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July 13, 1995

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

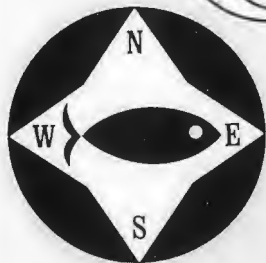


Volume 94, Number 14

July 13, 1995



ampers on Mission



Focusing on the theme,
“Bein’ as How You’re Goin’...”
more than 700 campers gathered
in Hope for Southern Baptists’
1995 National Campers on Mission Rally.

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Annual 'See You at the Pole' emphasis highlights prayer

Randy Brantley anticipates reports of thousands of Arkansas students gathering at their school flagpoles at 7 a.m. Sept. 20 for this year's See You at the Pole emphasis.

SYATP is a one-day prayer emphasis for students to gather at their school flagpoles to pray for their schools, families, friends and the nation.

Brantley, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, said more than 20,000 Arkansas students participated in SYATP last year, including junior high, high school and even some college students. He added that involvement on college campuses is "one of the areas we are interested in seeing expand."

He encouraged students to begin making preparations for this year's emphasis. To start a SYATP movement, students should "understand first of all that it is an event for them and not for adults. We encourage adults to pray and be a part of it but not on the school campus."

Pre-pole planning proposed

"Summer is a great time to talk about their strategy for September," Brantley said. He suggested "having some pre-pole planning meetings during the month of August, talking about publicity, posters, whose going to make them and get them up and getting permission to put them in hallways."

Brantley encouraged Baptist youth to include students from other denominations in the planning process. "More than 70 denominations and ministries cooperate to promote SYATP," he said. "It's not just

a Baptist event. It had its roots in Baptist life, but it has crossed denominational lines and we are urging Baptist students to be inclusive in the planning process."

Brantley also encouraged participating students to pray at 7 a.m. "because that's far enough away from the school schedule that it will not interfere with the normal flow of school activities."

"SYATP is legal and acceptable as long as it does not substantially interfere with the normal school schedule," he explained. He said that while there had not been recent legal problems regarding SYATP in Arkansas, earlier emphases had met with opposition.

"We believe we are past most of the legal hurdles with SYATP," he noted. "There were several years in a row where many of our administrators did not understand the legality of it."

"They did not understand that it was something the students had a right to do," he said. "Although the Supreme Court passed rulings in 1990, it has taken quite a while for educators to become educated on the matter that SYATP is a legal right the students have."

Noting that there also is an adult emphasis, Brantley said, "We encourage adults to pray. Their primary target is to support what their students are doing."

He said many adults in previous SYATP emphases have met at a courthouse flagpole or across the street from the school campus.

For additional information about promoting See You at the Pole, contact Brantley at the ABSC evangelism department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5222.

Cover Story



Campers on Mission 6-7

Arkansas Campers on Mission hosted Southern Baptists' 1995 National Campers on Mission Rally in Hope June 13-15. More than 700 participants from 21 states and Canada attended the event.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



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Super Summer: Youth experience training, worship

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"It's just one of those things, when you come once, you know you want to come again...it's a definite," explained Casie Rowlett, a high school student from Wooster First Church. Using those words to describe her 1995 Super Summer experience, Rowlett was among more than 1,300 students attending Arkansas Baptists' annual youth evangelism school held June 19-23 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University.

"I came because it's such an uplifting experience to be around more than a thousand other students who love Christ just as much as you do - it's so encouraging because you know you can take this back home with you," she continued. "I loved Joy Explo; the enthusiasm of everybody being under one roof - it's awesome, the energy was incredible."

Joy Explo, the worship and praise portion of Super Summer, was the hands-down favorite of both junior and senior high students. Music and praise, led by Greg Johnson, was especially popular with junior high school student Kirstin Thompson from Brinkley First Church. "My favorite part was Joy Explo - the clapping and singing - all the good stuff," she declared.

The worship sessions, led by Keith Naylor, from Stone Mountain, Ga., focused on the love of God and experiencing God's grace. Super Summer coordinator Randy Brantley, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, noted that Naylor's message was "really different."

"He explained that God loves us and isn't going to 'zap' us, but instead invites us to sit in the lap of our *Abba* daddy," Brantley noted. "When we are under God's love and grace, we will then want to live an obedient life and share our faith with friends - it was a refreshing approach."

"The heart of evangelism is wanting to see your friends with you in heaven



Arkansas Baptist youth share together in a small-group setting during the 1995 Super Summer youth evangelism school June 19-23 at Ouachita Baptist University.

forever," Naylor emphasized.

The worship sessions provide a time "you can feel Him in a real good way and really get psyched up - you know that He's really there," affirmed Patrick Hayes, a high school student from Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Those sessions set the stage for personal growth in smaller groups. Junior high school student Cortney Owens, from Waldron First Church, said she discovered "more about God and how to be closer to Him."

Many students in the record crowd had attended Super Summer previously and participated this year in an advanced program. "Super Summer left a good impression every year that I've been here," commented 18-year-old Chris Babb from Cabot First Church. "It's a great camp in a good atmosphere; it really helps you walk closer to God."

Babb said this year's advanced sessions taught him significant leadership principles. "This week has really helped me learn how to apply those principles to my life," he noted, adding that the fellowship among students creates a bond that lasts from year to year.

Super Summer not only affects the lives

of students, but of staffers and leaders as well. Staffer Shane Sanderson, a 20-year-old college student from Oakwood Church in Fort Smith, said; "I really saw God's awesome work put in a different light by Keith Naylor. It's real life - he doesn't sugar-coat anything."

The invitations at night were special to Sanderson. "It was unique in the fact that the praise of Christ was brought to the invitations instead of people just sitting there."

Youth pastor Kime Eubanks from Conway First Church said he chose Super Summer over other camps because of the good organization and planning that goes into it. "The teenagers have opportunities for small group interaction, opportunities for recreation that are not so much competitive as bonding, and opportunities to hear speakers," he said. "It has always spoken to every need of every teenager."

Reflecting on this year's Super Summer experience, Kathleen Smith, a high school student from Cabot First Church, remarked, "I go every year; I'd feel like I'd miss something if I didn't come...My favorite part was having no radio. When we came back to our rooms, we'd just sing praises to God."

Executive search committee chairman shares update

The Arkansas Baptist executive director search committee has received 19 resumés for consideration, according to committee chairman Billy Kite, director of missions for Ashley County Association. The committee is seeking a successor to current executive director Don Moore who has announced his plans to retire by the end of February 1996.

Kite said the search committee met June 29-30 to review recommendations sent to the committee. The deadline for submitting candidates' names for consideration was June 28.

"We went through every single resumé we received and everyone has been considered," Kite reported. Noting that the search committee plans to approach only one candidate at a

time, he added that "we haven't reached that point yet."

In preparation for the committee's next meeting in August, Kite said several committee members are gathering additional information about individuals who have been recommended.

Prior to their June meeting, the committee held a series of listening sessions in May. Following those sessions, committee members adopted a five-point executive director profile which highlights spiritual maturity, leadership skills, seminary education, pastoral experience and Southern Baptist churchmanship.

Emphasizing that the search committee "is functioning very well," Kite added, "There's been a great bonding and a great unity. I'm delighted with the progress we're making."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

Many things about the recent Southern Baptist Convention stand out:

As reported, the restructuring plan was adopted as amended. The two amendments dealt with major areas of concern I had mentioned in an earlier article — the place of Woman's Missionary Union in SBC life and the relationship between the Home Mission Board and the state conventions. Both amendments carried by very large margins and greatly strengthened the proposal. The adjustments this action calls for will require much effort, patience, wisdom, time and prayer.

Arkansans were selected to fill crucial roles in the SBC for the next year. Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, was elected chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. Rex Terry, a Fort Smith attorney and member of First Church there, was elected Executive Committee secretary. Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, and state convention president, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Nominations. These are the most influential positions in the SBC.

On these men rests more responsibility than you can imagine. The consequence of their actions is profound. They are serving at a time when drastic change is taking place. These men may have many voices shouting in their ears. But they must hear the "still small voice of God" and obey Him or their tenure of service will be spiritual miscarriages. My urgent plea is for Arkansas Baptists to redouble their prayer efforts on behalf of these men and the work of Southern Baptists. God bless and help you, brothers!

Great reports, good preaching and a good spirit characterized the sessions. I am confident that Southern Baptists will continue to be committed to God's Word as totally reliable and authoritative on all matters about which it speaks; and that we will continue to be a missions people.

The convention highlight was the dramatic moments we spent visiting with Billy Graham. For one hour, God and Billy Graham talked with us. We witnessed feelings we may never again experience.

FRANCES HOUSE

Woman's Viewpoint

Visit new families



Moving — in this mobile society, few of us will go through life without moving to another city.

In our 27 years of marriage, our family has moved four times (to North Little Rock, to Harrison, back to North Little Rock, and now to Batesville).

In January we moved to Batesville. I knew four people in town, and had never been there when we first considered applying for a transfer.

When you are new in town and know practically no one, you spend most of your time unpacking and making your new home comfortable. You spend little time with anyone other than your family. As important as family is, you have a need for friendship from others. I still knew practically no one in town and I only knew the two main streets. I didn't get out, because I had no place to go.

The welcome wagon lady came — a lovely and welcomed visit. I enjoyed her visit probably more than all the information and goodies she shared. She was a wonderful person, and I discovered she was a Baptist sister. We found much to talk about.

For several weekends we went back to North Little Rock. Finally we started seeking a new church home among three churches. Visitors started to come — two pastors, a staff member, deacons, three ladies from a Sunday School class, a husband and wife and teachers from our son's prospective class.

