

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

2-10-1994

### February 10, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_90-94](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94)



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

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "February 10, 1994" (1994). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 42.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_90-94/42](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/42)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 3

February 10, 1994



Prepare for  
**REVIVAL**  
&  
*Harvest*



1994  
Arkansas  
Baptist  
Evangelism  
Conference

## Convention officials approve Disney special for '94 SBC, slate child care

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—A number of arrangements have been announced for the 1994 session of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla., according to SBC officials, including a special package with Disney World.

Earlier, SBC officials had sent a letter of protest to the Walt Disney Corporation over a company subsidiary's advertising on "NYPD Blue," a controversial ABC television program.

Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president and chief executive officer, said the SBC had expressed its concern over the matter to Disney officials but also understood that many Southern Baptists will be going to Orlando for vacations and will want to visit the popular attractions in the area.

SBC officials urged convention-goers and families who plan to enjoy Walt Disney World to arrive early. Special two- and three-day passes for all three Disney parks are available exclusively to SBC participants. The special tickets will not be available at the gate or to the general public. They are good for admission to the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center and/or Disney-MGM Studios.

Ticket order forms are available by contacting the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203; phone 615-244-2355.

The special SBC packages for the Orlando meeting are available from June 1-21 but exclude June 14-15, the first two days of the SBC annual meeting.

The SBC annual meeting will be held at

the Orange County Convention Center. Rooms, especially close to the convention center, are going fast, but there are still plenty of rooms in the area, according to convention manager Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee.

However, Wilkerson warned, a World Cup Soccer game, scheduled for the weekend after the SBC meeting in Orlando, is already sold out. He urged people planning vacations at the SBC meeting to do so prior to the June 14-16 meeting.

### SBC shuttle service

A "minimal" shuttle service is planned, costing \$1 per person per ride, basically along the main International Boulevard where many of the hotels are located. Although the convention center is expanding and under construction, there still will be parking available in close proximity, about one-quarter mile, with about 5,000 spaces. Parking ranges from \$3-4 per day.

Registration for on-site child care for preschool children is now being accepted.

Registration material is available by writing to SBC Preschool Child Care, Shirley Dusek, 4585 Saint Brides Court, Orlando, FL 32812. The material will include information about child care policies, hours of operation, fees and registration forms.

Child care registration will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents are urged to write for registration materials immediately.



## Revival & Harvest 6-11

Arkansas Baptists' 1994 Evangelism Conference, held Jan. 24-25 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, focused on the theme, "Prepare for Revival & Harvest." Richard Harris (above), director of the Home Mission Board's mass evangelism department, was among the featured speakers.

## Also inside

### Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5

### Arkansas Baptists

Arkansas All Over.....	12-13
Children's Home centennial.....	13
Point of Grace makes impact.....	15
Training opportunities.....	16
1993 CP contributions.....	25-29

### Nation

Mississippi River Convocation.....	13
'Season of Home Missions'.....	14
Health care concerns.....	20-21
Brotherhood reviews changes.....	22

### World

FMB's '93 'report card'.....	17
BWA targets uncivilized.....	19
'Jesus' film impacts Swaziland.....	24

Lessons.....	30-31
--------------	-------

Next issue: Feb. 24

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

Trennis Henderson.....Editor  
Russell N. Dilday.....Associate Editor  
Colleen Backus.....Assistant Editor

Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor  
Palge Cooper.....Accountant  
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. ....Editor Emeritus

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.85 per year (Individual) \$6.36 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.08 per year (Group Plan). Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 592, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-6791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 93 • Number 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Greg Kirksey, Benton, president; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Lucie C. Hagins, Fordyce; Cliff Palmer, Rogers; Brenda Bruce, Newark; Mark Baber, Marion; David McCormick, Dardanelle; James Preston, Stamps; and Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

# Learning to grow

## *Pilot project combines emphases of lay renewal and church growth*

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The Mississippi River delta has long been known for growing crops. Vast tracts of fertile land produce enough to feed a nation. But during the Lay Renewal/Church Growth Pilot Project Jan. 28-Feb. 2, Baptists in Mississippi County Association learned to grow a new crop: churches.

Eleven churches participated in the project, jointly sponsored by Mississippi County Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board. L.B. Jordan, ABSB church leadership support department director, described the project as "the Southern Baptist Convention at its best."

"This is the best example of Southern Baptists working together for the good of the local church," Jordan commented. "When the local church, the association, the state convention and SBC agencies and institutions work together, you get results."

Jordan said the project was a first in the state and that it involved more church leadership than previous Lay Renewal/Sunday School Growth conferences. "This involves a holistic approach to church growth," Jordan explained. "It involves laypeople from all of the church program areas working with church staff to grow churches in a healthy way."

Jordan said the project sought to "provide churches the opportunity for genuine spiritual renewal" and to "channel that fresh zeal and commitment into goals and action plans for the churches' future."

Marvin Reynolds, Mississippi County's director of missions, explained the format of the project. "We felt that having a Lay Renewal first would create an excitement among our churches," he said. "And while that excitement is fresh is a good time for planning church growth and setting growth priorities."

"It will be easier to carry out now," he said. "During a Lay Renewal, people are on a high, but sometimes it will die down after it over. This way we can immediately put feet on our prayers."

Jordan noted that Mississippi County Association was chosen as the pilot area because of its unique location. "The Mississippi delta region has suffered economic and numerical losses. We felt this was an excellent testing ground for implementing church growth."

Following an inspirational Lay Renewal

Weekend Jan. 28-30, pastors, staff, associational leadership and growth consultants met at Ridgecrest Church, Blytheville, to map out strategies for church growth for the association. Participating pastors told of renewal in their churches as a result of the weekend.

Tom Doty, pastor of First Church, Wilson, said that despite church members initially "expressing reservations for the Lay Renewal and a lack of understanding of what would take place, they said they would be all for another one." He said the church recorded "six saved and 1 lost count of reedifications."

***"God is concerned about numbers, because they represent individuals..."***

—L.B. Jordan

Director, ABSB church leadership support department

Tom Zelinsky, a member of Calvary Church, Osceola, reported an exciting weekend even though the church is without a pastor. "We had an excellent Lay Renewal Weekend and even greater evaluation service. We only have five or six people who are usually ready to share, but in the evaluation service we probably had 30 people who got up and shared their heart."

"It brought our people together at Ridgecrest," said David King, pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Blytheville. "God is conscious of our needs and our needs are the same. You just need someone to help you open it up. Just through the Lay Renewal, the church outreach, ministry and relationships—there's not a part of the weekend that's not going to better us all." The people did not want to leave.

"I've been here five years," remarked Reynolds, "and I sense more excitement among the pastors than I've seen before and I think it will carry over to other churches who have not been involved."

Following the Lay Renewal Weekend, pastors, church councils and program leadership met with church growth consultants to discuss growth plans. Each of the 11 churches was assigned a growth consultant as part of the project.

Consultant Don Pope, pastor of Millwood Church in Ashdown, served as

First Church, Dell's growth consultant. "My job was to introduce the church council to the Southern Baptist Church Growth Plan, follow up the introduction by explaining the goals and instruments used in the plan and then help the church write their goals," he explained.

Roland Chappell, pastor of First Southern—Church, Dell, said Pope was effective because he "did a good job of encouraging the people. He worked well with the church council and the elected officers and committee members. The most beneficial thing he did is that, as an outsider, he presented the material more effectively than the pastor can."

During a growth meeting at Ridgecrest Church Jan. 31, Jordan explained to consultants and trainees the need for church growth. "In the 1989-90 year, more than 7,000 Southern Baptist churches reported no baptisms and the number of baptismless churches have stayed in the 6,000 to 7,000 range since then."

"Nearly 50 percent of our churches have plateaued in growth," he continued, "and 19 percent are declining. God is concerned about numbers, because they represent individuals and it says something about the lack of health and spiritual vitality in our churches."

Introducing the Southern Baptist Church Growth Plan to participants, Jordan said growth churches share some common characteristics, including:

■ A renewed interest in prayer. "You won't bring in a new program and be successful without prayer."

■ Intentionality. "Churches are growing intentionally by setting a priority in planning. Where there is no planning there is no implementation."

■ A biblical perspective. "They have obedience and fellowship. Comfort and convenience are secondary to seeing people saved."

■ Mobilization of elected leaders.

■ An active church council. "A church council consisting of a pastor, staff members and (program) directors, is absolutely essential."

■ Risk-taking pastors "who will admit they don't have all the answers but follow God's leadership."

Jordan said he will wait for evaluation forms to be returned from participating churches to help plan future projects, but he considered the Mississippi County Association project a success. "I think the excitement of the laypeople and the desire of the churches to grow will affect them for years to come," he affirmed.

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABS-C Executive Director

We had a good Evangelism Conference. Shared with the three National Baptist conventions, we enjoyed the fellowship and inspiration of our black Baptist brothers and sisters. The Lord chose to meet us at the point of our need and all of us have surely come away with a greater commitment to personal witnessing.

It is so easy for us to neglect this essential duty as Christians. As individuals and churches we suffer when we leave the "first love" excitement of winning, baptizing and growing converts. If we are not chiefly about this matter, we should ask ourselves, "What are we about?" Such questions will no doubt disturb most Christians and churches. Hopefully, it will bring about reevaluation and realignment of priorities so that once again the pursuit of the lost will become our "magnificent obsession."

Never doubt it, God is at work. People are tired of religious routine and are crying out to God for spiritual renewal and reality. God is meeting them at the point of their heart cry. He always does if He sees that they want Him more than anything else. Prayer ministries are beginning to flourish. Thousands are experiencing God in deeper ways as they study "Experiencing God."

