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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

6-1-1989

June 1, 1989

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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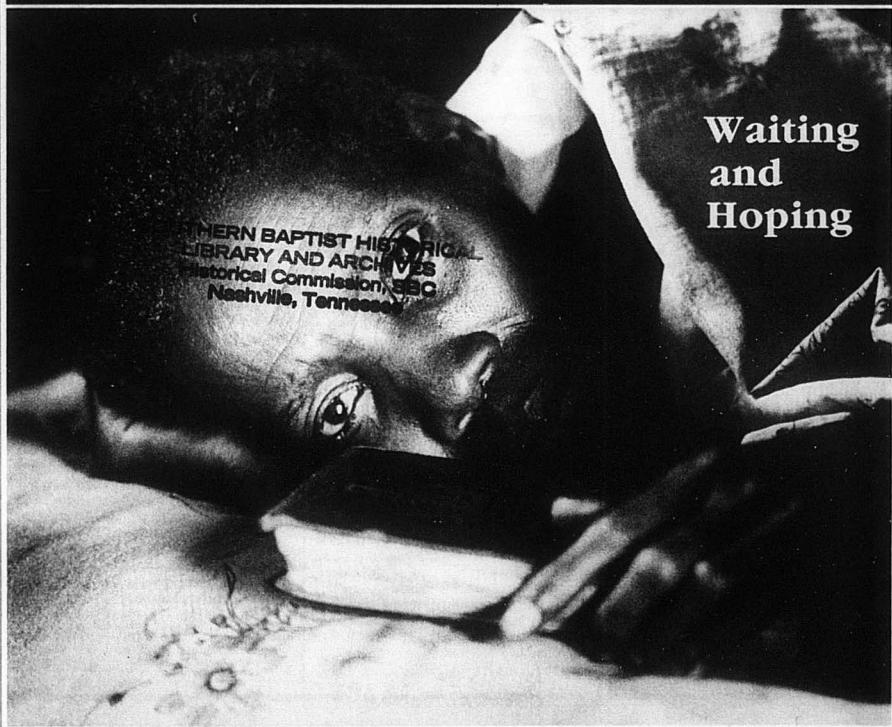


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Citizens Picket

Arkansas Baptist

June 1, 1989



Waiting
and
Hoping

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Cover Story



(BP) photo / Joanna Pinneo

Waiting and Hoping . 22-23

Even though AIDS has a death grip on Uganda, victims and Southern Baptist missionaries have not given up hope.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

New Life On Easter

DALLAS (BP)—Although zoning regulations and opposition by a local nightclub owner could have meant the premature demise of the new Parkway Hills Baptist Church in Carrollton, Texas, the congregation rose to life in an open-air service beneath a tent Easter morning.

Parkway Hills, a mission of First Baptist Church of Hebron, Texas, had been meeting as a Bible study for several weeks in the homes of core-group members, looking forward to its first worship service in a leased facility on Easter. The only problem was the building's proximity to a nightclub.

Pastor Samuel Dennis and representatives of the mission negotiated a lease and thought that everything was in order, even though they knew the building was within 300 feet of the nightclub.

"Of course, the ordinance originally was designed to protect churches, to keep a bar from building next to them," said Dennis. The congregation soon discovered the law cut both ways when the nightclub owner contested the church's lease.

"The nightclub owner said, 'I don't want a church going in there. They'll hurt my business,'" said Dennis. "I told her I'd gladly exchange members with her if she wanted to."

Rather than create bad publicity and hard feelings by fighting the nightclub owner, Parkway Hills decided to find another location. Within 10 days, a new meeting site was secured for an outdoor Easter Sunday service, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas loaned the church a tent for shelter.

"I stood out all alone out there at 9:15 on Easter morning. It was my first time to ever pastor a church, and I wasn't sure anyone was coming," said Dennis.

His spirits were lifted when a member of the core group arrived with a boutonniere in his lapel, announcing that he was ready to serve as an usher and help park cars. Within a short time, 114 people gathered under the tent for a worship service.

Parkway Hills currently is meeting each Sunday at an automobile dealership, but a church committee already is investigating the possibility of purchasing a building site in southeastern Denton County.

GOOD NEWS!

When God Makes The Difference

Judges 6

"Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" (Jg. 6:1, NASB). Once again, Israel had to suffer the results of their sin; and they were given in to the hands of the Midianites. Once again, God raised a judge. This time it was Gideon. The same patterns existed: rebellion, retribution, repentance, and restoration.

God spoke to Gideon: "Go in this your strength" (v. 14, NASB). This statement was a surprise to Gideon; for he knew that he was an unworthy, incapable man (v. 15).

Gideon's strength alone was inadequate—He reminded the Lord that he was from the family of the least in Manasseh. Not only was he of the poorest family, but he was also the youngest of all the children. Why not choose the eldest, the one with the family blessing? Why not choose the eldest child of the most powerful family in Manasseh? "There was a leaning to the arm of flesh in all this. 'Proud humility' is a fearful bane of the soul. It apes the most retiring and modest graces

of the Spirit; but it usurps the throne and sovereignty of Jehovah. Under its mask Satan robs believers of their comfort and the Church of its zeal."

Gideon merely mimicked the people of Israel as they refused to claim the Promised Land (Nm. 13-14). After all, they were a weak little nation of "grasshoppers" who were incapable of battling the "giants" of the new land (Nm. 13:33).

Gideon's strength with God's power was adequate—Gideon did have weaknesses, but he also had some strengths and talents that, when dedicated to God, brought success.

Today we are led to believe that the strongest, smartest, and most skilled persons or team always wins. Therefore, we reason that our strength, wisdom, and talents are so small we are doomed to defeat. Gideon could say Midian was stronger; but with Gideon's dedicated strength and God's presence, his small army defeated the superior Midianites. God made the difference.

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

God never gives us a burden or a challenge but what he gives answers and solutions. One of my heaviest burdens as a leader of our state convention is the question of what to do to help churches reduce the conflicts that arise between pastors and deacons, pastors and staff, deacons and church members, and rival groups within the church.

The most common way of dealing with church conflict is to ignore it until it explodes. At that point, eradication of one or more parties from the fellowship is about the only solution acceptable. Since church members are somewhat permanent due to financial and personal ties, they must either change their membership or discontinue church attendance.

The pastor or staff person usually has no property, no family, and they can be replaced readily, that the easiest way to eliminate their presence is to terminate them. Since there are three preachers for every pulpit in the Southern Baptist Convention, a church can easily find a replacement. The pastor or staff person has lost their source of livelihood, their self-esteem, their circle of friends, their housing, and suffered the most painful experience of rejection. Only God knows what this does to the witness of the church in the community and what it does to the children of the pastor or staff person so terminated.

Can't something be done? Something must be done!

In a few weeks one-fourth of our churches will be surveyed to discern the extent of the problem. The pastor, a deacon and Sunday School worker will be asked to complete this brief survey anonymously. If you should be one of those receiving a survey, please help us by completing it and returning it to us promptly. Perhaps we can then begin to develop ways to help our churches avoid the tragedies that are happening so often.

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



Woman's Viewpoint

The Appointment Process

HOPE OVERTON

The Foreign Mission Board doesn't call people to missions—God does. One of the main jobs of the board, however, is to help those who feel called to be sure in their decision. As prospective missionaries we found the board personnel supportive. This support network made our journey through the process easier. We also found the process exciting, encouraging, exhausting and exhilarating. Exhausting because of what seemed like an endless amount of paper work and forms. Exhilaration came from knowing we were in God's will.

Growth is also a very real part of the missionary process. We had to put into writing exactly what we believed about God, Jesus,



the Holy Spirit, the church, the Bible, the Cooperative Program and our relationship with each of these. Growth came as a result. I now have a deeper understanding and awareness of my Christianity and why I have chosen to be a Baptist.

Physicals, psychiatric examinations, book reports, personal interviews, group meetings, a candidate conference and seven weeks of orientation—all of these are a part of the process. Each one is an important step in the growth and

development of a missionary. For some, the process may take as long as five years or more. For others, like us, it may take as little as 10 months after the initial contact with the board. It depends on the amount of education and the amount of experience you may need for a particular field.

I have always felt a strong call from God to serve him in a foreign country. Now I can do it with my family in Equatorial Brazil. Becoming a missionary has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life. Choosing to do it through our Foreign Mission Board was the smartest.

Hope Overton will soon be serving as a missionary to Equatorial Brazil. She and her husband, Ken, have two children.



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Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention (in suit), joined Heber Springs picketers May 13 in front of the only store in Cleburne County to continue selling pornography.

PORNOGRAPHY

Citizens Picket

A group of approximately 150 people representing 15 churches of several denominations have been picketing the single store in Heber Springs, Moonlight Market, that continues to sell pornographic magazines. Other stores have ceased doing so at the request of this group, Citizens for Decency in Cleburne County, under the leadership of David Miller, director of missions of the Little Red River Association.

The group began picketing the business the first day of May. Three shifts of people have been doing this, carrying anti-pornography signs, every day except Sunday. On Monday through Friday, picketers march three times daily, expressing their displeasure and regret. On those days, they picket from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. They have been picketing the business on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, joined the group Saturday, May 13 and Bob Parker, director of the ABSC Christian Life Council, did so Thursday afternoon, May 18. Both have expressed hope that this action by church people in the Heber Springs area will encourage others over Arkansas to do likewise in their communities. Doing this

is not pleasant work by any means, but neither are the sometimes tragic results of the use of pornographic materials, pictured or written.