I have learned a lesson from my own move. A new lady in an unfamiliar town is in need of a friendly visit from other women. I was very open to a friendly visit. In addition to seeking the Lord's will in finding a church home, it is important to find friendship among the church membership.

Moving can be a lonely experience. Women, don't be hesitant in visiting. There are others out there anxious for your friendly visit.

Frances House and her husband, James, are new members of West Church in Batesville. She currently is the director of an after-school program for K-4th grade. She also is the former secretary of North Pulaski Association. The Houses are the parents of three children: two college students and a sixth grader.

Personal perspectives

"The heart of evangelism is wanting to see your friends with you in heaven forever."

—Keith Naylor, Super Summer keynote speaker

"I know that I am going to heaven when I die. I just wish that everyone would make the same important decision."

—New Christian Emily Henderson, 8-year-old daughter of NewsMagazine editor Trennis Henderson

"The overarching purpose of the church is to get people saved and to get saved people getting other people saved."

—Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis

The biggest news in the world

The biggest news in the world unfolded last week — in our home in Benton. It was bigger than convention restructuring, the joint American-Russian space mission and the NBA draft combined. Am I over-reacting? I don't think so — at least not from a Christian parent's point of view.

My wife, Pam, and I had the incredible privilege of helping guide Emily, our 8-year-old daughter, to become our sister in Christ. Actually, Pam and I didn't have a whole lot to do with the ultimate timing of her decision. We agreed years ago to encourage our children's spiritual development without prematurely pushing them toward our desired response. But what an overwhelming joy to listen as Emily followed the Holy Spirit's urging to begin her never-ending spiritual journey with Jesus Christ.

Adequate words elude me. So I decided to turn to a panel of experts to share the rest of the story.

Emily: *I have been a friend of Jesus for a long, long time. About a week ago, during Vacation Bible School, I felt like the Lord was talking to me. The pastor asked us to close our eyes and bow our heads. He told us that if any of us had any questions about being a Christian to come up front and he would talk to us. As I stood there in the pew I knew that the Lord was telling me to go up there. I*

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR'S FAMILY



By Trennis, Pam, Emily and Audrey Henderson

almost did but I didn't. I felt very bad that I had not done what I knew God was telling me to do.

That afternoon, I talked to my mom about all this. That night when Dad came home, we went in my room and talked about it. After we talked for about an hour, I prayed to the Lord that I wanted Him to come into my heart and be the guide of my life. I knew that I had sinned a lot and I asked God to forgive me. That Sunday, I went to the front of the church and told them that I wanted to join the church and be baptized.

Pam: I silently praised God for the Holy Spirit and the beautiful role He fulfilled.

The angels rejoiced, Mom cried and Dad looked proud.

Trennis: *Witnessing our first child's second birth gives a whole new perspective to the term "joy unspeakable."*

Pam: When the invitation was given Sunday morning, Emily boldly stepped out alone and walked the aisle to declare her decision to the whole church. As we stood beside her after the service, I tried to soak in every precious moment as friends and acquaintances affirmed our daughter and confirmed to her that this was the most important decision of her life.

Audrey, age 5 (as told to Daddy): *I love Jesus a bunch. I'm happy that my sister is a Christian — very happy. It makes me feel excited that she asked Jesus into her heart.*

Trennis: Our pastor's Sunday morning message included the wonderful promise of II Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." That timeless truth grew even more precious as I sat beside Emily, one of Christ's very newest "new creatures." Joy unspeakable.

Emily: *I know that I am going to heaven when I die. I just wish that everyone would make the same important decision.*

'Who divorced whom?'

The "moderate departure" to which Ronnie Rogers referred in his column of June 15 has been more like a painful divorce to me. It seems, however, that the question is "Who divorced whom?"

The early roots of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were not organizational, but were simply attempts by loyal, lifelong Baptists to be heard and included in decision-making processes. Organization only came with the stronger attempts to be heard in the midst of a planned fundamentalist takeover of our convention.

Rev. Rogers claims we have departed in three significant ways:

Theological: While inerrancy has as many meanings as people who claim or disclaim it, authority has one meaning. CBF has no quarrel with biblical authority. Theology is simply a matter of understanding God as He relates to man. I was raised a strict Southern Baptist and have found that the only way my "theology" has changed is that I have discovered that grace supersedes law. I have found that grace in CBF.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Financially: Rev. Rogers' statements regarding financial matters fail to mention that CBF directed funds to the Cooperative Program as the givers desired until the SBC cut off those funds through executive "suggestion."

Denominationally: In this area we all hurt. I know of no one in the CBF whose heritage and heart was not Southern Baptist. If we were not loyal we would have left when the takeover first surfaced in 1979. There is a vast difference in leaving and being put out.

In my own struggle, I have observed the names of CBF participants, many great Baptists of whom I have heard since my GA days — names like Duke McCall, Keith Parks, Foy Valentine and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler. These are people who gave their lives and careers to the SBC

and I trust that I am still in good company.

It is obvious that fundamentalists and moderates have differing opinions about what has happened to our convention. In good faith I had to respond to these charges from the viewpoint of a disillusioned Southern Baptist who has found healing and hope in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Dianne Swaim
Moderator, CBF of Arkansas

Thanks for child care

Recovery from our New Orleans area flood of May 8 and 9 is well under way. We appreciate the prayers and assistance of Arkansas Baptists. We especially appreciate the work of the child care team who gave of their time to aid families in New Orleans. They cared for children 10 hours a day while parents applied for assistance. This is a special ministry, and we rejoice in having met this team.

J.R. Blakeney
Director of Church Programs
Baptist Association of Greater
New Orleans

Arkansas campers host national COM rally

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Rows of motor coaches, fifth wheels and an occasional pop-up camper squeezed into Hope Fair Park June 13-15 for the 1995 National Campers on Mission Rally. Focusing on the rally theme, "Bein' as How You're Goin'...", more than 700 participants from 21 states and Canada traveled to the Arkansas park for three days of fellowship, training, recreation and inspiration.

National Campers on Mission, sponsored by the special ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, currently has more than 3,100 member families. COM promotional literature describes the organization as "a national fellowship of Christian campers who want opportunities to share their faith and the love of Jesus Christ while camping or participating in missions activities."

Participants have led more than 500 people to faith in Christ during the past year while conducting such ministry projects as church planting, construction, prison ministry, disaster relief and Scripture distribution. The missions volunteers also minister in such diverse settings as flea markets, race tracks, truck stops and nursing homes.

HMB president Larry Lewis voiced appreciation to rally participants "for your ministry in missions as you're going," adding that "we're so thankful to God for what you are and for what you're doing."

Describing the Great Commission as Christ's "marching orders for His people," Lewis emphasized that the Great Commission "was not given to us to recite or memorize. It was given to us to do."

Highlighting the plan, power and purpose of Christ's commands, Lewis said, "The overarching purpose of the church is to get people saved and to get saved people getting other people saved."

"Can't is not in the Christian's vocabulary," he declared. "The power of the Holy Spirit is to equip us, empower us and protect us as we set out to do His commands....If it's His will, His work, His assignment, He will give us the power to do it."

"I pray that we might have spiritual eyes to see the fields that are white," Lewis said. "Take the gospel and share it and leave the results to God....Bein' as how



Dorothy Jackson used mime to present the theme interpretation during the opening session of the National Campers on Mission Rally in Hope.

you're goin', tell them about Jesus."

Dennis Swanburg, special assistant to the president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, shared his trademark humor and impersonations during the rally's opening session. Interspersing stories of his childhood with impersonations of Billy Graham, Don Knotts, Ross Perot and Jimmy Stewart, Swanburg said, "Life is too short not to enjoy."

"Happiness is often determined by what happens but we have the ability to choose joy no matter what the circumstances," he noted. "We need to lighten up, loosen up, laugh and live."

"Missions and evangelism are everything," he affirmed, "but they're to be carried out with joy. I pray to God that we'll be on mission with joy."

Don Moore, executive director of the

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, asked the campers during the rally's final session: "What are we going to do about the lost?"

Warning about the ineffectiveness of casual evangelism, optional evangelism and accidental evangelism, Moore emphasized that the key to effective witnessing is intentional evangelism.

Moore noted that intentional evangelism involves "developing a strategy under the Spirit of God by which an individual can present the gospel of Jesus Christ to an unsaved person."

"Will your present efforts to get people saved likely result in anybody being saved?" he asked. "Folks who never intend to share the gospel with anyone usually never do."

Acknowledging that "we are so unaccustomed to people being driven with a spiritual burden," Moore concluded, "I pray in the name of God that this bunch of Baptists will have it in their hearts, one way or another, to tell people about Jesus."

In addition to the keynote sessions, campers participated in a variety of small-group conferences ranging from balloon sculpturing to RV maintenance. Conference sites varied from a fairground cattle barn to the shade of oak trees.

Elmer Gobel, who serves in the HMB's volunteer department, led a conference about creativity in ministry. "We all have some creative abilities," he noted. "We must develop that."

Discussing ways to enhance worship and other forms of communication, Gobel said, "What you want to do in creativity is to eliminate all the barriers. One of the challenges we have as Christians is to creatively think how we can affect people we come into contact with each day."

Rally chairman Lendol Jackson, the volunteer coordinator for Arkansas Campers on Mission, enthusiastically promotes the ministry of COM because of its "Christian fellowship, opportunity to witness in non-traditional settings and just the relaxed time of camping."

Noting that most COM members are senior adults, Jackson said, "We do construction work, backyard Bible clubs, resort ministries - it's a matter of not leaving your skills in a rocking chair somewhere."

CAMPERS ON MISSION



Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteers provide an evening meal for the Campers on Mission participants.



