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January 30, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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At a glance

13 Brotherhood: alive and well

"The Brotherhood Commission is alive and well," declared James D. Williams, president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission. There is a new interest in the work of the Brotherhood Commission because of increased interest in volunteerism. In an interview with the ABN, Williams emphasized the role of the laity to reach the world for Christ.

14 Chapman is executive nominee

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris H. Chapman is the nominee to succeed Harold C. Bennett as president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, according to the search committee chairman, with an employment date sometime after the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

16 Regents delay Truett opening

Baylor University's board of regents Jan. 17 authorized a committee to respond to a recommendation to delay the opening of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in the fall of 1994. The five-member committee is expected to make its recommendation at the regents' next regular meeting March 20.

18 Fellowship to fund missionaries

An offer to fund Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who resign from the Foreign Mission Board has been made by the coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. CBF moderator John Hewett denied the council's actions constituted a new denomination. Instead, he said the decision to fund missionaries should be compared to parachurch organizations who support mission work.

19 Parks to face trustee questions

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee leaders have asked Keith Parks to explain details surrounding a controversial Jan. 7 press conference during which two board executives announced early retirement in protest of trustee actions and policies.

Cover story

(BP) photo / Charlie Wilson



Holiday overload 23

Bicycles crammed every available space outside the Dong Shan Church in Guangzhou, China, during a Christmas Eve worship service. Despite uncertainty about government warning to tone down Christmas festivities, crowds of faithful Christians jammed churches in China to celebrate the holiday.

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The pastor's wife

J. EVERETT SNEED



Some of the most dedicated people we know are pastors' wives. Many, like this editor's wife, have strong senses of calling into Christian vocational service. Yet, the pressure on them is great, and in some instances greater, than that experienced by their husbands. In order to reduce this unwarranted tension, churches should understand the kinds of things that produce it and take positive steps to eliminate it.

First, there is the pressure to serve in every position that is difficult to fill. Churches often believe that because the pastor is paid to serve the church full-time, his wife is to be a full-time unpaid worker. The pastor's wife should have the same right to say "no" as any other dedicated Christian woman in the church. The pastor's wife has her own gifts. There are things she sincerely would like to do in the church and other things that she would prefer not to do. The pastor's wife shouldn't be expected to do more for the church than any other dedicated Christian.

Where the pastor's wife is not a paid staff worker, she should have the right to pursue a non-church related career if she desires to do so. A woman may receive a healthy sense of fulfillment through the development of a career. The vast majority of pastors' wives are well-trained, highly-talented people in their own right. The church is robbing the pastor's wife of just opportunities when it demands "volunteer" service of her, to the extent that she cannot pursue a much-desired career.

The church should not predicate the pastor's salary on the assumption that his wife will do a majority portion of the bread winning. The pastor is the most important single ingredient in any church being what it should be. Though the pastor cannot and should not do all the work of the church, his leadership is far more valuable than any building or equipment. Simply stated, the church should provide for the pastor and his family as well as possible. An inadequate salary can place the pastor's wife under tremendous pressure.

The community also may have different expectations for the pastor's wife than any other woman in the community. Often, people hold to a stereotype of how a pastor's wife should look and the kind of community activities she is to perform.

Such stereotypes may be developed from the community's memory of the wife of a previous pastor. Every pastor's wife has the right to be her own person, as long as she is behaving as a Christian.

The pastor's wife has the difficult, if not impossible, task of dressing herself in a manner that is fashionable, but not flashy; conservative, but not out of style. This, of course, must be accomplished on the too often meager salary of the pastor, and if she steps across the imaginary line, in many churches, she will be criticized.

An extremely stressful situation for the pastor's wife is coping with her husband's schedule. She is asked to understand as her husband works eight hours a day in the office and goes visiting or to church meetings virtually every night in the week. Even when he is at home, he may be called away to the hospital or for some other emergency at any time. In most of our churches, there is no one to serve as backup for the pastor. When the pastor is away, there may be endless telephone calls to keep his wife in hard run all evening. When the pastor is home, he may not be there in the sense that most husbands and fathers are.

The attitude of lonely and troubled women in the church can sometimes create pressures for the pastor's wife. Pastors usually are kind, considerate, and tender

people. Some women seem to be drawn to them, perhaps because of the need for friendship or out of a sense of romantic infatuation. Ministers' wives know that their husbands must carefully deal with such situations. Unless pastors' wives enjoy some sense of security and can learn to cope with normal feelings of jealousy, these situations can produce disruption in the marriage relationship.

Pastors' wives who live in church parsonages may have the pressure of never quite feeling at home. In some instances, church members will remind the pastor's wife that the house belongs to the church and, for this reason, they can tell her what she may or may not do in the house. Church approval must also be sought for repairs or changes in the house.

The most important question is: "What can churches do to reduce pressures on pastors' wives?" First, they should recognize that the pastor's wife is subject to a variety of unusual pressures. She not only identifies with any problem that her husband is having in the church, but she also has unique problems of her own.

Second, churches should establish family times. During these periods the pastor and his family should not be disturbed, except in dire emergency.

Third, the pastor's wife should be allowed to serve wherever she feels comfortable in the church, with no pressure to take places of responsibility she does not want.

Fourth, the pastor's wife should be allowed to be herself, without being poured into a stereotype or role, or compared unfavorably with someone else.

Finally, churches should pray for their pastor's wife. She needs prayerful support as badly as her husband does.

Arkansas Baptist

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron, president; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Harold Gateley, Fayetteville; Don Heuer, Batesville; Greg Kirksey, Benton; Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; and Lucie C. Hagins, Fordyce.

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

We have some good news to share as we reflect back on the past year's work in our churches. This information is based on the Uniform Church Letter which the churches send to us in October each year.

While baptisms were down this year, it needs to be remembered that the previous year we had had an increase of 15.8 percent. Our record this year is still 11 percent over the year before that.

The good news is that we had a 1.0 percent increase in resident members. The bad news is that non-resident membership increased by 1.6 percent.

The good news is that Sunday School enrollment increased by 1.0 percent. The bad news is that Sunday School average attendance only increased by .12 percent.

The good news is that enrollment in Music Ministries increased by 2.0 percent. The bad news is that enrollment in Discipleship Training declined .52 percent; WMU declined .12 percent; Brotherhood declined 9.2 percent.

The good news is that undesignated gifts to the churches increased 2.72 percent. The bad news is that contributions to missions through the Cooperative Program only increased 1.56 percent. Gifts to associational missions increased 2.33 percent.

Both the associational and state leadership are eager to try to help churches in any of the areas in which churches may be suffering losses. Both pastors and lay leaders must feel discouragement and even despair when they see what is happening in their churches. My fear is that decline happens so slowly that many churches do not really realize what is happening from year to year.

Some hard decisions may have to be made by our churches. Some will have to decide to stop fussing. Others will have to think through their priorities. Attitudes will have to change. Churches and their leaders will have to humble themselves and seek help from God and from others who can help. Could this be the year for turning things around in your church?

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



BUDDY SUTTON

The President's Corner

A people of priorities

During the Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade, I met the great black evangelist, Dr. E.V. Hill. He is fond of saying, "I love to speak to you Southern Baptists on account of who you think you are." There is no rancor in Dr. Hill, but his comment has a way of hanging on to provoke an answer.

I hope that it can be honestly said of Baptists that we are a people of deliberate priorities. Paul spoke of an imagined condition "if Christ has not been raised" and concluded that if that is so, "we are to be pitied more than all men" (1 Co. 15:13-19). Baptists who have made a difference in my life belong in the category of those "to be pitied more than all men if Christ has not been raised." "If Christ has not been raised," I feel sorry for these that I have known:

My mother who wasted her time every afternoon lying on the bed and reading to me from the Bible when I was a preschooler. There were more fashionable things for a young woman to do.

My father who worked multiple jobs during the depression to "care for his own" and drove us to "preaching" all over the country at night, including the country revival meeting in 1939 where I was saved.

All the Sunday School teachers who forsook the luxury of something better to do each Sunday and devoted their time to teaching children the Word of God.

The restless and gifted evangelists with their unique burdens for God's lost sheep who criss-crossed the country preaching Christ and him crucified.



The highly qualified pastors who turned their backs on more lucrative professions, choosing instead to answer the call to "feed my sheep."

All of those who have loved my children, changed their diapers, cleaned up their messes and taught them "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

All those who have cared about orphaned children, treating the sick and helping the needy.

All those who have given their money and efforts for Christian education. All those indomitable missionaries who have given their lives for those foreign people that we don't even know.

All those who have been labeled "one of those Baptists" for standing firm on old fashioned moral values, believing that God means for his children to be a "peculiar people."

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Co. 5:20). In that reality such pity as I might have for those precious Baptists named above changes to gratitude beyond my ability to express. Who are Southern Baptists? To me, they are the salt of the earth, the lighthouse on a hill, the center core of sweetness.

As we walk on to the field to write the record of 1992, let us expect to be criticized. Let us criticize ourselves. But at the end of the day, let no one deny that in 1992 Baptists believed God and acted accordingly.

Buddy Sutton, a Little Rock attorney, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

MK Birthday Prayer Calendar: February

Missionary Kids Attending College in Arkansas

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11 | Carol Anne Hardister
(Jordan) | OBU Box 3090
Arkadelphia, AR 71923 |
| 22 | Scott Pickle
(Ecuador) | OBU Box 3843
Arkadelphia, AR 71923 |

Arkansas Home Missionary Sees Needs Annie Armstrong Giving Could Meet

by Steve Barber
SBC Home Mission Board

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Robert Rodriguez sees needs only Southern Baptists can meet.

For Rodriguez, a Southern Baptist home missionary who serves as pastor of a Hispanic mission in Little Rock, many of those needs could be met with a higher level of giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter offering.

"There are so many needs in the area where I work, but the most pressing one is not having enough Spanish-language Bibles," Rodriguez said. "There's always a need for them."

The 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has a goal of \$41 million. Since 1895, the offering has served as a source of caring to a nation in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"The Annie Armstrong offering has supplanted quite a bit over the years, and I've been in situations where the offering has really met a need with salaries, so I've never had to worry about that," Rodriguez said. "And without the offering, we

wouldn't be able to do the things we do. I have been in situations where it has played a much larger role than now for me, personally. But it has been the difference between having Southern Baptist work in an area and not having it."

Rodriguez is but one of more than 4,500 home missionaries that continue to face seemingly daunting challenges in taking the gospel to a nation where lost persons are in the majority.

The latest figures from the Home Mission Board's research department in Atlanta indicate that of 252 million Americans, 173 million do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"Alarming statistics tell us that millions of Americans have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ," said Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. "To

me, that news is devastating, but not hopeless. If we pray and give as never before, miracles can happen across our land."

O'Brien added that Southern Baptists should look at the offering and the Week of Prayer for Home Missions as "a time for extravagance."

"In this day and time, it seems we are already living up to this concept — fancy homes, fine cars, designer clothes," O'Brien said. "However, as Christians, we need to focus on another kind of extravagance — extravagant praying and extravagant giving."

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, echoed the theme of "giving extravagantly" in light of the need and the urgency of reaching the nation for Christ.

"At a time when the opportunity to proclaim 'Christ for our nation' has never been greater, last year for the first time since 1970, Southern Baptists gave less to support home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering than we did the previous year," Lewis said.