Society is almost sick enough and desperate enough to listen to God again. The Great Depression brought large numbers to that place in the '30s. World War II brought us to that place again, as it appeared Germany would indeed conquer the United States and her allies. Will you and your church be ready to show the world the way? When humanistic philosophies have run their course and society finally sees that government cannot meet the most basic human need for personal transformation, then the living church will once again have its day of glory in pointing people to the "fountain of life."

Will you join your pastor, staff, deacons and other leaders and help your church back to spiritual health? God wants to bring a revival and an awakening with His bride.

VICKI HOAG

## Woman's Viewpoint

### God bless America

In these unsettled times we often hear politicians, entertainers or individuals with a cause end their speeches with "May God Bless America" or "God Bless You."

Do you ever stop to think, "Well, if God is God then why hasn't He blessed America?" Why is America in such a turmoil these days? Could it be that God is not as powerful as we thought He was? Are circumstances too complicated for Him or has mankind finally acquired enough knowledge as gods, who can discern good from evil, therefore no longer needing His help?

I ask myself, "Who is the God of America? Is He democratic, communistic or socialistic? Who is the God of the church? Is He Baptist, Catholic, Methodist or Pentecostal? Who is the God of mankind? Is He the great grand prize giveaway god who gives a quick fix to people's problems, dreams and hopes?"

It's comforting to find out that the most high God has left us the Holy Scriptures in order that we may know Him. He is a personal God who is theocratic in all of politics, church and mankind. Deuteronomy 4:35 says, "Know therefore today, and take it to

your heart that the Lord He is God in heaven above and on the earth below there is no other." Isaiah 42:8 says, "I am the Lord, that is My name. I will not give My glory to another. Nor my praise to graven images."

In the church God has provided only one way for us to come unto Him and that's by Jesus Christ.

In regard to mankind, God has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

As we search for answers to this fast-paced, confused world, the ball seems to be in our court. "Choose you this day whom you will serve." Let us be wise like Joshua and say, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" and remember "Do not tremble or be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

"May God Bless America."

Vicki Hoag lives in Heber Springs, where she attends First Baptist Church. She and her husband, Mike, have eight children and one grandchild. She is active in the Woman's Missionary Union of her local church, as well as serving on the state WMU Executive Board.

## Personal perspectives

"Let the comfortable Christian West beware of clichés and cheap evangelism which does not preach the cross, bear the cross or endure the cross."

—Denton Lotz, Baptist World Alliance general secretary

"If we're waiting on our pastors to win the world, it isn't going to happen. We've got to train our laymen to win people to the Lord every day at work and at home."

—John Ward, Pulaski County Circuit Court Judge

"People talk about the Cowboys more than they talk about Christ. We live in a society where Michael Jackson and Michael Jordan get more praise than Master Jesus."

—T.R. Ramsey, pastor, Barraque Street Baptist Church, Pine Bluff

"If the world can see we care about hurting people, they sit up and take notice."

—Charles Roesel, pastor, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla.

# A portrait of sacrificial faith

As his accusers hurled rocks at his battered, bloodied body, Stephen's last recorded words were: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

The Apostle Paul, who survived beatings, a stoning, imprisonment and other persecution throughout his ministry, still joyfully proclaimed, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Facing a death sentence for refusing to renounce his Christian faith, Mehdi Dibaj told the court, "I am a Christian, a sinner who believes Jesus has died for my sins on the cross and who by His resurrection and victory over death, has made me righteous in the presence of the holy God."

The key difference between the first two examples and the last is that Dibaj's testimony took place just a few weeks ago in an Iranian court. In a world where Christians are challenged to sacrifice our very lives for the sake of the gospel, Dibaj willingly took that risk as he courageously voiced words reminiscent of Stephen, Paul and other New Testament martyrs.

During the recent Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference, speakers repeatedly emphasized the importance of sacrificial faith in winning the world to Christ. "We don't need to look for a place to meet our needs or to be comfortable," insisted Oklahoma pastor Bobby Boyles. "We need to look for a place to die for our Lord Jesus. That's what's going to turn the world around."

The simple fact is that American Christians today are seldom required to endure true sacrifice to spread the gospel. We often tend to equate sacrifice with missing the Super Bowl in order to attend

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

Sunday evening worship services.

What is true Christian sacrifice? It is placing the needs of others above our own comfort. It is boldly ministering in the name of Christ regardless of the consequences. In Mehdi Dibaj's case, it is risking one's physical life and even endangering the lives of family and friends in order to faithfully proclaim the gospel.

Dibaj's situation is not unique. His pastor, Halk Hovsepian-Mehr, an outspoken opponent of religious persecution in Iran, was found murdered last month. Patrick Sookhdeo, director of the International Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity in Islam, views Hovsepian-Mehr's death as part of a "deliberate campaign" orchestrated by the Iranian government against evangelical churches.

In Kenya, where Christians in the Boran tribe also face persecution from Muslims, Abdu's parents told him if he was found going to church he would be killed. His mother wrote him recently declaring that if he remains a Christian, he can never call her mother again.

"I don't regret the decision to accept Christ," Abdu affirmed. "But it hurts to live in fear and to lose my family." True sacrifice.

In Dibaj's case, there is good news—for now. Following widespread protests from the U.S. State Department, human rights agencies and other sources, Dibaj was abruptly released from prison Jan. 16, just days before he was to have been executed. But he is still subject to recall by police at any time.

What can Arkansas Baptists and other Christians around the world do in response? The first avenue of response is prayer. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has called on Southern Baptists to spend 30 days in prayer for Muslims around the world. The prayer emphasis, set to begin Feb. 11, coincides with Ramadan, the annual Muslim period of prayer and fasting (see related article on page 23).

Christians in Iran have asked fellow believers to send messages to Iranian officials protesting Hovsepian-Mehr's death, urging that all charges against Dibaj be dropped and calling for the end of religious persecution in Iran. Letters may be sent to Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi of Iran, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

On a personal level, we can make a commitment to greater personal sacrifice in presenting the gospel. Reflecting on Dibaj's level of commitment, Baptist World Alliance general secretary Denton Lotz urged, "Let the comfortable Christian West beware of clichés and cheap evangelism which does not preach the cross, bear the cross or endure the cross." Do we dare do less?

## Educating for today to prepare for tomorrow

By Stephen P. Carleton

Executive Director, SBC Education Commission

I am excited about the accomplishments of Southern Baptists in the field of education. Through the efforts, prayers and financial support of church members, Southern Baptists at the national and state level have established 71 schools, colleges and seminaries. These institutions enroll 190,000 students and employ 6,500 teachers. Graduates are ministering and leading in fields from medicine to religions not only in all 50 states but also in most of the countries around the globe.

I believe in what we are doing. I have watched the investment of Southern Baptists pay dividends as churches sent their young people to a Baptist college to

provide the best of academics in an atmosphere that fostered faith. Graduates of our seminaries, colleges and schools now serve in home and foreign missions, local churches, and in education, business, law, medicine and politics.

Southern Baptist-related educational institutions deserve your financial gifts, the bulk of which comes through that marvelous channel we call the Cooperative Program.

The Southern Baptist Education Commission seeks to promote all the educational efforts of Southern Baptists whether it be academics, Bible colleges, liberal arts colleges and universities, or seminaries. It is my earnest hope as executive director that the commission's ongoing emphasis to integrate personal

faith and academic discipline will continue to grow and develop on each campus. Our uniqueness is not and never will be in the high quality of our academic programs, as important as they are. The distinguishing mark of our instruction is the Christian dimension brought by committed believers who serve as teachers.

As you celebrate Seminary, College and School Day on Feb. 20 or another day of your choice this year, take time to reflect upon the contribution of all the Southern Baptist-related institutions in your area. They have been vital factors in undergirding the plans and dreams of Southern Baptists to take the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth. There has never been a time when they were needed more than now.

# 'Revival & Harvest'

## Arkansans among featured speakers at '94 Evangelism Conference

An Arkansas Baptist layman and six pastors from throughout the state were among featured speakers during the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference. The annual conference, held Jan. 24-25 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, was jointly sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department and the state's three National Baptist conventions.

Focusing on the theme, "Prepare for Revival and Harvest," the conference offered inspiration and training geared toward the 1995 "Here's Hope" witnessing and simultaneous revival emphasis.

State evangelism department director Clarence Shell outlined the need for "Here's Hope" to be a process which is committed, cooperative, courageous, concerned and completed. "The only hope," he declared, "is to reach into the hearts and lives of men and women and see them changed from the inside out as we share Jesus with them."

### Revival at home and work

Circuit Judge John Ward, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, discussed the urgency of revival at home and work as he shared his testimony with conference participants.

"Revival at home is a simple proposition," Ward remarked. He said the key is for "men and women to show their children, not just tell them about the person of Jesus Christ." Describing his personal transformation from a career-oriented young attorney to a caring Christian father, Ward affirmed, "The Lord brought our family together."

Ward said revival at work "is the same simple proposition with a little different approach." Explaining that he concludes his morning prayer time each day by saying, "Lord, I want to volunteer today for whatever it is you have for me to do," he said God regularly provides him with witnessing opportunities.

"How did people come to Jesus?" he asked. "In trouble, sick, in distress. Do we have any shortage of those types of people today?"

Ward challenged individuals to prepare a two-minute personal testimony they can share with others, adding that "it's got to have the seed of the gospel in it."

"God has commanded us to win the lost," Ward emphasized. "If we're waiting on our pastors to win the world, it isn't going to happen. We've got to train our laymen to win people to the Lord every day at work and at home."



W.W. Walker



Greg Kirksey

T.R. Ramsey, pastor of Barraque Street Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, was among the speakers during the conference's opening session. Discussing the need for effective prayer, he remarked, "People don't really believe in prayer. If they believed in prayer, they would do it more often."

Noting that many churches suffer from "dullness, dryness and drowsiness," Ramsey asked, "If we are children of God, why are we so dull and lifeless?"