HMB special ministries director Bill Lee visits with a fellow camper following an outdoor workshop session.



Elmer Gobel leads a workshop on creativity in ministry.

Campers on Mission witness as they go

Southern Baptists' Campers on Mission emblem — a fish encircled by a compass — is a silent reminder that the Spirit of God travels with Christian believers wherever they go. "Going" — as in the Great Commission's call to "go and make disciples" — is a primary focus of Campers on Mission.

Organized by the Home Mission Board in 1971, Campers on Mission has grown to include more than 3,100 families in 21 state COM chapters throughout the nation.

Clayburn Bratton, president of Arkansas COM, describes the organization as "a great opportunity to witness to folks in campground who never attend church. We are an extension of the church."

In addition to one-on-one encounters in campgrounds, COM members participate in a variety of mission projects ranging from church construction and disaster relief to ministry efforts at fairs, race tracks and truck stops.

According to Pete Petty, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, "The idea is that since Southern Baptists have camping equipment and rigs and they're going to be out there, we just pray they're going to be on mission while they're out there."

Madeline Allmendinger, president of Louisiana Campers on Mission, said the organization provides "one of the greatest fellowships we've ever had with Christian friends."



"The most important thing is getting the word of the Lord to people who do not know Him," she emphasized.

Urging fellow campers to consider the benefits of COM involvement, she noted, "The Lord has given you a talent. Use it. Don't let it be taken away. You have this void within you that needs filling and this is one of the great ways to fill it."

Ed Hadden is president of Kansas-Nebraska COM, the newest chapter in the nation. He said the chapter, organized in 1993, has grown from 12 to 62 participants.

"The main thing is Christian ministry and witnessing," Hadden affirmed. "When we go into campgrounds, people see our emblem and ask about it — it's a great way to witness."

Ken de Cordova, who helped organize the Oklahoma COM chapter 19 years ago, is serving again as that state's COM president.

"One of Campers on Mission's goals is to equip families to take Christ with them on their vacations," he pointed out. "Families need something to do besides go to Disneyland or watch TV. It's something to help knit your family together."

Echoing the recent National COM Rally theme of "Bein' as How You're Goin'...", de Cordova added, "Everybody is going to go somewhere. You may as well take Christ with you."

Additional information about Campers on Mission is available by contacting HMB special ministries at 404-410-6000.

New Children's Center dedicated at Siloam

"This area is for children and our basis is the Bible," declared Jackie Edwards as she helped dedicate the new Children's Worship Center June 16 at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs.

Edwards, children's associate for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department and director of the Siloam children's ministry, said the center will serve children "physically, socially, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually."

The dedication ceremony marked the unveiling of the center, built primarily with funds provided by Bernice Jones of Springdale. The new air-conditioned facility, consisting of a worship auditorium, large meeting room and office space, replaces an open-sided, wooden-frame shed in use at Siloam since the late 1950s.

The dedication ceremony included testimonies highlighting Siloam's children's ministry from Rick Hyde, pastor of Third Church in Malvern; Brad Green, a recent Ouachita Baptist University graduate; and Ellen Perkins, a children's camp teacher and a member of Pyatt Church.

Hyde said he has taught at Siloam every summer since 1984 because "it is the place I always want to go, the place that helps

me grow and a place that helps me glow."

Green said that as a participant in camps at Siloam and as a "staffer," he found he "wanted to be challenged to be a better musician and Christian."

Perkins, who has attended Siloam camps since she was 10 years old, said that as a teacher at Siloam, "a lot of time I say I'm doing it for the children. But then I have to turn around and admit that I'm also doing it for myself.

"People ask me, 'How can you come work with all those kids?'" she added. "How can I not?" she answered.

ABSC executive director Don Moore said the construction of the children's center was part of a master plan that also included the construction of the main worship center at Siloam in 1993.

Noting the sentimental importance of the old worship center, Moore said, "The most daring thing I have ever undertaken is to build the new worship center and replace the old one."

Moore also recognized Bernice Jones for gifts that allowed the construction of both the worship center and the children's center at Siloam. Jones, a member of First Church, Springdale, has contributed not

only to building projects at Siloam, but also to Ouachita Baptist University, Williams Baptist College and several Arkansas Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries projects.

Moore admitted that when he and former ABSC Sunday School department director Freddie Pike asked Jones for help in the construction projects, he was nervous. "We asked her for help with the worship center. I've never asked for \$1 million before. When she said 'yes,' I whooped!"

Pike, who served as camp director for 10 years, is now minister of education at Second Church in Conway. He said Jones' generosity speeded the master plan.

"When I became director, God began to put in me a vision for this place, but I didn't think we would ever see it get done," he recalled. "We thought it would take 20 years, but through Mrs. Jones, it has taken about five years."

Jimmy Shults, a member of Immanuel Church in Pine Bluff, served as chairman of the fundraising campaign. "I feel like God worked a miracle in a short time" during the campaign, he said.

Participants at the dedication also

State convention adds staff members in Sunday

Three new employees will begin service for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention this month. Benny Grant will become the adult associate in the Sunday School department and Janet Williams will become the department's preschool associate. Both will begin July 17.

Tim Smith will begin serving as director of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Baptist Student Union July 18.

Sunday School department director Milton Redeker said he is "excited" about his two new staff members. "We just had to look where God was working during the interviews and resumés," he noted. "When God's in something, it just moves."

Grant will be responsible for relating to all Arkansas Baptist churches in the area of adult Sunday School, as well as working with smaller-membership churches, church architecture and church growth.

A former professional home and church builder, Grant has served as pastor of Indian Springs Church in Bryant since 1987. He also has been pastor of congregations in Sparkman, Branch, Arkadelphia and Euless, Texas.

"Benny's qualifications are excellent," Redeker emphasized. He said Grant's



Benny Grant



Janet Williams



Tim Smith

pastoral experience was essential to the position "because he's going to know their problems and their hearts and he will know the kinds of people they deal with."

Grant earned the bachelor of arts degree at Ouachita Baptist University, attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and completed the master of divinity degree at Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta. He and his wife, Marcia, have two children.

Janet Williams will relate to Arkansas Baptist churches' preschool Sunday School programs. Redeker said her knowledge in the subject is "extensive."

"Janet has been doing preschool conferences for our convention many, many years so she is a confident conference leader in the area of preschool," he

affirmed. "She also is a team player. She has local church experience in both small and large churches."

In addition to her "wonderful background," Redeker said, "Her walk with the Lord is very evident."

Williams previously was director of human resources for I CARE health care services in Little Rock. She also has served as patient liaison for I CARE, minister of childhood education for Calvary Church in Little Rock and preschool director for Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

She also has served the ABSC as a conference leader since 1971 and has served the Baptist Sunday School Board as a curriculum writer and conference leader.

After attending Ouachita Baptist University, Williams earned the bachelor of arts degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She also has done graduate studies at Southwestern Seminary and at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

She and her husband, Fred, a professor at UALR, have three children.

Student ministries department director David James said Tim Smith's work experience made him the final candidate



Executive director Don Moore interviews Siloam benefactor Bernice Jones during dedication services for the assembly's Children's Worship Center.

celebrated the construction of the Mary Emma Humphrey Memorial Plaza. The plaza, which features planters, seats and a flagpole, serves as the entrance to the children's center. It honors Humphrey, who served the ABCS from 1961-72 as the convention's first children's consultant.

School, BSU

for the UALR ministry. He previously was director for the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and state consultant for student ministry for the Alaska Baptist Convention.

"Tim was a campus minister intern at a Baptist Student Union in Georgia and prior to that was involved as a youth minister for four years," James said. "I feel like his youth ministry role will help us because of the need to relate to our churches and especially our youth ministers."

"His work in Alaska also allowed him to catch a vision of pioneer work and in a sense, of metro work as he started a BSU outside of Fairbanks in Anchorage," he added.

James said Smith's ministry plans had not included Arkansas until a medical condition forced him to leave Alaska.

"Tim had moved to Alaska to stay," he explained. "But because of an asthmatic condition, he was allergic to the cold. The doctor told him he would have to leave. It broke his heart, but we believe God used that to open the door to here."

A Mississippi native, Smith earned the bachelor of science degree from University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. He also earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Lynnette Baldwin.

Arkansas Baptist Foundation offers variety of services

"The Arkansas Baptist Foundation has many services to help Baptists increase their stewardship potential," said Foundation president David Moore. "We offer these services free to almost anyone wishing to include Baptist ministries in their financial plans."

Moore listed free estate planning among the services offered. "The Foundation provides a wealth of resources in estate planning and charitable giving," he explained.

"One couple discovered the joy of talking with an attorney about their estate plan," Moore quipped. "They were skeptical of attorneys and high fees and were shocked to realize that the Foundation furnishes an attorney for their help without any charge."

"As a result, we gave them direction in establishing an estate plan that accomplished their goals in supporting their family and their church," he said.

The Foundation also manages endowments and scholarships for donors, he said. "We can assist people in establishing perpetual endowments to support the Baptist causes they want to support."

He related that one donor recently established a scholarship fund for students preparing for missions at a Baptist college. Noting that the donor's desire "was to support a student who needed help to prepare himself or herself for Southern Baptist mission service," he added, "The Foundation was able to establish a perpetual scholarship in her name to support these deserving students."

Charitable trusts

Setting up charitable trusts and gift annuities is also a part of the agency's abilities, Moore noted. "One couple established a charitable remainder trust. An irrevocable future gift was made to one of our Baptist colleges, while the couple retained the right of all income as long as they both live."

"They received a sizable charitable deduction immediately and bypassed a significant capital gains tax since they funded the trust with appreciated stocks," he added. "Their greatest joy was in completing a gift they wanted to make to support Christian higher education."