"We need to make up this decrease with sacrificial, even extravagant giving, to home missions. Our goal is to start 1,500 new congregations each year by the end of the year 2000. It cannot be done unless Southern Baptists respond with financial support."

James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, urged the men and boys of local churches to "redouble" their efforts in publicizing, praying for, and giving to home missions through the offering.

"Supporting missions through praying and giving is as much a part of our Brotherhood age-level programs as direct mission action," Williams said. "Praying and giving are absolutely essential. 'Time is short, and the needs are so very great. But we can achieve it in God's mighty power and marvelous provision."



Volunteers in Missions Day

Sunday, Feb. 23, is Volunteers in Missions Day! What a wonderful opportunity this day holds for us to recognize those persons from our churches who have volunteered their gifts in ministry during the past year.

Volunteers in Missions Day should be used to focus not only on those who have volunteered in Guatemala and other foreign areas, but also on those who are doing missions right here where we are as well. ABCS Executive Director Don Moore has said, "Arkansas is part of the world we have been called to love."

Think of those persons who volunteer every week at the local food ministry or are teaching others to read. What about those who go every week representing your church while they tutor at a school or serve meals at a senior adult center? We need a time each year when we say "thanks" to them for serving our Lord through their ministries.

Here are a few suggestions of ways to honor them on this day: (1) a banquet, (2) a church newsletter article, (3) thank-you notes personally written from the staff; or (4) recognition in the Feb. 23 worship service.

Let's be grateful to God for those who are willing to give of themselves so that more persons may come to know Him! — Diana E. Lewis, Christian Social Ministries consultant, ABCS Missions Department



LAST IN A THREE-PART SERIES ON FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Raising responsible kids in an irresponsible world

by Larry Henderson
Special to the Arkansas Baptist

Bill was an average-looking 14 year old. He had sandy colored hair that always looked like it needed a comb. He was dressed in old jeans, sneakers, and a t-shirt with a sports team logo. The unique thing about Bill was that he was in prison. As the chaplain sat down to talk to him, Bill asked, "Are you the preacher here?" The chaplain smiled, introduced himself, and began to talk with the young man and heard a story that was sad.

Bill always wanted a close relationship with his dad. Just to have a few hours to go fishing with him would have been great. But, Bill's dad was too busy to notice him and his mom did not pay much attention to him either.

Bill decided he would get attention some way. So he stole a school bus, drove it downtown to the courthouse and with lights blinking, he drove around the town square. Then he drove the bus into one of the police parking spaces, honked the horn, and waited for an officer to come arrest him. As he was led inside the jail, he asked the policeman if his dad would be coming down to talk to him.

It was 16 years ago that interview was conducted and I was that chaplain. All Bill wanted was to be important to someone and have someone think enough of him to spend some time with him. Although he had committed a crime, Bill did not need to be locked in prison. What he needed was to have positive attention and someone to love him.

For over 20 years I have worked with adolescents in prisons and in psychiatric hospitals. They are usually in trouble for a variety of reasons. They may have lost one or both parents through death or divorce and find the grief unbearable. They may have been raised by only one parent or another relative, thus receiving inappropriate supervision or guidance. Their parents may have been dysfunctional and into alcohol or drug usage.

They may have been sexually molested or raped by an adult, peer, or older sibling and do not know how to handle their feelings of rage and helplessness. Drugs or alcohol may seem like an attractive alternative to someone in this kind of pain. However, substance abuse only leads to more pain and trouble with police and court systems.

In the research I have conducted through the years, I have noticed that the kids who do not get into trouble and who live responsible lives have something going for them that makes a difference. They usually have at least one person who is committed to helping them make it in life. They usually have people in their lives who care about them. They usually are active in church and community groups that promote positive behavior. There is much to be said for the old adage that states a person is known by the company he keeps.

One of the most important factors in the life of the responsible kid is the fact that he or she is learning how to make decisions that are morally responsible. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Teaching a child to make morally responsible decisions is one of the most responsible things a parent can do for his or her child. As parents, we cannot teach that lesson if we do not show it by the way we live our own lives. If a parent freely uses drugs and alcohol in front of a child, the child is being trained through

observation to believe such behavior is okay to do. In order for our children to be drug-free, we must spend time with them, love them, and set good examples for them. We must talk with them and be available for them when they have tough subjects to discuss.

The fact that some kids make better decisions than others do, is significant. Lawrence Kohlberg, a social psychologist, has spent years studying how people make decisions. He focused in on children and adolescents and their decisions. His work revealed six stages of decision making among the people he studied. As a person moves up to a higher stage, he makes more responsible decisions. The stages are as follows:

Photo by Jim Veneman



Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Teaching a child to make morally responsible decisions is one of the most responsible things a parent can do for his or her child.

- Stage 1: Obey rules to avoid punishment.
- Stage 2: Obey rules to gain rewards.
- Stage 3: Obey rules to avoid

disapproval by others.

Stage 4: Obey rules to avoid breaking the law.

Stage 5: Obey rules to keep the respect of society.

Stage 6: Obey rules to avoid self-condemnation.

According to Kohlberg's work, moral development is step by step. It can stop at any age. Usually a person's reasoning ability is in one stage with occasional decisions being made one stage above or below. A person can be attracted to reasoning one stage higher than his own stage. The rate of development varies and development is not decided by age.

A parent can help a child develop his or her reasoning ability through the use of several methods. One way is to develop empathy with the child. You can quietly sit with a child to discuss the effects on the family or class of some irresponsible action. Help the child work through a decision by provoking consideration of the feelings of others who will be affected by the decision. Adults can also help by sharing with children their feelings about encounters or events that affect them. Also, helping a child clarify feelings about an event is significant. Another thing that helps the child is to discuss with him or her those times when their actions or presence was a source of joy, pleasure, courage, or comfort.

Other important things are to be remembered. One is that the child or adolescent cannot understand reasons for his behavior that are more than one stage above his current level of thinking. Second, the youth will reject reasons for behaving as he did that are below his level of development.

Most delinquents operate on Stage One of moral decision making. If they think they can get away without punishment, they will break the rule. Kohlberg noted that most Americans are law abiding citizens and operate on Stage Four level of decision making. That is the goal of our work with our children. We need to get them to the point where they will make good decisions because it is the right thing to do.

In order to raise responsible mature kids, we must work to be open, honest, and clear in our communication. We must be willing to listen to our children and be supportive of their

attempts to make decisions on a higher level. We have to develop empathy and rapport with them. We need to help them develop their ability to make choices through discussions, rather than dictating the answers. They will reject our dictated answers. If we teach them how to think and solve issues on their own, then we have accomplished what Proverbs 22:6 is all about.

Larry Henderson, D.Min., is a pastoral counselor who deals with marriage, family and individual needs and is on the allied staff at Rivendell Psychiatric Hospital. He is endorsed by the SBC Home Mission Board for his counseling work and as a chaplain in the Army National Guard. He also works with the ACTS television series "Just Kids."

Faith Inspires Learning

1992—Faith Inspires Learning
1993—Faith Restores Growth
1994—Faith Produces Commitment
1995—Faith Undergirds Discipline

**Observe Baptist
Seminary, College
and School Day**

February 16, 1992

SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Mark Ralley has joined the staff of Greenlee Church in Pine Bluff as minister of music and youth.

Mike Huckabee has resigned as pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana, effective Feb. 2.

Karl Shackelford and **Frances Caley** have completed 50 years of service as members of Abbott Church, Mansfield.

George Fink is serving as pastor of First Church of Weiner, coming there from Hydrick Church in Cherry Valley.

Fred Findley has resigned as minister of church at Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock.

Iona Castman Mallory, a member of West Side Church in Little Rock, died January 5 at age 79. Survivors include two daughters, Millie Gill of Little Rock, executive assistant to the editor of *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, and Loretta Tidwell of Houston, Texas; a grandson, John Tidwell of Houston; a granddaughter, Lucretia Gartrell of North Little Rock; and one great-grandson, Stephen Gartrell of North Little Rock; and three sisters.

Buddy Fisher is serving as pastor of First Church of Rover.

William Black is serving as pastor of New Hope Church of Dardanelle.

Robert Duhon is serving as pastor of Calvary Church of Dardanelle.

Oda C. Masters of Charleston died Dec. 19 at age 83. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he was a member of Southside Church in Charleston. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ethel Smith Masters of Charleston; three daughters, Sherrill Watson of Memphis, Tenn., Pat Haws of Charleston, and Vickie Carroll of Kansas City; one brother; and eight grandchildren.

David Tate has retired as minister of music and education at First Church of Batesville, following more than 10 years of service there and 43 years in the ministry.

Linda Landers has resigned as organist at First Church of Crossett, following three years of service.

Chet Wright recently was licensed to the gospel ministry by New Hope Church, Conway.

Larry Ballard is serving as interim pastor of Oak Bowery Church, Conway.

Elsie Walls Trimble of Lonoke died Jan. 3 at age 100. Her funeral services were held Jan. 5 at Lonoke Church where she was a member and had served as a teacher. She also had served as an officer in the Arkansas State Parent-Teacher Association, and had been an active member of religious, civic, and community affairs. In addition, she was selected as Woman of the Year by the Lonoke Chamber of Commerce and also helped organize one of the first soup kitchens in Arkansas and Lonoke County during the Great Depression. Mrs. Trimble was the only woman to have both a husband and a daughter to serve as a United States district judge. Her daughter, Elsjane Trimble Roy of Little Rock, also a lawyer, was the first woman in Arkansas to be appointed circuit judge and the first woman to be appointed to the state Supreme Court. Other survivors include another daughter, Susan Measel of Birmingham, Ala; and a son, Walls Trimble of Little Rock; two brothers; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Jeff Thomas, a chaplain intern at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, is serving as pastor of Antioch Church, Beebe.

Norman Miller is serving as pastor of Sidon Church in Calvary Association.

Robert Hunt is serving as pastor of New Hope Church, Greenwood.

Butch Booth has joined the staff of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith as youth director.

Eddie Combs is serving as interim administrator for East Side Church in Fort Smith.

Ken Blackwood is serving as pastor of First Church of Marvell. A recent graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, he is a native of Falkville, Ala. He and his wife, Alison, have a daughter, April.

Tom and Kay Cox participated Jan. 20-21 in the Nevada Baptist Evangelism Conference. Cox, who is serving as president of the ABCS Evangelists, preached at the conference and both participated in the music program.

Bruce Brown has joined the staff of First Church in Harrison as youth and children's pastor. A native of North Little Rock, he is



Lester McCullough (right), music director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, talks with **Wesley Forbis**, director of the Sunday School Board's church music department, following annual December planning meetings. McCullough accepted for Arkansas Baptists an award for the greatest percentage increase in attendance in music ministry among all state conventions.

a December graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Terry, have a son, Matthew.

Shawn Barnard is serving as pastor of New Hope Church, Sparkman. He is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University.

Harry Y. Noble Jr. is serving as pastor of First Church in Wilmore, coming there from Tyler, Texas. Noble, a graduate of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, La., attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Noble and his wife, Jean Smith Noble, are parents of three adult children who are Texas residents.