Ramsey, a licensed mortician, said today's church is "suffering from spiritual rigor mortis. Instead of God's chosen, we act like God's frozen. How are we going to impress a sin-sick society when we come to church D.O.A.—dead on arrival?"

Detailing concerns over spiritual immorality, indifference and ignorance, he insisted, "We are anemics when it comes to significant things like missions and evangelism and human, rights for all of God's children."

"People talk about the Cowboys more than they talk about Christ," Ramsey lamented. "We live in a society where Michael Jackson and Michael Jordan get more praise than Master Jesus."

The answer, Ramsey declared, is to return to a commitment to God's Word and prayer. Describing the Bible as a spiritual owner's manual, he noted, "If we want real revival in the church of the living God, we're got to read the Owner's Manual."

Citing II Chronicles 7:14, he concluded, "Prayer works. Prayer produces results. We better learn how to start praying again."

Preaching during the Tuesday morning session, Curtis Rideout, pastor of Greater Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, used Psalm 51 and the analogy of "going the

wrong way on a one-way street" to describe the "lostness of man."

"Man's lostness is evidenced everywhere today," said Rideout. "I see it especially as a black preacher. It bothers me." While some say the government, schools and social services "ought to do more," he added, "These things have not worked and the church is running around asking the question when we have the answer. The answer is winning the lost."

Addressing social injustices and gang violence, Rideout said, "Until churches white, black, blue or yellow get out on the streets and tell these kids they are loved, there will be no change."

"They can turn around, but we're going to have to tell them that," he said. "Until the church starts telling people they can be saved, this world isn't going to get any better."

"Let's don't give up on telling people they need to be saved," he continued. "Let's tell all of these people who are doing evil things that there is a Christ and there is a better way."

Rideout was followed by Greg Kirksey, pastor of First Church, Benton. Speaking on building witnessing relationships, he said many Christians "are confused about what is really most important about our churches."

"What is the most important thing we should be doing?" he asked. "As I read the New Testament I find the primary thing we are called to do is love. Jesus said they'll know you are mine if you love." Preaching from I Corinthians 13:1-3, he said, "We need love—not a wimpy love or a soft, sentimental love, but the love that Paul wrote about."

Kirksey said more people will come to

Christ if someone shows them love. "When we demonstrate the love of Christ we will be like magnets drawing people to Christ. The world has no right to believe we are believers if we do not show our love.

"There are a lot of churches making noise today, calling attention to themselves but not to the Savior," he said. "It is nauseating for the spokesmen of God to proclaim words that do not have love attached to them. The character of the messenger is equal with the message he bears. You can speak the most eloquent message, but without love it amounts to nothing.

"Everything a Christian does should be done in love," he concluded. "If you don't have love, you're wasting your time. What kind of relationships are you building? I hope they are witnessing relationships."

Robert Handley, bivocational pastor of Mount Harmony Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, used II Timothy 4:1-5 in his Tuesday afternoon sermon, "Commitment to Preach the Word."

"We live in an age when preaching is not always popular," he acknowledged. "Too many times we are called to say remarks" at church, community and social functions "and we're always reminded, 'Don't preach it.'"

"I can come to you today and tell you to be committed to preaching the Word," he urged. "There is a lot of preaching going on, but I'm afraid there's not enough preaching the Word."

He said it is "important to preach out of season as well as in season." Noting that messages ought to have an aim, he added, too many sermons are being preached that are aimed at nothing.

"What ought to be the aim of our preaching?" he asked. "It shouldn't be our opinion." He said the aim should be twofold: "The aim of our preaching ought to be such that it leads everyone to believe God, not just believe in God" and "that when we have gotten through preaching, that those who hear us follow Jesus."

## 'The cross of Christ'

"The cross is a symbol; it represents something," declared W.W. Walker, pastor of the inner-city Highland Park Baptist Church in Little Rock. Speaking from Philippians 2:5-11, Walker explored "The Cross of Christ."

First, he emphasized, the cross represents supreme submission. "Jesus Christ, our Savior, did not have to die; but He was willing to be submissive to His Father," Walker noted. "Peter tried to get Him to circumvent the cross.... But everything Jesus did was supremely concerned with the will of the Father."

Secondly, the cross meant severe suffering, Walker said. "I don't think it was

the physical suffering that battered Him, but that He came to His own and they received Him not.... He was psychologically devastated."

The cross also represented sinful separation for Jesus, he said. "Jesus became sin for us and momentarily the Father couldn't look upon Him because He was sin," Walker noted. "It was the darkest hour in the history of time.... He had to be man to die for us; He had to be God to die in our place."

Finally, Walker noted, the cross meant sacrificial substitution. "When Christ died on the cross, it was the supreme of sacrifices," he said. "In order for us to sit here today, sanctified, it is by the blood of Christ.... He came down that we might go up; He became flesh that we may take on Spirit."

Speaking from Psalm 51 on "The Call to Confession and Repentance," Ed Saucier noted that "David prayed for God to restore the joy."

## 'Restore the joy'

"What is joy?" asked Saucier, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith. "Joy is that radiance from within that says to the Christian that all may be breaking out on the outside, but everything is okay on the inside."

Cautioning his fellow ministers about the danger of losing their joy, Saucier pointed out that "ministry is precarious because you can be lazy and no good and still be respected." In a rather vivid illustration, he told fellow pastors of a tragic pitfall: "You can dress good and talk good but be empty on the inside. Just like a dead mackerel in the moonlight, you can sparkle and stink at the same time."

Noting that there was "an amazing array" of men in the Scripture, such as Elijah and David, who "sparkled and stank," Saucier cautioned the crowd that "being joyless brings no glory to Christ—we become empty vessels trying to fill empty people."

In order to get back, he pointed out, "you must start with brokenness." That includes brokenness about personal sin and true confession, Saucier noted. "You must not be able to stand or tolerate that sin in your life anymore."

At that point, Saucier said, one can "be acquainted with God's holiness.... If churches are to survive, pastors, staff members, deacons and members must possess lives on fire for the holiness of God."

During the conference's closing session, Shell described the meeting as "a great experience."

"I appreciate what God has done in many hearts and lives," he affirmed. "God's presence has been very prevalent, very powerful and very personal."

## Training conferences focus on preparation for 'Here's Hope'

Ten special conferences, designed to equip pastors, staff members and laypeople for involvement in the "Here's Hope" revival process, were part of the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

"These conferences, led by National Baptist and Southern Baptist leaders, were added to equip these leaders so they might return to the local churches and train others for their 'Here's Hope' emphasis in 1995," explained state evangelism department director Clarence Shell. He noted the "Here's Hope" emphasis will feature a 60-day witnessing effort planned for Jan. 9-March 9, 1995, followed by simultaneous "harvest revivals."

A conference on revival meeting preparation was led by Clyde Kelly, pastor of St. Peter's Rock Church in North Little Rock, and Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Both leaders emphasized the vital importance of involving all church members in revival preparation. A successful revival will result from "a well-planned revival," Kelly noted. He said well-planned revivals also will lead to "standing room only" revivals.

Harris described involvement as a key to successful revival, encouraging churches to involve at least 40 percent of their average Sunday School attendance in revival preparation. "For every person you involve, you will add three to five people to revival attendance," Harris remarked. "Your revival will be successful when you give a lot of people a little to do."

The role of "Women in Lifestyle Evangelism" was led by Brenda Woodard, a consultant for the HMB, and a member of Immanuel Church in Rogers, and Malvie Giles, a member of Bethlehem Church in Magnolia.

Based on a Bible study from John 8, participants were told that lifestyle evangelism is designed to train and equip women for daily witnessing.

Reminding individuals not to become discouraged in their efforts, Woodard noted, "Some will sow, some will reap, but God will reap the harvest."

Giles encouraged women to be obedient to what God tells them to do, noting that when they listen and heed His instructions, they will stand in awe at what He will do through them.



## Conference music focuses on praise and celebration

By Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

The voices of National Baptists and Southern Baptists praising God radiated to participants of the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference Jan. 24-25.

Malvie Giles of Magnolia, a nationally recognized National Baptist vocalist, accompanied by Mark W. Massey Sr. of Norphlet, received a standing ovation with her rendition of "What a Wonderful World This Would Be." A dramatic presentation of "I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy," featuring a signing group and choir from Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, not only received a standing ovation from the crowd but also brought tears to many eyes. Grand Avenue music director Phil Powers both directed and served as featured soloist for the presentation and Rhonda Holder was the featured singer.

The older hymns of "Amazing Grace" and "Wonderful Name of Jesus," led by Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries director Rob Hewell in the conference's opening session, launched a spirit of enthusiasm evident throughout the conference. The closing session featured the music of the Arkansas Baptist MasterSingers and Singing Women directed by Hewell and Jean Pilcher, minister of music for Parkway Place Church in Little Rock.

The MasterSingers brass ensemble helped accompany congregational singing Monday afternoon. That session also featured a vocal and piano rendition of "He Touched Me" by Mike Nutter from Union Church in El Dorado. Nutter is a minister who answered God's call to service after losing a hand in an electrical accident.

A National Baptist mass choir, directed by Ralph Calhoun of Greater Pleasant Branch Church of Conway, began the Monday evening session by singing "You're the Reason Why I Sing" and "Let Your Will Be Done, Lord." The presentation was greeted by a standing ovation. A concert by the host church choir, directed by Lynn Madden and featuring brass and string instruments, highlighted the Monday evening service.

A medley of hymns about Jesus, directed by Alan Cade, minister of music for First Church of Siloam Springs, opened the Tuesday morning session which featured special music by music evangelist Steve Poe of Fort Worth and Gina Cash from Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. The afternoon conference session included



Malvie Giles

solos by Calhoun and Poe.

Lloyd Hervey from Greater Pleasant Branch Church directed the Tuesday evening congregational singing prior to special music by Second Church in Arkadelphia, directed by Randy Garner.