Moore said the Foundation also offers charitable pass-through accounts

for the benefit of church members.

He said the Foundation recently received a charitable gift of stock "with the stipulation that the donors would tell the Foundation when and where to send the proceeds. The family received charitable tax credit for the gift as soon as it was made to the Foundation."

Moore explained that the Foundation is not limited to helping individuals. "We also assist local churches and associations in the process of incorporation," he said, noting that the agency "has assisted almost 500 of our Arkansas Baptist churches in the process of incorporation."

"Once the church has voted to incorporate, the Foundation will prepare without charge the needed articles of incorporation which can be filed with the Secretary of State," he said.

Another service which is available to Arkansas Baptist churches is the management of demand fund accounts. "Churches and associations can earn better interest rates on building and reserve funds with the Foundation," Moore emphasized.

Moore said other Foundation services offered free of charge include:

- Seminars and conferences. "Arkansas Baptist churches and associations can request free seminars by Foundation staff on estate planning, financial management and charitable giving," he said.

- Estate planning and charitable giving assistance. "Arkansas Baptist church members receive free estate planning and charitable giving advice and counsel," he said. "Donors to Baptist causes may receive various legal documents and drafts without charge."

- Probate and estate assistance and information. "The Foundation staff is available to assist church members in understanding how to handle estates, how to probate wills, how to establish endowments and how to save on estate and income taxes," he added.

- Wills and trusts for ministers and wives. "Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, deeds and other estate planning legal documents are provided without charge to Arkansas Baptist ministers and wives, as well as to donors," Moore said.

For more information about services provided by the Foundation, contact Moore at the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, phone 501-376-0732.

DOM of the Year 'helps churches do their job'

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Tommy Robertson's philosophy of the director of missions' responsibility is "helping local churches do their job better."

"If I can help the pastors or these churches be stronger, help them through whatever problems they have, I'll always be glad to do this," said Robertson, who has served Liberty Association in south Arkansas since 1980.

Carrying out that philosophy, said Jimmy Barrentine, earned Robertson the DOM of the Year Award earlier this year at Ouachita Baptist University. The award was presented during an annual banquet at OBU honoring

directors of missions. "The final selection was made by a team," Barrentine added, "with the basic criteria of faithful service, enough years to measure their work, then a stellar performance in the job."

Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said Robertson's "sacrificial giving" to Liberty Association made him the top candidate for the award.

"I think like most really good directors of associational missions, he's given himself sacrificially to the people and the churches of Liberty Association," Barrentine noted. "And though he has done it in a sacrificial manner, he obviously wasn't thinking of it as a sacrifice, but a privilege, a golden opportunity."

"I have churches call me and say, 'We sure hate to call on you to do this. We know you're a busy man,'" Robertson said. "I tell them, 'That's my job. That's what I want to do.'"

Barrentine noted that Robertson "has primarily given himself to church development and care of churches and staff members."

Robertson emphasized that a major part of his ministry is working with the association's 54 churches and their pastors. He said he aids the churches by "providing them with supply or interim preaching, helping them resolve crises within the church or moderating at a business meeting."

"Whatever the church needs, I try to help them with that," he explained. "I want them to be stronger, more mission-



Tommy Robertson (left), director of missions for Liberty Association, was honored earlier this year as DOM of the Year. Ouachita president Ben Elrod presented the award to Robertson and his wife, Beverly.

mind. If they have a problem, I try to help them resolve that problem so they don't split or come apart at the seams."

He noted that problem-solving in churches "may be nothing more than helping them find a pastor or working with their committees. But you kind of hang loose. When they call you, you try to help them any way you can."

Another part of that help, he added, is "counseling with pastors. Normally the pastors and staff members come to me, so I do a lot of counseling," he explained. "I'm the pastor to the pastors. That's what it amounts to."

"They don't have anyone else to turn to and they know that," he said. "A lot of times they can't talk to their church members and they can't talk to any other pastor, either. But they feel they can come talk to me and I work with them, encourage them."

Robertson said his own pastoral experience helps him in his role as pastoral counselor. "I was in the pastorate until 1980 in all kinds of churches and I have faced a big part of the problems they are going to face in general."

Preaching in all sizes of churches, he said, prepared him to relate to the churches in Liberty Association. "The largest is Immanuel in El Dorado, which runs about 700 on Sunday morning, to churches that run 15 and have bivocational ministers, and everything in between."

His focus, though, is on smaller churches. "The larger churches don't need our help as much. The churches that run 100 or less in Sunday School need our help more."

Robertson's early pulpit experiences ranged from serving churches during college to serving Dawn Baptist Church in Missouri while attending Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After graduation from Midwestern, he served as pastor of Antioch Church near Hot Springs, Beech Street Church in Gurdon, Trinity Church in El Dorado and First Church, Sheridan.

Then, in 1980, he was contacted by Liberty Association's DOM search committee.

"That's a pretty good jump from pastor," he reflected. "If you would have asked me five years earlier to be a DOM, I would have said 'no,' but at that time God had changed my mind and I definitely felt like this was where He wanted me."

His tenure as a DOM over the past 15 years has been very satisfying, Robertson affirmed. "You occasionally hear someone say, 'I could not work with all those preachers,' but I enjoy it. I get along with them fine," he declared.

The association's other ministries are as varied as its churches. They include education, a camp, an emergency receiving home and a crisis care ministry.

Robertson said Beech Springs camp "is one of the best camps in Arkansas. We have a lodge that's kind of like staying in a Holiday Inn. We have suites with private baths, wall-to-wall carpet and everything is air-conditioned but our tabernacle."

"We also own the building for the Emergency Receiving Home in Camden," he added. "We bought the building and turned it over to them to operate."

Robertson said the association also has a crisis center "where, on an emergency basis, we help people with food and clothing. It's a pretty busy place." He said it serves "about 1,700 people with 600 families. We provide New Testaments, so it's not just a social ministry."

Reflecting on receiving the DOM of the Year award, Robertson said, "I'm not sure why they gave it to me over someone else."

He said he felt "kind of stunned" after he realized he was receiving the award. "I wasn't expecting this. You have all of these other DOMs sitting around you and you ask, 'Why did they choose me?' I don't know."

Supreme Court addresses several church-state cases

WASHINGTON (ABP/BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has addressed a number of cases in recent weeks related to church-state separation.

In one of the most watched cases this session, the justices ruled 5-4 that the University of Virginia's refusal to pay the printing bill of a student-run Christian newspaper violated the free-speech rights of the student publishers.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said the state university's policy of barring the use of student activity funds for religious activities while supporting a range of other student activities amounted to viewpoint discrimination. The ruling reversed a lower court ruling that the policy was justified by the constitutional requirement of church-state separation.

In a 7-2 vote concerning the inclusion of a Ku Klux Klan cross in a holiday display, the Supreme Court ruled that government must afford private religious speech as much access as secular speech.

The issue arose when Ohio officials opened a public forum in the front of the statehouse and then denied the Ku Klux Klan access to it. State officials permitted a 20-foot Christmas tree and a 14-foot menorah but barred a 10-foot KKK cross on establishment clause grounds.

Religious expression cannot violate the establishment clause when it is private and occurs in a designated public forum, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote.

The high court declined to review a federal appeals court ruling that a Missouri junior high school could not open its facilities after hours for groups such as Boy Scouts while denying access to a parent-led Bible club. The appeals court rejected the school district's argument that the action was justified by the compelling interest of church-state separation.

The Supreme Court also declined to hear the Arkansas case concerning Jennings and Mitzel Osborne's massive Christmas lights display. The state court deemed the display a nuisance because it created traffic jams and unsafe road conditions. The Osbornes claimed the ruling violated their religious beliefs.

Education Commission leaders seek time to phase out agency

SAN ANTONIO, TX (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, whose agency is slated for dissolution by the Southern Baptist Convention restructuring plan, have voted to petition the SBC Executive Committee to allow the commission to take until the year 2000 to phase itself out of existence. The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools voted to join the Education Commission in the petition.

Commission members met following the Southern Baptist Convention where messengers approved the "Covenant for a New Century," which reduces the number of SBC entities from 19 to 12, including disbanding the Education Commission and its programs. The commission, which was established in 1915, is charged with serving and promoting Southern Baptist-related colleges and schools.

Commission members spent nearly five hours discussing the reorganization plan and presented two resolutions directed to the SBC Executive Committee.

The first resolution asks the Executive Committee "to allow the Education Commission until the year 2000 to phase itself out of existence in an orderly and businesslike manner in order to arrange for the continuation of its valuable and useful programs for the benefit of the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptists everywhere."

The second resolution addresses the disposition of more than \$600,000 in loan endowments currently used to help professors at Southern Baptist-related colleges and schools pursue doctoral and postdoctoral education.

The commission approved the first resolution after hearing a report from executive director Stephen P. Carleton who said implementation of the covenant is not expected to be complete until the year 2000 for some of the larger agencies. "For the smaller agencies many convention leaders have been saying it will be over when the gavel hits the podium in June of 1997 in Dallas," he added.

"The Covenant for a New Century says to dissolve the Education Commission and let the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools take on any of the programs that they may desire to," Carleton explained. "I'd like to think we can help the Association of Colleges and Schools as they find ways to try to pick up some of what the Education Commission has been doing. The problem is the wide disparity between the \$500,000 now provided for this work by the Cooperative Program and

the meager \$20,000 budget the association operates on from member dues of the 69 educational institutions."

Among those programs and services that commissioners agreed should be continued is the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium which was strengthened last year by an alliance and financial agreements among the Foreign Mission Board, the Education Commission and 43 colleges and universities. CSIEC currently includes 300 educational exchange programs predominantly in what the FMB calls "World A" countries where traditional missionaries are not allowed.