Mark Vaughn, pastor of Whittion Church, was ordained to the ministry Jan. 19 at Brinkley First Church where previously he was a member. Vaughn is a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Inez Poynter of Cotter died Jan. 13 at age 74. Her funeral services were held Jan. 15 at First Church of Cotter where she was a member. Poynter had retired in December as secretary of White River Association, following nine years of service. Survivors are a son, James Hoy Poynter Jr. of Atlanta, Ga.; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Jim and Bodie Forshee were recognized Jan. 12 by Mountain Home for perfect attendance in Sunday School. He received a pin for 25 years and she received a pin, recognizing 27 years of perfect attendance.

Scott Johnson began his first pastorate Jan. 27, serving as pastor of Brookwood Church in Little Rock where he had been a member. He has been a Boyce Bible School student. Johnson and his wife, Tina, have a daughter, Danielle.

Jeff Payne has joined the staff of First Church in Rogers as minister to youth and college, coming there from Bryant Avenue Church in Oklahoma City. A native of Ada, Okla., he attended Oklahoma Baptist University and Trinity Baptist Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana. Payne and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Robert, James, and Kalan.

Tom Wood of Green Forest is serving as pastor of Rudd Church, Green Forest.

Tom Perkins is serving as pastor of Hopewell Church, Harrison.

James Stone is serving as pastor of Morning Star Mission.

John Durden has joined the staff of Eagle Heights Church in Harrison as minister of music and youth, coming there from Corinth, Miss., where he served as pastor of Farmington Church. He is a graduate of

Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Debra, have six children.

Harley Petty has joined the staff of Woodland Heights Church in Harrison as minister of youth. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Petty and his wife, Lee Ann, moved to Harrison from Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Raymond "Dave" Mitchell of Arkadelphia died Jan. 17 at age 74. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister. Survivors are his wife, Blanche Marie Simmons Mitchell; a daughter, Paula Ledbetter of Arkadelphia; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Jeffrey Gayle Noble of Little Rock, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is serving as associate pastor and youth director for a church in Toler, Texas. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he is the son of Gayle Linwood Noble and Marylee Smith Noble.

Roy Stillman of Jacksonville, a retired Southern Baptist minister, died Jan. 15 at age 83. Survivors are his wife, Audrey Fortson Stillman; four sons, J.R. Stillman of Little Rock, E.E. Stillman of Hot Springs, Ralph Stillman of Sacramento, Calif., and Billy Stillman of Beebe; a daughter, Lucille Bright of Little Rock; a step-daughter, Dohas Corley of Jacksonville; two brothers; three sisters; 25 grandchildren; and 40 great-grandchildren.

Briefly

Claud Road Church of Pine Bluff was hit by a fire Dec. 22 that resulted in \$150,000 to \$200,000 damage to the interior of the auditorium. The fire is believed to have started in the baptistry heater. Most of the loss was covered by insurance.

Dover Church ordained Bill Linton to the deacon ministry Dec. 15. Jeff Paxton was speaker.

Little Rock Immanuel Church held a service Jan. 5 to commission Dana and David Dixon for two years of mission service in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Blytheville First Church ordained John Roden Jr. to the deacon ministry Jan. 5.

Refuge Church at Story ordained David Smith to the gospel ministry Dec. 29. Participating in the service were Henry Webb, Ron Nease, Carl Bunch, director of missions for Caddo River Association, and Velvet Sperry.

West Acres Chapel at West Helena was constituted as a church Jan. 12. Second Church of West Helena has been the sponsoring church with financial assistance coming through Arkansas Valley Association, the ABCS Missions Department, two Pine Bluff churches, Marvell First Church and Lexa Church. Mike Fowler has served as pastor since its organization in 1986 with 15 members. Currently 142 are enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 61. Worship attendance is averaging 79. There have been 52 baptisms.

Benton Trinity Church recently received approximately \$10,000 smoke damage to its building as a result of a fire started by an arsonist. The congregation had no insurance to cover the damage.

Nettleton Church in Jonesboro has launched Operation Barnabas in an effort to contact and reenlist inactive members. Stan Ballard is pastor.

Van Buren First Church ordained Avid Whitsett to the deacon ministry Jan. 19.

Forrest City First Church mailed a \$12,105.68 check Jan. 14 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering that exceeded the church's \$10,000 goal. Delton M. Beall is pastor.

Valley View Church at Eureka Springs was launched Jan. 12 as a new mission of First Church of Berryville. There were 25 in attendance with four joining the fellowship in the first service. Raymond Edwards is sponsoring church pastor. Bob Fisher is serving as mission pastor with Danny Fields directing music.

Cummins improvement

The Cummins Unit Chapel, where ABCS Chaplain John Belken serves, recently received new carpeting. The new red carpeting, installed in the sanctuary, education center and all offices, was donated by Jimmy and Vicki Shults of Pine Bluff.

Lesson correlation

The Sunday School lessons for Jan. 19, 1992, published in the Jan. 2 issue of the ABN were assigned to writers in early 1991 from materials provided by the Sunday School Board. A special lesson on abortion was released later; the ABN regrets that the ABN commentary did not correlate with the literature.

Conflict conferences

A church I once served had a history of conflict among the members and between the members and pastors. Had I realized the full impact of what I was about to experience, I probably would never have gone there.

Conflict management techniques seemed to be unknown to this church. Shouting matches sometimes included vile language. A few times, fist fights actually took place. On a number of occasions, the pastor was terminated. Many times valuable members left to go to other churches or members just dropped out of church altogether.

In the early months of my ministry, as I visited prospects in the community, I was told many different stories of the church's history of strife. The church had forfeited its ability to reach the lost of the area. Their witness was destroyed. Even now the church is prone to unChristian speech and acts. The church is fewer in number now than when I was the pastor years ago.

We can do better than the church I mentioned. We can learn to be more Christ-like in tough situations. We can learn techniques to use in problem solving and deal with sticky problems with integrity, openness and a Christ-like spirit. Using New Testament principles in managing relationships is needed. This means honoring the Word of God, acknowledging the dignity and worth of every person and seeking to glorify Christ.

Area Conflict Management Conferences are designed to help us learn how to deal with problems. Mike McKinney, consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead the following conferences: Feb. 17, Springdale Caudle Avenue Church; Feb. 18, Dardanelle First Church; and Feb. 20, Mena First Church.

Each conference will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m. Every church in the area is invited to attend. For more information, contact the Church Leadership Support Department at 376-4791, ext. 5148.—L.B. Jordan, director, ABSC Church Leadership Support Department

Monticello volleyball tournament to benefit Children's Homes

Monticello First Church will sponsor the fifth annual Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes Men's Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. in several gyms located in Monticello. The tournament will be double elimination with team trophies awarded for first, second, and third place winners.

Other than trophy costs and gym rental, all the entry fees submitted will be donated to the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes. The entry form and a \$50 per team fee is due on or before Feb. 11. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church, Monticello, and mail to Tom McCone, First Baptist Church; P.O. Box 187, Monticello, AR 72655.

First Cabot leads state in study awards

Cabot First Church ranked first in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for total study awards earned in 1990-91 with 435 statistics show.

Bear Creek Springs Church of Harrison was second with 374, and Pine Bluff Central Church was third with 322, according to statistics compiled in the church study course records office at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

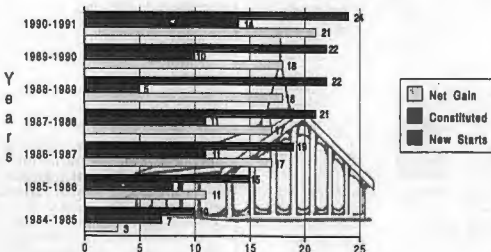
Texas led all states in the Southern Baptist Convention in church study course Awards earned for 1990-91 with 75,149. Florida was second with 73,974, and Georgia was third with 56,436.

Arkansas churches earned a total of 12,027 awards for 1990-91.

Special education information

The Special Education section of the Baptist Sunday School Board is providing a Special Education Starter Kit, free of charge, to churches who desire to start a Special Education Department. The kit contains materials for the next quarter as well as information about support resources. This resource will give you some excellent support as you begin new units in special education. Churches may request a Special Education Starter Kit by writing: Special Education Section, Man 180, 12 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Mission/church progress in Arkansas



Even though across America, new congregation loss is 50 percent or greater, Arkansas is doing far better, according to Jack Ramsey, director of church extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Of the 133 new church starts in Arkansas over the past seven years, 65 have constituted and there has been a loss of only 12 congregations. Arkansas has had almost twice as many older churches to disband (23) than mission failures. An increase in new congregations causes a decrease in the loss of older churches, Ramsey said.

Of the 68 new starts in Arkansas in the past three years, only five have failed, a much better rate than elsewhere in the nation, according to Ramsey.

Five Arkansans assigned to ISC

Five Arkansans were among 58 people recently assigned by the SBC Foreign Mission Board to work overseas through the International Service Corps.

Mason and Margaret Bondurant will live in Senegal where he will serve as an English-language pastor for six months.

Mason Bondurant most recently was interim pastor of Indian Head Lake Church in Sherwood. He previously has served as a missionary associate and considers Jacksonville his hometown. He is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Margaret Bondurant also has served as a missionary associate and considers Jacksonville her hometown. She is a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Seminary. She has been assigned to church and home outreach evangelism in Senegal.

David and Dana Dixon will live in Southern Africa where he has been assigned to administration, and she has been assigned to secretarial support work, both for two years.

David Dixon most recently worked as a manager trainee for Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Little Rock, and considers Arkadelphia his hometown. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Dana Dixon was most recently employed as an accountant with Gaunt and Co. in Little Rock, and considers Shreveport, La., her hometown. She also is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Betty Wickes will serve as a nurse in Zimbabwe for one year. She was most recently employed as head resident at Ouachita Baptist University. She was a missionary associate in Jordan and Gaza. She is a graduate of Brigham Young University in Utah.

Church Growth Conference planned

A nationwide Southern Baptist Church Growth Conference has been planned for Aug. 31-Sept. 3 at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. This is the first nationwide conference planned



jointly by the Baptist Sunday School Board, the Home Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The conference will include general sessions, situation/setting conferences, and special interest workshops. The situation/setting conferences include non-growing churches, plateaued churches, and growing churches. Each of these conferences will be divided into three categories: open country, small town, and city.

The special interest workshops include 90 workshops which will offer creative ways to plan and implement church growth strategies. Speakers for the general sessions include John Bisagno, Ken Hemphill, Richard Jackson, and Rick Warren.

Arkansas has a goal to have 200 pastors, staff, directors of missions, and lay people to attend the conference. Associations will be encouraged to car/van pool to the conference.

Registration for the conference begins at 1:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 31. The first general session starts at 6:45 p.m., Aug. 31. The conference concludes on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 11:30 a.m.

Bold Mission Prayer Thrust

Answered Prayer:

Thank you for praying for Paul and Betty Rothen as they minister at the Hope Migrant Center.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Partnership Missions:
 - *Arkansas/Guatemala—Missionaries Yvonne Helton, Guatemala City; Don and June Courtney, Kekchi Indians.
 - *Pray for Arkansas volunteer missionaries, for safety and effectiveness.
 - *Pray for Louis Galindo, president of the Guatemala Baptist Convention.
 - *Arkansas/Iowa—Pray for Iowa leadership as they make plans for 1992-93 missions projects.
- Continue to pray for spiritual awakening in Eastern Europe.
- Pray for each pastor and church in your area.
- Pray for your association.
- Pray for Don Moore, ABSC executive director; Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director; and Dan Jordan, ABSC business manager. Pray in particular for those who serve you in the ABSC Sunday School Department: Freddie Pike, Jackie Edwards, Ed Hinkson, Pat Ratton, Larry Sherman, Brenda Seal and Leah Vocque.