Conference music coordinator Glen Ennes, an associate in the ABCS church music ministries department, praised performers for the role their selections played in highlighting the conference theme, "Prepare for Revival and Harvest."

"Congregational singing also was super and uplifting," Ennes concluded. "I am deeply grateful to associate music coordinator Calhoun and to all who assisted in glorifying God through music at this 1994 Evangelism Conference."

## Author shares overview of '94 doctrine study

"Most questions people ask about the end times come from television talk shows," explained Bill Stephens, author of this year's Southern Baptist doctrine study, *The Bible Speaks to End Times*. "Folks usually get their view in bits and pieces," he added.

Stephens, a freelance writer and speaker from Nashville, Tenn., worked for the Baptist Sunday School Board for 15 years. He presented an overview of the doctrine study to more than 80 participants Jan. 24 during the Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference in Little Rock. Baptist Doctrine Study Week, an annual emphasis, is scheduled for April 18-22 on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar.

"Southern Baptists have never made belief in a particular view of Christ's return a test of faith," Stephens noted. "We have insisted that one must believe in the literal, bodily return of Christ, ...but a variety of views about how He will return has been common among us."

"One reason the doctrine of last things suffers such a horrendous fate today is because so many distorted views and terrible arguments have developed about it," Stephens asserted. Since a doctrine study is too short to cover all the views, he explained, Stephens presented "historical premillennial" as one of several views among Bible-believing evangelicals.

"It is important to study end times for several reasons," Stephens said. The first is the Bible's viewpoint, placing apocalyptic references just before Passion Week at the end of Jesus'

earthly ministry in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 17, he pointed out.

The end times also are part of early proclamation, Stephens noted, pointing to passages in I and II Thessalonians, I Corinthians 15 and II Peter 3. In addition, he said, major portions of Scripture are devoted to end times, citing sections of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah and Revelation.

The study of end times proves that the Bible is trustworthy, Stephens affirmed, pointing out that many prophecies already have been fulfilled. It also is "what a Christian should be about," he said. "Just because we are not going to succeed in making the world like God wants it, doesn't mean we shouldn't try," he emphasized.

"In the second coming is the certainty of victory and the basis of hope," Stephens said. "It is help against pluralism, the New Age, Islam, Buddhism and other sects."

Stephens feels that "prophecy is given in Scripture not to reveal the future, but to give us hope," adding that the subject is worthy of time for church-wide study. "Through the doctrine of last things I began to envision the kind of world God wants," he explained.

For more information on the 1994 doctrine study for your church, contact Bob Holley, ABCS Discipleship Training department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

# Visiting pastors issue call to witness

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Emphasizing the need for ministry and witnessing through the power of the Holy Spirit, pastors from Florida, Louisiana and Oklahoma called Arkansas Baptists to greater commitment during the recent Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla.; Joe Gant, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; and Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla., each preached during the Monday evening and Tuesday morning sessions of the conference held at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Preaching from Mark 2 about Jesus healing a man carried to Him by four friends, Roesel compared the hurting man to people in today's society. "You'll never lack for an audience if you're preaching to hurting people," he remarked.

Describing the man's friends as people "with heart," Roesel emphasized, "We will never, ever reach this world for Jesus until the clergy moves aside, the laity moves up and we all move ahead. We had better equip our laypeople to get the job done if it's ever going to get done."

Roesel said the four men displayed compassion, cooperation, creativity and conviction. "If the world can see we care about hurting people, they sit up and take notice," he affirmed. "No one is beyond the saving knowledge of Jesus."

In addition to the hurting and those with heart, Roesel described the crowd as a hindrance standing between Jesus and the man in need. Concluding his message with a focus on the healer—Jesus Christ—Roesel asked, "Have some of you gotten discouraged this past year?" He reminded the crowd that "Jesus is alive and He is well."

Roesel's second message focused on the Lord's Prayer recorded in Matthew 6. He said the passage emphasizes prayer, praise and power as well as God's plan, provision and pardon.

"The greatest need we have is to feed our faith and starve our doubts and realize we have a great God," Roesel declared. "Faith in anything doesn't matter unless it's faith in the living God."

Although "it's not easy to discern God's will," Roesel warned, "The most miserable man on the face of this earth is the Christian out of fellowship with God." Emphasizing the urgency of seeking God's will, he added, "Understanding God's will is our problem; understanding God's will is our peril; undertaking God's will is our privilege."

Focusing on temptation and forgive-



Joe Gant

ness, Roesel said, "We wear masks so frequently that even when we pray, we keep our masks on." He added that "the most dangerous thing that can happen to a man is for his success to outgrow his spirituality."

Pointing to prayer as the starting point for effective evangelism, he concluded, "You can do more than pray after you've prayed but you cannot do more than pray until you've prayed."

## 'The power of the Spirit'

Gant, a National Baptist pastor, preached Monday night about "The Power of the Spirit." Noting that "power to be the church of God is strangely and tragically missing in many of our local churches," he said, "Experiencing power is the critical need of the church at this critical time."

Gant emphasized that the early church gained power at Pentecost, adding that same power is still available today. Before obeying the Great Commission, however, Gant said early Christians first obeyed the Great Prohibition. "Our Lord prohibits the spreading of the gospel without empowerment," he explained. "Before you go out for the Lord, you must go in with the Lord. Before you can catch, you must be caught." He said the Holy Spirit provides Christians "the power to live right, the power to love right and the power to act right."

Preaching on Tuesday morning, Gant compared witnessing to the list of "standard" and "optional" equipment available on new cars. "That which is standard is necessary for the car to function as a car," he pointed out. "As Christians, witnessing is in that standard equipment list. It's not an option."

"You are a poor Christian if you can't influence one person in 365 days to come to Christ," he declared. "The power of



Charles Roesel

witnessing is the birthright of every believer."

Boyles, a former Arkansas Baptist minister, preached Monday night from John 16 about "The Purpose of the Spirit." Warning that today's church has grieved and stifled the Holy Spirit, he said the church is not reaching America because "we have a pitiful problem caused by passive preachers who produce a perched people."

"In a time when our nation is supposed to be getting better because of our powerful witness, it is getting worse," Boyles said. Stressing that "men of God ought to preach the Word of God," he urged, "Be a Baptist preacher, not a Baptist babysitter."

Declaring that passive preachers produce people "who do nothing but become pew perchers," he added, "We don't need to look for a place to meet our needs or to be comfortable. We need to look for a place to die for our Lord Jesus. That's what's going to turn the world around."

In his second message, Boyles said the purpose of the New Testament church is to grow. "A quality Christian is going to be reaching other Christians," he explained. "We need to be growing physically the body of Christ.... We need to get rid of the excuses."

Preaching from Ephesians 4, he said God gives the provision and the pattern to accomplish that purpose. He said the provision is individual spiritual gifts and the pattern is for pastors to "equip the saints to do the work of ministry."

Challenging pastors to "take the heat, prepare the meat and feed the sheep," he added that church members must become participators rather than spectators. "We need to get back on the trail of lost men, women, boys and girls and win our nation to Jesus," he concluded.

## Speakers advocate prayer, spiritual awakening

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Participants at the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference heard three nationally-known speakers underscore the theme "Prepare for Revival and Harvest" with messages about prayer, spiritual awakening and revival.

Bringing two messages each were Harry Blake, pastor of Mount Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport, La.; Richard Harris, director of the Home Mission Board's mass evangelism department; and Charles Kelley, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The three spoke during the Monday afternoon session, emphasizing prayer and spiritual awakening in preparing for revival. Blake, pastor of Mount Canaan for 27 years, told participants of leading his church to become a praying church in preparation for spiritual awakening. "I was troubled that our mid-week prayer meeting had a low attendance. It was painful for our church to be a church without prayer meetings," he related.

He said he "wanted to pastor a church where Christ was the center and the Bible was our basis." He led church leaders to study the Bible to determine the need for prayer in the church. He said the study revealed God's desire for the place of prayer and the people who should pray.

"Matthew 21:13 says 'And my house shall be called a house of prayer.' God established His house...His church...as a house of prayer," said Blake.

"Who does God expect to be in mid-week prayer meeting?" he asked. "In Acts 1:13 the disciples—the leaders—gathered together to pray. We determined the leaders of our church needed to be in prayer. That includes our pastor, ministers, deacons and deaconesses and teachers.

"It also leaves the question of how to get them there," said Blake. "You have not because you ask not." Citing Matthew 4:8 and following, he suggested "personal confrontation" was the best way to bring people to the need for prayer meetings. Jesus asked Peter, Andrew, James and John personally to "follow me," he said.

Richard Harris told participants he was "tired." He related he is tired of current societal and church problems such as homosexuality, abortion, drug and alcohol abuse, gambling, declines in church growth, baptisms and "useless meetings."

"How long must that go on? What's it going to take for a fresh encounter?" he asked.

"I think the church needs to come into a crisis mentality. We must come to a crisis of need." Harris related the prophet



Harry Blake



Charles Kelley

Habakkuk's anguish over the people of Israel in the third chapter of Habakkuk, urging Arkansas Baptists to have a burden, see a vision, pray and praise.

"If America is going to have a revival, it must come from God," said Harris. "Habakkuk calls for revival and reveals a principle: Revival starts with a burden-saying enough is enough. For what are you burdened? Is it the loss of humanity, the millions of lost people in Arkansas? I wonder how many people in Arkansas would give their hearts to Jesus if we asked God to show us a burden for them?"

"What happened to Habakkuk?" Harris continued. "First he is shaking his fist and then asking the Lord for mercy. What changed? Habakkuk did, during this prayer."

"What's the result? Praise. 'Yet I will exalt in the Lord,' Habakkuk said. I think he was saying I don't care if everyone else fails. I'm going to stick with you. That's where we need to come as a denomination."