In Dr. James Dobson's recent interview with Ted Bundy, serial killer of women and children, Bundy confessed that pornography, along with alcohol, contributed to the brutal crimes he committed and for which he was later executed in Florida.

The Christian Civic Foundation, under the direction of John Finn, the Christian Life Council, and the American Family Association, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803, are three resource agencies Christian leaders might call on for assistance and encouragement in doing something about the fast growing addictive problem of pornography in Arkansas. Don't forget, the best way for evil to progress is for good men and women to do nothing but gripe about problems. Continue to pray for David Miller and the picketers in Heber Springs and pray also for God to raise up leaders where you live to actually do something.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Pr. 14:349).

—Bob Parker, ABSC Christian Life Council

Letters to the Editor

Why Falwell?

I believe your article, "What of Politics," should be a must reading for those in position of Christian leadership. My question is, why do we have an independent Baptist pastor, in the person of Jerry Falwell, on our program in Las Vegas?

Without question he is very political, does not support our convention, and pleads for money from all sources, including Southern Baptists. I believe we have enough good, dedicated Southern Baptist pastors and laymen to meet our every need. To many of us, Jerry Falwell is a poor choice because of his political views.—W.H. Peel, El Dorado

Exercise Control

Your medical book or encyclopedia will tell you some interesting things. When the seed from your father and mother joined, you were one cell with all 46 human chromosomes. If we could have read the genes in your chromosomes, we could have known your sex, color of your eyes, and hair, your body build, blood type, and RH factor. All you needed was nutrition and time to become a full-grown person. You were your own unique living human. You had all your inheritance from your parents.

When you had grown for three months, you were complete though only one ounce and three inches long. Your heart was beating, your brain waves could be recorded. You could squint, swallow, make a fist, suck your thumb, had fingerprints and kicked. You were sensitive to heat, touch, light, noise, pain, sweet, sour. All human body systems are working.

Abortion stops the growth of a living human. The child dodges the abortion toll and lets out a silent scream when torn. The doctor drops them into a wastebasket to starve to death. Some cry.

Your family Bible tells you that God expects women and men to exercise control over their bodies. If they do not, God calls it fornication, adultery, incest, and sodomy—sin.

We are to love God with all our hearts, soul, mind, and body, and love other humans as ourselves.

Can you hear the screams of 4,000 babies aborted every day in America? God does!—Russell L. Curry, Bentonville

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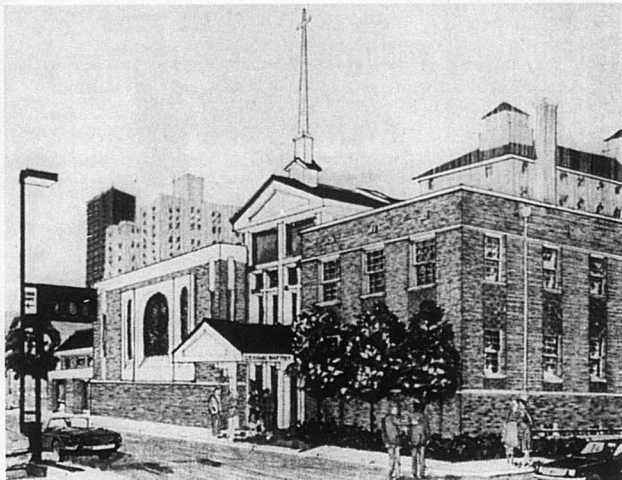
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Second Baptist Church in Little Rock will dedicate the renovation of its worship and educational facilities at 10:50 a.m. on Sunday, June 11. The \$2 million project featured the construction of a new four-story atrium connecting the sanctuary and the educational building. The extensive sanctuary renovation included new pews and baptistry and sophisticated new computerized lighting and sound systems. Also renovated were classrooms, the music suite, the fellowship hall, and the church kitchen. Billy White is pastor of the congregation.

gratulations!

We congratulate Second Baptist Church of Little Rock for the beautiful renovation of its facilities. We believe it will serve as an inspiration and source of comfort for generations to come. Those of us who were contractors on the project were delighted to have the opportunity to be of service to the congregation. All of us appreciate the fine contribution Second Baptist Church makes to the Little Rock community.

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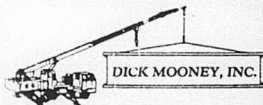
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Haiti Needs Change

by Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Cellilion Alteme believes a profession of faith in Christ means a new lifestyle.

The pastor of a Haitian Baptist mission in New Orleans illustrated that belief when he delayed baptizing a young couple who made a profession of faith in the new mission.

"Two are awaiting baptism until they become married," he explained. "They were living together before making professions of faith and have continued in that lifestyle. I have explained they must show a change as a result of their profession."

In the meantime, Alteme is nurturing them and helping them to understand the Christian life.

The mission pastor is a native of Haiti and grew up in a Christian family. He is in New Orleans to earn a degree in biblical studies with a goal of completing a doctorate in theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

While working with a Haitian mission group at New Orleans' Central Baptist Church, Alteme became aware of other Haitians living across the city who were not attending worship.

He started home Bible studies in various houses in eastern New Orleans and discovered a few Christians.

"The director of the YMCA was a member of the Haitian association and provided me a list of names and addresses. However, we really do not know how many Haitians live in New Orleans because many are not identified that way," he said.

The ministry has expanded to include worship services at Lake Forest Baptist Church, in addition to home Bible studies.

Each Sunday Haitian and American children attend Sunday school together because they have a common language. French-speaking Haitian adults meet separately with Alteme for Bible study. Haitian worship includes the entire family meeting in the church's fellowship hall,

while the English congregation worships in the sanctuary.

The 33-year-old single Haitian made a profession of faith when he was 11 years old. He is one of nine children, with three brothers and five sisters. His father is a farmer who sent his children to a private school because of the superior education.

Since coming to the United States, Alteme has earned the bachelor of arts degree from Warner Southern College in Lake Wales, Fla. He came to New Orleans Seminary because Mike Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Frostproof, Fla., recommended the school.

Elie Woerner, associate director of the Louisiana Baptist language missions department, said Alteme was enlisted as pastor of New Orleans' second Haitian mission because Haitians were living too far apart in the city to be included in one mission

program.

Alteme would like to return to Haiti to minister after he receives his education: "The more education I receive, the more I feel I'm in God's will. Although many in Haiti do not know how to read and write, I can minister to anyone. One of the ministries can be to raise the level of education and understanding."

Baptists are the second-largest religious group in his native country. "Southern Baptists provide the best leadership in Haiti, which makes churches effective. Congregations range in size from 100 to more than 1,000," he noted.

The Haitian mission he serves has an average attendance of nearly 30 people in worship and about 20 in church training. Sunday school attendance averages about 13.

Until Alteme returns to his native country he plans to continue preaching the gospel and ministering to the French-speaking Haitians in New Orleans.

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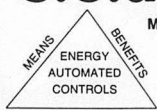
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'Pray and Send'

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The most important thing that Southern Baptists can do for our work in Europe is to pray and send those whom God has called to serve in our area. It is better to send people to France than to send financial aid. People will pray for people when they will not pray for the dollars that have been sent," declared Leo de Lepper, pastor of the Toures Baptist Church of Toures, France. Recently de Lepper toured the United States to observe Southern Baptist work.

Currently the Gerald Taylors are in language school at Toures, and de Lepper reports that they are doing well. The Taylors formerly served First Church, Sherwood, Life Line Church, Little Rock, and Trinity Church, El Dorado. De Lepper said, "The Taylors appreciate the prayers of Arkansas Baptists as they work to learn a new language and new customs."

Recently the Taylors led a young girl from Australia who is a student at Toures to the Lord. De Lepper observed, "the Taylors are not just students learning a language and customs but they are active in evangelism and edification while they are studying."

The Toures church is located in the central area of France. Toures is where all Southern Baptist missionaries go to learn French who will be serving French speaking countries. Toures also is a large university center.

The Baptist church in Toures is small, with approximately 100 members. There are only 80 Baptist churches in all of France with a membership of about 6,000.

The Toures church is strategically located. In addition to its regular members it serves approximately 10 missionary families on a regular basis and serves a large number of international students.

De Lepper observes that the Baptist work in France is very difficult. God has been rejected just as has the Roman Catholic Church. Approximately 85 percent of the population is Catholic, but many are only nominal Catholics. Many are like the former president who said, "I am an atheist, but of course I'm also a Catholic."

De Lepper said, "It is more ignorance of the gospel than it is rejection. However, it is extremely difficult to make people see the relevance of knowing God in a personal way for daily living."

De Lepper indicated that he was brought up, as most French people are, as a Catholic. But while he was living in South America, he became totally disenchanted with the Catholic Church because of the wealth of the church and the poverty of the people. At this point in his life, de Lepper called himself "an atheist." He said, "I was not a militant atheist. It was primarily a matter of convenience."

When de Lepper was approximately 30 years of age, he began a study regarding the existence of God. It was at this time that

he met an American missionary named Jarod Buingeng, who now is retired in Indiana. While studying with the missionary, he accepted the gospel and became a Christian. He said, "This is why I am truly grateful for the Baptists of America. They have not kept the gospel but they wish to share its truths and the happiness that it produces with others."

De Lepper attended a Bible Institute which was also founded by an American missionary. At first, de Lepper felt that God wanted him to be a missionary. But later he discovered that God wanted him to remain in France and to present the gospel to his own people.

De Lepper emphasized that he did not come to America to seek money for the many needs that exist in France and in Europe. He said, "The Baptist missionaries are doing an excellent work. There are, however, many cities of 50,000 or more where there is no evangelical witness at all. So the pastors and missionaries need the prayers of Christians in America."