Fellowships celebrate unity

Over the past few months, hundreds of black and white Christians have gathered to worship Christ in unity as a part of Baptist Fellowships, jointly sponsored by National and Southern Baptists. Some of their meetings are as follows:

More than 125 participants gathered at Eudora Baptist Church in Crossett on Dec. 2, 1991, sponsored by the Southeast Arkansas Fellowship.

One hundred black and white Christians celebrated in Youngblood Auditorium in Magnolia on Nov. 10, sponsored by the Southwest Arkansas Fellowship.

More than 100 participants attended the Southwest-Central Arkansas Fellowship, hosted by Trinity Baptist Church in Benton on Nov. 4.

Five hundred Christians from more than 30 churches attended the El Dorado Fellowship, hosted by St. John Missionary Baptist Church on Oct. 27.



ABSC Cooperative Ministries Director Jack Kwok addresses a joint fellowship.

College Digest

Ouachita Baptist University

New zip code—The United States Postal Service field division in Little Rock has assigned the OBU campus a new zip code. The new code is 71998-0001.

Video yearbook honored—The university's 1990-91 video yearbook recently was honored with a first place rating in competition sponsored by the National Scholastic Press Association and the Associated Collegiate Press. The OBU submission was cited for marks of distinction in coverage, content, theme and consistency. The video yearbook is directed by Dave Ozum, instructor in communications.

Largest bequest—The estate of the late Pete Parks of Tupelo, Okla., has presented Ouachita Baptist University with the largest bequest in the 105-year history of the university, amounting to an estimated \$3 million.

Registrar president—Mike Kolb, registrar, director of admissions and director of placement at OBU, has been elected president of the Arkansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers for the academic year ending in October 1992.

Williams Baptist College

Spears' compositions premiered—Gay Spears, assistant professor of music at Williams, recently had two of her original compositions premiered. The "Bagatelles for Two Pianos" was premiered by Spears and Don Freund, professor of music at

Memphis State University, at MSU on Dec. 1, 1991. "Piano Sonata No. 1" received its first public performance by J.D. Kelly, professor of music at Arkansas State University, during his annual piano recital in Jonesboro on Dec. 3, 1991. In March, Spears' "Conversations for Woodwind Quintet" will be premiered by the Blair Woodwind Quintet of Nashville, Tenn.

Torch wins award—Williams Baptist College's 1991 yearbook *The Torch* was recently awarded first place with special merit by the American Scholastic Press Association. 1991 WBC yearbook editors were Dana Ross Kelly of Imboden and Beth LeDuc of Granite City, Ill.

Student academic honors—Williams recently announced its student who excelled in academic achievement for the 1991 fall semester. Twenty-six students were named to the President's List which requires a 4.0 grade average; 44 student were named to the Dean's List, requiring a 3.5 grade point average.

Faculty academic honors—Six faculty members recently received academic promotions at WBC. Kenneth Startup was promoted to professor of history and Paul Rhoads was promoted to associate professor of psychology and religion. Four faculty members were promoted from the position of instructor in their respective fields to assistant professor: Carol Halford, health and physical education; Melinda Williams, speech and drama; Alice McHaney, biology; and Lana Rhoads, mathematics.

Seminaries graduate Arkansans

Southern—Three Arkansans were among the approximately 200 students receiving degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., during commencement exercises Dec. 13.

Thomas Eugene Miller received a diploma in Christian ministry. Dennis Martin Cherry received the master of divinity degree. Samuel P. Roberts was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree.

Southwestern—Nine Arkansans received degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in December.

Receiving the doctor of education degree was J. Leo George of Jonesboro.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Donnie McCoy O'Fallon of Crossett and Robert Alan Pinkston of Harrison.

Receiving the master of divinity with

biblical languages were Bruce Jackson Brown of North Little Rock and Jeffrey Harold Simpson of Bella Vista.

Receiving the master if arts in religious education degree were Sherry D. Graves of Paragould and Mark Russell Williams of Hope.

William Berry Meadows of Magnolia received a master of arts in marriage and family counseling degree and a master of arts in religious education degree.

Ken Lovelace of Pine Bluff received a master of divinity degree and a master of arts in religious education degree.

Golden Gate—One Arkansan was among the 38 students who graduated in December from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. Harvey Wayne Martindill earned an associate of Christian education degree.

Looking Ahead

February

- 2 Associational Hymn Sings (M)
 - 2 Baptist World Alliance Sunday (SBC)
 - 4 State SMC Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ad)
 - 4-5 At Home Days (Ad)
 - 6 National and SBC Fellowships, North Little Rock St. Peter's Baptist Church (NB)
 - 7 Associational Dialogue Session, Batesville First Church (Ad)
 - 7-8 Church Renewal Workshop, Levy Church, North Little Rock (Bbd)
 - 7-8 Great Commission Breakthrough, Benton First Church (SS)
 - 6 OBU Heartbeat Concert (OBU)
 - 8 Youth Evangelism Training Day, Immanuel, El Dorado (Ev)
 - 8 Youth Evangelism Training Day, Greenwood First Church (Ev)
 - 9 Race Relations Sunday (SBC)
 - 9-15 Focus on WMU (SBC)
 - 11 Race Relations Conference, Baptist Building, Little Rock (NB)
 - 13 Annual CCM Workshop, Second Church, Little Rock (MSSN)
 - 15 Smaller Sunday School Workshop, Perryville Church (SS)
 - 15 Seminaries, Colleges & Schools (SBC)
 - 16-19 Home Mission Study (SBC)
 - 17 Area Conflict Management Conference, Caudle Avenue Church, Springdale (CLS)
 - 17-21 Large Church Consultations (DT)
 - 18 Area Conflict Management Conf., Dardenelle First Church (CLS)
 - 20 Area Conflict Management Conf. Mena First Church (CLS)
 - 20 One Day Soul Winning Workshop, Baptists Building, Little Rock (Ev)
 - 21-22 State Single Adult Conference, Baring Cross Baptist, North Little Rock (DT)
 - 22 Youth Evangelism Training Day, Immanuel, Pine Bluff (Ev)
 - 22 Volunteers in Missions Day (SBC)
- Abbreviations:
Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CL - Church Leadership; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; NB - National Baptists; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

Brotherhood: alive and well

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The Brotherhood Commission is alive and well," declared James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, SBC. There is a new interest in the work of the Brotherhood Commission because of increased interest in volunteerism. The statements made by Williams were made in conjunction with Baptist Men's Day Jan. 12 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

In Williams' morning message he said that the Bible emphasizes reconciliation. First, there is man's reconciliation with God and second, God is reconciling Christians to their brothers and sisters who are God's children.

Both men and women are called to be God's *laos*. It is God's pattern to use the *laos* to reach the world for himself. Jesus set the pattern when he called 12 lay people to be his apostles.

The pattern of using lay people was continued in the book of Acts. It was lay people who were used to carry the gospel throughout the then known world. Throughout the history of Christianity lay people have been used to carry the gospel. "Each and every believer is called to be a minister," Williams emphasized.

Southern Baptists have always been involved in encouraging lay people to be involved in carrying the gospel. Williams gave several examples of how Southern Baptists are utilizing lay people in spreading the gospel and meeting the needs of people. Currently, the Brotherhood Commission has 1,700 construction workers that are available on call. There are an additional 40,000 volunteer workers who are available to serve in this country and around the world in the area of their vocational interest. The commission has 40,000 disaster relief workers that are available, upon call, to meet disaster in this country and around the world.

The Brotherhood Commission works with the Woman's Missionary Union, the Home Mission Board, and the Foreign Mission Board, not only to promote missions, but also to provide volunteers. Currently, there are a number of co-educational projects that have been developed. Williams said, in an interview with the ABN, that these programs were receiving positive response.

One of the co-educational programs designed for young people is World Changers. Williams gave examples of the impact that World Changers is having on the lives of individuals. In one instance, the young people put a roof on a house for an



Brotherhood President James Williams

older woman whose funds were so limited that she only had two slices of bread and some cooking oil in the house. The young people secured groceries for her, re-roofed her house, re-modeled the house throughout, closing cracks and making other needed repairs.

The young people re-roofed another house where an older man became a Christian as the result of their work. Williams emphasized that through meeting physical needs, opportunities also become available to meet the spiritual needs of individuals. There currently are 12,000 World Changers.

This past year the World Changers conducted programs in 10 different sites in the United States and two overseas. As a result of these programs, 42 professions of faith were registered. World Changers are young people (both men and women) who do missions in a community setting.

Williams observed that mission commitment by adults is increasing. Baptist Men assisted in cleanup and providing after Hurricane Bob struck the northeastern United States.

Immediately after the Persian Gulf War, Baptist Men from Texas, Arkansas, and elsewhere assisted the Kurds in northern Iraq. Arkansas Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober was a part of this effort. The men moved portable kitchens, food and other equipment to the area, enabling them

to serve 10,000 hot meals per day. This was the first time since 1979 that Christians had been able to be in the area.

Williams said, "It may be that we may have to demonstrate the gospel before we can verbalize. We live in a world that is so bombarded with words that sometimes only actions will communicate." He observed that through the actions of Christian people things were changing rapidly. For example, 10 years ago it would have been impossible to distribute Bibles in the former U.S.S.R., but two years ago Williams was a part of the World Fair in the former Soviet Union and was able to openly distribute numerous Bibles. People lined up for two blocks to receive Bibles. Madeline Murray O'Hare was there with her display on atheism, but no one was interested. One Russian man said, "We have already tried what she has to offer."

Williams had the privilege of leading a former KGB officer to Christ. The officer came to him and said, "I have been watching you Christians and you are different." He went on to say, "I understand the humanity of Christ, but help me to understand his deity." Williams said that after two hours of discussion, the man held out his hand and said, "I believe."

Williams observed that the Brotherhood Commission is now receiving requests from numerous sources to be involved in meeting crises. Recently they have received requests from the U.S. State Department to help in crises needs around the world. He said, "As we reflect Christ to a lost world, our opportunities are unlimited."

Interested in a Ministry of Love?

Arkansas Baptist Homes is looking for dedicated Christian singles (with no children) or couples (without children) to live and work with children in a home-like setting. Salary, fringe benefits, and training are provided. Call or write Royce Aston, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 501-367-5358.



Quality Van Sales

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

Chapman is executive nominee

To start after 1992 SBC annual meeting

by Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press

DURHAM, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Morris H. Chapman is the nominee to succeed Harold C. Bennett as president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, according to the search committee chairman, with an employment date sometime after the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, was selected from 11 candidates recommended to the search committee. Julian Motley, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., and search committee chairman, said the committee interviewed three top candidates, one of which included Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas. Motley would not identify the third candidate.