### 'The church has a choice'

Recounting historical incidents of spiritual awakening, Charles Kelley noted, "The church has a choice, the choice of life or death."

Reviewing church history, he said "when the church achieved the impact of prestige, it began to grow. It gained power, influence and size, but when it began to lose its impact it became more irrelevant. What happens to the church in the process of growth?" asked Kelley. He said growth leads to:

■ An oversatisfied church. "Whenever God loses His grip on the church, then we look around and not up." And an oversatisfied church produces:

■ An overwhelming problem. "The more we look around, the more we get depressed and the church begins to start":

■ An overarching prayer. "But most of our prayers turn into whining. A lot of what we bring to God is whining about (our problems). In Acts 4:24, the Christians prayed, 'God, you are sovereign' and 'Make us bold.' What happened?"

■ Overcoming power. "It is the result of prayer," he emphasized.

"And the catalyst of spiritual awakening? When the church cries out for souls," said Kelley. "It is the passion for souls that produces awakening."

Blake, Kelley and Harris spoke on preaching and expectancy for revival during Tuesday sessions.

Using Nehemiah 8 as his text, Blake told the crowd how "Revival in Our Hearts" affects people.

"It affects our attitudes. The people gathered together as one man. A gathering is no necessary evidence of togetherness, but they gathered as one man with a oneness of spirit. We need that today.

"It affects our appetite. All the people gathered and they spake unto Ezra, saying bring us the book of Moses. It produces hunger for the Word of God. They sought not wealth, but the Word. However God has gifted you, God has given you someone who is hungry for what you're gifted with.

"It affects our activity. Verse 3 says this group stood from morning to midday and nobody walked out on the preacher. They were receptive and attentive and in verse 5, they were reverent. They were glad when they heard the Word of God," he concluded. "Oh, when I think about what Jesus has done for me, my soul says Amen."

In his final conference message, Kelley examined Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission, and offered synonyms to remember when preaching on the Great Commission:

■ The Great Convenience. "If a guy's hard up for a sermon, he can call up

Matthew 28. 'All power has been given unto me,' he read. 'God wants all of us to be involved and want to go. I don't think God meant it to be our time saver, to pick it up when we don't have time for sermon preparation.'

■ The Great Consternation "Is what happens when we get inside. It's not optional. Lots of Baptists think evangelism is the greatest priority of the church...for someone else to do."

■ The Great Celebration. "When we get in there slugging it out in the trenches and are struggling for Christ, we need to turn to Matthew 28," he urged. "God wants us to pick up His true Word and see that there will be disciples in all nations. We will have the power of God. He is with us."

■ The Great Consumption. "We are looking for a passion that makes us give up what we have to feed the flame. The flame God intends can release a passion to be a soul-winner," said Kelley. "The Great Commission was intended for you and me to give of ourselves something worthwhile."

■ The Great Commitment. "When Jesus gave the commission," Kelley said, "He was saying to all of us, 'What's your piece of the action? Where do you fit in?' The Great Commission cannot be completed without a great cost."

Preaching from the first chapter of 1 John on "Revival in Our Nation," Harris said the one thing hindering revival in America is "sin and disobedience."

Harris said hindrances to revival come from the "deceit of sin and the drifting in sin. Revival in the land will be hindered if we hide from sin. A prerequisite for revival is to recognize sin and do something about it. If not, you deceive yourself and the truth is not in us. Revival is...a new beginning of obedience to God."

He added that drifting in sin is no more than "old-fashioned backsliding" and said the characteristics of backsliding include: "hunger for the Word diminishes and biblical knowledge is treated as external rather than internal."

He said there is hope, however, "in the deliverance from sin. John says, 'I want you to avoid the pitfalls children fall into.' He told the audience to "avoid two things: confession and advocacy."

Harris compared Jesus to an advocate in a trial, and said of confession, "John says you can be deceived by sin, but if you confess you can be delivered from it. Revival would come to America if Jesus would just come wrap his arms around us and deliver us; if we would just let go of our sin."

Following his sermon, Harris called for a prayer of commitment and renewal from participants. Dozens of people answered the altar call as the 1994 conference came to a close.



Arkansas Baptist evangelists elected as officers for 1994-95 are (front row, left to right) Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, secretary/treasurer, Shelby Bittle of Jacksonville, vice president; Tom Cox of Mountainburg, president; (back row, left to right) Phillip Brown of Gurdon, music director; and Ronnie Mayes of Beebe, pastor/advisor.

## Annual Festival of Evangelists emphasizes love, obedience

By Millie Gill  
Arkansas Baptist

A successful evangelist must love the Lord, love his family and love his church, Tom McEachin emphasized during Arkansas Baptist's second annual Festival of Evangelists. The festival was held Jan. 24 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock prior to the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

McEachin, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's associate director for mass evangelism, described the gifts of an evangelist as one who preaches the gospel, draws the net, inspires and encourages the saints, encourages the pastor and brings new cells into the body of Christ, resulting in church growth.

Arkansas evangelists were challenged by McEachin to develop creative new ways to assist churches in reaching the unsaved, adding that "these new ways could and should lead you outside the church walls."

Shelby Bittle, conference vice president, focused on the topic "Disqualified as a Witness." Preaching from 1 Samuel and using King Saul as an example, Bittle noted that it took Saul only one sin of disobedience for God to disqualify him from service. "Even though he wanted to return to service, it was too late," Bittle emphasized. "Therefore, he died in disgrace by killing himself."

"It is important that we be what God wants us to be, waiting upon Him to

provide us with the ability and to qualify us for the task," Bittle concluded. "We must do it under His leadership so that He will not disqualify us."

Evangelist Jack Hazlewood of Little Rock, preaching on "Obeying the Voice of God," told fellow evangelists that while Southern Baptists are singing "It Is Well with My Soul," people in a dying and lost world are calling "come and help us."

"What a tragedy if we stand up in our churches and sing while the world goes to hell," Hazlewood declared. "We must so proclaim the Word of God that others will heed His call and become laborers for the 'fields white unto harvest.'"

Hazlewood noted that laborers are desperately needed to reach the lonely, broken families, youth addicted to drugs, single adults and many others. "Remember, every man we minister to is going to die, but every man we give the 'bread of life' will live forever," he concluded.

Festival music featured the Lisebmy Family of New Edinburg; the Brown Family of Gurdon; Kenny Daniel of Mountain View; and Kay Cox of Mountainburg. Phillip Brown directed congregational singing.

The evangelists also held a 5 p.m. business dinner meeting in which Tom Cox was re-elected president; Bittle, vice president; Johnny Jackson, secretary-treasurer; and Ronnie Mayes, pastor/advisor. Phillip Brown was elected as music director to succeed Judy Martin.

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Church news

**Hamburg First Church** hosted a southeast Arkansas migrant regional meeting Jan. 21 that resulted in five professions of faith, two baptisms and 22 other decisions. Ariel Hernandez, director of the Bartholomew Migrant Mission Center in Hermitage, was the leader for the meeting which attracted 235 people.

**Immanuel Church** of Rogers will host "The Power of Vision" men's conference Feb. 11-12. Pastor Tom Hatley said the event is designed to challenge, encourage and strengthen men spiritually through fellowship and Bible teaching. Speakers will include Rep. Tim Hutchinson; Robby Roberson, pastor of Grace Place Church in Oklahoma City; Jack Stanton, director of the International Institute of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.; H.D. McCarty, pastor of University Church in Fayetteville; and Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Church of Moore, Okla.

**Geyer Springs First Church** in Little Rock is launching three special programs designed to prepare members to grow in faith and be better prepared for living, according to pastor Paul Sanders. These programs include a "Watchman Prayer Ministry," the study of "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby and a challenge to young people to become a part of "True Love Waits," a nationwide emphasis on sexual purity for teenagers.

## Staff changes

**Tommy Snyder** will begin serving Feb. 20 as pastor of Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro, coming there from Wildwood Baptist Church in Clinton, Miss. A native of Mississippi, he is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Joyce, have three children, Gabriel, Jordan and Rachel.

**Rob Young** has joined the staff of Second Church in Hot Springs as minister of music, coming there from Azalea Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Young and his wife, Tula, have three children, Robyn, Rachel and Randy.

**Bobby R. Cook** has resigned as pastor of Park Hill Church in Arkadelphia. He is

entering the field of full-time evangelism following 20 years of service as a Southern Baptist pastor. Cook may be contacted for revivals and Bible studies at Rt. 3, Box 580, Lower Lake Road, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; phone 246-5738.

**Jeff Gongwer** has begun his first service as a pastor with Central Church in Dyess. He is a December graduate of Mid-America Seminary. In addition, he is a graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta. He and his wife, Sheri, have a son, Daniel.

**Richard Brookins** is serving as pastor of Wardell Church in Mississippi County Association. He previously served with the U.S. Air Force.

**Lamar Puckett** has resigned as minister of music at First Church of Mountain Home. He and his wife, Nancy, and their son, Leslie, are moving to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he will join the staff of Ridgecald Baptist Church.

**Rick W. Booyer** is serving as pastor of Twelve Corners Church at Garfield. He previously was pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Jane, Mo., and has served as a staff member for Bethany Baptist Church in Neosho, Mo. Booyer and his wife, Carisa, have two daughters, Cara and Rachael.

**James Taylor** has joined the staff of First Church in Mountain Home as minister of youth and church media. He has served as youth minister for First Baptist Church of Morgan City, La., and as a chaplain with the U.S. Army Reserve. Taylor is a graduate of Troy State University in Troy, Ala., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Nancy, have a son, Jayme.

**Robert Cox** of Paragould has begun his first service as a pastor with First Church of Nimmons. He previously was a member of Stanfords Church, Beech Grove. Cox is a driver for the U.S. Postal Service. He and his wife, Opal, have five children, Mark, John, Kim, Robin and Candace.