De Lepper expressed his gratitude for the assistance that is being provided by Southern Baptists. He said, "I want to say thank you to American Baptists. The Baptists of Europe are grateful for the missionaries that have been sent to us and for the schools and training opportunities that are being provided for our national pastors."

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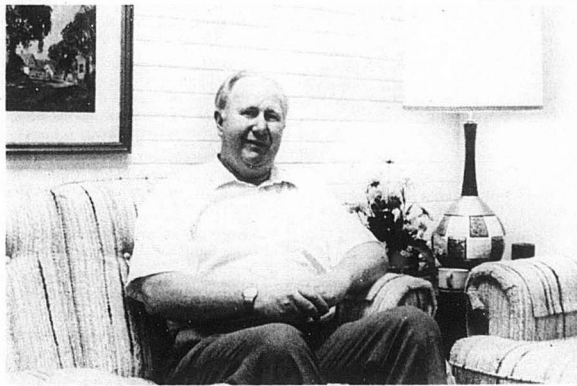
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Leo de Lepper is pastor of the Toures Baptist Church of Toures, France.

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Rev. and Mrs. W.W. Dishongh will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 11 with a reception from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in their home at 4 Lakeside Drive in Little Rock. The couple was married June 11, 1939, in Edgefield Church in Waco, Texas. They are parents of two daughters, Frances Turner of Alphoretta, Ga., and Laura Harrell of Atlanta, Ga. They have two grandsons. Dishongh has completed 48 years in the preaching ministry, having served in Arkansas, Texas, and Illinois. He currently is serving as a chaplain, associated with the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Gary Arnold has resigned as pastor of Fellowship Southern Church in Harviell, Mo., effective June 4 to enter full-time evangelism. He may be contacted at Tri-County Baptist Camp, Route 1, Wynne, AR 72301 or telephone 501-238-9810.

Brian Choate joined the staff of Calvary Church in Little Rock June 1 as minister of youth, coming there from the staff of First Church in Sanger, Texas. A native of Jefferson City, Mo., he is a graduate of the University of Missouri and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Gayla Brown of Sanger, a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

W. Coy Sample will begin serving June 4 as pastor of First Church in Paragould. He has been serving this past year as missionary in residence for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention while he and his wife, Vivian, were furloughing from their foreign mission assignment in Africa.

Robert Lamar Puckett will join the staff of First Church in Mountain Home June 11 as minister of music, coming there from the First Church of Winnfield, La. A native of El Dorado, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served other churches in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. Puckett is married to the former Nancy McKnight. They have one daughter, Leslie Ann, age four.

Ray Granade, librarian at Ouachita Baptist University, has been elected vice-chairman of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Dishonghs



Arnold

Andrew M. Hall, retired pastor from Fayetteville, has been invited to preach June 4 at Pleasant Grove Church of Ferndale, where 50 years ago this summer, at age 18, he was called to his first pastorate.

Mitchell Odom of Parks has been called as pastor of Ridgeview Church in Fayetteville, effective June 4.

Lowell Ponder will conclude his service as interim pastor of Ridgeview Church in Fayetteville June 4.

Richard Walker has resigned as pastor of First Church in Lantana, Fla. He and his wife, Bea, who are native Arkansians, will return as missionaries to Brazil.

Cynthia Hutcherson, a freshman from Monette, was named "Student Employee of the Year" by the staff of Marriott Food Service, operators of the Gwinup Cafeteria on the campus of Southern Baptist College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doless Hutcherson of Monette.

Rev. and Mrs. Forrest Bynum will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary June 3 with an open house at their home in Norfolk. The event will be hosted by their children. Bynum, who has served as a Southern Baptist pastor for 35 years, has been pastor of First Church of Norfolk for eight years.

Linda Fleming recently was recognized by Immanuel Church in Little Rock for seven years of service as church hostess.

Toby Tally, a junior religion major at Ouachita Baptist University, has joined the staff of First Church in Warren as summer youth and children's intern. He is a native of Gurdon.

Jack Graham of West Palm Beach, Fla., is serving as pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas. A native of Conway, he has previously pastored churches in Oklahoma and Texas.

Bill Elder has resigned as pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock to serve as pastor of Vestavia Hills Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Rickey Sherman is serving as pastor of Lambrook Church. A native of Clinton, Miss., he attended Blue Mountain Bible College. Sherman and his wife, Jerolyn, have two daughters, Lori, eight, and Audrey, four.

Bob Foster is serving as pastor of Gum Springs Church at Siloam Springs, coming there from Charity Church.

Bruce Stone has resigned as pastor of Pine Grove Church at Pocahontas.

W.G. Davis has resigned as pastor of First Church of Palestine.

E. Clay Polk, pastor of Holly Grove Church at Rector, will observe 60 years of service as an ordained Southern Baptist minister June 4.

Charles Chesser has completed his service as interim pastor at First Church in Ward.

Gertha Still has been awarded a pin for 31 years of perfect Sunday School attendance at the Tomahawk Church in White River Association.

Bob Gray recently was recognized by First Church in Blytheville for six years of service as minister of education.

Robert Rainwater has resigned as pastor of 16th Street Church in North Little Rock following eight years of service.

Jerry Wiles, vice president for development at Southern Baptist College, was in London, England, May 15 to deliver an address at the European Religious Broadcasters annual convention.

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana recently recognized Judith Crouch for seven years of service as education secretary.

Bill Kreis of Conway is serving as pastor of Bono Church at Damascus.

Red Baker has announced his retirement as pastor of Emmanuel Church in Conway, effective June 26.

Jim Wallis recently observed his fifth anniversary of service as pastor of Lowell Church.

Robert Sanders of New Morrow Church received his diploma in Christian ministry

May 26 from Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky.

Daniel Sweet, a junior at Ouachita Baptist University, will serve Pine Bluff First Church as summer youth minister.

Briefly

Olivet Church in Little Rock honored Pastor Timothy L. Deahl May 21 in recognition of his second anniversary of service.

Prescott First Church has launched a fundamentals of music class and a youth choir as two new ministries.

Nimmons Church celebrated its 50th anniversary May 7. Guest speaker was W.O. Taylor, age 98, who was director of missions when the church was organized. Henry C. Hornbuckle is pastor.

Immanuel Church in Little Rock hosted a luncheon May 11 for which Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in Dunwoody, Ga., was speaker. Vestal will be

nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas.

Northeast Church in Fayetteville has voted to build an activities building that will house classrooms, a nursery, kitchen, a half-court basketball and volleyball court. The building also will be used for children's church and a fellowship hall.

Weiner First Church will observe homecoming June 25 when former members and pastors will be special guests.

Cotton Plant First Church held a fifth Sunday hymn sing April 30. Immediately following the service, a church-wide fellowship and pounding was held in fellowship hall to honor Pastor Les Battles in recognition of two years of service.

Harvard Avenue Church in Siloam Springs held a Bible conference May 21-24 with Dennis Cottrell as leader.

Springdale First Church junior and senior high school choirs have planned summer mission trips to St. Louis, where they will be conducting backyard Bible clubs for the Garden Church, Bellefontaine Church, First Church of Crestwood, and Berkeley Grace Church.

Wooster Church ordained Bob Johnson to the preaching ministry May 14.

Good Hope Church at McCrory observed homecoming May 21. Kenneth Dewitt was speaker.

Farmington First Church observed its 40th anniversary April 30 with homecoming. Program personalities for an afternoon service were John Wall, Pastor Hal Henson, Sam Cheatham, Jewell Mitchell, Ronnie Bedford, Oleta Wilson, John P. Wilson, Yvonne Hutchison, Vicki Bedford, Bob Yancey, and former pastors Walter Jesser and Jack Bedford.

Rogers Immanuel Church honored the women of the church May 12 with an appreciation banquet which was prepared by the men of the church. Dennis Swanberg, pastor of Second Church in Hot Springs, was speaker.

Greenbrier First Church broke ground May 28 for an addition which will house eight classrooms, a kitchen, and a fellowship hall. Kenny Bunch is pastor.

Golden Celebrates 25 Years

Calvary Church in Benton will honor Pastor Oscar N. Golden and his wife, Betty, with a reception June 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. in recognition of 25 years of service there.

Golden has guided the Benton church in both a relocation program and in a three-phase building program, now valued at \$750,000. In addition, he led in the sponsorship of a mission, now Temple Church, south of Benton. In his 25 years of service, there have been 595 people baptized and 912 other additions to the church membership.

A native of Arkadelphia, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Central Baptist Seminary. He has served churches in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. He is a retired National Guard Chaplain.

The Golden's have three daughters and three grandchildren.



