program and admission to galleries and museum.

- A \$25.00 Group Deposit is enclosed.  
 Please seat us in the handicapped section.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Orders: Mail to:  
**Elna M. Smith Foundation**  
P.O. Box 471  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas  
72632-0471

(501) 253-9200

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



**Conference of the Deaf**—The Arkansas Baptist Conference of the Deaf registered more than 70 persons for its annual meeting May 5-7 at Camp Paron. The program featured workshops led by Wilbur C. Huckeba, pastor of the Cruselle-Freeman Church of the Deaf in Atlanta, Ga., and Chuck Tabor, director of deaf ministries for First Baptist Church in Greenwood. Joel Gordon of Jacksonville was elected president of the group for 1989-90. During the three-day meeting, the ABCD also voted to create a new auxiliary for deaf youth and elected Tabor to direct that effort.

ABSC photo / Glen Ennes



**State Youth Music Festival**—The State Youth Music Festival held at Life Line Church in Little Rock drew 43 entries from 19 churches across Arkansas. Recognized for Outstanding Performance were (left to right) Eric Dale, First Church, Nashville, senior high vocal solo; Nancy Tromater, First Church, Hope, handbell solo; Jamie Gilbert, Beech Street Church, Texarkana, junior high vocal solo; and Todd Brock, First Church, Atkins, senior high piano. Other entries receiving Outstanding Performance recognition were: Barnes/Moxley, vocal duet, Second Church, Monticello; and Living Free, junior high large ensemble, Beech Street Church, Texarkana. Seventeen entries received superior ratings, 18 received excellent, and eight received average.

## Classifieds

**For Sale**—Padded oak pews, good condition, \$10 per foot. Osage Baptist Church, 437-5159 or 437-5186. 5/18

**For Sale**—50 oak pews with cushions. Call 676-5136 (8:30-4:30). 5/25

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.



## Inn Towne

Little Rock's Newest  
Hotel Welcomes You!

\$44 single    \$48 double

- Group Rates Available
- Restaurant & Pool
- Meeting Facilities

600 Interstate 30  
Little Rock, AR 72202

501-375-2100    1-800-528-1234

## DON'T BUY AN AIR CONDITIONER FOR YOUR CHURCH OR BUSINESS!

(Lease one from Trane)

- No down payment
- Convenient monthly lease payments
- No maintenance or repair bills
- Lower utility bills with new high quality equipment
- More comfort!

For your closest participating  
Trane dealer, call Don Pipkins at:  
The Trane Company, 501-661-1950



50 million people take comfort in it

# Centennial Celebrated

## Special Services at First Church, North Little Rock

First Baptist Church of North Little Rock celebrated 100 years of ministry with special services Sunday, April 30.

One highlight of the observance was a proclamation from Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton which declared April 30 as First Baptist Church of North Little Rock Day. Arkansas Congressman Tommy Robinson presented the proclamation to the church, along with letters of congratulations from President George Bush, Former President Ronald Reagan, and Arkansas Senator David Pryor.

The day's events included a combined adult Sunday School class taught by Freddie Pike, director of the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, preached during the regular morning worship hour. A noontime luncheon in fellowship hall preceded an afternoon centennial celebration, which had the theme, "A Time to Remember."

Mrs. Marolyn Ford of Memphis, Tenn., was guest speaker for the afternoon service. She is the author of "These Blind Eyes Now See," which tells the story of her blindness and a subsequent healing which continues to defy medical explanation.

First Church has only two living former pastors. One of them, J.C. Myers of North Little Rock, was able to attend. Myers currently is pastor of First Baptist Church in

Wooster. The other former pastor, Roy Hilton of El Dorado, was unable to attend because of his wife's surgery.

The Church Choir of Bazing Cross Baptist Church in North Little Rock provided special music for the afternoon celebration.

Another centennial-related celebration was held the following Sunday, April 7. Ken Hatfield, head coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks football team, spoke during the morning worship. Mrs. Thelma Frith Bagby, a retired missionary, spoke during the evening service. Mrs. Bagby, who served with her husband for 35 years in Brazil, is one of two foreign missionaries who grew up in North Little Rock First Church. The other missionary is Annie Hoover, missionary to Japan.

First Baptist Church was organized in 1889. According to a brief history published in the centennial service bulletin, there were 10 members listed on the charter. In 1914, the congregation purchased several lots at the corner of 4th and Poplar streets, where they worshipped for 44 years. The current property, located at 4500 North Hills Boulevard, was purchased in 1968 and occupied the following year.