**David Miller** has announced his resignation as director of missions for Little Red River Association, effective Dec. 31, 1994. Miller, who on Nov. 1 will complete 25 years of service as the association's director of missions, currently is a trustee vice president for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously was president of the board of trustees for Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive board, president of the ABSC Pastors' Conference

and a member of both the Southern Baptist Convention committee on boards and resolutions committee. Miller, who attended Southern Baptist College and Arkansas Tech University at Russellville, has preached more than 600 revivals. His future plans are to become a "country preacher at large." He and his wife, Glenda, have a son, Joshua.

**Rusty Branson** is serving as pastor of Amazing Grace Church in Bentonville. He came to northwest Arkansas from Memphis where he served as executive director of In Step Ministries, a youth evangelistic association. In addition, he has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Arizona and Hawaii. Branson is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He and his wife, Sandra, have two daughters, Ashley and Kristin.

**Thomas B. "Tommy" Freeman** is serving as pastor of First Church in Star City, coming there from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. A native of El Dorado, he is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Shreveport, La., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously was pastor of Arkansas churches, including Keo Church, First Church of Prairie Grove and Harvey's Chapel, Hot Springs. In addition, he has served in Louisiana and Texas. Freeman and his wife, Joyce, have three children, Deborah Freeman Pollock of Houston, Texas, Thomas Michael Freeman of Kansas City, Mo., and Tamara Jo Freeman of San Antonio, Texas. They have four grand-children.

**Melvin G. York Jr.** has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Church in Des Arc. He will move there from Brookland Church in Jonesboro. He previously was bivocational pastor of Big Creek Church in Paragould. York is a graduate of Williams Baptist College, Mid-America Seminary, Bethany Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Tammy, have two children, Adriane and Allison.

## Obituaries

**Billy Ervin Goyme** of Batesville died Jan. 21 at age 65. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served as pastor of Diaz Church, Emmanuel Church of Batesville and Nalls Memorial Church (now West Rock Church) of Little Rock.

**Nellie Mae Savage** of Walnut Ridge died Dec. 29 at age 76. She was the wife of E. Fred Savage, emeritus professor of religion and French at Williams Baptist College. She was a retired school teacher, having taught at Pocahontas High School and in the college's theological adult education department. In addition, she served three years as field counselor for the college's Upward Bound program. Other survivors include two sons, John Savage of Fayette, Mo., and David Savage of Fayetteville; three daughters, Mary Wilder of Harrah, Okla., Ruth Crittendon of Stillwell, Okla., and Martha Miller of Puerto Montt, Chile; two sisters; three brothers; and 12 grandchildren.

**William Hugh Stubblefield** of Fayetteville died Jan. 17 at age 92. He was a longtime member of First Church in Fayetteville to which memorials may be made. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Stubblefield; three sons, William Hugh Stubblefield Jr. of Batesville, Miss., David Edward Stubblefield of Fort Smith and Donald Eugene Stubblefield of Joplin, Mo.; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Ruby Nell Pilote Wolfe** of Fayetteville died Jan. 24 at age 58. She was a member of University Church in Fayetteville where she was serving as receptionist. Survivors are her husband, Charles Wolfe of Fayetteville; two sons, Ed Pilote of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Steve Pilote of New Orleans, La.; two daughters, Melanie Arnold of North Little Rock and Allison Pilote of Fort Worth, Texas; a stepson, Tim Wolfe of Springdale; a stepdaughter, Robin Dawson of Bradenton, Fla.; a sister; three stepbrothers; three stepsisters; a half-brother; and six grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Second Mile Ministry of University Church.

**Anna Wahnecta Venable** of Lincoln died Jan. 19 at age 86. She was a member of Liberty Church where she had served as pianist for 50 years. Survivors are two daughters, Mary Ellen Brogden of Lincoln and Anna Ruth Munnerlyn of Harahan, La.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the church.

**Mary Maxie Holt Gilbert** of North Little Rock died Jan. 19 at age 70. Her funeral services were held at Immanuel Church in Fayetteville where she previously had been an active member and to which memorials may be sent. Survivors are three sons, Ed Gilbert Jr. of Wichita, Kan., Jim Gilbert of North Little Rock and Jamie Gilbert of Belleville, Ill.; two brothers; and four grandchildren.

## Mississippi River Convocation seeks to 'build bridges of hope'

Arkansas Baptist church and association leaders desiring to increase ministry efforts through their churches are encouraged to begin "Building Bridges of Hope and Change" at the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation March 11-12 in Jackson, Miss. The convocation will be held at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

The Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) is a seven-state Southern Baptist partnership with the Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union created to meet the needs of people in the Mississippi River region through volunteer missions projects.

Tommy Goode, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said the convocation is the only MRM rally for states around the river. "Its goal is to share ministry models, testimonies, workshops on ministry strategies, ministry resources, needs for the project and to recruit volunteers," he explained.

"We have a lot of volunteer interest," said Andrea Ramage, a US-2 home missionary assigned to Arkansas MRM projects. "Last year we had more than 1,000 volunteers in 67 projects and we hope to double that involvement this year."

Goode reported that Arkansas Baptists have been "more organized than some

states, taking the leadership point by providing coordination for the ministry." He pointed out that Arkansas Baptists have provided the project with office and personnel support and developed training and organizational materials.

The program will feature Baptist layman and humorist Jerry Clower and ABCS executive director Don Moore. It also will feature exhibits of denominational and secular resources available to volunteers. The exhibit area will include exhibits from Brotherhood World Changers, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, associational missions, Arkansas Rice Depot (a bulk food resource) and Heifer Project International (an agricultural resource for low-income families).

The cost for the convocation is \$20 per person. The cost includes two meals, snacks and materials. The program will begin at noon Friday with registration and conclude Saturday at 12:30 p.m. Participants must provide for their own lodging. To reserve a room, contact the Holiday Inn registration desk; phone 1-800-465-4329 and reference the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation.

For more information or to register, contact Goode at the ABCS offices, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5150.

## Children's Homes and Family Ministries to celebrate 100 years of ministry in '94

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries are throwing 10 birthday parties in 1994 and inviting everyone in Arkansas to attend. The parties will be "Celebrating a Century of Caring" as the agency commemorates its 100th year of service.

ABCFHM executive director Johnny Biggs said the celebrations will offer thanksgiving to God, share appreciation with Arkansas Baptists and "reaffirm our commitment to seek the will of God as we respond to the needs of hurting children and families into the next century."

The birthday parties will be held at the following locations and dates: Feb. 13 at the Emergency Receiving Home (ERH), Sherwood; March 13 at the Camden ERH; April 10 at the Paragould ERH; May 15 at the Judsonia ERH; July 10 at the Little Rock ERH; Aug. 14 at the Group Home for Boys, Jonesboro; Sept. 11 at the Tommy Jones Memorial Home, West Fork; Oct. 9 at the Boys Ranch, Harrison; November 15-16 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention,

Little Rock; and December 11 at the Promise House, El Dorado. All of the one-day parties will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

In addition to the birthday parties, ABCFHM will host an Alumni Homecoming, combined with a special birthday party and time capsule commemoration June 11 at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello.

ABCFHM ministries include five Emergency Receiving Homes providing temporary emergency care to young victims of neglect, abuse or abandonment; the Boys Ranch providing a retreat area and substance addiction treatment; the primary Children's Home facility in Monticello providing children food, shelter and a loving environment; a boys group home; referral services; and Promise House for unwed pregnant teenagers.

For more information on the parties, contact Biggs at the ABCFHM offices, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5167.

# Coordinated 'Season of Home Missions' debuts

By Susan Doyle

SBC Woman's Missionary Union

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** — For the first time ever, Southern Baptists across the country will observe the "Season of Home Missions."

In years past, Southern Baptists have observed four separate home missions events or emphases in the spring — the Home Mission Study, the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and Home Missions Day in Sunday School. Never before have all four events been coordinated.

Beginning this year, the four elements have been coordinated to create a "Season of Home Missions." They will have common themes, graphic elements and emphases.

"The Season of Home Missions is a simplification of the whole process," explained Dan Eulliss, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's promotion office.

The season is a coordinated effort by the HMB, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"We brought all of the elements under one promotional effort in order to make it easier for Southern Baptists," Eulliss said.

Eulliss added that he believes the outcome of the effort will be positive for



IT'S YOUR SERVE

Minister in Christ's Name

SEASON OF HOME MISSIONS

Southern Baptists and the home missions cause.

The Season of Home Missions includes:

■ **Home Mission Study:** This year's study will be observed Feb. 20-23. The focus of the study is ministering to the nation's homeless. The study shows what home missionaries are doing and gives practical steps which any church can follow to begin its own ministry.

Resources for the study include a planning kit, books, teaching guides, videos and take-home leaflets. Some of the items are available from the HMB and others from WMU.

■ **Week of Prayer for Home Missions:** This eight-day emphasis will be observed

March 6-13. During this focus, Southern Baptists will pray for a renewed missions commitment, for home missionaries, for increased giving, for increased ministry with the homeless, and for their own involvement in home missions. The observance offers prayer opportunities for individuals, members of WMU and Brotherhood and the entire church family.

Suggestions for prayer observances can be found in WMU and Brotherhood age-level organization magazine. In addition to these resources, prayer guides are available free of charge from the state WMU office.

■ **Home Missions Day in Sunday School:** On March 13, home missions will be highlighted by Sunday School leaders.

Resources for home missions in Sunday School are available in the Sunday School Board magazine *Sunday School Leader: Smaller Church Edition* and *Sunday School Leader: Larger Church Edition*.

■ **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions:** The national goal for this year's offering is \$40 million and the Arkansas Baptist goal is \$1,025,000. The \$40 million national goal, which supports the work of more than 4,800 home missionaries, is nearly 44 percent of the HMB's 1994 budget of \$91.2 million. Offering allocations will support such projects as evangelism, new church extension, language church extension and church and community ministries.