Golden

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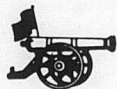


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Tentative 1990 Arkansas Baptist State Convention Diary

January

- 2-5 "At Home Week," Baptist Building
- 4-5 Staff Retreat, DeGray Lodge
- 6 Baptist Men's Teleconference
- 8 SBC Spring Registration
- 13 RA Counselor Fellowship, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 14 Soul Winning Commitment Day
- 16 OBU Spring Registration
- 18 Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 18 Race Relations Conference
- 19 Baptist Building Banquet, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 21 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 22-23 Media Library Conference, Central, N. Little Rock
- 27 Youth Leaders CLC Workshop, Little Rock
- 28 Baptist Men's Day
- 29-30 State Evangelism Conference, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 31 New Member Training Workshop, Baptist Building
- 31-2/2 BSU Directors Conference, St. John's, Little Rock

February

- 4 Baptist World Alliance Sunday
- 5 State VBS Clinic, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 6-7 ASSIST Team Training, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 9-10 State Lay Renewal Workshop, Levy, N. Little Rock
- 11 Race Relations Sunday
- 11-17 Focus on WMU
- 12 Revival Music Clinic, First, Hermitage
- 15 Day of Prayer & Fasting—"Here's Hope" Revivals
- 15 Christian Social Ministries Workshop, Little Rock
- 16-17 SBC Homecoming
- 17 Youth Leaders CLC Workshop, Arkadelphia
- 18-21 Home Mission Study
- 19-21 National Bapt. Doctrine Study, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 23-24 Single Adult Conference, Second, Little Rock
- 23-24 Volunteer/PT Music Leader Conference, Camp Paron
- 25 Volunteers in Missions Day
- 28-3/2 DOM Retreat, DeGray Lodge

March

- 1 DOM Recognition Banquet
- 2-3 State Recreation Conference, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 4-11 Week of Prayer for Home Missions
- 8-10 Interfaith Witness Training, OBU
- 9-10 Handbell Choir Festival, Geyer Springs, Little Rock
- 9-10 HSBYM Basketball Tournament, Park Hill/Immanuel
- 11 Day of Prayer—"Here's Hope" Revivals
- 11-18 Youth Week
- 12-13 Pastor's Retreat, Camp Paron
- 15 Day of Prayer & Fasting—"Here's Hope" Revivals
- 16-17 State WMU Annual Meeting, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock
- 17 Assoc. Baptist Youth Night
- 18-4/08 Here's Hope Revivals
- 19-22 Church Building Tour
- 23 Christian Civic Foundation Day
- 23-24 State Building Conference, Markham Street, Little Rock
- 23-25 BSU Leadership Training Conference, Camp Paron
- 25 Start-a-Church Commitment
- 26 NW District Bible Drills, First, Huntsville
- 26 SW District Bible Drills, First, Hope
- 27 WC District Bible Drills, First, Booneville
- 27 SE District Bible Drills, First, Warren
- 29 NC District Bible Drills, First, Mountain View
- 29 NE District Bible Drills, Central, Jonesboro
- 30 EC District Bible Drills, Wynne
- 30 Central District Bible Drills, Olivet, Little Rock

April

- 6-7 Resort Missions Conference, Camp Paron
- 8 Cooperative Program Day
- 10 PACT Awareness Conference, Little Rock
- 13 Youth Convention, Statehouse Convention Center
- 14 Youth Leaders CLC Workshop, Fayetteville
- 16 Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, OBU
- 16-17 New Pastor/Staff Orientation, Baptist Building
- 16-20 Baptist Doctrine Study Week
- 17 Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, Geyer Springs, Little Rock
- 18 Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, SBC Walnut Ridge
- 19 Inter-Agency Meeting, SBC, Walnut Ridge
- 19-20 Minister of Education Retreat, Excelsior Hotel
- 19-20 Youth Ministry Conference, Excelsior Hotel
- 20 Multi-Family Housing Blitz, Little Rock
- 20-21 "Ministry/Youth in Crisis" Conference, Excelsior Hotel
- 20-21 BSU Volleyball Tournament
- 21 Young Musicians Choir Festival, First, Rogers; First, Wynne; First, Little Rock, First, Hope; First, Warren
- 22 District Youth Music Festival
- 22 Life Commitment Sunday
- 22 Baptist Men's Day of Prayer, Arkadelphia
- 23-24 Key Leader Meeting, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 27-28 RA Congress, OBU
- 27-28 Acteens Encounter, Markham Street, Little Rock
- 30 Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday
- 30-5/2 Music Excellence Conference, First, Springdale

May

- 1 Get In Touch-Keep in Touch, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 4 National Day of Prayer
- 4-5 Pastor-Deacon Conference, Little Rock
- 4-5 Senior Adult Sing 'N' Share, First, Eureka Springs
- 5 Mission VBS/Backyard Clinic, Levy, N. Little Rock
- 6 Senior Adult Day
- 6-13 Christian Home Week
- 7-8 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, DeGray Lodge
- 11 SBC Commencement
- 12 OBU Commencement
- 12 Youth Leaders CLC Workshop, Harrison
- 12 Youth Music Festival, Second, Little Rock
- 13 Child Care-Mother's Day Offering
- 14-15 Church Planting Conference, Camp Paron
- 14-18 MasterLife Workshop, OBU
- 17-19 Regional Instrumental Workshop, Clinton, Miss.
- 17-20 Campers on Mission Rally
- 18-19 GA Mother Daughter Camps, Camp Paron
- 18-19 DiscipleYouth Workshop, OBU
- 20 SBC Baptist Radio & TV Commencement Sunday
- 20 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Day of Prayer
- 21-23 Senior Adult Celebration, OBU
- 21-27 Associational Emphasis Week
- 29-6/1 Summer Missionaries Orientation, Mills Valley Retreat
- 31-6/1 Summer Missionaries Supervisors Conference, Mills Valley Retreat

June

- 1-2 GA Mother Daughter Camp, Camp Paron
- 2 Disaster Relief Training, Little Rock
- 3 Religious Liberty Sunday
- 4 OBU Summer Term Begins
- 12-14 Southern Baptist Convention, New Orleans, La.
- 18-22 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 18-22 RA Camp, Camp Paron
- 18-22 Super Summer, OBU

- 22-23 Man and Boy Camp, Camp Paron
- 24 Annuity Board Sunday
- 25-26 Parenting/Minister's Home, Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock
- 25-29 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 25-29 Young Musicians Camp, OBU

July

- 1 SBC Christian Citizenship Sunday
- 2-6 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 9 OBU Second Summer Term Begins
- 9-10 Mid-Summer Retreat for Summer Missionaries, OBU
- 9-11 GA Mini Camp, Camp Paron
- 9-13 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 9-13 Church Building Tour
- 11-13 GA Mini Camp, Camp Paron
- 16-20 National Baptist Boys Camp
- 16-20 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 19-21 HSBYM Primitive Camp, Cotter Camp
- 20-21 BSU Advisory Committee/Director Meeting, Little Rock
- 23-24 Family Enrichment Workshop, Parkway Place, Little Rock
- 23-27 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 23-27 National Baptist Girl's Camp
- 23-27 Music Arkansas for Youth, OBU
- 23-27 Senior Adult SummerSung, OBU
- 28 Assoc. Brotherhood Dir. Meeting, Little Rock
- 30-8/1 BSU Outreach Coordinator, UALR
- 30-8/3 National Baptist Ladies Camp

August

- 2-3 Weekday Early Education Workshop
- 2-4 SBC Junior High Jamboree
- 3-4 Pastor-CT Director Workshop, BMC Plaza Hotel, Little Rock
- 3-4 DiscipleYouth Workshop, SBC
- 5 On-to-College Day
- 5 Day of Prayer for World Peace
- 7 DOM Update Meeting, First, Little Rock
- 10-11 Children's Choir Leader Workshop, Life Line, Little Rock
- 10-11 Assoc. CT Leadership Conference, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 12 SBC Language Missions Day
- 13-15 Building Witnessing Relationships, Camp Paron
- 13-16 Advanced Church Secretary's Seminar, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 13-16 Basic Church Secretary's Seminar, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 17-18 Assoc. WMU Officers' Retreat, Camp Paron
- 17-18 Volunteer/PT Music Leader Workshop, SBC
- 18 SE AR SS Conf./Smaller Membership, Second, Monticello
- 18 SW AR SS Conf./Smaller Membership, Ridgeway, Nashville
- 20 State Growth Spiral Workshop, Central, N. Little Rock
- 21 SBC Fall Registration
- 24-25 Baptist Bookstore Reading Session, Little Rock
- 27 IMPACT 90, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 27-28 Family Ministry Conference, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 28 OBU Fall Registration
- 28-29 IMPACT 90, Calvary, West Memphis
- 30 IMPACT 90, East Side, Paragould

September

- 1 CLC Youth Leaders Workshop, Paragould
- 2-8 Brotherhood Leadership Week
- 6-8 Smaller Membership Evangelism Conference, Life Line, Little Rock
- 6-9 Campers on Mission Rally
- 7 Furloughing Missionaries Orientation, Baptist Building,
- 8 Baptist Youth Day, Magic Springs, Hot Springs
- 9 Single Adult Day
- 10 IMPACT 90, Grand Avenue, Fort Smith
- 11-12 IMPACT 90, First, Fayetteville
- 12 SBC Founder's Day

- 13 IMPACT 90, East Side, Mountain Home
- 14-15 BSU State Council Retreat, UALR
- 14-15 Adult Choir Retreat, Baptist Med Center, Little Rock
- 14-15 CPA Pastors & Wives Retreat, Petit Jean Lodge
- 17-19 SBC Annual Bible Conference
- 17-21 Season of Prayer for State Missions
- 21-22 State Sunday School Convention, Geyer Springs, Little Rock
- 24 Music in Evangelism Workshop, Open Door, Rogers
- 24 IMPACT 90, First, Arkadelphia
- 25-26 IMPACT 90, Central, Magnolia
- 27 IMPACT 90, First, Monticello
- 27 Baptist Men's Golf Tournament, Rebsamen Golf Course
- 27-28 Large Church Evangelism Conference, DeGray Lodge
- 29 NW AR SS Conf./Smaller Membership, First, Farmington
- 29 NE AR SS Conf./Smaller Membership, SBC
- 30-10/7 Sunday School Preparation Week