Assuming the Executive Committee approves the nominee at its Feb. 17-19 meeting in Nashville, Chapman is expected to begin after he finishes his second term as SBC president at the June 9-11 meeting. Chapman informed the Wichita Falls congregation Jan. 19 but details of the exact employment date with the Executive Committee will be worked out at the February meeting, Motley told Baptist Press.

As chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, Chapman, 51, would lead the body which determines distribution of more than \$140 million in Cooperative Program gifts and acts for the convention between its annual meetings. Bennett, 67, has announced his retirement, effective Oct. 1.

"In presenting Dr. Chapman... (the committee) will call attention in its report to the significant contribution which he has made to the conservative renewal in the convention," Motley said, "and to his mission vision and leadership skills demonstrated as president of the SBC in helping to mobilize its agencies and people in Bold Mission Thrust.

"The decision to recommend Chapman... was reached, (our) report will reveal, only after having thoroughly considered other candidates also for the position and after having become fully persuaded of God's will," Motley told Baptist Press.

The search committee had six scheduled meetings, Motley said, and three conference calls.

"The work of this committee began to be a soul-searching pilgrimage as we proceeded with the task of narrowing our con-



Morris Chapman

SBC photo / Mark Sandlin

sideration down, eventually to three candidates and then to two. Three were interviewed by the full committee," Motley said. Asked by Baptist Press if Patterson were the number two candidate, Motley would not comment further.

The committee conducted three interview sessions with Chapman, two including his wife, Jodi. The committee conducted extensive research into all aspects of Chapman's personal and public life, Motley said, and engaged the services of a noted corporate management firm in Nashville and a well-known medical clinic in Dallas to conduct professional examinations covering physical, psychological, professional, corporate skills and personal fitness for the position.

Chapman's role in SBC life was underscored in the committee's report to the Executive Committee.

"He has held numerous positions of leadership on state and SBC levels and has traveled and preached extensively in evangelism conferences and crusades and in preaching missions with the Foreign Mission Board. As a pastor and denominational leader, Dr. Chapman has distinguished himself as a man of vision and of diplomacy and of administrative skills. Through the years he has demonstrated a genuine commitment to evangelism and world missions.

"At the historic First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, during his 12-year pastorate, he has led the church to increase its Cooperative Program gifts from 12 percent to 14 and a half percent and has averaged over 160 baptisms per year, placing the church in the top one percent of Southern Baptist churches in CP gifts and baptisms.

"Prior to Wichita Falls, Dr. Chapman was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N.M., where he also served two terms as president of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. During his years in

Wichita Falls, he has served on the (state convention) Executive Board, on the Hardin-Simmons University board of trustees, on committees to nominate trustees for Baylor University and on coordinating boards for other Texas Baptist institutions.

"Dr. Chapman is theologically conservative and has demonstrated his personal commitment of the direction taken by the SBC theologically and toward a sound, biblical evangelism and missions thrust... His main strengths as identified in the professional testing are compassion, sensitivity, a logical mind, excellent verbal communication skills, and mediation skills without compromising principles. He is characterized in these tests as one who commands respect and performs with dignity and as a Christian statesman."

Chapman's wife, the former Jodi Francis of Memphis, Tenn., has served on the SBC Peace Committee and as a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The couple has a son, Christopher Morris, a single adult and college minister at First Baptist of Lakeland, Fla., and a daughter, Stephanie Evans, in Christian counseling in Houston.

Chapman is a native of Kosciusko, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi College. He holds master and doctorate degrees from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a doctor of sacred theology from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. In addition to convention president, Chapman has served on various boards and committees, including the chair of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

Fellowship calls Sherman as exec

DALLAS (BP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's coordinating council voted unanimously Jan. 9 in Dallas to call Cecil E. Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as the first full-time coordinator of the Atlanta-base moderate group.

The 82-member council approved a salary and benefits package not to exceed \$100,000 for the coordinator's post.

A member of the search committee, Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallwood Baptist Church in Houston, said, "Cecil is giving it prayerful and favorable consideration."

The new coordinator will have an office in Atlanta, where the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formed last year in response to a "takeover" of Southern Baptist convention agencies by conservatives.

Sherman, 64, came to Broadway in 1984 after 20 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C.

Leaders issue call to prayer

by Susan Todd Doyle

SBC Woman's Missionary Union

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)—A conviction that Southern Baptists are losing their passion for missions led leaders of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to take two related actions during their Jan. 11-16 meeting:

—They issued a call to prayer among the WMU membership for Southern Baptists to reclaim their passion for missions, and

—National WMU President Carolyn Miller appointed 16 of the leaders to explore action plans and strategies that "could enable the denomination to meet missions challenges and seize the opportunities of the day."

The gathering of WMU leaders at Talladega, Ala., included state WMU presidents, who comprise the WMU executive board, state WMU executive directors, national WMU leaders and their staffs. The leaders met at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega.

The call to prayer is scheduled for noon Monday, Feb. 10, through noon Tuesday,

Feb. 11. The call to prayer falls within "Focus on WMU Week" and coincides with the February meeting of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees.

WMU leaders are asking WMU members throughout the country to pray earnestly that Southern Baptists will reclaim their passion for missions.

"Prayer is the most powerful action we can take, no matter what the issue," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director. "These are trying times not only within our denomination but within our own country and the larger world scene as well. We must claim the power of the Holy Spirit and the promises of God's Word to guide us every step of the way."

"We must not stop. We must keep marching forward for the cause of missions as long as there is one lost soul left in this world," she said. "We must not be consumed by the darkness of confusion, doubt or fear. We must trust our Guide and his promises."

Miller charged the 16 leaders with considering all possibilities that could lead the

denomination back to a priority on missions. She asked them to recommend immediate, short-term and long-term strategies or action plans.

"I deliberately did not give the leaders a name, such as a 'committee' or 'task force' or anything else," Miller said. "I don't even want them to be limited by what we call them. I want them to be totally free to dream."

O'Hare petition fears groundless

There currently is no petition to the FCC by atheist leader Madeline Murray O'Hare to remove religious broadcasting from the airwaves. A handbill calling for action against Petition 2493 recently has resurfaced, causing alarm among concerned Christians. Such fears are groundless and no action needs to be taken. Those wishing confirmation from the Federal Communications Commission in Washington D.C. should call 202-632-7000. The FCC prefers that concerned citizens not contact them by mail.

1992 ANNUAL STATEWIDE PASTOR'S RETREAT March 9-10 Camp Paron

(Lunch Monday through Dinner Tuesday Evening)

"Pastor—That Impossible But Glorious Calling!"

Special Feature

- ★ Bible Study — *David Garland, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary*
- ★ Called to Reach People — *Leon Kilbreth, Building on Basics*
- ★ Ministry Based Evangelism — *Mitch Tapson, pastor, Mt. Carmel, Cabot*
- ★ Findings on Conflict and Termination — *L.B. Jordan, director, Church Leadership Support, ABSC*
- ★ Training and Planning Changed My Ministry — *Stephen Davis, pastor, First, Russellville*
- ★ Leadership Training You Can Use — *Steve Tanner*
- ★ Sing and Celebrate — *John Dresbach, Central, Jonesboro*

Reservation information will be in the mail to all pastors in the next two weeks.

PLEASE PUT THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Sponsored by: Executive Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Don Moore, Executive Director

TRUETT SEMINARY

Regents delay opening

by Toby Druin
Texas Baptist Standard

WACO, Texas (BP)—Baylor University's board of regents Jan. 17 authorized a committee to respond to a recommendation to delay the opening of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in the fall of 1994.

A five-member committee of the regents was named by chairman Glenn Biggs of San Antonio to meet with five members of the seminary trustees to be named by their chairman, Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallwood Baptist Church in Houston.

Named to the regents' group were John T. Boyd, Amarillo, chairman; Tom Powers, Houston; Roger McDonald, Garland; Max Brown, Galveston; and W. Dewey Presley, Dallas. Names of the five to be selected by Vestal were not available.

The joint committee is expected to make a recommendation at the regents' next regular meeting March 20.

The trustees made the unanimous recommendation to open the seminary in 1994 in response to what was described as "a window of opportunity" to share the gospel with the world, a need for more preachers and for a "stackpole" around which to build a new consensus in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1994 opening would give time to hire faculty and staff, establish procedures

and begin soliciting endowment. It was emphasized the seminary would not be a "deficit" operation and would not siphon funds from the operation of the university.

Baylor reserved the name George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 1990 and incorporated the institution and elected trustees in 1991. The 15-member body includes four Southern Baptists from outside Texas. Vestal was elected its first chairman.

University regents initiated proceedings to establish the school, explaining the seminary would begin operations if it were determined the six SBC seminaries were being led away from their historic mission by "extremist" elements — conservatives who now control all SBC seminary boards of trustees.

That rationale, including observations that Southeastern Seminary has been "devastated," the futures of Golden Gate and Midwestern seminaries are in question and great changes are being made at Southern Seminary, was aired in a two-hour dialogue between regents and seminary trustees in Waco Jan. 16, during which Truett trustees unanimously recommended opening the seminary in 1994.

Instruction is still sound at Southwestern Seminary, it was noted, but conservative pressures have affected faculty selection

and the future of the seminary was questioned after current administrative leadership is gone. "True learning" exists only in an "atmosphere of freedoms," it was observed.

The faculty of Southwestern Seminary recently approved a resolution asking Baylor to delay opening the seminary. The resolution was read to trustees and regents and was presented to the Baylor faculty Jan. 20.

The *Baptist Standard*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was permitted to have a representative at the regents/trustees dialogue under background rules, which permit no direct quotes or attribution of positions taken.

Some regents questioned delaying the opening but were told time is needed to elect faculty and staff, establish procedures and build an endowment operation.

Trustees recommended an enrollment cap at 1,000 students. Several scenarios of initial enrollment goals and costs to be charged during the initial years were outlined. Most prominent in the discussion was an initial cost of about \$2,600 annually. That would be about \$2,000 more than the current cost at a Cooperative Program-subsidized seminary but would be much less than many other seminaries, it was noted.

The seminary would be housed initially in current university buildings and require a projected faculty of 15 members.

Classifieds

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Southwestern faculty asks for delay

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—A statement calling on the faculty and administration of Baylor University to "delay your plans for the establishment of another Baptist seminary" has been issued by the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The statement, which was delivered by a delegation from Southwestern's faculty Jan. 6, assures officials at Baylor that, "The academic freedom we have traditionally enjoyed at Southwestern Seminary remains intact."

"In light of our cordial historic relationships, we, the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, respectfully request that you delay your plans for the establishment of another Baptist seminary. We would welcome dialogue on this matter as 'laborers together with God,'" the statement says.

Southwestern Seminary was founded at Baylor University in 1908 and moved to

Fort Worth in 1910. The seminary's ownership transferred from the Baptist General Convention of Texas to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1925.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday, a Baylor graduate, said the statement, which was approved by a vote of the faculty, represents a positive step on the part of the seminary's teachers in attempting to work together with Baylor. Dilday also said the statement is significant because 21 members of Southwestern's faculty hold degrees from Baylor.

"Through the years Southwestern and Baylor have benefited from a collegial and complimentary relationship which has mutually helped both institutions," Dilday said. "We want to maintain that cooperative spirit and wish to avoid any actions that would create adversarial or competitive tensions."

"We believe our colleagues at Baylor share the same concerns and we are looking forward to continued dialogue."