## Arkansas missionary details need for homeless ministry

**BENTON, AR** — Redemptive ministry with the homeless — an everyday concern for Southern Baptist home missionary Diana Lewis — is the subject of Southern Baptists' 1994 Home Mission Study material.

Lewis, a home missionary and Christian social ministries consultant for Arkansas Baptists and a member of the Arkansas Coalition for the Prevention of Homelessness, said one of her goals is keeping people from losing their housing. Some people are "a breath away from being homeless," and others are living in such sub-standard housing that they are virtually homeless, she said.

Benevolent ministries such as giving food to people in need or helping families pay their utility bill help prevent homelessness, Lewis said. "That might make the difference between some child sleeping in a car later in the week," she added.

Churches need to develop a system of helping people who ask for assistance or referring them to places where their needs can be met, said Lewis, who earned the

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's 1993 Clovis Brantley Award for excellence in missions work.

The number of homeless people in Arkansas is difficult to estimate, Lewis said, and some churches are overwhelmed. They think they can't attack the problem because they can't open a shelter, she said.

Churches and individuals can deal with homelessness by supporting existing ministries, such as the Bethlehem House in Conway, the Baptist Center in Texarkana and the Stew Pot in Little Rock, Lewis said. Some churches provide monthly meals at the centers, for example.

The "Life House" ministry of First Church, Benton, is another example. The church provides an apartment for a homeless woman and her children until the family can become independent, Lewis said. The fastest growing segment of the homeless population is women and children, she noted.

If a person is homeless, shelter is "just one part of what they need," Lewis said.

They may need training in budget management, nutritional cooking, job skills and parenting.

This year's study material for the Season of Prayer for Home Missions is designed to help individuals and churches deal with spiritual and physical needs of homeless people in their communities.

Some suggestions for ministry efforts include advocating homeless issues with government officials and providing permanent housing, food, clothing and medical care.

The study material on redemptive ministry with the homeless includes separate units for preschoolers, younger children, older children, youth and adults. It features three home missionaries involved in homeless ministries in Florida, Virginia and Georgia.

The study material can be ordered through HMB customer services at 1-800-634-2462. A brochure, "Working with Homeless People," and a video titled "In Search of Life" are also available from HMB customer services.

# Point of Grace impacts Christian music

By Ferrell Foster

Illinois Baptist

SPRINGFIELD, IL.— The four of them sat backstage in the darkness looking up at a giant projection screen showing Al Denson. Moments later they stepped out on the stage, banks of lights shining upon them while thousands of teenagers waited to hear them.

Their names are Shelley Phillips, Denise Jones, Heather Floyd and Terry Lang. Together, the four Ouachita Baptist University alumnae are known as Point of Grace.

Al Denson is an established performer in contemporary Christian music. Point of Grace is a newcomer. But even in the first months after Point of Grace's record company debut, the women have tasted success. Their first single reached number one in the "adult contemporary" category of Christian music. The song, "I'll Be Believing," reached the top in November 1993, eight months after they signed with Word Records.

The sudden success surprised the group, said Phillips, who grew up as a member of Olivet Church in Little Rock. "We knew when we heard the final mix...that this was a good song" with a "good message," she said. But "no way" did they anticipate a climb to number one.

Phillips described the song as "up" and "positive" and "vocally out front." To describe what she meant, Phillips said many songs "hide the vocals way back in the instruments....We didn't want that at all. We wanted our vocals to be out front."

That description applies to the album, titled "Point of Grace," on which the single appears. "We wanted it to be a real harmonic, harmony-based vocal record," Phillips explained. She said "I'll Be Believing" is "real representative of the whole record."

Success has brought some changes for the group. Jones said the "most exciting thing" is that during concerts they now see people in the audience singing songs with them. "They know the songs," she remarked. "It's like, whoa, people are listening."

But, Phillips emphasized, "We're the



Point of Grace, a group of former Ouachita Baptist University students, includes (left to right) Denise Jones, Terry Lang, Heather Floyd and Shelley Phillips. The group's first single, "I'll Be Believing," recently was the No. 1 song in adult contemporary Christian music.

same old girls and we're doing the same thing that we always did — traveling, doing concerts."

The four, ages 23 and 24, have been singing together for a little more than three years.

Three of them — Jones, Floyd and Lang — were teenage friends together at Trinity Baptist Church in Norman, Okla. Phillips began singing with the three Oklahoma girls when they came to Arkadelphia to attend Ouachita Baptist University.

After Jones and Phillips graduated from OBU in 1991, the four continued to meet on weekends, travel and sing.

Lang graduated in 1992. Floyd still has a year of college to go, but the group, under the name Say So, began touring full-time. That summer provided a big break for the young women.

Lang's grandparents, Dick and Louise Drury of California, sent the group to the Christian Artists Music Seminar in Estes Park, Colo. The group won the "overall grand prize group" competition, and that caught the attention of Word Records. They signed with Word early in 1993 and moved to Nashville, Tenn. Six weeks of recording produced their current album.

"We've learned a lot, and God's taught us a lot about depending on Him through the times when we were recording and just every day," Phillips said.

There was a time when the four women

shared off-stage responsibilities. Now they have three organizations looking after them — a record company (Word), a management company (Atkins-Muse and Associates Inc.) and a booking agent (SCS Group).

Emphasizing that they have found the music professionals to be very supportive and helpful, Jones noted, "Word really helped us define musically who we were."

Point of Grace wanted to do songs that "we can still sing in the church," Phillips said. They didn't want to "get so far wacked out and away from the church that we can't go to First Baptist Church, Marion, Ill., on Sunday night and do a concert that everyone's going to like."

The people at Word "really believed in that and they wanted that, but also songs that kids will like, that they can tap their feet to and sing along with," Phillips added.

"Our album is real varied," she continued. "I think there's something for everybody, and we want to stay there. We want to stay in the church."

The group will begin their "Loving You Back" tour later this month, including scheduled concerts at First Church, Conway, Feb. 25; Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Feb. 26; and Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, March 2.

"We just like to lead people in a time of worship," Phillips said. "And we like to have fun. We like to do both of those things in our concerts."

Point of Grace sings before a lot of teenagers, and Phillips said the group likes to sing about purity regarding sex, alcohol and drugs. "Three of us are single. We just tell kids, 'Look we're normal girls just like you, and we've had our struggles and problems....We made it through high school. We made it through college and remained sexually pure and you can do it, too.'"

And for those who already are involved in sex and drugs, the women tell of God's forgiveness. "He can make you a spiritual virgin, and He won't see you any different than myself or anybody else," Phillips explained. And with those words she illustrated a point of grace.



## Handbell festival provides training for youth, adults

Active Arkansas Baptist youth and adult handbell choirs may participate in a mass choir and concert, develop technique and ring for adjudication at the Arkansas Baptist Handbell Festival March 11-12 at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. The event is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department.

Department associate Glenn Ennes said the event will have two tracks accommodating choirs of different proficiency.

"Festival A is designed for three- to five-octave choirs able to ring medium difficult music and wishing to ring for adjudication," explained Ennes. "Festival B is for three-octave choirs with less experience that wish to work on technique development and do not wish to be adjudicated."

Festival A will be directed by Lonnie Stewart, minister of music for First Baptist Church, West Monroe, La. "Lonnie is a leader in the handbell choir ministry," commented Ennes. "He consistently has some of the best handbell choirs in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Participants must learn all music selections prior to the festival. Festival A participants must practice from the following selections and order numbers: "Rejoice" (Genevox 4579-32), "A Carol for All Seasons" (Agape 1272), "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (Agape 1610) and "Hymn Treatment" (Order through the ABCS music department).

Festival B participants must learn "Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise" (Agape 1238), "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Handbells, Oct. 93) and "Praise to the Lord Almighty" (Handbells, Jan. 94).

The per choir cost for choirs with reservations postmarked prior to Feb. 14 is \$35. It increases to \$45 per choir after Feb. 14. Ennes urged churches which do not have handbell choirs or are considering beginning a choir to attend the festival without cost.

Choirs must make arrangements for lodging. The festival begins Friday at 7 p.m. and concludes Saturday at 12:45 p.m. The concert, open to the public at no cost, will begin at 12:15 Saturday.

For more information or to register, consult the 1994 Music Ministry Handbook or contact Ennes at the ABCS church music ministries department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5121.

## "Whateverittakes 3!": puppets, clowns, drama

The "Whateverittakes 3!" workshop March 4-5 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, will provide training in recreational and resort ministries for church, associational and student groups. It is jointly sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Discipleship Training and family ministries department and missions department.

Missions department associate Pete Petty said the workshop comes by its

name honestly. "It focuses on doing whatever it takes to reach people for the gospel," he commented. "In all of the conferences, making application of sharing your faith is stressed."

"Whateverittakes 3!" contextualizes the concept of ministry and recreation," said Discipleship Training department associate Bill Falkner. "It's an opportunity to see, in leisure, recreation and 'fun,' that there are ways to express our Christian witness and touch the needs of humanity."

The workshop will feature more than 40 basic and advanced conferences, including: adventure recreation, puppets, clowning, illusion, juggling, drama, games and fellowships, day camping and creative worship. It also will feature a recreation and ministry fair showcasing related opportunities for participants.

Petty said the workshop, designed for pastors, recreation and missions leaders, Vacation Bible School leaders, resort and camp planners, and drama, puppet or clowning teams, also has proved helpful for groups preparing for summer missions service.

The cost is \$15 per person and includes two meals and conference materials. Participants are responsible for their own lodging. A rate of \$10 per person is available to participants attending one day. The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday and conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact Falkner or Petty at the Arkansas Baptist state offices; phone 376-4791, ext. 5160 or 5249. The registration deadline is March 1.