October

- 1-4 National CWT Seminar, Markham Street, Little Rock
- 5-6 BVo/Single Staff Pastor Conference, Olivet, Little Rock
- 5-6 Church Recreators Retreat, DeGray Lodge
- 5-7 BSU State Convention, Little Rock
- 6 Volunteer/PT Music Leader Conference, First, Smackover
- 7 SBC Bold Mission Thrust Launch
- 8-10 Youth Minister SS/Evang Workshop, DeGray Lodge
- 8-12 Arkansas SR Adult Chautauqua, Ridgcrest
- 12-13 Tri-State Camp-O-Rec, Memphis, Tenn.
- 13 Youth Leaders CLC Workshop, Russellville
- 14 SBC World Hunger Day
- 18 January Bible Study Clinic, Baptist Building, Little Rock
- 18-19 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Paron
- 18-19 Music Men/Singing Women Retreat, OBU
- 19-20 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Paron
- 20 SBC Family & Friends Day
- 22-23 State Conference-Discipleship, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 27 Volunteer/PT Music Leader Conference, First, Marshall
- 29 ABREA Meeting, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 29 State Pastors' Conference, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 29 Minister's Wives Conference, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 30-31 Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Immanuel, Little Rock

November

- 2 SBC Southern Senators Dinner
- 2-3 Lay Renewal: Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat, Camp Paron
- 3 Mission Friends' Leaders Super Saturday, Calvary, Little Rock
- 4-10 RA Week
- 11 American Bible Society Day
- 13 Worship Planning Seminar, Markham Street, Little Rock
- 15-16 Minister-Mate MER, Markham Street, Little Rock
- 16-18 International Retreat, Camp Paron
- 17 GA Missions Spectacular, Park Hill, N. Little Rock
- 17 Hunger Ingathering, Little Rock
- 20-26 OBU Thanksgiving Recess
- 25 Child Care Day-Thanksgiving Offering
- 26 "M" Night
- 26-30 Church Building Tour
- 29-30 Career Assessment, BMC Plaza Hotel, Little Rock

December

- 2-9 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
- 6-7 Evangelism/Stewardship Workshop, Camp Paron
- 8 Laity Abroad, Little Rock
- 10-11 New Trustee Orientation, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 10-12 Models for Metro Ministry Conference, Memphis
- 27-28 All-State Band/Choir, Grand Avenue/Convent, Hot Springs
- 27-28 Youth Evangelism Conference, Convention Center, Hot Springs
- 30 BSU Student Day At Christmas

Commencement Time

Midwestern

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Eleven persons with ties to Arkansas were among 114 individuals receiving degrees during the May 27 commencement exercises at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Receiving the doctor of ministry degree were:

—Charles W. Barfield, associate pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. A native of Texas, he considers Little Rock his hometown. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

—James F. Browne, pastor of Trinity Church in Blytheville. A native of New York, he considers Blytheville his hometown. He is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University in Texas, and Southwestern Seminary.

—Sidney G. Carswell, pastor of Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock. A native of Georgia, he is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

—William L. Hester Jr., pastor of First Church, Smackover. A native of Tennessee, he is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary.

—Layne E. Smith, pastor of Rolling Hills Church in Fayetteville. A native of Kansas, he is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, and Midwestern Seminary.

—Michael L. Trammell, pastor of Fisher Street Church in Jonesboro. Born in Hot Springs, he considers Jonesboro his hometown. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

—Verne Wickliffe, pastor of First Church, Des Arc. A native of California, he considers Hope his hometown. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Those receiving the master of divinity degrees were:

—Roger Amon, hospital chaplain for the Heartland Hospital System in St. Joseph, Mo. A native of Missouri, Amon considers Fort Smith his hometown. He is a graduate of John Brown University in Siloam Springs.

—Nadean Riley Bell, a member of First Church, Bentonville. She was born in Mulberry and considers Van Buren her hometown. Mrs. Bell is a graduate of the

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

—Cecil Mack Davis, hospital chaplain at the Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. A native of Paragould, Davis is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

—Charles Cecil Woods, pastor of Trimble Church in Trimble, Mo. A native of Tuckerman, he is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and Southern Baptist College.

Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas—Nine persons with Arkansas connections were among those graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 12.

Receiving the master of music degree was Edwin Charles Adcock II, son of E.C. and Fannie Adcock of Grapevine, Texas. He is the son-in-law of John and Joyce Magyar of Columbia, South America.

Receiving the master of arts in religious education were:

—Donna Joyce Bowman, daughter of Charles Bowman of Jonesboro and Geraldine Comer of Little Rock. She is minister of youth at First Church, Heber Springs.

—Michael Wayne Floyd, son of Earl and Dana Floyd of Rogers; and the son-in-law of Loyd and Shirley Lyon of Rogers. His home church is Immanuel Church, Rogers.

—Carl Ray Fondren Jr., son of Carl Ray Fondren of Delaware.

—Timothy Lee Reddin, son of Lizzie Bell Reddin, Texarkana, and the son-in-law of the late Paul and Johnnie Bearfield of Conway.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were:

—Mark Moreland Dewbre, son of the late Ben Dewbre and Martha Dewbre, North Little Rock. His home church is Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

—Samuel Scott Lee, son of Sam E. and Lorene Lee of Fort Smith, and the son-in-law of Ken and Helen Hughes of Benton. His home church is First Church, Russellville.

—Michael Glenn Seabaugh, son of W. Wayne Seabaugh, Magnolia.

—Bruce William Venable, son of Johnny and Carolyn Venable of El Paso, and son-in-law of the late Buel Walton and Wauanel Walton of Black Oak. His home church is Jonesboro First, and he is the associate BSU director at Arkansas State University.

SBC Hosts Basketball Camps

Southern Baptist College will host basketball camps for junior basketball players June 5-9 for girls and June 12-16 for boys, according to an announcement made by Carol Halford, athletic director.

Cost for the camp is \$35 per student. Interested players should contact Coach Carol Halford at 886-6741, ext. 153 or 886-3384.

Nailbenders Needed

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

—June 7, New Hope Church, Jonesboro

—July 3, First Baptist Chapel, Jonesboro (in conjunction with a Texas vacation crew)

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

April Cooperative Program Report

Received	\$1,165,946.61
Budget	\$1,083,333.33
Over	\$82,913.61

Year-to-date	
Under	\$8,410.94

Same time last year	
Over	\$69,203.89

Cooperative Program receipts exceeded budget requirements in April by \$82,813.61. For the first four months we lack only .02 percent in reaching our budget.

The faithfulness of our churches in giving to support our Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention work is very encouraging. The Cooperative Program represents our best on-going method for mission support. I challenge each church to consider increasing Cooperative Program support each year. Try it! You will find it a blessing to your church.—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

Property Insurance Offered

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board began offering a program of Property and Casualty insurance for Arkansas Baptist churches in May.

For more than a year, the Annuity Board has been gearing up to meet the need of Southern Baptist churches for a stable source of insurance available through a denominational agency.

Messengers to the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention approved a change in the Annuity Board's program statement that cleared the way for the agency to fulfill earlier requests by the convention to offer the insurance.

In addition to multi-peril protection, including fire and windstorm, the Annuity Board program can provide church bus insurance, workers compensation, pastor's professional liability, fidelity and crime, day care—even special insurance for stained-glass windows, organs, hand bells, pianos, computers, and computer software.

The Southern Baptist Convention Managing General Agency, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Annuity Board, is the Annuity Board's vehicle for offering property and casualty insurance to local agents helping churches with their insurance placement. The subsidiary agency is located in north Dallas, a few miles from Annuity Board headquarters, and staffed by licensed insurance professionals.

A contract has been signed with Aetna Life and Casualty Co. and affiliates of Hart-

ford, Conn., as program underwriter.

Darold H. Morgan, president of the Annuity Board, noted that "There is no claim relationship between the property and casualty program and any retirement or other insurance program of the Board. No insurance claim could ever touch the retirement funds," he assured.

Gene P. Daniel, senior vice president and director of the Annuity Board Property and Casualty Division, said: "A distinctive feature of our program is the preservation of the concept of the American agency system. We can appoint any church's local agent for the purpose of writing the insurance for your church."

Daniel noted, "The Annuity Board wants every church to have a local, personal representative agent teamed with your own Southern Baptist agency."

"The SBC Managing General Agency will offer top-quality property and liability protection that is competitively priced," promised Daniel.

As the Annuity Board's new subsidiary began its operation in May, the Board mailed an announcement folder to every church in Arkansas.

"It is very important to us that each pastor see that the survey form is completed and returned. The nature of property and casualty insurance requires a rather lengthy proposal process. We cannot be of service unless we have the information requested."

'Keepers of the Aquarium'

DETROIT (BP)—Southern Baptists should take a lesson from para-church organizations and free the laypeople to evangelize America's cities, a metropolitan pastor said.

Frank Tillapaugh, pastor of Bear Valley Baptist Church in Denver, spoke to 120 urban pastors, missionaries and laypeople in a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board conference on metropolitan ministry.

"There is tremendous potential in the pews. But the people in the pews are convinced they aren't qualified to be ministers."

Tillapaugh, who was converted through the ministry of a para-church group, said rigid church structures have forced laypeople to seek creative ministry outlets outside the church.

"The church has taken a 'y'all come' attitude toward the lost, but the para-church organizations have said, 'We're

coming after you,' " he explained. "The para-church organizations are the fishers of men, and the churches are the keepers of the aquarium."