CSIEC is now directed on a volunteer basis by Dan Grant, president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University. Trustees discussed a wide array of possibilities to keep CSIEC alive, including asking the Foreign Mission Board to follow through with a previously approved budget and even increase it.

Grant voiced "deep disappointment that the move to a permanent and full-time staff for CSIEC has been stalled" by the restructuring plan.

"It was not much comfort or consolation that the restructuring committee report included strong words of commendation for what our consortium and our member Baptist colleges are doing," Grant added. "If the messengers to the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention repeat the recent 1995 convention vote to approve the dissolution of the Education Commission, this agreement will be null and void."

Other programs that trustees cited for transfer include a representative voice in Washington to speak to governmental issues such as student financial aid, publication of *The Southern Baptist Educator*, a placement service that links qualified Christian teachers with the member schools, workshops for professional faculty groups, and an annual meeting of the association.

M.O. Owens Jr., a trustee from North Carolina, said although he basically had been in favor of the concept of the restructuring, "one of the things that has bothered me is the fact that action was taken without sitting down and working through all the problems that will be and are created."

Doug Hodo, president of Houston Baptist University, was elected Education Commission chairman. Ben Elrod, president of Ouachita Baptist University, was elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Church news

North Tenth Street Church in Blytheville dedicated a new sanctuary and educational building May 21 that were built by church members and volunteers from First Church in Blytheville which has sponsored the new work for the past three years. The mission also was organized into a church May 21. The 190 signing the charter voted to give 12 percent of undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program and 2 percent of undesignated gifts to Mississippi County Association. Bill Fuller, pastor of the sponsoring church, was the guest speaker. Henry Applegate is pastor.

Siloam Springs First Church has been involved in a capital fund-raising campaign that provided \$135,000 for 20 acres of property on the north side of the city where the church will locate. A recent "Building First...by Faith" campaign also was successful with total commitments to date of more than \$1.1 million. The church celebrated the high point of the campaign June 18 with a First Fruits Offering of more than \$155,000, the largest single offering in the church's history. Architectural plans for the new facility are in the process of being completed and the church plans to break ground in the fall. Steve Ahbott is pastor.

Sonora Church of Springdale celebrated its 75th anniversary May 21 with special guests including five of its former 25 pastors: Buddy Stockton, John Smedley, Lee Hobel, Perry Hillis and Curtis Puryear. The celebration included a churchwide picnic. Sonora Church, organized in 1920, recorded its highest Sunday School attendance of 185 in April of 1995. Its meetings sites have included a schoolhouse, a stone building and the current facility that was dedicated in 1941 with additions to the facility completed in 1975, 1976, 1979 and 1988. Payment of property indebtedness was celebrated with a note-burning service in 1989. Mission outreach has played an important role in the life of Sonora Church which has sponsored two mission congregations. Danny Williams is pastor.

Cedar Grove Church of Arkadelphia will celebrate its 40th year of ministry July 23 with a morning worship service, potluck luncheon, musical program and reception. Former pastor Rick Lindeberger will be the guest speaker. Bill Ellis is pastor.

Calico Rock First Church in Rocky Bayou Association is sponsoring a new mission in the Jordan area where seven new housing developments are located and projections indicate at least 1,000 homes will be built



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

in the next five years. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department has provided a \$16,000 construction loan. Director of missions S.D. Hacker reported that even before footing has been poured, Franklin Church has made pews available and individuals have donated a Lord's Supper setting and offering plates.

Cove First Church honored church greeter Bill Lowry June 4 in recognition of his 88th birthday. He was presented proclamations from the state of Arkansas and Polk County, as well as a plaque from the church. Jim Oliver is pastor.

Wynne Church has launched a Sunday afternoon Ministry Triangle program in which deacons will visit church prospects who have visited in the morning worship service and newcomers to the Wynne/Cross County area. Mark Tolbert is pastor.

Convention leadership roles. Upon retirement he plans to serve on a volunteer basis in world missions, local ministries and hospice, as well as do supply preaching. He and his wife, Marianne, will continue to reside at 629 West Mathews, Jonesboro, AR 72401; phone 501-935-6896. They are parents of four adult children, Ann, Paul, Todd and Ben.

Billy G. Elliott is serving as pastor of Floyd First Mission, a newly organized work at Romance. Elliott moved there from Mabelvale where he was pastor of Chicot Road Church since 1990. He previously served Bingham Road and Ironton churches in Little Rock, Pleasant Grove Church in Perry and Victory Church in Evansville, Ind. Elliott attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), and participated in Southern Baptist seminary extension work in Evansville. He currently is enrolled in Moody Bible College, working toward an associate of divinity degree. He and his wife, Irene, have two adult daughters, Tamara and Terri; two grandsons; and three granddaughters.

Lonnie Autry began serving June 28 as pastor of Berca Church of Jacksonville. A retired member of the Corp of Engineers, Autry previously was pastor of Oakwood Church of North Little Rock and Cockleburr Church of Ward. He and his wife, Rose, have a daughter, Vede.

Glen McGriff, retired director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's ministry of crisis support, is serving as a consultant for churches in the areas of marriage and family enrichment and spiritual awakening. He also is working with local churches to establish Christian counseling centers. McGriff can be contacted at 2211 Ferncliff Road, Little Rock, AR 72211; phone 501-821-2752.

Rex Alexander has accepted the call to join the staff of Mount Carmel Church in Cabot as minister of education. He will come there from First Baptist Church in Ferguson, Mo., where he has served as minister to students for more than eight years. In addition, he has been a staff member of churches in Virginia and Kentucky. He is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Penny, have three children, Bryan, Brittany and Blake.

Tony Weston has accepted the call to join the staff of Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock as minister of music and young adults. He will come there from First Church of Camden where he has been minister of music and education.

Obituaries

Carroll W. Shaw of Dallas, Texas, died July 1 at age 65. Shaw served as a Southern Baptist missionary to Zimbabwe and South Africa for 35 years. He had recently completed service as missionary-in-residence for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention stewardship department. His funeral service was held July 3 at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas where he was a member. Survivors are his wife, Jackie; two daughters, Beth Wetton of Dallas and Janean Hardister of Little Rock; and three sisters. Memorials made to the South African Baptist Convention missions committee in care of Park Cities Church.

Staff changes

Emil Williams will retire Aug. 30 as pastor of First Church of Jonesboro, following 30 years of ministry. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has led the Jonesboro church in numerous outreach ministries including a health clinic, food and clothing distribution, a grade school tutoring program, English instruction for international students and a migrant work program. Williams has served in numerous associational, state and Southern Baptist

Weston is a member of the Weston and Davis Christian music ministry. He previously has served as interim music worship leader for Central Church of Jonesboro and as a staff member of Immanuel Church of Pine Bluff, West Helena Church and Briar Church in Briar, Texas. Weston is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Judy, have three sons, Blake, Taylor and Grant.

Todd A. Cochran has joined the staff of Calvary Church in Osceola as youth and music director. He was licensed to the ministry and ordained by Bluff Avenue Church in Fort Smith. Cochran is a graduate of Westark Community College in Fort Smith and Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. He previously was a staff member of First Church of London, First Church of Atkins, Bluff Avenue Church of Fort Smith and New Hope Church in Greenwood. He also has been a staff member at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs and has served as a summer missionary to Guatemala.

Jerry Johnson has been named associate pastor of pastoral ministries for First Church in Little Rock where he has been a staff member for 19 years, previously serving as youth pastor, family life minister and administrator.

Robby Dennie, Allison Walsh and Oliver Shipman have joined the staff of Geyer Springs First Church as summer interns. Dennie, a senior at the University of Arkansas, is serving as administrative intern. Walsh, a recent graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, is intern in the children's division. Shipman, a senior at OBU, is youth intern.

Kelly Dunn has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Elmira Baptist Church in Lawson, Mo. Dunn, who has been a member of First Church of Clarksville, will work on a master of divinity degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary while serving as a pastor. He is a graduate of Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and has attended Boyce Bible School in Little Rock. Dunn has been a bivocational pastor, serving First Church of Belme, First Church of Hackett, First Church of Altus and Rover Church. He has been interim pastor of Spadra Church, as well as First Church in Hagerstown, Ind. He and his wife, Ruby Lois, have three children, Caleb Keith, Joseph Glen and Nathan Carlton.

Fred Garrison has resigned as bivocational pastor of First Church of Lambrook. An electrician in Helena, he will be available for supply preaching. He and his wife,

Terry, have two children, Holly and Brock. Garrison may be contacted at 56 Phillips 314, Lexa, AR 72355; phone 501-572-3593.

Al Major, who retired as pastor of West Helena Church, and his wife, Beth, are in the Czech Republic where he is serving as pastor of the International Baptist Church from June 25, 1995, through July 1, 1996. Their mailing address is Krohova 2245, Prague 6, the Czech Republic.

Marshall Kurfees has resigned as pastor of Pencil Bluff Church to reside in North Carolina where he will continue his education.

James E. Hill, who retired as director of missions for Calvary Association in 1991, is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Rose Bud. He and his wife, Norma, reside in Searcy.

Eddie McCord of Mount Ida is serving as interim pastor of Pencil Bluff Church. McCord is the retired director of missions for Independence Association.

Amos Greer, a retired Southern Baptist minister, is serving as interim pastor of New Liberty Church in Greene County Association.

Gene Hodges of Lincoln accepted the call to become pastor of First Church of Gainesville, Mo., effective July 2. He previously served Temple Church of El Dorado, Second Church of Camden and Liberty Church of Lincoln. Hodges is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Hodges and his wife, Sherrell, have three children, Ashley Hodges of Lincoln, Gene Hodges Jr. of Conway and Kimberly Logue of Fayetteville.