In 1980, the church held a noteburning service which marked the retirement of construction bonds two years earlier than originally planned.

Paul Daniel has served the congregation as pastor since 1985.

## Landry to Address Graham Rally

Tom Landry, one of the most successful coaches in the history of professional football, will be the featured speaker at a June 3 rally in Little Rock being sponsored by the Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade.

The former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, Landry will address this pre-crusade event from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, June 3, at Barton Coliseum on the Arkansas State Fairgrounds.

Advance tickets to the program are now available for \$5. Tickets at the door will be \$5. Tickets are available at the Crusade Office, 1120 Marshall, 4th Floor, Little Rock, AR 72202; at the State Fairgrounds ticket office; and at these area bookstores: Baptist Bible, 9101 W. Markham, Little Rock; Servants Quarters, 10020 N. Rodney Parkman, Little Rock; Lamplighter Christian, 6929 JFK, North Little Rock; Lamplighter Christian, 2821 Kavanaugh, Little Rock; Glover Bible, 5229 W. 65th, Little Rock.

For further information, call 375-1989.

## BSU Offers Help to Cadets

The United States Air Force Academy Baptist Student Union would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 28-29 on new basic cadets. They will meet the cadet's plane, provide lodging and transportation, and take the cadet to the Academy at the required time. If pastors, parents, friends, or the new cadets will contact the Academy BSU with name, address and telephone, the BSU will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information.

For more information contact: Dwain Gregory, U.S. Air Force Academy Baptist Student Union, 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919; telephone 719-599-9094.

Similar ministries are provided for those attending West Point or the Naval Academy. At West Point contact: Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520; telephone 914-534-7954. At the Naval Academy contact: Dick Bumpass, 201 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401; telephone 301-263-0965.



Royal  
Ambassadors

# CAMPS

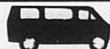
RA CAMP

June 19-23, 1989

LAD OVERNIGHTER

June 23-24, 1989

For more information, contact your RA leader or write: Brotherhood, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.



Quality  
Van Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches. 501-268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson, Butch Copeland.

# HO



***We are grateful for our readers. Your loyal support has helped us through an extremely difficult year. When our postage rates skyrocketed, you held the rope for us and helped us buy the time we needed to launch an advertising sales program to offset the losses. Many of you agreed to put the Arkansas Baptist in your church budgets. Those who could not afford that agreed to let us conduct a subscription campaign among your members. Still others began using the magazine cover for your church newsletter.***

***Because of your support, we expect the Arkansas Baptist to emerge from these difficult days a stronger and better publication. We pledge ourselves to work harder than ever to make the Arkansas Baptist a magazine you can be proud of. For your part, just keep holding the rope.***

# LD THE ROPE!

## Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Sunday, May 21, 1989

*How can you support the ministry of the Arkansas Baptist?*

- ★ *Read your magazine from cover to cover each week.*
- ★ *Tell a friend how important it is to keep informed about Southern Baptist missions through the Arkansas Baptist.*
- ★ *Ask your church to consider placing the ABN in its budget or allowing a subscription campaign to be conducted among your membership.*
- ★ *Pray for Editor J. Everett Sneed and his staff as they gather news from around the world and prepare each issue of the ABN. Pray particularly that God would help the ABN surmount the financial challenges which it faces.*

*For more information about individual subscriptions and discounts for groups and churches, contact the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 (telephone 501-376-4791) or see "Subscriber Services" on p. 16.*



## No Anti-Semitic Signal

by Joe Westbury  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board intends to continue dialogue with Jews, even though the agency declined to co-sponsor a recent Christian-Jewish workshop, HMB President Larry Lewis said.

Lewis made the clarification after two Southern Baptists charged the board with undermining interfaith relations by withdrawing from the 11th National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations. The event was held March 27-30 in Charleston, S.C.

In the past 18 years, the board's interfaith witness department has co-sponsored 15 dialogues with Jews. Support for this year's workshop was withdrawn after the agency's board of directors expressed concern about the selection of two of the Southern Baptist speakers, Lewis said.

The speakers in question were Nancy Hastings Schested, pastor of Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and Robert Maddox, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

In separate open letters to the HMB, Schested and former HMB employee George Sheridan, who also participated in the conference, accused the agency of

undermining interfaith dialogue with Jews by withdrawing from the workshop.