Across the Country

Home missions gifts fall below 1990 total

ATLANTA—Gifts to the 1991 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions fell below the 1990 offering total by less than 1 percent. The unaudited report shows the 1991 Easter offering gifts totaled \$35.52 million, compared to \$35.67 million in 1990, for a 0.44 percent decrease. The 1991 offering reached 86.64 percent of the \$41 million goal.

"We are deeply concerned about this but we must not let this be discouraging," said Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president. "We need to see this slight decrease in long-range perspective and realize that last year we received an increase of 8.14 percent through the Annie Armstrong offering," Lewis noted.

The 1990 offering was \$2.69 million more than the previous year, the largest dollar-amount increase on record.

Acts commentary volume selected for book club

NASHVILLE—The latest volume of *The New American Commentary* published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press will soon be brought to the attention of 10,000 evangelical readers.

Acts, written by John B. Polhill, professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been chosen as the Evangelical Book Club's main selection for its March bulletin.

EBC is a nondenominational book club based in Milford, Mich., near Detroit. While Broadman books have been listed in the EBC bulletin before, this is the first time one has been granted "main selection" status.

South Carolina native takes HMB post

ATLANTA (BP)—David Winfrey, religion news reporter for a daily newspaper in Greenville, S.C., has been named associate director of news and information for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Since 1988 Winfrey has been a reporter for the Greenville Piedmont. His assignments have included crime and city government in addition to religion.

Winfrey, 25, succeeds Mark Wingfield who resigned in July to become news director of the *Western Recorder*, newjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He is a native of Lyman, S.C., and a 1988 graduate of the University of Georgia with a major in journalism and minor in political science.

Two Annuity Board funds set records

DALLAS (BP)—Two of the Annuity Board's four retirement plan funds performed well above expectations in 1991, returning more than 20 percent for the year and setting records.

The Variable Fund earned 28.27 percent, propelling the unit value to a record high, from \$8.50 on Dec. 31, 1990, to \$10.90 on Dec. 31, 1991.

The Balanced Fund earned 22.42 percent, its highest return ever.

The board's Fixed Fund earned 8.8 percent and the Short-Term Fund earned 5.71 percent.

Market performance for 1991 was a surprise even to investment experts, according to John Jones, the Annuity Board's senior vice president for investments.

"Most experts expected somewhat lackluster returns" for stock and bond investments in 1991, Jones said, but surges at the beginning and end of the year produced "superlative" returns.

Jones and his staff direct and monitor a stable of outside investment managers.

All Variable Fund assets are invested in U.S. stocks (equities). The Balanced Fund's assets are invested in a mixture of stocks and high-quality bonds. On Dec. 31 almost 56 percent of Balanced Fund assets were in equities.

The Federal Reserve Board's action to reduce short-term interest rates helps explain the moderate earnings in 1991 of the Short-Term Fund, Jones said. The return "mirrored the downward trend of short-term interest rates," he said. The fund's assets are invested in government, agency and corporate securities with average maturities of 12 months or less.

And "despite the declining interest rates," Jones said, "we were pleased to credit earnings equal to our projected rate for the Fixed Fund." The board credited 8.8 percent earnings to accumulations in the Fixed Fund in 1991. Investments are in short- and intermediate-term fixed-income assets, including securities of the federal government, federal agencies, corporations, insurance companies and banks.

Over the next six years the Annuity Board will restructure the Fixed Fund, gradually replacing insurance company guaranteed investment contracts with short-term maturity investments in marketable government, government agency and high-grade corporate instruments.

"We will not estimate a specific rate of earnings but rather a target earnings 'range' which is 7.5 to 8.5 percent for 1992," Jones said. Actual earnings will be posted to members' accounts quarterly.

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Dr. McGriff

Fellowship to fund missionaries

by Scott Collins
Southwestern Seminary

DALLAS (BP)—An offer to fund Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who resign from the Foreign Mission Board has been made by the coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The offer came Jan. 11 when the council, meeting at a hotel near the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, approved a motion by Fort Worth, Texas, pastor Cecil Sherman. The CBF represents churches and individuals aligned with the moderate movement of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sherman's motion states that the coordinating council "offer employment to missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the European sector who fit the criteria of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's statement of missions." The motion passed unanimously.

CBF moderator John Hewett, a North Carolina pastor, denied the council's actions constituted a new denomination. Instead, he said the decision to fund mis-

sionaries should be compared to parachurch organizations who support mission work.

"We are a fellowship of churches and individuals," Hewett said. "Our intention is to make sure the good work of our missionaries continues. We will do what we have to do."

Hewett and other members of the council said the action was necessary because of the decision by FMB trustees not to fund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The decision to defund the Ruschlikon seminary prompted the early retirements of the FMB's vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Isam Ballenger, and area director for Europe, Keith Parker.

"The Foreign Mission Board trustees have taken a grave step away from missions as we have known," Hewett said. "We are moving into that gap."

Former SBC president Jimmy Allen, co-chairman of the coordinating council's global missions ministry group, said the CBF will fund missionaries and programs

of work "within the philosophy of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

That philosophy was outlined by Allen's committee in a "purpose and strategy statement" unanimously approved by the CBF council just before the vote to fund missionaries.

According to the statement, the fellowship's missions purpose is to "lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to carry out the Great Commission through inclusive global mission in which all Baptists can participate."

RUSCHLIKON

Donations likely to cover 1992 budget cut

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)—Donations to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, are coming in at a pace that probably will enable the school to make up the \$365,000 cut from its 1992 budget by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The international seminary received about \$115,000 in general donations during November and December, plus another \$40,000 channeled through the Foreign Mission Board in designated gifts from Southern Baptists, reported Southern Baptist missionary Jo Ann Hopper, who works in school administration. Her husband, John David Hopper, is president of the seminary. Another \$100,000 from Virginia Baptists will be channeled.

But Mrs. Hopper said continuing to meet the annual budget of the financially troubled school will be challenging. The Foreign Mission Board funding cut amounted to a third of the school's budget, she said.

The seminary's European Baptist trustees have projected a long-range fund-raising effort. But the increased flow of funds in recent months "represents the spontaneous giving of people and churches who have felt that (the Foreign Mission Board) trustees unfairly removed our funding," Mrs. Hopper claimed.

FMB trustee leaders, who feel fund-raising efforts in the United States by the Ruschlikon seminary violate mission board policy, have asked FMB staff to review policy on fund raising by missionaries and overseas institutions.

"John David Hopper says that as a missionary he wants to cooperate with the Foreign Mission Board, but that as president of the seminary he works under European trustees who have decided the school needs to raise funds on a long-range basis outside of Europe," said FMB President R. Keith Parks.

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Parks to face trustee questions

by Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee leaders have asked Keith Parks to explain details surrounding a controversial Jan. 7 press conference during which two board executives announced early retirement in protest of trustee actions and policies.

Amid growing tension and speculation about his future, the FMB president will face trustees at a special session of the full board Feb. 10, according to a Jan. 14 letter from trustee chairman Bill Hancock to the 88 trustees.

The special session, called by Hancock in consultation with other trustee officers, will convene at 2 p.m. on the first day of the trustees' regular Feb. 10-12 meeting. Normally trustees hold two days of committee sessions before convening the full board for business on the third day.

Immediately before the special session, Parks will meet for two hours with trustee leaders in the FMB chairman's council. The 19-member council is made up of trustee officers and chairmen of committees.

Hancock's letter said the announcement of retirement by board administrators Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker "has heightened the anxiety and concern of trustees." He also noted he has "received a great deal of counsel" regarding a trustee response in the wake of press reports and reactions from individuals across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ballenger, 56, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Parker, 55, area director for Europe, said at the press conference they could no longer represent the agency because of what they termed the trustees' "global agenda" to exert control and enforce theological orthodoxy overseas. Their decision to step down early followed weeks of controversy surrounding trustee votes in October and December to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Parks, who appeared at the news conference, praised Ballenger and Parker, both veterans of foreign missions, for their integrity and commitment to missions.

Reports have persisted that some will begin efforts — perhaps as soon as the February meeting — to speed up establishment of a search committee to replace Parks, a 37-year veteran of missions who turns 65 in October. He has been FMB president since 1980.

Last year Parks said he wanted to remain as president until 1995 to implement an

ambitious 10-point strategy he outlined for global evangelization. A report in the News Leader, Richmond's afternoon newspaper, said a "coalition of fundamentalist trustees" will report that Parks' leadership will not be necessary to implement his plan.

Parks will not speculate on his future with the mission board other than to note discussions over his tenure will "intensify." But Hancock has maintained Parks should remain in office until he decides to retire.

Earlier Hancock told Baptist Press: "There are some who desire that he (Parks) would go ahead and retire, but my belief is that he should not do so until he chooses. Now is the time to mount a bold offensive to address the mission opportunities in Europe, the former Soviet Union and around the world rather than to react to past developments and negative attitudes."

Hancock's letter appealed to trustees "to pray diligently for the proper expressions

and relationships as we approach this significant meeting." He urged them to be "slow to speak" and to do so "with caution and grace as we dialogue with each other and respond to inquiries."

He also promised he would pray for trustees, as well as "all of our (FMB) staff and the ministry of the Foreign Mission Board as we approach this critical meeting."

Strong negative trustee reaction following the press conference resulted in a shortened tenure for Ballenger and Parker, who had announced they would leave their posts May 31 and July 1, respectively.

Under a negotiated agreement, the two men will leave their positions Jan. 31, serve as consultants through February and remain on salary until May 31 and July 1. Hancock and Steve Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee overseeing work in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, negotiated the agreement with Parks and Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener. They also agreed Winston Crawley, a retired missions veteran, will be interim vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, effective Feb. 3.

Crawley named interim VP

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Winston Crawley will become the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's interim vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa effective Feb. 3, according to board president R. Keith Parks.

Crawley, a retired veteran of 40 years of foreign mission work, will fill the spot until a replacement is found for Isam Ballenger, who announced Jan. 7 he would step down in protest of FMB trustee actions and philosophies.

Parks and Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener selected Crawley for the interim post in consultation with FMB trustee chairman Bill Hancock and Steve Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Ballenger, 56, and Keith Parker, 55, area director for Europe, both announced early retirement at a Jan. 7 news conference, saying they could no longer represent the agency. Their decision to step down followed weeks of controversy surrounding decisions in October and December by trustees to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Current Europe regional staff will handle Parker's work until a permanent vice president is selected and then participates in the search for a new area director, according to Kammerdiener.

Ballenger and Parker will vacate their

administrative posts Jan. 31 rather than at midyear under an agreement negotiated with agency trustee leaders. The agreement followed negative reaction from a number of trustees to the pair's public statements at the news conference.

The agreement would allow Ballenger and Parker to remain in their posts until Jan. 31, serve as consultants in February and receive full salary and benefits through their previously announced departure dates of May 31 and July 1, respectively.

Parks said he hopes the selection process of a new vice president and area director would move as normally as possible. The matter will be discussed in the trustees' regional committee meeting in February. Both positions are elected by trustees, but customarily after strong input and recommendations from the president and executive vice president, Kammerdiener said.

Crawley, 71, who retired in 1987 at age 67, began his overseas career as a missionary, first in China and then in the Philippines from 1947-54. Then he joined the FMB staff as secretary (area director) for the Orient, 1954-68; director of the former overseas division, 1968-80; and vice president for planning, 1980-87. He has written six books on missions.