Don Hubbard has resigned as pastor of First Church of Carlisle, effective July 30. He has accepted a position as a chaplain at the University Medical Center in Little Rock.

David Laird has resigned as pastor of Trinity Church at Malvern to move to Indianapolis, Miss.

David Brown has resigned as pastor of Lakeshore Heights Church in Hot Springs to move to Nevada.

Joe Burgess currently is serving as interim minister of music for Calvary Church in Monticello. He previously has been a staff member of churches in Pine Bluff, Dumas and Ashley County.

Don Bishop recently resigned as pastor of Trinity Church of Fort Smith. He and his wife, Linda, are residing in Van Buren. Bishop is available for pulpit supply or to serve as an interim pastor. He may be contacted at 501-474-7499.

'Developing the Team' conference targets multi-staff churches

Multi-staff church ministry teams will work on communication skills and relationships during the Building and Developing the Team conference scheduled for Aug. 24-25 at DeGray State Park Lodge.

The conference, sponsored jointly by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church leadership support department and church music ministries department, is open to all full-time ministry teams in Arkansas Baptist churches.

"Building and Developing the Team is designed with the multi-member, full-time church ministry staff in mind," said church leadership support department director L.B. Jordan. "It will address issues related to healthy relationships contributing to effective staff ministry."

Rob Hewell, director of the church music ministries department, said workshop sessions will offer "practical ways to resolve conflict and deal with it in a healthy fashion. The workshop also will begin to put staff teams together at retreat to enhance that and encourage that."

Hewell said the conference will be especially helpful for staff teams that have "healthy" relationships.

"What we want to do is preventative medicine," he noted, "and to offer ways that, when problems do arise, staff members will know how to handle them in a positive, biblical and Christian way."

The conference will be led by Harry Taylor, director of church music and administration for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, and state convention executive director Don Moore.

"We wanted men with a wealth of background of experience and we wanted a great variety," Jordan explained. "Their experiences will really mesh well."

The cost for the conference is \$25 per person and includes all materials, meals and snacks. Room reservations may be made directly with DeGray Lodge; phone 1-800-737-8355. Rates are based on \$64.50 per room with double occupancy.

For more information, contact Jordan or Hewell at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; phone 501-376-4791.

SBC Cooperative Program gifts up for June, year

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for June rose 16.84 percent above the same month a year ago, according to SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman.

June 1995 gifts totaled \$12,719,960 compared to June 1994 of \$10,886,499, for an increase of \$1,833,461. After nine months of

the SBC fiscal year, total CP gifts stand at \$109,314,279 compared to the previous year of \$106,599,758 for an increase of \$2,714,520.

Designated gifts increased sharply in June, up 35.25 percent over the previous year's June: \$15,919,773 compared to \$11,770,875 for an increase of \$4,148,898. Year-to-date totals for designated gifts are 2.09 percent ahead of the previous year.

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NATION

Israel evangelism campaign produces 'best ever' response

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HAIFA, ISRAEL (BP)—Forty-five Israelis prayed to accept Jesus Christ as Savior during a three-day evangelistic campaign in Haifa, Israel.

Messianic Jewish believers who organized the effort said it was the biggest campaign with the most results since efforts began by Jewish believers a decade ago.

The number of decisions would not be news in many places, but this is Israel, where resistance to the gospel is high.

Leaders were cautious about campaign statistics, which ended June 18. They said it was the first time those 45 people had prayed in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. Only after a well organized follow-up program ends will the actual number of genuine decisions be known, they said.

During the campaign 200 Israeli believers and Christian workers, including several Southern Baptists, organized into 14 teams. They shared the gospel with

about 600 people in Haifa, a coastal city in northern Israel.

That record number was considered a victory, since few Israelis have heard the full gospel without traditional distortions. Leaders were elated that almost 100 Israelis provided their addresses for follow-up.

"This is the best campaign we've ever had in every way," said Avi Mizrahi, an Israeli who coordinates evangelism among Jewish believers. Haifa's population of a quarter of a million people includes Jews, Arabs and Russian immigrants.

One campaign worker was taken in by Haifa police for questioning but later released. Two teams said city workers tried to intimidate them into stopping their witnessing by claiming it's illegal in Israel. But team members declined to stop, answering that several Israeli court decisions have ruled street evangelism legal. Campaign leaders said such harassment has declined in recent years, although Orthodox Jews opposed to Christian outreach still present problems in some places.

Workers also distributed more than 300 copies of the New Testament.

Mizrahi would not say revival is near in Israel, but said he believes God has something big in the works.

"I believe we're seeing the first sparks of what God wants to do in this country," he said. "This is definitely the time and the situation is good. Israel is ready."



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Portraits highlight ministry of First Church, Malvern

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptists

Portraits of former pastors, those ordained by the church and members who have gone from the church to serve as career missionaries were unveiled June 25 at First Church in Malvern.

The celebration was planned and coordinated by Hannah Sue Weaver as a result of her interest in sharing information with young people in the church about those who have served God through the Malvern church.

"I am very fortunate to be a member of a church that has had 40 super-spectacular men of God to serve as pastors," Weaver said. "I also point with pride to the four special missionaries sent forth by the church and to the six young preachers who have gone out from this church in service to the Lord."

In addition to available portraits of former pastors, photographs of those ordained and/or licensed by the church included Charles Ashcraft, Morris Ashcraft, James T. Draper, Derward Deere, Edward F. McDonald and Ben R. Owen. Missionaries from the church family included Lawson E. Glover Jr., Betty Krudwig Russell, Lauren McCoy Lindsey and Marsha Ellis Smith.



Members of First Church, Malvern, applaud the June 25 unveiling of a display of historical portraits honoring former pastors and church leaders.

Family representatives attending the unveiling noted that the portraits included individuals who have served as state convention presidents, foreign and home missionaries, college and seminary professors and presidents and armed forces chaplains, among other ministry roles.

Pastor Verne Wickliffe, speaking from Hebrews 12:1-2, declared, "Today we are surrounded by witnesses of our past who have led in changing the lives of people under the leadership of a holy God who

today wants us to continue in sharing the good news of salvation to a world that is in desperate need of change."

Wickliffe emphasized that Christians today need to overcome obstacles and frustrations, endure much and not become weary in order to be effective witnesses. "Runners have changed but God expects us to continue the race by praying to Him, fellowshiping with Him and letting His glory show through us as did those whom we honor today."

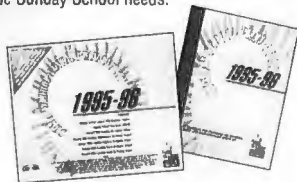
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NATION

Celebration to highlight work of Baptist missions volunteers

By David Winfrey

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists from around the country will gather for a celebration of volunteer missions work this September in Arlington, Texas.

The meeting not only will recognize previous volunteer accomplishments, but also educate potential volunteers about needs, said event chairman Bob Mills.

"All over the world, each year more than 87,800 Southern Baptists respond to God's call to hands-on kingdom service of every kind imaginable," said Mills, director of Mission Service Corps volunteers at the Home Mission Board.

"The whole experience is to be that of celebration," he added. "We want to celebrate what volunteers have done, are doing and will do to enhance the kingdom."

Highlighting the theme "Love more than words," the celebration will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, Sept. 15-19. The program includes Bible studies led by Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Composer Ragan Courtney and singer Cynthia Clawson will lead worship.

Speakers include Bob Briner, author of the book *Roaring Lambs*, about Christians' positively influencing American media.

The celebration comes at a time when the number of Baptists volunteering for missions is rising. Last year, more than 13,100 Southern Baptists volunteered for foreign missions work, jumping 27 percent from 1993's total of 10,269 volunteers.

Nearly 69,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for home missions work in 1994. That was up almost 10 percent from 1993.

Currently 14 Mission Service Corps volunteers serve in Arkansas.

Still, many needs are unmet. As many as 40 percent of home missionaries' requests for short-term workers go unfilled and the Foreign Mission Board

cancelled 376 missions projects last year, many because volunteers were not available.

From an economic standpoint, the work of volunteers for HMB programs is worth more than \$100 million annually, Mills said. "We've got more and more people who are retiring earlier and they're wanting to continue to make a contribution."

Registration costs \$40 per person, excluding meals and lodging. More information is available from the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.



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MISSIONARY NOTES

John and Claudia Brown, missionaries to Malawi, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 30018, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Pine Bluff and considers Star City his hometown. The former Claudia Tenney, she considers Jackson, Miss., her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1987.

Karl and Thelma Weathers, representatives to Middle East, are in the States (address: 605 Ash St., Conway, AR 72032).

They consider Earle their hometown. She is the former Thelma Williams. They were appointed in 1983.

Ron and Debbie Baker, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: 110 Olive, Cabot, AR 72023). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Lee County and considers Brinkley his hometown. The former Debbie Rogers, she considers Van Buren her hometown. They were appointed in 1982.

Jim and Janet Dillard, missionaries

to Kenya, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 895, Nyeri, Kenya). He is a native of Tyronza, and she is the former Janet Davis of Kentucky. They were appointed in 1969.

Gerald and Barbara Schleiff, missionaries to Zimbabwe, are in the States (address: 515 Gibson, Benton, AR 72015). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Fort Smith and lived in Charleston while growing up. She is the former Barbara Robertson of Monette. They were appointed in 1967.



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Veteran missionary Eloise Glass Cauthen dies

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Eloise Glass Cauthen, wife of the late Baker James Cauthen who led Southern Baptist foreign missions through some of its most dramatic growth, died June 29 in Richmond, Va. She was 85.