Schedsted charged the agency with sexism and "denigration of women ministers." Sheridan alleged the board withdrew support because Maddox had spoken at a conference of homosexuals while a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter.

Lewis denied those charges and said he regretted "misunderstandings" that resulted from the HMB administrative committee's decision to withhold sponsorship. Some members of that committee did not believe Schested and Maddox were representative of the majority of Southern Baptists, he said.

Lewis said HMB directors wanted to distance the agency from a meeting where Southern Baptist representation was limited to controversial personalities.

"We strongly endorse the workshop and intend to support it in the future," Lewis said. "Our withdrawal was an attempt to keep our agency from becoming further embroiled in continued controversy."

"The administrative committee felt it could not in good conscience support the program of this particular workshop. It was a one-time action that applied only to this event, and does not preclude Home Mission Board participation in future workshops."

## Roller Coaster Budget

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's combined ministry budget continued its roller coaster ride in April.

The SBC Cooperative Program received \$13,293,877 in April, a gain of 33.2 percent over April 1988, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

"For the first time this year, I am going to venture a projection of Cooperative Program receipts," Bennett said. "It is an optimistic forecast. If the trend continues—which I expect—I believe we will receive approximately \$140 million. This would mean that we would reach the basic budget goal of \$137.61 million and have more than \$2 million for capital needs. I would be greatly pleased."

"My prayer is that God will continue to bless Southern Baptists and that we will be faithful in giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program."

The April receipts were the third-best monthly total in the Cooperative Program's 64-year history. They were almost \$4 million more than March receipts, which were among the worst in the past five years.

Since the current fiscal year began last October, Cooperative Program monthly totals have dropped below totals for the same months the previous year four out of seven times. However, this fiscal year's budget boasts two of the three best single-month totals, and January-February was the best two-month combination ever.

April's income brought year-to-date receipts to \$81,361,763, Bennett said. That represents a gain of more than \$3.3 million over the same period last year, an increase of 4.25 percent.

To reach its \$145.6 million overall goal, Cooperative Program monthly receipts must average more than \$12.8 million for the balance of the fiscal year. To reach its \$137.61 million basic operating goal, the budget must take in more than \$11.2 million each month.

The Cooperative Program supports Southern Baptist missionary, evangelistic, educational and church-starting efforts around the globe. It is funded by individual Southern Baptists, who channel their money through churches and state Baptist conventions and on to the national and international causes.

## River Valley Carpets

- Commercial and residential carpet
- Floor tile and sheet vinyl
- Drop ship anywhere with or without installation
- Guaranteed materials and labor
- References available

For more information, call  
501-229-3432

**River Valley Carpets**  
Rt. 3 Box 258  
Dardanelle, AR 72834

## ELMER'S

1802 Jacksonville Highway  
North Little Rock

### PANTS SALE

Polyester Pants.....\$9.95  
Hubbard Stretch Jeans....\$14.95

### 30% OFF

Ladies' Sports Wear

## 945-1444

Open Monday-Saturday, 9 to 9

Visa MasterCard Discover

## PREMIER BUS & COACH SALES

*Transportation Specialists*



Located at  
Williamson Motor Company  
Hwy. 62 W.  
Green Forest, AR  
(501) 438-5865  
Alma, AR  
(501) 632-5506

# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### *Imitators of God*

by Michael D. Johnson, First Church, Pine Bluff

Basic passage: Ephesians 4:22-5:20

Focal passage: Ephesians 5:1-2

**Central truth:** The Christian is to follow the same kind of lifestyle which God himself would follow.

Babies are great imitators. One of the favorite games for a young preschooler is to play "copy cat"—mimicking and duplicating the words and actions of another. Through play, children act out their storybook characters in their make-believe worlds. Youth have movie, TV, and sports personalities they look up to. Adults have mentors and other individuals they admire and seek to be like.

In our study today, Paul encourages the Christian to settle for no less than God himself as a role model. Without a doubt this is the highest standard in all the world. Looking at the entire passage, let us briefly list the kind of lifestyle qualities which would be exemplified by an imitator of God:

- Always speak the truth (4:25).
- Not allowing anger to lead to sin (4:26).
- Engage in honest work (4:28).
- Use language that would lack any filthy or foul words; would not gossip, slander, or hurt another person (4:29).
- Life characterized by kindness, compassion, and forgiveness (4:32).
- Walk in love (5:2).
- Be moral in actions and speech (5:3-7).
- Use all opportunities for the good (5:16).
- Live according to the will of God (5:17).
- Life marked by the continuous filling of the Spirit (5:18).
- Praise God through music and expressions of gratitude (5:19).