Churches must change their mindset and begin to think for themselves rather than just carry out established programs, he said: "We're going to have to radically change our mindset about how we do church. The message is absolute; we are not free to fool around with the message. But we are free to change the methodology."

"One of the terrible commentaries on Southern Baptist churches is that they are all alike. There is no methodology for the church given in the New Testament. We don't know if they had Royal Ambassadors in Macedonia."

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Sale Rejected

Trustees Pull ACTS from Market

by Toby Druin
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission voted 13 to 5 to reject a \$15 million offer for the ACTS network May 18 and pulled the network off the market.

They will trust God and Southern Baptists to make the system a financial success, they said in a special meeting to hear a proposal from a Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, group to buy the network.

Chairman Harold Brundige of Martin, Tenn., whose vote on the five-member negotiating committee brought the proposal to sell the network before the commission, said after the meeting he felt it would "take a miracle, if ACTS survives."

"But God is still in the miracle business," he added.

The special meeting at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport was called by Brundige to hear a proposal from DFW Uplink Inc., a group headed by Ralph Tacker of Dallas.

The Tacker group was one of three which made offers when another deal with San Antonio, Texas-based Friends of ACTS Inc., fell through in March. No follow-through was made on the other two offers, however, Brundige said.

The Tacker group, which included Patsy Ayres of Austin and San Antonio, Texas; Bob Cargill of Fort Worth; Dick Davis of Arlington, Dr. Lawrence Eugene Thomas of Arlington and Bill Ratliff of Birmingham, Ala., made a package offer to buy the network that included \$12.5 million in cash or irrevocable release from the RTVC's \$8.4 million indebtedness on the network plus cash; four hours of programming daily for 30 years; 10 percent of the original issue of capital stock to be purchased after five years by the network for \$2.5 million; and a representative from the commission on the company's board of directors.

Tacker is a businessman and member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas. He became a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer in the early 1980s, working with the Radio and Television Commission and formed DFW Uplink to provide ACTS with access to satellite transmission. The company to be formed if the RTVC accepted the offer would go public and would issue about \$25 million in stock, he said. The name of ACTS would be changed to ACTS Interfaith Network, he said, and it would be multi-denominational.

He and others noted the challenge of the new Vision Interfaith Satellite Network, which has the backing of several cable

television industry officials and support of 20 Protestant, Catholic, Easter Orthodox and Jewish groups.

More would have to be spent on ACTS to meet the challenge, Tacker said. The network has a growing number of potential viewers—now estimated at 9.5 million homes—but declining numbers who watch the network because of low quality programming, he noted.

In the initial discussion, two RTVC trustees, Russell Lawson of Oklahoma City and Leroy Stevens of Phoenix, Ariz., urged sale of the network. The Tacker group offer was fair and Southern Baptists had not demonstrated they "are willing or able to support" ACTS, Lawson said.

The debt service on the \$8.4 million balance of the loan on the network and cost of the lease on the transponder to carry the network signal are \$250,000 monthly—"41 percent of our budget," Stevens noted. He added that no Southern Baptist leaders have stepped forward with a "positive, up-front" plea to keep the network, that the Southern Baptist Executive Committee had told RTVC trustees no "deep pockets" are available to finance ACTS and that he is not convinced Southern Baptists ever have been behind the network.

Several questions were raised by others

about the public nature of the proposed new company, and fears were expressed about the potential loss of control.

August Peters of Hillsdale, Mich., expressed concern about who would own the network after Tacker and the others pass from the scene and what would happen to Southern Baptist television efforts after the 30-year agreement concluded.

Laverne Butler of Pineville, Ky., said the public aspect of the new company was contrary to what had been discussed before.

Ron Welborn, a member of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, in Fort Worth and consultant to the Tacker group, said the group had no interest in ever relinquishing control and they intended that the controlling block of stock always remain with the original group. Shares could be sold to anyone, but Tacker group members would hope investors would have the same Christ-centered views as the original group.

Sara Diaz Warren, trustee from El Paso, Texas, urged the commission to "focus on the Lord," not the money, that "he (God) can make it a success." She said she was "100 percent against the sale."

Other trustees speaking against the sale were T.W. Terral of Baton Rouge, La., Jewell Morris of Fort Smith, Ark., Ernie Helton of Grove City, Ohio.

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark., opposed the sale on behalf of ACTS affiliates, the ACTS groups in local communities. Huckabee is southwest regional representative for ACTS affiliates.

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Lottery Proposal Fails

Texas Gambling Fight Continues

by Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (BP)—Lottery came up a loser in the Texas House of Representatives, but gambling opponents still face an uphill battle in the state Senate to kill offshore casino gambling and a pari-mutuel "bail-out."

HB 33, a proposal calling for a non-binding referendum in November on a state lottery, was defeated in the Texas House by an 84-59 vote May 17.

"This is a major victory over what is potentially the most destructive gambling legislation this state has yet to see," said Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"I hope the lottery is dead as an issue in Texas for several years to come," said Rep. David Hudson of Tyler, a floor leader in the fight against lottery. "In my opinion, nothing could do more to work to the detriment of the people of Texas than the legalizing of gambling in any form. Gambling undermines the moral fiber of the state."

Other bills had been introduced earlier in the legislative session calling for a constitutional amendment to legalize lottery in Texas. However, a constitutional change requires a two-thirds vote in the legislature and approval by voters in statewide balloting. Lottery backers considered the non-binding referendum a better oppor-

tunity, since it required only a simple majority in the statehouse.

Rep. Ron Wilson of Houston, author of the non-binding lottery referendum proposal, claimed his bill was defeated due to a "God squad" of religious zealots seeking to impose their view of morality on others. Weston Ware, citizenship associate with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, disputed that allegation.

"The coalition represented a broad variety of political, social and religious groups opposed to the non-binding referendum on lottery for a variety of reasons: because lotteries hurt individuals and families, because sponsorship of the lottery by the state detracts from the moral stature of government, or because they do not believe the state should govern on the basis of popularity polls," he said.

"The defeat of this proposal means Texans should not have to face the threat of a state-sponsored lottery at least until the 72nd session of the legislature in 1991, and we will not have to wage a costly and time-consuming statewide campaign between now and November."

Gambling foes had little time to savor their victory in the House, since other gambling bills were pending Senate approval in the final two weeks of the 71st legislative session.

HB 141, which would allow casino

cruise ships to operate from Texas ports, was approved in the Texas House of Representatives on May 9-10. The bill was assigned to Senate committee and could be debated on the Senate floor at any time.

"Casino cruise ships are the camel's nose under the tent for casino gambling in Texas," said Ware. He predicted that if gambling operators gain approval for offshore gambling in this legislative session, they will be back within four years seeking to legalize casino gambling on the mainland in the port cities.

SB 1822, which opponents are calling "the Pari-mutuel Bail-out Bill," would virtually eliminate Texas revenue from pari-mutuel gambling by decreasing the tax rate from 5 percent to 1 percent of the first \$200 million wagered and would increase the track's take from 8 percent to 19 percent.

"This is nothing but welfare for the rich," said Ware. "It is a breaking of the promise that gambling supporters made to Texans in 1988 when voters approved pari-mutuel gambling as an alleged revenue raiser for the state coffers. This bill assures more money for the gambling investors but leaves the state holding the feedbag."

Wake Forest OKs School

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—Trustees of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., approved the concept of a divinity school, but instructed administrators to make certain adequate financial support is available before taking additional steps.

Resources must be secured equivalent to the income from a \$15 million endowment, according to the April 14 trustee action.

The divinity school will not be launched until trustees are confident that academic quality can be established for the new school without compromising the resource requirements of other university programs, Wake Forest officials said.

In a prepared statement, WFU President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. said: "The mission of the divinity school would be to train ministers.

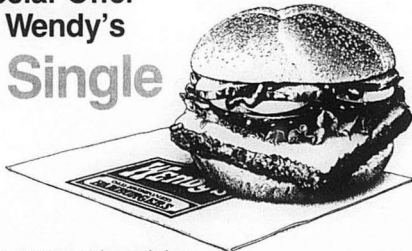
"While the orientation and heritage of the divinity school would be Baptist, it would be open to students and faculty members of all faiths."

The possibility of a divinity school at Wake Forest University has been under consideration, school officials said. A feasibility study was made and the results indicated a need and desire for the school, they added.

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Continued Renewal

by Dennis W. Swanberg, Second Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: Joshua 1-4

Focal passage: Joshua 4:1-3,8,15-24

Central truth: God provides genuine continued renewal in the life of the believers as they responsibly remember what he has done for them, what he is doing for them, and what he intends to do for them in the future.

The call for remembrance (4:1-3). God will not permit us to forget his mighty acts of history. History can serve as a catalyst for renewal in the life of the believer. Joshua's call for memorials enable us to reflect on the past with gratitude. Our response is not simply a matter of wisdom, but of duty, to keep alive the experience. Therefore, we are called to remember the crossing of the Jordan and the establishing of the memorial at Gilgal. This pivotal memorial in the life of the Israelites assisted Joshua's generation with a renewed commitment to conquer the land and faithfully grow as dedicated people.

The call for responsibility (4:8,15-20). God's call for remembrance demands that his people respond to him without hesitation. Such was the case with Joshua and his people. They gathered stones to build the memorial at Gilgal. The participation of the 12 individuals revealed that they were not only obedient to God, but they had accepted Joshua as their newly appointed leader. The result of the people's faithful response to building a memorial of remembrance illustrated their appreciation for God's miraculous work in the past as well as seeing God through their new leader to bring them into the long-awaited Promised Land.