RUSCHLIKON SEMINARY

Trustee reasons outlined

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Disagreement with Glenn Hinson's theology was only one of many reasons Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted to defund the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, according to trustee chairman Bill Hancock.

The naming of Hinson — a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor many FMB trustees regard as liberal — to a short-term teaching assignment at Ruschlikon was the latest in a long line of events trustees cite to support their vote on a seminary they believe is too liberal and too expensive.

Stung by heavy criticism of the defunding at home and abroad, and angered by what they feel was incomplete press reporting of the action, trustees directed Hancock to write an open letter to Southern Baptists explaining their position.

Hancock's 10-page letter, titled "A Report on Ruschlikon," is dated Jan. 3. FMB staff gave top-priority handling, through a commercial printer and mailer in Richmond, to distributing almost 40,000 copies. Mailing was being done Jan. 9-10, with a few remaining to be mailed Jan. 13.

The letters are going to all Southern Baptist pastors, state conventions and state Baptist newspapers, as well as people who contacted the mission board or trustees about the action, said Hancock, pastor of

Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. FMB missionaries also will receive copies.

In his letter, Hancock reviews the historical, financial and theological aspects of the Ruschlikon seminary from the trustees' perspective and includes a section headed "Questions of Trust."

The seminary was begun by Southern Baptist missionaries in 1949 in an effort to unify European Baptists in the wake of two world wars, Hancock said. "The school had a successful beginning and remained financially stable for over 20 years," he wrote, until a series of financial crises in the 1970s.

The mission board deeded the seminary to the European Baptist Federation in 1988, agreeing to continue major FMB financial support (about a third of the seminary budget) through 1992, with decreasing support extending until 2008.

"The property was given with the strong impression that the Ruschlikon president (Southern Baptist missionary John David Hopper) was committed to move the seminary in a more conservative theological direction and to lead the seminary to be more aggressive in evangelism and church planting," Hancock said.

On the financial front, problems have persisted as the seminary struggles to continue operation in an extremely expensive

Swiss economy and in a facility needing major renovation. Supporting the 48 full-time students enrolled in the seminary last fall cost Southern Baptists \$15,937 per student in Cooperative Program funds, compared to an average of \$2,474 per student at the six Southern Baptist seminaries in the United States, Hancock reported.

The letter includes a statement that seminary president Hopper said he believes the seminary is cost-effective. Hancock said Hopper feels the expenditure is justified because the seminary serves as a conference center and provides a variety of training programs for about 600 full- and part-time students including pastors, missionaries, laymen and church leaders from across Europe.

The trustee chairman outlined a list of theological concerns trustees have about Ruschlikon, its president and faculty members, including the degree of their commitment to evangelism, church growth and conservative theology, their perceived tolerance of theologians who question Christ's virgin birth and resurrection, and the charge by Romanian Baptists that professors from Ruschlikon planted "doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the Word of God."

Hopper denies making promise

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—No promise of a conservative thrust at a Baptist seminary in Switzerland was ever made to trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, according to the seminary's president, John David Hopper.

Hopper, in a telephone interview with the Baptist Message, newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists, also responded to charges that the cost of running the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, is too high for the number of students enrolled.

One reason cited by a number of trustees for their action was a promise they said Hopper, a Southern Baptist missionary, made to lead the seminary in a conservative theological direction during a dialogue session in 1988 at the Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Hopper denied making such a promise. During the three-hour Glorieta session, he said, "I presented my vision of Ruschlikon, what I wanted to accomplish, and I listened to the concerns of the trustees.

"That three-hour discussion is all of the time I have been with the trustees. That was recorded. The Foreign Mission Board has the tape. I have the tape. At no place, at no time, did I say, 'I promise I will make the seminary more conservative.'"

Plan imperils mission, Popkes warns

HAMBURG, Germany (BP)—The emerging philosophy of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board "endangers future missionary efforts by Southern Baptists in Europe," warns a European Baptist leader in an open letter to Baptists in Europe and the United States.

"The new mission strategy of the FMB, as it appears to us, has developed as follows: 'We select and decide what is worthy of support and acceptance among Baptists in other parts of the world, as in Europe,'" stated Ward Popkes, a German Baptist seminary professor and trustee chairman of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

"Even more, the FMB singles out and determines which voices in Europe are 'true' and which are not," Popkes said in the Jan. 14 letter responding to an earlier open letter to Southern Baptists by FMB Trustee Chairman Bill Hancock.

"As representatives... of the European

Baptist Federation (EBF) we cannot but regard this attitude as an unwise mission strategy, not to use stronger words," Popkes said.

The sudden defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary by FMB trustees "cannot be interpreted... other than as an expression by the FMB that it does not really want to continue trustful partnership cooperation with the (federation) and its institutions," he concluded. "Such a strategy may turn out to be a tragedy, because it endangers future missionary efforts by Southern Baptists in Europe."

The five-page letter from Popkes responds point-by-point to Hancock's 10-page letter of Jan. 3.

About 40,000 copies of Hancock's letter were mailed from Richmond, and a Ruschlikon seminary spokesman said Popkes' response was to go to only about 5,000 selected Baptist leaders in Europe and the United States beginning Jan. 20.

Convention Uniform*Our spiritual priorities*

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes
Basic passage: John 17:1-11, 20-21

Focal passage: John 17:9, 20-21

Central truth: Our Lord's prayer in John 17 reveals his spiritual priorities; those matters of ultimate concern to him. To have the mind of Christ is to have the same priorities.

The real "Lord's Prayer" is found in John 17, not in Matthew 6. The prayer in Matthew 6 is a model prayer, but the one recorded here by John is our Lord's prayer for himself (vv. 1-5), his disciples (vv. 6-19), and for the church universal (vv. 20-26). John takes us into the Holy of Holies and allows us to witness the communion of the Son with the Father. Here we discover Jesus' ultimate concern and his spiritual priorities. Let us listen as our Lord prays.

In the hour of his greatest suffering and sorrow, facing the greatest trial of his life, what is Jesus' ultimate concern? It is that he might glorify the Father. "Glory" or "glorify" is a key word in Jesus' prayer, occurring eight times in connection with the Father, the Son, and the church (vv. 4, 5, 10, 22, 24). When he prays in verse 1 for the Father to glorify the Son that he in turn might glorify the Father, it is absolutely necessary that we understand how this prayer would be answered. Jesus knew that his "hour" had come—the hour of his perfect obedience to the Father's will (v. 1). That obedience would bring about the finishing of his work in the world (v. 4). This, of course, meant dying on a cruel, shameful Roman cross. It was by his obedience unto death that he would glorify both himself and the Father. When we sing, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," we are but echoing the thought of John 17:1. Jesus found his glory there and so should we.

Having looked at the chief priority of Jesus' life, let us observe the other spiritual concerns that motivated him. People usually pray about matters that most concern them. This is certainly true in times of crisis and peril such as Jesus faced in the final days of his earthly ministry. At a time like that, what were his greatest concerns? His prayer reveals them. After glorifying the Father, highest priority is given to the security and sanctity of the church (vv. 11-19), the winning of a lost world (vv. 18-19), and the unity of the church to accomplish this mission (vv. 21-23). These were Jesus' priorities; what are yours?

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Life and Work*Life's solid foundation*

by Stephen G. Hatfield, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 7:15-17, 19-27

Focal passage: Matthew 7:24-27

Central truth: Christians must build their lives upon the Word of God in order to endure the tests of life.

God never speaks without giving us the opportunity to respond. As Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount, he brought his hearers to the point of decision.

The idea of "two ways" of living is prominent in the closing verses of this sermon. The narrow gate is contrasted to the wide gate (7:13-14). Jesus compared false prophets with true messengers (7:15-20) and used the vivid illustration of good fruit versus bad fruit to show the distinction between the two. There is an eternal difference between those who merely say they believe and those who obey God's commands in their daily living (7:21-23).

The sermon closes with the parable of the two builders (7:24-27). A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The earthly story is simple: one must build on a solid foundation in order for one's house to stand the tests of time. On the surface, both builders seem to have much in common. Each builds a house. Perhaps the houses even look alike. The striking differences between the two are seen in three areas. First, the foundations are contrasted. One man built his house on a rock while the other built his on sand. Second, each house is tested by treacherous weather. Third, Jesus reveals the condition of each house after the test. The house built on the rock withstood the harsh elements, but the house sitting on sand crumbled.

What is the heavenly meaning of this earthly story? The person who builds upon the foundation of faith in Christ will be able to withstand the disappointments and sufferings which may come. In contrast, the one who ignores the foundation, only appears to have things "well in hand." Their inner superstructure is empty religion or faith in themselves, and such a foundation will not give support in times of adversity.

Everything depends upon the foundation. Remember there are only two builders, not four or five. In God's eyes, people live in one of two realms. Isn't it time we stopped living counterfeit or superficial lives? Where do you live?

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Bible Book*A ray of hope*

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Amos 8:4-6; 11:14; 9:11-15

Focal passage: Amos 8:4-6; 9:14

Central truth: Our only hope in the face of certain judgment is repentance toward God and restoration by God.

The whole burden of Amos' preaching was that Israel's sins had reached the saturation point. The end was imminent. God had called for Israel to repent and she refused (Am. 4:12).

The prophet holds out a ray of hope by saying that God himself is their only hope. The last chapter of Amos gives the future of the people of God.

(1) Repentance of callous indifference (Am. 8:4). The need of the hour is for compassionate caring. The true prophet lifts up his voice for the needy and the downtrodden.

While missionaries in West Africa were called upon to distribute bread and water to over 100,000 Ghanaian refugees trapped between the borders of Benin and Togo. For two weeks we carried thousands of loaves of bread and tanks of water to help keep the people alive. Dozens died during the ordeal but those who lived did not forget. An African proverb says, "An empty stomach has no ears." These men and women had ears to hear the gospel of Christ. After the border was opened and the Ghana refugees were allowed to cross the border and return home one of the men came to Grace Baptist Church in Kumasi the following Sunday. He received Christ as Savior and Lord and told the pastor: "I want to follow a Savior who would cause people to give bread and water to a starving man."

(2) Repentance from callous injustice (Am. 8:5-6). The Sabbath day rest "cramped the style" of these greedy merchants. They regarded time spent in church as wasted and could hardly wait to get back to exploiting the poor for profit. When a nation loses its reverence for the Lord's day they begin exploiting one another. Sabbath observance is a scriptural safeguard to injustice. A person who will rob God of his day will rob his fellows of their rights.

Following judgment and sifting God restores his people (Am. 9:11-15). God's blessings will fall upon a repentant people.

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Convention Uniform

The servant's song

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes

Basic passage: Philippians 2:1-11

Focal passage: Philippians 2:1-2

Central truth: Servants of the Lord Jesus should share his attitude of humble obedience and not view one another with an envious eye or a competitive spirit.

Paul feared that the Philippian church was in danger of being divided by petty jealousies (Ph. 4:2), so he made a very personal appeal to them based on their common experience in Christ and their personal love for him, Paul (Ph. 2:1-2).