Do you know godlike people who have these kind of qualities? Are they the kind of people you like being around? More personal, however, is the question of how you and I measure up against this list.

It is important to realize that God's grace does not require us to lived perfect lives, but God's demand requires us to make every effort to live a perfect life. This demand does not come from a desire to be controlling, but comes from a love so deep and encompassing that the perfect life was given freely so we might have eternal life.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## Life and Work

### *Call to Decision*

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

Basic passage: Joshua 24:2-5,13-15

Focal passage: Joshua 24:14-15

**Central truth:** Ultimately, each of us must choose whether or not we will serve God.

Joshua chose to serve God faithfully for a lifetime. Few men, if any, have set a more worthy example of obedience, consistency, and nobility of character than the son of Nun. Joshua realized, however, that each person must decide the direction of his own life and, hopefully, choose to serve the God of Israel. As he calls the people to this time of decision, he uses two powerful inducements to choose to serve God.

First of all, he reminds them of the goodness, grace, and mercy of God (Js. 24:1-13). The history of Israel is a history of the acts of a benevolent God of grace. God called Abram from the idolatry of the Chaldeans. He gave Abram a son, Isaac, in his old age. Isaac was given Jacob. Jacob was given 12 sons. Moses and Aaron, by God's power, led the offspring of Jacob's sons out of Egyptian slavery. God delivered the land of promise to them and gave them peace (Ps. 136).

Every day we must choose which god we will serve. I have an overwhelming sense of need to serve the God of Joshua, because he has been so good to me. As I look back over the years of my life, I see abundant evidence that the God of grace has enriched, blessed, and guided me.

Surely Southern Baptists, as a people, can sense God's direction, protective care, and past blessings. A recounting of his leadership from our beginning surely is in order during our critical time.

A second inducement to follow God is that of personal testimony. Joshua said that he and his family were going to serve God. As I look at people I admire and see the paths they have chosen, I am encouraged to choose the Lord. I also am reminded that my testimony and lifestyle should serve as encouragement to others to follow the Lord. Every believer is to be an instrument of God in his redemptive cause.

Joshua's strong stand also indicates to me the importance of the husband/father giving spiritual leadership to the family. Often today religion in the family is left to the wife/mother and children. The biblical example looks to men to lead their families.

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Bible Book

### *Standing Firm*

by Dianne Swaim, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 21:27-28,37-39; 22:20-22,25-29a

Focal passage: Acts 21:37-39; 25-29a

**Central truth:** How we respond to those opposing our faith will be a strong indication of the depth of our faith.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Ti. 1:7). These words were penned by a man who practiced them. Paul learned the answer to the question "Must a Christian be a doormat?" In today's study, we will see that Paul had mastered the art of balancing humility with power. He respectfully and courteously responded to those who were trying to take his life.

Losing our life as a result of persecution has probably never entered our modern American minds. But our faith is challenged daily—ridicule in social circles, job discrimination, isolation from non-Christian peers, and etc. If Paul used "power, love, and a sound mind" to respond to his would-be murderers, surely we can apply the same principles to our taunters.

Paul had just suffered such a severe beating by the people that he had to be carried up the stairs into the castle. Even in such a weakened state, Paul asks a simple question: "May I speak unto thee?" He did not demand his rights to be heard. Rather, he respected authority by asking permission to speak. Surprisingly, the very fact that he spoke Greek began the process that was to save his life. The chief captain immediately recognized that Paul was not who he thought he was. Paul confirms this mistaken identity by giving his credentials.

Paul, however, used wisdom in discerning what tactic to use with his accusers. In Acts 22:25, he took a stand for his rights. He was a Roman citizen and what they were about to do was unlawful. The chief captain, whose citizenship was a mere commodity, bought and paid for, realized that he was about to beat a Roman citizen by birth. This fact was enough for him!

Many times simply responding to those who oppose us with love and humility is enough. Others may need more persuasion. Taking a firm stand on our God-given rights is not wrong when it is tempered with love and humility.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Subscriber Services

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* offers subscription plans at three rates:

**Every Resident Family Plan** gives churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$5.52 per year for each subscription.