The call for renewal (4:21-24). Genuine renewal comes through humility and not pride. The tendency in building memorials is to allow them to become trophies of pride and self-worship. God-honored memorials are to be an on-going witness which would not only renew his people's faith, but also would be a witness to the pagan neighbors concerning the character and nature of the living God who actively is involved in the lives of his people. Let us remember that we will have renewal if we will respond to his call for remembrance which carries with it responsibility and ultimately will bring renewal in the lives of the faithful.

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Life and Work

Partnership in Service

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

Basic passage: Judges 4:4-8,14-16

Focal passage: Judges 4:4-6

Central truth: Often our call to serve God in some project includes a call to involve others, also.

Judges 1:19 records that the Israelites were not able to drive the Canaanite people from the plains because they had iron chariots. At this point in Israel's history, the Canaanites, under Jabin and his captain, Siceira, had been oppressing Israel for 20 years. God allowed this because the Israelites had turned their backs on him (Jg. 4:1).

The comment sadly must be made that we are not easily swayed to repent of and forsake our sins. Thus, we may suffer dire consequences for months, years, or even decades. When we are slow to repent, God is slow to deliver!

Our story today depicts a team of people which God had prepared to bring relief to his suffering, repentant people. (1) There was Deborah, a married woman who was a prophetess; (2) there was Barak, of the tribe of Naphtali, who was to lead the army in battle; (3) there were the 10,000 men of Naphtali who were to make up the army; (4) there was Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, who was to strike the final blow of the battle.

Deborah was a woman of wisdom and godliness, recognized by God's people for her discernment (Jg. 4:4-5). Being open to God's leadership, the Lord called upon her to enlist Barak and the strong men of Naphtali for the battle against the enemies of Israel. She was obedient to God's instruction. She enlisted Barak and Barak enlisted the men of Naphtali. Only the Lord knew about Jael's place in the story.

The sharing of responsibility in God's work is necessary. Not even Moses could do everything. Even he needed help (Ex. 18:13ff).

All of God's people are to be God's servants. God-called leaders must involve themselves in enlisting and leading those whom God would have to share in the tasks. One of the greatest joys in my life has been found in the enlisting, training, and then leading of others in the service of our great Lord. This is to be a holy partnership in ministry, not a one-man or one-woman show!

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Bible Book

Courage Demanded

by Dianne Swaim, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 24:10-16,22-24; 25:9-11

Focal passage: Acts 24:10-16; 25:9-11

Central truth: Paul's defense before Felix and Festus leaves a lasting example for standing before our accusers.

Silver-tongued Paul! His defense speeches in the last few chapters of Acts are a joy to read. Whether he is appealing to the accusers themselves or to the authorities, he is a gifted speaker. I have an idea that if Paul were the defense attorney today, there would be a hush in the courtroom. Today's scripture allows us to be spectators in the courtroom of Felix, a deputy of the legate of Syria and Cilicia.

In Acts 24:10, Paul exhibits great respect for his judge. He notes his long tenure in position and states his pleasure at being heard before him. We can learn from Paul that when we approach those who oppose God's truth, we should show respect for their personhood. Often our immediate response is to condemn our accusers. The Christian way is to acknowledge that they are people of worth.

Now that Paul had Felix' attention, he began his own defense. Again, his approach is not to disparage his accusers, but instead to simply state the facts. Because he indeed was innocent, there was no need for a long, defensive speech. The facts supported him. Probably the greatest frustration of his accusers was that they could not prove any of their accusations. Paul was right!

A notable attribute of Paul's is courage. It may seem easy at times to perform a courageous act, but if and when we are brought to a confrontation to defend the act, we water it down. Paul showed courage not only in his worship of God, but in his confession.

A final note in this lesson is that Paul was determined to take his stand to the end. He would not accept unfairness in the courtroom and he would not compromise his rights by agreeing to go before a lesser court. Paul is a Christian role model in the truest sense of the word. His final words to Festus may be his most courageous. If he had done anything worthy of death, he would surrender to death. However, since he had done none of the things of which he was accused, he would stand his ground.

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Chinese Christians March

by Erich Bridges
SBC Foreign Mission Board

NANJING, China (BP)—Chinese Christian students have joined in the demonstrations for democracy sweeping China.

Students from Nanjing Theological Seminary, the main national Protestant school, marched May 19 with other students in the city, carrying banners emblazoned with their school's name and Bible verses about freedom.

Christians, including a man carrying a 4-foot cross, also have appeared in demonstrations in Beijing's Tian An Men Square.

In another development, the Amity Foundation, Chinese Protestants' social service organization, has sent a statement to government and communist leaders urging them to understand the students' position and to enter into dialogue.

No statement has yet emerged from the China Christian Council. Two leaders of the council, including the council president, Bishop Ding Guangxun, were traveling overseas. Reports from Shanghai, site of the largest demonstrations outside Beijing, indicated Christian students there had no organized participation.

In Nanjing, the Christian students' march was witnessed by Britt Towery of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist organization that assists in education and various projects in China and other nations where missionaries do not work.

"Students from the seminary did march with their own banners that had the name of the school on them and Christian Scripture verses," said Towery, a veteran of work in China. "The Christians are involved. We can say that without question. The Bud-

dhists are also marching, so the religious element (is represented). Actually it's 99 percent of the people behind this thing. Everybody's for this. I never saw such a groundswell. The Christians feel if they don't get involved in this, they won't ever relate to China. This is the people. I never saw anything so spontaneous in my life."

Towery arrived in Nanjing May 18 from Beijing, where he visited Tian An Men Square and talked with demonstrators there.

"In Beijing the Christians are more conservative," he said. "The seminary there said they're not involved officially, but the students have been out to watch it. But everybody's sympathetic. It's like a festival."

In Shanghai, Cooperative Services International Director Lewis Myers also reported a cautious attitude among Christians. One pastor expressed concern that the students might "push too far too quickly. There's no direct involvement by Christians here to take a stand in support or in criticism of them (the students)."

"It seems in talking with Chinese Christians as well as university presidents and professors that there's a great deal of general sympathy for the cause of the students," Myers said. "I don't believe I've talked with anybody who said that the cause for which the students are marching is wrong. Almost everybody agrees that the cause is right and just, that there is a legitimate complaint that they have.

"At the same time, there is a great deal of anxiety on the part of university officials that the students might be pushing too hard and either cause a pretty severe crackdown on them and thus on the whole system, or the whole thing might get out of hand and

just cause anarchy."

Myers said students were "blanketing the city" and had brought it to a peaceful standstill.

"There's been no violence as far as we have heard, certainly not any we've seen, and we've been out a good bit. You can't go out anywhere without being in the middle of students," he said.

Myers and Towery both reported that all Southern Baptists teaching in Chinese universities under CSI sponsorship were safe and well, although classes in most cities have been canceled.

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June

- 3 Tom Landry, Barton Coliseum, Little Rock
- 4 Prayer Sunday
- 19-23 Follow-up Seminars
- 24 Leadership Breakfast with Dr. Lewis Drummond

July

- 4 Singles Rally
- 13 Prayer Rally with Dr. E.V. Hill
- 23 Operation Andrew Sunday

August

- * Youth Rally
- 3-4 Prayer Seminars with Millie Dienert
- 14-25 Nurture Group Training
- 21-27 Prayer Hosts Extend Invitations
- 26 Leadership Breakfast with Dr. Emmanuel Scott
- 27 Support Sunday
- 28-9/27 Prayertime Broadcasts

September

- * High School Assemblies
- 11-16 Rehearsals
- 17-24 CRUSADE
- 18-22 School of Evangelism
- 25-10/27 Follow-up Broadcasts

For more information on any of these events, contact your church's crusade coordinator or call the Crusade Office at 375-1989.

Updated Spanish Bible

EL PASO, Texas (BP)—An updated version of the Bible in Spanish is making its debut after 10 years in the making.

The new version, the Reina-Valera Actualizada, is being published under the Spanish World label of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, an El Paso, Texas, arm of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

It is the first revision in nearly 30 years of the Reina-Valera, the Bible widely used among Spanish-speaking evangelicals. The Reina-Valera, the first Spanish translation of the Bible, dates back to 1569, predating the English King James Version.

The revision of the Reina-Valera is probably the largest undertaking in the

84-year history of the publishing house, officials said. About 200 contributors were involved in the project, compared to about 40 who produced a Spanish-language study Bible in 1977.

The new revision will be available in three modes. "God's Book for Today's Family" will include a series of evangelistic Bible studies for home settings. "God's Book for Today's Church" will include the words to 150 hymns and gospel choruses for use in missions and house churches lacking hymnals. The regular full Bible, meanwhile, will carry a concordance of people, places and key words found in the Bible.

(BP) photo / Joanna Pinneo



Nalongo, rejected by her community when she became a Christian in 1986, became sick with AIDS in 1987. Before her death in February 1989, her husband, all nine children and 40 friends had become Christians.

Waiting and Hoping

AIDS Threatens Uganda's Hope for Stability

by Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)—The winds of war have died down in Uganda, but the even more terrible devastation of AIDS threatens the newfound peace and fragile economic boom.

The pragmatism of President Yoweri Museveni's government, which has fostered more peace and prosperity than the country has known in 20 years, is coping with the oppressive AIDS threat.

"If we don't talk openly about AIDS, we can't educate our people about how to stop it," says Samuel I. Okware, head of Uganda's AIDS Control Program. But when we are honest, the rest of the world points at us and says AIDS started here. It's as if they want to blame Uganda for the existence of the disease."