The best way to describe unselfishness and humility is to show it in action, and what better illustration of unselfish love and humble obedience can be found than that of our Lord himself? The beautiful and often quoted passage that begins in verse 6 is in reality an ancient Christian hymn which Paul slightly modified by adding the words "even death on a cross" in verse 8.

Jesus is the model for Christian service because he thought of others first, not of himself. He was preexistent and divine, but he did not regard his equality with the Father as something to be selfishly exploited and never relinquished. Instead, he went to the extreme limit of self-denial and plumbed the depths of humiliation.

With a Lord and Savior such as this, how can we who claim to follow in his steps justify our petty jealousies, vain pride, and selfish actions? In the Christian life there is not room for such things. The life of Christian service demands two things—a true humility and a giving up of all self interest. Humility comes from having a true estimate of ourselves in which we recognize our true littleness—that we are totally dependent on God for all that we are, all that we have, and all that we ever shall be. Self emptying grows out of humility. Since all that we have is the gift of God, we want to share it with others.

As we measure ourselves by Jesus' example, several questions are in order. Whose interests do you look out for, yours or others? And perhaps the supreme question of all: Are you willing to empty yourself that others might be filled? The servant puts God first, others second, and self last. Only in so doing may we truly sing the servant's song.

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Life and Work

Models of genuine faith

by Stephen G. Hatfield, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 8:1-3, 5-13

Focal passage: Matthew 8:2-3, 8-13

Central truth: Christians should practice biblical faith in daily life.

Jesus demonstrated his power in the miracles he performed. The miraculous works found in Matthew 8-9 show Jesus' power over sickness, nature, demons, and even death. We also see another side of the miraculous: the faith of those whom Jesus healed. The accounts of the leper (8:1-4) and the centurion (8:5-13) provide three insights about the kind of faith that God honors.

First, God responds to genuine needs. The leper was in a desperate situation. Faced with a disease for which there was no cure, he came to Jesus, not with a self-serving request, but with a plea for his life. The centurion's motivations were pure as well. He sought out Jesus for help, not for his own sake, but for the sake of his servant. Jesus knew their needs were genuine and he met them in a miraculous way. Not all needs are life threatening. God is concerned with all our needs, large and small. God still moves today to meet the genuine needs of his people.

Second, God responds to genuine belief. The leper did not say, "If you can, then heal me." The leper said, "If you are willing, you can make me clean" (8:2). Do you see the difference? The leper's words showed his unconditional belief in the power of God. Likewise, the centurion believed that Jesus could heal by the power of his spoken word only (8:8). This man's faith amazed even Jesus (8:10). Why was our Lord so surprised by this man's display of faith? Could it be that day after day he saw people who had become shallow and cynical in their faith?

Third, God responds to anyone who comes to him in genuine faith. Jesus looked into the eyes of a leper, felt compassion, and touched the untouchable. I wonder if the people accepted this man as clean or did they still see him as unfit for society? One's group or racial class cannot claim a monopoly on God's mercy. Jesus honored the faith of Gentiles as well as that of Jews. He did not discriminate on the basis of race. He judged on the basis of sincere faith. He still does.

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Bible Book

A marriage with a message

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Hosea 1:1-3; 2:6-8, 19-20, 23-3:3

Focal passage: Hosea 2:6-8, 19-20

Central truth: God can take our weaknesses and failures and transform them into mighty messages of grace and love.

Our most powerful messages often grow out of our greatest weaknesses. God is such a sovereign Father that he can take our failures and transform them into mighty messages of grace.

Jesus and Hosea share the same name—meaning savior, salvation. But more than this, they shared a common anguish over the sins of others. Their identification with sin and sorrow became the means of redemption and ministry.

The marriage: Hosea fell in love and married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim. She was probably a pure and worthy woman at the time of the marriage. She then became entangled in the web of sin and became an adulteress after the birth of the first child. Hosea's pain was intense. The grief he felt when he found her unfaithful reveals the depth of love he had for her. After years of anguish Gomer left the home to sell herself into the slavery of sensuality.

Hosea remained faithful to his covenant of marriage. He sought her out. He prayed for her. God put a hedge of thorns—a wall of grace about her. He wooed her, won her and bought her back with 15 pieces of silver.

The message: (1) God's inextinguishable love. Out of his shattered romance, Hosea saw the loyal love of God for his people. He remains faithful when we are unfaithful.

(2) God's restoring grace. God's grace is seeking out his people. His love will not fail. God will not let go until his grace has its way. Just as Hosea went to the market place to buy back his wayward bride and bring her home again, so God redeems and brings home his own bride—the church. God waits, pursues, woos, wins, redeems and restores his bride through grace.

God's grace restores the honeymoon days. The grace of God takes life's greatest tragedy and transforms it into triumph. The scars of a shameful past become mercy marks of God's ownership. Our most powerful messages grow out of our greatest tragedies. What amazing grace!

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Holiday overload

Christmas worshippers swarm China churches

by Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GUANGZHOU, China (BP)—Despite uncertainty about government warnings to tone down Christmas festivities, crowds of faithful Christians jammed churches in China last month to celebrate Christmas.

Just before Christmas, authorities in the southern city of Guangzhou instructed church leaders to discourage nonbelievers from attending special services out of curiosity. A document designed to scale down festivities warned residents not to celebrate Christmas outside churches and tourist hotels.

Still, huge Chinese characters on the front of Dong Shan Church in Guangzhou read: "Let everything under heaven rejoice, the Savior is born."

"The sign proclaiming the birth of Jesus was visible from the street for everyone who passed by to see," said Charlie Wilson, a Southern Baptist worker visiting Christian friends in China during the holidays. "The message of Christmas was there to be heard for anyone who cared to go into the church."

About 2,000 people attended a Christmas Eve celebration at Dong Shan Church featuring a music program of carols, selections from Handel's "Messiah" and a gospel message.

"The only problem was there were so many bicycles you couldn't get through the parking lot," Wilson added. "There was a complete sense of freedom to come and go and a lot of people came in off the street."

On Christmas Day all eight Protestant churches in Guangzhou held special worship services. Wilson attended Zion Church and estimated a crowd of more than 1,000 people was there. Similar reports of packed church auditoriums for Christmas programs came from other parts of China.

A hotel in Nanjing asked an American Christian teacher to help decorate for Christmas. Hotel management also asked advice on how to celebrate the holiday, inviting the American to hold a religious service on Christmas Eve including lighting candles and singing carols. Hotel guests, staff and visitors attended the service.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported the estimated crowd of 20,000 people attending Christmas Mass in Beijing Catholic churches was laced with uniformed policemen and plainclothes officers. Police reportedly patrolled the capital's Nantang Cathedral to prevent disturbances at its three services.

Eyewitnesses also noted some police were present for "crowd control" at Guangzhou's only Catholic church.

"There are reports of restrictions on Christmas festivities in China but those restrictions were placed on the nonreligious venues — the secular side of Christmas. They didn't affect the churches," Wilson said. "The government apparently tried to cut down on the secular, economic, commercial aspect of Christmas. The authorities seemed to feel people were wasting economic resources

on Christmas parties and cards."

But even with the government's instructions, China visitors saw plenty of prominent pictures of Santa Claus, Christmas lights, parties in progress and Christmas cards. A huge neon Santa Claus complete with reindeer and toy-laden sleigh was seen just a block from Beijing's Tiananmen Square with its equally huge portrait of the late communist leader Mao Zedong.

A Guangdong spokesman verified in an official dispatch that no provincial authorities had banned Christians from carrying out Christmas activities.

"Freedom of religious belief is a basic right stipulated by the constitution for the citizens," said the spokesman in the Wen Wei Po newspaper. "Citizens have freedom

Photo by Charlie Wilson



Bicycles crammed every available space outside the Dong Shan Church in Guangzhou, China, during a Christmas Eve worship service.

to believe and the freedom to not believe in religion, as well as the freedom to disseminate atheism. The citizens who have religious belief and the citizens who do not are all protected by Chinese law."

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WORLD

GAZA

Fire damages Baptist library

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GAZA (BP)—Fire virtually destroyed a 10,000-volume Southern Baptist library facility in Gaza — the largest of three public libraries in the Israeli-occupied area.

Anson was blamed for the Jan. 9 blaze. The fire at the Center of Culture and Light was denounced by most Palestinian political groups in the territory. But Southern Baptist representatives in Gaza said the arson did not appear to be politically motivated.

When the fire was discovered, the building had been unused for five days because of a strike that shut down stores and other public buildings in the territory. Strikes and shutdowns are part of the Intifada, the Palestinians' ongoing opposition to Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Conditions in Gaza have been calmer in recent months with fewer strikes. But opposition efforts have stepped up since Middle East peace talks began. They intensified when Israel announced plans to deport a dozen Palestinians, a move that stirred worldwide attention.

Smoke coming from a window at the library facility was seen by Southern Baptist representative Debbie Peterson about noon Jan. 9. When workers examined the building, they saw that someone apparently had entered through a broken window and smashed a door to get inside and set the fire.

Firemen responded quickly to a call but their entry to the building was delayed by heavy smoke. Most furniture and books in the center of the main reading room were burned to ashes. Books along the outer wall were charred and heavily damaged by smoke.

"We may be able to get some of the books re-bound, but most of them are just gone," Southern Baptist representative Dona Fitzgerald said. Kerosene and gas lanterns stored in an outer room did not ignite, she said, or damage would have been worse.

Although the concrete building itself remains structurally sound, wooden doorways, electrical wiring and windows were damaged and will require extensive repairs. Southern Baptist representatives and the Palestinian library staff have cleaned much of the smoke damage. One of four new computers set up to teach young people was stolen; cords on the three others were damaged. Repair costs will not be known until estimates are obtained.

"We don't know if this was done maliciously or as an act of theft," Fitzgerald

said. "But we are encouraged that the major political groups have come out and condemned it." Denunciations of the action were printed in local newspapers and also appeared as graffiti on walls throughout the city, a common way of expressing strong sentiments in Gaza known as "hand-writing on the wall."

The burning of the library will be a loss for the Palestinian people. It was the largest of only three library facilities in the area serving about 750,000 people, Fitzgerald said. A new Islamic cultural center containing a library has been constructed but the opening of the facility has been delayed for several years.

As world attention has focused on the Middle East peace talks and the political jockeying accompanying them, economic conditions have worsened in Gaza during recent months, Fitzgerald said. The crime rate has skyrocketed.

The homes of two Southern Baptist representatives have been burglarized in recent weeks. Audio-visual equipment was stolen during a break-in at the School of Allied Health Sciences operated by Southern Baptist representatives in Gaza City. A single class of 15 students is enrolled at the nursing school — a fraction of the enrollment of previous years — because of the ongoing difficulty of life in the troubled territory.

RTVC to provide programming to Russia

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's reputation for quality family programming, devoid of nudity, violence and profanity, has led to an agreement to permit the showing of two to seven hours weekly of RTVC-produced programs — including The Baptist Hour — to 80 million Russian people beginning in February.

Officials of the RTVC's ACTS Network and of four Russian entities in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) and Ufa, Bashkertia, Russia, recently signed "letters of understanding" to provide up to seven hours of programming weekly for an estimated audience of 75 million people in and around St. Petersburg and another 5 million around Ufa in south central Russia.

The understanding also gives the RTVC exclusive rights to produce documentaries on the 50-plus museums in St. Petersburg and on cultural events in the two cities.