**A Group Plan** (formerly called the Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church.

### Are you moving?

Please give us two weeks advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address below and send to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

017557 C O M P  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCIAL ST. #400  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$6.12 per year.

**Individual** subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$6.99 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

**Changes of address** by individuals may be made with the above form.

**When inquiring** about your subscription by mail, please include the address label. Or call us at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to give us your code line information.

## WORLD

# Churches Repaired

## Joint Effort On Jamaican Hurricane Damage

by Eric Miller & Jim Burton  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Jamaica's lush green countryside once again gleams with metal roofs on Baptist churches, thanks to more than 500 Baptist volunteers from 17 states and Canada.

About 180 of the 286 Baptist churches on the Caribbean island sustained damage totaling about \$2 million during Hurricane Gilbert Sept. 12, 1988.

Jamaica was the first overseas volunteer missions project for Canadian Baptists, said Heather Steeves, national volunteer coordinator for the Canadian Baptist Federation. Cameron Byler, disaster relief coordinator for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, helped initiate Canadian involvement, and the federation worked through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in sending volunteers.

By late April, volunteers had refurbished 110 churches, 12 pastors' houses, one all-purpose building, one home for underprivileged girls, three teachers' cottages, one school and one vestry, said John Baxley, on-site project coordinator and trustee of the Brotherhood Commission.

Repair of the churches began Jan. 2 and is scheduled for completion May 20, said Baxley, a retired fast-food chain franchisee from St. Augustine, Fla. Heavily damaged churches were repaired first, he said.

Materials used in the project include 12,000 sheets of galvanized roofing, 7,000 16-foot boards and four tons of nails—carried on 10 tractor-trailer rigs and shipped from Miami to Jamaica. Bob Bishop, a Chiefland, Fla., builder, measured each damaged church to help order building materials.

The Foreign Mission Board spent \$200,000 in FMB disaster relief funds on Jamaican church reconstruction, said Boyd O'Neal of the board's volunteers-in-missions department. The board also sent 50 tons of beans, 25 tons of rice, five tons of dried milk, some cooking oil and baby food, all costing \$33,000.

In addition, Southern Baptists donated through the board about 43 tons of food, including flour, rice, beans, fruits, vegetables, meats, baby food, pasta, sugar, shortening, dried potatoes and canned milk.

Jamaican Baptists also have received food and money from the Baptist Missionary Society of London, Caribbean Baptist churches, the European Baptist Federation and Canadian Baptists, said Cawley

Bolt, general secretary of the Jamaican Baptist Union.

Many damaged churches were in need of extensive renovation before the hurricane, Bolt noted. It might have been years before congregations made those repairs, he said, adding, "All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord."

Jamaicans saw evidence of God at work when volunteers sometimes put new roofs up in four hours. Jamaicans stood in awe, hesitating to believe the speed at which the volunteers worked, Baxley said. One week, volunteers repaired 22 churches.

Reconstruction sites usually drew a crowd of church members and curious people, Baxley noted. Immediately following completion of a church, pastors conducted a thanksgiving service of singing, prayer, Scripture reading, testimonies and hugging.

Volunteers finished one church so quickly the "pastor complained that we didn't give time to draw a crowd before it was already over," Baxley said.

Overseas volunteer mission work had a profound effect on many volunteers. Some preached for the first time while in Jamaica.

"If I had my life to go back through, I'd be on the mission field right now," said Kenneth E. Jones, pastor of Welcome Home Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, N.C.

While Jones and his team were present, 11 Jamaicans made professions of faith in Christ, including a utility employee whom Jones witnessed to after the man came to turn on electricity at a church.

Jones said his team replaced roofs on two churches, and the Jamaican Baptists "were so overwhelmingly thankful for what we did. They just could not thank us enough" during a four-hour service. "They said it was a miracle from God."

Volunteers shared the gospel with Jamaicans who helped re-roof churches. "Volunteers find out that there is a lot more going on in the world than they have ever seen before" by seeing a developing nation firsthand, Baxley said. "So they want to come back and find out how they can be involved on a more full-time basis in missions."

By late April, 78 Canadian Baptists from eight provinces had worked in Jamaica, Steeves said. A waiting list developed after an advertisement called for volunteers to go "to work hard, pay your own way, take your own tools, food and tents, and make a difference."