Negative publicity has caused many countries to suppress AIDS news coverage or public discussion, but Uganda's leaders have determined that survival is more vital than public image.

Okware credits a booklet written by Southern Baptist missionary physician Richard Goodgame as a key component of Uganda's fight to survive. Goodgame is a professor at Makerere Medical School in Kampala. The booklet, titled "Medical Science and God's Word Give ANSWERS To

Questions Related To AIDS," has been translated into Uganda's 12 major languages, and more than 2 million copies have been distributed.

The critical nature of the problem is reflected in a World Health Organization report which conservatively estimates 10,000 new cases of AIDS in Uganda every month for the next six years, for a total of 720,000. The death toll from AIDS rivals Idi Amin's eight years in power (1971-79), when 500,000 Ugandans were slain, and the five years of rule by Milton Obote, marked by an additional 300,000 killings.

"Health education is the only chance we have, so we have been extraordinarily frank," Okware states. "Nothing has been censored."

Bright colored posters declaring, "I wish I had said 'no' to AIDS... my quick pleasure led to a slow, painful death," or similar slogans are plastered throughout the country in 12 languages. Daily radio

programs discuss the problem. At Museveni's direction all senior government officials and employees include comments on AIDS at all public meetings—and funerals. Anyone applying for any government job must take a test on basic AIDS knowledge. Stiff penalties have been legislated for those who knowingly spread the disease.

The booklet by Goodgame, probably the most widely used weapon in Uganda's AIDS educational arsenal, relays key AIDS facts. It emphasizes, for example, that AIDS is spread by sexual contact, blood transfusions and unsterilized needles, but not by mosquitoes, dishes, clothing or caring for an AIDS patient.

Six of the booklet's eight pages quote the Bible on such topics as God's plan for sex and marriage, how to control sexual behavior and a person's responsibility toward people with AIDS. In the last section there's an explanation of Christian faith: "How Can I Live Forever If I'm Dying From AIDS?" Printing and distribution of the booklet, along with a related Bible distribution program, was funded through a \$250,000 grant from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"I'd say one-third to one-half of our work (in the government's anti-AIDS efforts) has been possible because of Rick Goodgame and the Answers project," Okware says. "Not only did he write the booklet and his mission board pay for it, he was the one who sensitized me to the problem of AIDS—he gave me the push I needed to take it seriously because he recognized the problem earlier than most of us through his work at the hospital."

The Baptist Mission of Uganda's encouragement to other groups to distribute the brochure has made it possible to reach many more people than the relatively small number of Baptists could have reached alone. Anglicans, Catholics, Seventh-Day Adventists, Pentecostals and even some

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Muslims have helped share the booklet. "I have no doubt Answers was a gift from God," says Goodgame, who has been in Uganda since 1980. "I knew we had to cover this land with a Bible-oriented response to AIDS."

Beyond fostering new patterns of sexual behavior, Answers has resulted in many professions of faith in Christ, as well as a deepening sense of commitment among people who were already Christians, whether they are dealing with the disease on a personal basis or caring for AIDS patients.

Linda Rice, a missionary in Uganda since 1971, knows a number of Christians afflicted with AIDS. Their prayers, she says, are not focused on material possessions. "They only pray for physical strength... they pray for the salvation of others and the power to stand and be faithful in their Christian witness."

Both strength and witness will be vital in the coming years. Despite the government effort against AIDS, Uganda faces a long-term struggle simply to survive as a nation.

The nature of the disease allows an infected person to carry the virus—and infect others—for an average of six or seven years before becoming ill. That means most of the 120,000 new cases predicted for 1990 became infected in 1983 or 1984. Even if transmission of the AIDS virus stopped completely in 1989, there would be no decrease in the number of cases until 1995 or later.

And the disease is concentrated in the 25-45 age bracket and in the urban areas where the educated leaders live. The disease will be most devastating among the very people needed to continue Uganda's long climb out of two decades of war.

But the government mixes optimism with its pragmatism—even if that necessitates a long look ahead.

"I think with continued health educa-

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When Eddie Matovu was saved in November 1987, he burned all his witchcraft items and idols. Now he has AIDS. By April 1988, his wife died of the disease. He spends his time caring for his children and witnessing to family, co-workers, and neighbors.

tion we can survive," Okware insists. "We are seeing changes in the sexual behavior of the population already. The cases of sexually transmitted diseases (such as syphilis) reported by the clinics have dropped to almost zero, and the bars that two years ago were full of prostitutes are now quiet places where men drink by themselves.

"Also, half of our population is below the age of 15 and there are almost no cases of AIDS in that age group. If we can educate them to be sexually responsible and if we can get our blood supply (for transfusions) screened, I expect things to improve—in 10 years."

A numerically small but significant boost to Uganda's hopes is coming from Ugandans who are returning to help rebuild the country after fleeing the chaos of earlier years. Among them are Elly Katabira, who had qualified to apply for British citizenship, and Richard Kabazi, a worker with In-

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ternational Students, a ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Katabira, a physician who now teaches at Makerere Medical School, established the country's first AIDS clinic and has organized an AIDS counseling service. Kabazi, a Baptist, is working with numerous evangelical churches in southern Uganda to open orphanages, schools and clinics.

Museveni, who is briefed regularly by Okware on the government progress in fighting AIDS, likewise voices optimism. "Despite the global bleak situation of AIDS, let us look into the future with hope." He told the nation in a radio address last December: "Africa has suffered many fatal diseases before and suffered through a slave trade in which millions of able bodies were lost. But we continue going strong."

Ten years is a long time to wait for the death rate to begin dropping, a long time to wait for the government to be able to use funds for development and education instead of health care. But Uganda waited 20 years for the war to stop. It waited 10 years for the opportunity to enjoy new roads and repaired railroads and for overseas investment income to finally begin trickling back into the country.

So it will wait for AIDS to be defeated by education, while hoping for the discovery of a cure.



Richard Goodgame, a faculty member at Makerere Medical School and a Southern Baptist missionary physician, walks the ward with residents in his class. He has written a booklet on AIDS that is a key component of Uganda's fight to survive.

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Bid Protested

by Art Toalston
 SBC Foreign Mission Board

ROME, Italy (BP)—Italian Baptist leaders have urged Paige Patterson to stop negotiating for the purchase of a Bible school in Belgium.

Patterson, in response, underscored "the right and privilege of any Baptist body" to voice its opinion, but he reiterated reasons why he is continuing to explore the possibility of Criswell College in Dallas buying the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education near Brussels.

Patterson is president of Criswell College and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The transaction would involve Criswell College, not the Foreign Mission Board.

The executive committee of the Baptist Evangelical Union of Italy urged "that the enormous resources which he (Patterson) is about to pour into (the Belgian school) . . . be donated instead to the one institution which European Baptists do recognize, appreciate, love and sustain, and that is the Baptist (Theological) Seminary in Ruschlikon."

The Ruschlikon seminary, located near Zurich, Switzerland, has been a cooperative venture between European Baptists and Southern Baptists since its founding in 1949.

The Italian union's executive committee took its stance during its April 6-9 meeting in Rocca di Papa, but did not release it from Rome until early May, said Paolo Spano, president of the union, in a May 8 telephone interview. He has led the union since 1984 and previously was director of its theological commission.

The nine-member committee further appealed "to all the Baptist unions of Europe to unite themselves quickly in a common action in order to persuade Dr. Patterson to withdraw from his initiative."

The committee also registered a protest that both Italian Baptists and other European Baptist unions "have never been consulted at all" by Patterson.

Spano said he does not know whether other unions have taken a stance opposing Patterson's negotiations.

Spano added, "We feel that, in a way, (the Ruschlikon seminary) is threatened; the unity of European Baptists also is threatened." Many Europeans will be troubled by "two European trends, one perhaps more open and tolerant, as the one in Ruschlikon, and another one very fundamentalistic," he said. "It is very important that we as Europeans keep united to foster the cause of the Lord."

Patterson, in a May 9 telephone interview, commented that no one should be threatened "by a strong belief in the inerrancy of the Bible and in the doctrinal truths which Baptists have held to be true across the years." In previous interviews, he also has underscored his hope to work cooperatively with European Baptists.

On the question of consultation with European Baptists, Patterson said, "It has always been the very essence of Baptist conviction that men ought to do what their consciences compel them to do under God." No one should be forced to abide solely by even the sincere dictates of "a given body, Baptist or otherwise." In previous interviews, he also has said consultation would be premature until Criswell College and the Belgian school have agreed on a sale.

"Not a thing" has been agreed upon to this point, Patterson said.

The opportunity to purchase the Belgian school "came to us," Patterson noted. "We never pursued it ourselves." Through subsequent prayer, he said, he and others helping to explore the purchase believe God's will is "to give it an opportunity to see if it would work."

The Italian executive committee consists of eight Italian Baptists and one Southern Baptist missionary.

Spano emphasized that the committee's stance "was my initiative and was supported unanimously by the Italians. (The missionary) had no influence whatsoever on this. We Italians are quite independent. We take all the responsibilities for what we decide."

Had he sought the opinions of Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Italy, Spano said, "there might have been a hesitation on their part, because they, as you may guess, are careful not to create problems. They are here in Italy to help, not to create questions and problems."

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

The Belgian Center for Biblical Education has an enrollment of 160 resident students, a small minority of them Baptist, in a 500-room former Roman Catholic Jesuit seminary on 10 acres of land.

The facility was up for sale last fall for \$3 million. It was purchased in the early 1970s with funds supplied by the Greater Europe Mission in Wheaton, Ill., and European evangelicals, and has operated in the red for a number of years.