Cauthen was born in China to Southern Baptist missionary parents Wiley B. and Eunice Taylor Glass, and later returned to China as a missionary with her husband. Her parents knew legendary missionary

Lottie Moon well. In 1978 Broadman Press published *Higher Ground*, Cauthen's biography about her father, who worked in China for 42 years.

The Cauthens lived in the Orient from 1939 to 1952, when they moved to Richmond for him to become executive director of the Foreign Mission Board. During her husband's administration, the number of Southern Baptist missionaries increased from 908 to nearly 3,000 and

the number of countries where they worked from 32 to 95. Missions funding grew from \$6.7 million in 1954 to \$76.7 million when he retired in 1979.

After her husband's death in 1985, Cauthen taught English in China for a year at the invitation of a university in Yantai, the port city where she spent her early years in boarding school.



Eloise Cauthen

Cauthen was a member of First Baptist Church in Richmond for 40 years, where she was active in Woman's Missionary Union and taught Sunday School. In 1989 she left to help organize Gayton Baptist Church in Richmond where she was a member until her death.

Throughout her life Cauthen used speaking engagements, writing and teaching of mission study books to share vivid memories and knowledge of foreign missions. She spent her childhood in China amid war and revolution, famine and starvation, religious revival and heroic Christian sacrifice. She attended English-speaking schools in China from kindergarten through university entrance exams.

She was a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Don Kammerdener, FMB executive vice president, paid tribute to Cauthen on behalf of FMB president Jerry Rankin, who was traveling overseas.

"Missions was Eloise Cauthen's passion for 85 years," said Kammerdener, calling her a "lifelong friend of the Foreign Mission Board."

"I think of her as a kingdom citizen, full of love in whom there was no guile," said Keith Parks, former FMB president and now head of global missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Parks, who followed Cauthen's husband as the FMB's chief executive, called Cauthen a "woman of prayer" and "a spiritual encourager—a female Barnabas."

Brazilian Baptist leader Nilson Fanini, president-elect of the Baptist World Alliance, noted, "You may take her body, but her heart will be with us all around the world until Jesus comes."

The Baker James Cauthen and Eloise Glass Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., is named in the Cauthens' honor.

Surviving Cauthen are her son, Ralph Cauthen of Greensboro, N.C.; two brothers, two sisters and two grandsons.

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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Baptist Men golf tournaments: 'positive Christian fellowship'

Two four-man golf tournaments scheduled for September will "provide positive Christian fellowship" for Baptist Men and senior adult Baptist Men.

The first tournament, set for Sept. 14 at Glenwood Country Club near Glenwood, is for Baptist Men. The second tournament, set for Sept. 28 at DeGray Lake Resort State Park, is for senior Baptist Men. The shotgun start for each tournament is 8:30 a.m.

Harry Black, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department, said the tournaments "were started several years ago, primarily as a function that would provide positive Christian fellowship for men involved in this activity. We have so many great golf courses in Arkansas and there are a lot of folks interested in it as a sport."

He said the tournaments are also "a promotional tool. We think that as men in churches are involved in something like

this, it gives them the opportunity to develop that Baptist Men's draw within their churches. Hopefully, it will lead to other activities.

"I'm excited because it shows churches and associations how easy it is to do something like this," he noted. "They can easily conduct their own golf tournament or softball tournament or bass fishing tournament. This is the model, on a state level, for them to do this."

The cost for the senior Baptist Men tournament is \$84 per four-man team; the cost for the Baptist Men tournament is \$100 per four-man team.

For more information or to register, contact Black at the ABSC Brotherhood office, phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5158.

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Retirements, staff cuts reduce expenses at Southern

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP)—Ten professors will take early retirement from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and 11 other positions will be eliminated this summer in a cost-cutting move. Administrators must cut \$914,000 from the budget by the start of the next fiscal year Aug. 1, due to declining student enrollment and revenue.

An initial financial analysis of the positions being eliminated shows the reductions totalling about \$780,000—assuming none of the retiring professors is replaced. Another three professors already have announced retirements or resignations apart from the layoffs and early retirements. If those positions are not filled, the additional cost savings could be \$147,000. The early-retirement package was

approved by seminary trustees last spring after the idea was suggested by a faculty committee. To be eligible, a professor's age and number of years of service to the seminary added together must equal at least 65.

Benefits of the package include extended medical insurance, one year's salary, plus \$500 for each year served.

A total of 29 faculty qualified for the plan. The 10 faculty who accepted the early retirement package are Raymond Bailey, preaching; Betty Bedsole, Ron Boud and Maurice Hinson, church music; William Cromer and William Rogers, Christian education; Anne Davis and Donoso Escobar, church social work; Wade Rowatt, psychology of religion; and

Marvin Tate, Old Testament. All retirements take effect July 31.

The administrative staff reductions include two administrative positions in business services, one in academic administration and eight secretarial positions.

Other faculty members who have announced departure plans include:

■ Paul Richardson, professor of church music, who has taken a position with Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

■ Timothy Johnson, associate professor of social work, who has joined the faculty of Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y.

■ Greg Lewis, assistant professor of social work, who is returning to his native Australia.

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By David Welch, associate pastor,
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It is hard to define the word "judgment" using the word "love." The two are incongruous. They seem not to be divisible by one another. But in God's economy, judgment may come because He loves us.

In Hosea 11, the prophet changes metaphors to express the Lord's love for His people in a new way. He is now compared as a loving Father to an incorrigible son (vv. 1-4). God's love is not cheap emotion, willing to give license for as much evil as possible without consequence. His love is perfect and it calls for a loving response. When the response is repetitive disobedience, God's grace becomes judgment-love (vv. 5-7). That is what makes it perfect.

■ *Perfect love desires to tenderly provide* (vv. 1-4). God meets every need we have because He is a perfect father. Hosea reminds Israel that God met every need just as a perfect father meets his child's needs. Every action of God in your life is a love-action. Yet we, like Israel, pursue our "Baals" of selfish gratification because they feel good now.

■ *Perfect love turns to discipline when constantly rebuffed* (vv. 5-8). God is not infinitely patient. He is perfectly patient, and perfect patience has a limit. Infinite patience is weakness because it reveals a lack of resolve. God loves us so much that He is resolved not to allow sin to rule over us. Because sin will utterly destroy us, His judgment-love is designed to bring us back to Him (v. 10). Perfect love has a highest goal. Is it to give us total pleasure? No. It is rather to mold us into something more meaningful and valuable than we can be on our own. He wants to "conform us into the image of His Son" (Rom. 8:29).

■ *Perfect love yearns for restoration of relationship* (vv. 8-9). Though Assyria is coming and judgment with her, God rings a note of hope. He longs for the day of restoration. He yearns for your heart to be turned back to Him. He wants a relationship with you more than anything. He was willing to pay the greatest price to get it. Will you come back?

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Life and Work

Growing in Christ

By David Napier, associate pastor,
Immanuel Church, Little Rock
Basic passage: Colossians 2:6-15

Focal passage: Colossians 2:6-7

Central truth: Salvation is not the end, but the beginning of our Christian growth and pilgrimage.

Many churches today are caught up in a numbers game. They try to baptize as many people as possible. While baptizing converts is the most important thing a New Testament church does, Paul emphasized that it is not the end of the spiritual process, but the beginning.

Beginning in verse 6 he said that just as we have received Christ (by faith), we must also walk with Him in faith. We are to be "rooted" in Him, so that we aren't tossed about by different philosophies and doctrines. It is essential to know the Word of God. Satan has a difficult time working against a Bible-taught, Bible believing Christian. Studying the Bible will also help us to "walk in Him and be built up in Him." Paul reminded us that the Christian pilgrimage is a journey that continues throughout life rather than a destination. We are to be rooted in Him, students of His Word and possessors of a thankful spirit (v. 7).

A Christian with a firm foundation, knowledge of the Word and a grateful spirit will be protected from Satan's traps.

In verse 8, Paul gave a warning against false prophets and their philosophies and traditions. The gnosticism that was rampant in Colosse was not much different than the "cultism" that is so rampant in our society today. We need to be very careful in looking to the source of the basic principles and philosophies of religious movements. If the principles are rooted in worldly tradition rather than biblical truths, they are not of God. We should never let our traditions become equal to or more important than the Word of God.

In verses 11-15 Paul reminded us that everything we need is found in Christ. The Colossians were being corrupted by the belief that rituals such as circumcision were necessary for salvation. We are reminded that in Jesus, all requirements for salvation were accomplished. We have been "buried with Him" and "raised from the dead with Him" (v. 12). He has forgiven all our sins and allowed us to share in a complete victory over the power of Satan. So we are to grow and be on guard against worldly perils, using the provision provided by Jesus.

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Bible Book

Individual accountability

By Marty Watson, pastor, Baring
Cross Church, North Little Rock
Basic passage: Ezekiel 15:1-19:14

Focal passage: Ezekiel 15:1-32

Central truth: Each individual is personally responsible for his or her sin.

Man has historically had difficulty accepting the responsibility for his sin. From the garden experience when Adam tried to blame Eve for his sin, man has tried to affix blame for his condition on someone else. The Israelites were no exception. In Ezekiel 18 God confronts another proverb popular among the exiles: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are on edge" (v. 2).

The proverb reflects an attitude of denial concerning responsibility for their current situation. It was their contention that the sins of their fathers was the cause of their predicament. They had done no wrong, and it was not fair for God to make life so miserable for them because of what their fathers had done.

God's answer to them came in verse 4 when He said, "Behold all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die." Two things are made very clear in His response. First, God is sovereign! All souls belong to God. As Paul reminded us in Romans 14:8, "Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." His point is that He alone decides the fate of a man's soul. The second thing that is made clear is that He has ordained that each individual is accountable for his or her sin.

Israel must understand that it was not the sin of their fathers that led to their exile, it was their sin. A distinction must be made at this point, however. The context of this passage concerns individual accountability. God will not judge a man for the sins of another man. We must at the same time, however, recognize that the consequences of our sins affect those around us. Israel, though not being judged for the sins of their fathers, had been historically affected by those sins.

It is not God's desire to judge. It is His desire to forgive. In verse 31 He said, "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed and get yourselves a new heart and new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?" The message has not changed. We must personally repent in order to receive individual forgiveness!

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Convention Uniform

Nobody expects it!

By David Welch, associate pastor,
Geyer Springs First Church,
Little Rock

Basic passage: Micah 1-3

Focal passage: Micah 2-3

Central truth: It is human nature to disbelieve that judgment is inevitable and irrevocable.

We live in a culture which refuses to believe that judgment from God is imminent. So it was in the day of Micah the prophet. He had preached in Judah during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah for over 52 years where neither Israel nor Judah were willing to turn from their sin. When judgment came, it was an unexpected and terrible surprise.

■ *Judgment is not expected by those who are constantly scheming in their sin* (vv. 2:1-3). In chapter 2, they created evil schemes in their beds at night and in the morning they performed them. Though Micah preached repentance to them for a half-century, they continued to covet, defraud, steal and cheat without realization that "calamity [was coming] from which you cannot remove your necks" (v. 2:3). God's judgment is irrevocable.

■ *Judgment is not expected by those who practice injustice* (vv. 3:1-4). One of the greatest cries of the prophets was against those who oppressed the poor, bribed judges and greedily took from the helpless. Because society would not help the poor, God was coming in fierce judgment. In verse 3:4, Micah declared that "they will cry out to the Lord, but He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide his face from them." Judgment brings a terrible silence from God.

■ *Judgment is not expected by those who falsely preach "peace"* (vv. 3:5-10). The worst scourge in a society is not greed in the marketplace, nor corruption in the parliament, nor wrong thinking in the university, but preachers who refuse to preach the truth. The prophets were preaching "peace" to those that would pay them well, and "war" to those who couldn't (v. 3:5). They continued to lull the nation to sleep by saying, "God is in our midst" (v. 3:11). Micah boldly pronounced that Jerusalem would become a plowed field, and a heap of ruin (v. 3:12) — all because the preachers would not call the people to holiness and righteousness. God's judgment is devastating.

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Life and Work

Religion that counts

By David Napier, associate pastor,
Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Colossians 2:16-3:4

Focal passage: Colossians 2:16-17

Central truth: True religion isn't characterized by outward appearances and practices, but by what emanates from the heart.

Today it seems that more churches and Christians have an attitude similar to the one found in the church at Colosse. Rather than looking at the heart, we focus more on the practice of religious rules and regulations. As humans we are weak in spiritual matters (Matt. 26:41).

To help overcome the weakness of our flesh, we lean on "religious duties" to "measure" our spirituality. These practices can be helpful in creating a disciplined life, but they can be dangerous when they become a legalistic benchmark for evaluating the spiritual quality of an individual. Against the backdrop of such legalism, Paul warned the Colossians to be on guard against those who would judge them based upon religious practices and rituals that had nothing to do with God's Kingdom.

While these practices may have appeared very spiritual, they accomplished nothing spiritual at all. In verse 17 Paul reminded us that the law is but a "shadow." The real substance of the Christian faith is found in Christ. The warning for us is to avoid putting too much emphasis on traditions and religious practices. While they have a semblance of spirituality, they cannot change the heart of an individual. Verse 23 tells us that indeed these things have an appearance of wisdom, but they are of no spiritual value.

Is Paul counseling us to be rebellious toward the law? Absolutely not. In I Tim. 1:8 Paul tells us that the law is good if it is used properly. He is reminding us that adherence to man-made practices does not make us spiritual. In verse 20 he reminded us that with Christ we have died to the principles of the world and no longer need to live with its religious regulations. We draw strength from Him, not some man-made "religious" substitute.

Paul finally turns our attention from an earthly focus to Christ. Rather than giving attention to the requirements of men, we should never be distracted from God. This doesn't mean that we ignore our earthly responsibilities, but that our motivation and guidance come from above rather than from this world.

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Bible Book

Four strikes – you're out!

By Marty Watson, pastor, Baring
Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Ezekiel 20:1-24:27

Focal passage: Ezekiel 20:1-32

Central truth: Continual rebellion against God will lead to judgment.

In the seventh year of their captivity, some of Israel's elders came to Ezekiel to inquire of the Lord. God refused to give them a personal word, but instead spoke through His prophet. What followed was a revisiting of Israel's history and their rebellion before God. God reminded the elders that He had given His chosen people ample opportunity to be obedient. He reminded them of four "crossroad" experiences where they chose to rebel:

■ *First, He recalled their oppression in Egypt.* He reminded them that He revealed Himself to them and promised that He would "bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands" (v. 6). All He asked of Israel is that they "rid themselves of the vile images" they have set their eyes on and that they not "defile themselves with the idols of Egypt" (v. 7).

■ *Second, He recalled the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.* Here He established His decrees and statutes for Israel (vv. 10-12).

■ *Third, He recalled the wilderness wanderings of Israel.* He reminded them that He "looked on them with pity and did not destroy them or put an end to them in the desert" (v. 17).

■ *Fourth, He recalled their sojourn in the land of Promise* (vv. 27-29).

In each instance, Israel had the opportunity to be obedient to God. In each instance they rebelled against Him. They refused to give up the idols of Egypt and to follow the statutes of God and to drive out the enemies of the Lord once they entered the Promised Land. Literally, four strikes and they were out! God would no longer wait to exact His punishment. Israel had been driven out of the land and Jerusalem would be destroyed.

Herein lies a valuable lesson for us today. We first must realize that God will not allow us to rebel indefinitely without judging our activities. There will be consequences. We must also recognize that God always has a redemptive purpose in His judgment. He is patient, but He is not lenient. Let us resolve not to accumulate unconfessed sin, but to confess our sin and experience His forgiveness.

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Former Baylor president Abner McCall dies at age 80

WACO, TX (ABP) — Abner McCall, who rose from a childhood in a Texas orphanage to lead the world's largest Baptist university through two decades of monumental growth, died June 11 at his home in Waco, Texas. He died three days after his 80th birthday, reportedly from a massive heart attack.

McCall was president emeritus of Baylor University. He led the institution from 1961 to 1981. During his tenure as president, the school's Waco campus grew from 40 acres to 400 acres and its enrollment nearly doubled to 10,000 students.

McCall's lengthy career at Baylor was interrupted for seven months in 1956 when he accepted an interim appointment to the Texas Supreme Court. He studied and taught law at Baylor before leaving to earn a master's degree at the University of Michigan and work three years as a special agent for the FBI. He returned to Baylor to teach in 1946 and two years later, at age 33, became the youngest dean in the law school's history. He led the law school 13 years before becoming executive vice president and then, two years later, president. He was named chancellor in 1981 and president emeritus in 1985.

McCall was president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1964-65 and was named Texas Baptist Elder Statesman in 1985. He was elected first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979 and ran unsuccessfully for the SBC presidency in 1981. In 1979 he was named "Texan of the Year" by the Texas Legislative Conference.

McCall was preceded in death by his first wife, Frances, in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Mary Russell McCall of Waco, and four children.

Yeltsin rejects maneuver to limit religious freedom

MOSCOW (BP) — President Boris Yeltsin has turned back Russian hard-liners who planned a maneuver to crack down on religious freedom by making 11th-hour changes to new legislation outlawing dangerous religious groups.

Yeltsin sent parliament a message rejecting the proposed amendment in principle after he received word that communists and nationalists were using a legislative committee to tack on harsher limits than those for which lawmakers voted. He said the Russian Federation's new constitution already makes room for ideological pluralism, and freedom of religion must be allowed in a democracy.

Twice before, Yeltsin has vetoed other proposals to reverse religious freedom. Still, political leaders are continuing to prepare other versions of restrictive proposals.

Josh McDowell launches 'Right From Wrong' campaign

ATLANTA (BP) — Christian author and speaker Josh McDowell launched his "Right From Wrong" campaign during the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta. McDowell's book, also titled *Right From Wrong*, is the centerpiece of the effort, providing a "biblical blueprint for passing on core Christian values to the next generation," McDowell said.

A cooperative venture among 47 denominations and ministries, including Southern Baptists, to address the moral decline of American society, the campaign's goal is to provide resources and inspiration for Christians to reaffirm that "God has given us an objective standard for right and wrong that is rooted in His own character and nature," McDowell said.

Resources for the Right From Wrong campaign are the result of an effort by a number of Christian publishers and retailers, including the Baptist Sunday School Board, that have joined forces to develop a comprehensive educational plan including videos, workbooks, audio cassettes and musicals to be used by parents and church leaders to influence young people to adopt God's model of truth as "absolute."

FMB names Welch managing editor of missions magazine

RICHMOND, VA (BP) — Veteran Foreign Mission Board communicator Mary Jane Welch has been named managing editor of *The Commission*, the FMB's bimonthly magazine.

Welch will work with Louis Moore, who will serve as editor of *The Commission* in his role as board's associate vice president for communications. Leland Webb retired at the end of February after 15 years as editor of the award-winning publication.

Welch will officially assume her duties Aug. 1 as *The Commission* prepares to move in November from bimonthly to monthly publication.

She has served as assistant director of the board's news and information department since 1986. Previously, Welch was a staff writer for seven years. She also has written three foreign mission studies for children and youth.

Welch, 43, is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is married to Timothy S. Turner.