## Interested in a Ministry of Love?

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children is looking for a dedicated Christian couple with not more than two children to live and work in a cottage setting with eight children. Salary and benefits.

Contact: Royce Aston

P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655

Phone: 367-5358



Quality Van Sales.

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

## A Missions Opportunity

...for the entire church family!

### Convocation

March 11-12 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

The Mississippi River Ministry Convocation is designed to encourage, inspire and help church staff, directors of missions and laypeople participate in MRM volunteer projects.

Keynote speakers include Mississippi humorist Jerry Clower and ABCS executive director Dr. Don Moore.

Registration fee: \$20. To pre-register, contact: Tommy Goode, Missions Department, ABCS, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5150.

Sponsors: Missions departments of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee; Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and the Brotherhood Commission.



# FMB reports growth in churches, baptisms

By Don Martin

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's 1993 overseas report card is out — recording new highs in churches, church membership and baptisms.

Totals for newly constituted churches, mission and preaching points, and membership in Bible teaching ministries also hit record levels in 1993, according to annual statistics compiled by the office of Jim Slack, the board's church growth consultant.

The year's healthy report card — reflecting work of missionaries, their overseas Baptist partners and more than 11,000 Southern Baptist volunteers — is a welcomed beginning for the Foreign Mission Board's new president.

"I believe we're seeing a spiritual momentum that can't be deterred," said Jerry Rankin, who was elected president last June after 23 years as a missionary and field administrator.

"Over the years we've dealt with gains and losses, peak and ebbs, but we've moved into a new era of steady increases," he said. "This spiritual momentum means God is moving. My concern is that we be part of that. This goes back to what I've said before, that God will achieve His goals in the world. Our task is to join Him and be part of His plan."

Churches that Southern Baptist missionaries relate to have nearly doubled

in six years, increasing from 17,769 in 1987 to 35,188 in 1993. In the last year alone, the number grew by 2,391, a 7.29 percent increase.

Church membership climbed from 3,450,888 to 3,735,949, an 8.26 percent increase.

The 262,758 baptisms by overseas Baptists, missionaries and volunteers was a record for the third straight year. Baptisms increased by 4.31 percent, climbing from 251,901 in 1992.

The emphasis on church growth helped set the record for the number of congregations constituted into churches. Totals rose from 1,606 in 1992 to 2,019 in 1993.

Missionaries, overseas Baptists and volunteers also helped mission and preaching points increase from 23,889 in 1992 to 25,327 in 1993. This is a 6 percent growth rate for preaching points, which are the gospel outposts that eventually may mature into churches.

Currently preaching points take 11.8 years on a world average to mature into churches.

1993's record total of 2,230,282 people enrolled in Bible classes now falls under a new title of "Bible Teaching Ministries," not Sunday School. The name change more accurately reflects the various forms of Bible teaching in the world of missions. But the bulk of it still comes from traditional Bible teaching in Sunday School, Slack said.

As overseas figures grew, so did the number of people serving in the largest mission force in the board's 148-year history. The mission force closed out 1993 with 3,954 missionaries, up from 1992 when the total stood at 3,893. The board also appointed a record 495 personnel — 223 career and associate missionaries and 272 two-year personnel. That's a 22.5 percent increase over 1992 when the board appointed 404.

Another high point in this year's summary comes from "World A," that part of the world with little or no access to the gospel, often because of religious or governmental restrictions. In 1993, the board sought to reach 85 of the world's 212 least evangelized people groups which will number 1 million or more people by the year 2000. People groups share the same heritage, culture, belief system and language.

Also in 1993, mission workers in World A helped establish 37 new churches and baptize 746 people. They also began 237 preaching points and now work with 131 churches with a total membership of 54,553.

"I doubt anybody would have said four years ago that you would get 37 new churches in a given year in these areas," Slack said. "I thought it was going to take a lot longer than this. When you consider the restrictions these people face and all the handicaps they work under, it's beyond expectations."

World A's solid showing is joined by the other regions of the world, Rankin added. "We're seeing God moving, not in just a few isolated places, but around the world."

## Creative Christian Living Bi/Polar Seminar for Pastors and Staff

June 2-3, Baptist Building, Little Rock


A basic Bi/Polar seminar designed to help you discover your strengths and to learn how to utilize them in relating more effectively to others.

Cost: \$60 for seminar plus travel, lodging and meals.  
(Cost of seminar includes computerized analysis of your strengths, a seminar notebook, and other related materials.)

Leader: Jimmie Sheffield, Associate Executive Director, ABSC, and Certified Professional and Bi/Polar Program Leader.

For information, contact Jimmie Sheffield, 501/376-4791, ext. 5103

Registration due April 8.



**Steples & Baptistries**

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steples
- Baptistries
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Kronglitz Windows
- Baptistry Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog  
1-800-527-3689  
PO Box 1360  
Henderson, TX 75623-1360

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

Since 1973  
Churches/Residential

**SOOS**  
STAINED GLASS

P.O. Box 600  
North Little Rock, AR 72115  
**758-8641**

**Charles and Nancy Browning**, Baptist representatives to Jordan, are in the States (address: Box 638, Judsonia, AR 72081). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Judsonia, and she is the former Nancy Woodward of Lonoke. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

**Stephen and Kathy Dewbre**, missionaries to Southern Africa, are in the States (address: P.O. Box 846, Cabot, AR 72023). He considers North Little Rock his hometown. She is the former Kathy Thye of Iowa. They were appointed by the FMB in 1989.

**Ray and Ruby Fleet**, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 721 Devonshire, Richardson, TX 75080). He is a native of Memphis, Tenn. The former Ruby Edson, she was born in Foreman. They were appointed in 1964.

**Ben and Berdie Hope**, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 143, 77054-970 Palmas, TO, Brazil). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Grant County and spent most of his youth in North Little Rock. She is the former Berdie Moose of Oklahoma City. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

**Benjamin and Charlotte Kirby**, missionaries to Venezuela, are in the States (address: 2923 Charter Oak Rd., Little Rock,

AR 72207). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Little Rock. The former Charlotte Halbert, she was born in Little Rock and grew up in Star City. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

**Daniel and Gretchen Sowell**, missionaries to Zambia, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 50599, 15101 Ridgeway, Lusaka, Zambia). He considers Houston, Texas, his hometown. The

former Gretchen DeYoung, she considers Hot Springs her hometown. They were appointed in 1993.

**Michael and Kathy Weaver**, missionaries to Peru, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He is a native of Missouri. The former Kathy Chandler of Arkansas, she was born in Heber Springs and considers Fordyce her hometown. They were appointed in 1993.

## 1994 Annual Statewide Pastors' Retreat

### March 7-8 • Camp Paron

(Lunch Monday through Dinner Tuesday Evening)

### "Hearing God and Being Heard"

Jeremiah 7:1-3

### Special Features

- ✦ Four Messages - *Richard Owen Roberts* - a prophetic voice on revival and spiritual awakening, International Awakening Press, Wheaton, Illinois
- ✦ Laugh a while and give your soul a rest - *John Dresbach*, assistant in music/university/singles, Central Church, Jonesboro
- ✦ If I could do my ministry over - *William V. Philliber*, retired pastor, North Little Rock
- ✦ Stimulating visions and excitement - *Grant Ethridge*, pastor, First Church, Lavaca
- ✦ Worship with purpose and direction - *Rob Hewell*, director, church music ministries department, ABSC
- ✦ Prayer is making a difference - *Tom Smith*, missionary, Philippine Islands (Times have been set apart for intercession)
- ✦ My effort at planning my preaching program - *Rick Hyde*, pastor, Third Church, Malvern
- ✦ My effort to lead an old church to grow - *Stephen C. Martin*, pastor, Flippin
- ✦ My effort to maintain mental and emotional health - *Greg Kirksey*, pastor, First Church, Benton
- ✦ Let's just praise the Lord - testimonies of "What we have seen and heard"

**Reservation information will be in the mail to all pastors.  
PLEASE PUT THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

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

### BOYCE BIBLE SCHOOL

**TERM IV:  
MARCH 4 - APRIL 30, 1994**

**Friday** Holiday: Good Friday & Saturday

**09030** English Grammar III  
*Rozelle Goodson*  
6:00 - 7:55 p.m.

**06800** Christian Ethics  
*Dr. Larry Henderson*  
8:25 - 10:15 p.m.

**Saturday**

**06330** Biblical Preaching  
*Rev. Tim Ramey*  
7:45 - 9:40 a.m.

**08300** Interpreting the Historical Books  
*Dr. Greg Jackson*  
10:15 - noon

**07300** Introduction to Pastoral Care  
*Dr. Ed McDonald*  
12:50 - 2:45

For more information concerning enrollment, call the Arkansas Baptist State Convention 378-4791, ext. 5249.  
(Carter Tucker or Judy Spencer).

# BWA 'blueprint' targets world's unevangelized

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist World Alliance

LARNACA, CYPRUS (BP)—With more than 1.3 billion people yet to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Baptist World Alliance will encourage Baptists around the world to make reaching "unevangelized people" a priority.

This is part of a BWA "blueprint for action" for unevangelized people which received the support of Baptist and other mission leaders from 30 countries who met in Larnaca, Cyprus, Jan. 20-24, for a "Baptist International Conference on Unevangelized People."

Ninety one percent of Christian missionaries and 94 percent of missionary budgets are directed to the most evangelized 33 percent of the world.

Because of this, the BWA will encourage Baptist mission societies to look at their missionary personnel and budgets and recruit new people to reach the world's unevangelized regions.

Sponsored by the BWA, the conference brought together Baptists and other mission leaders from Africa, North America, Europe and the Middle East to focus on why much of central and northern Africa, Asia, the Middle East and other regions has not yet heard the gospel.

"I have felt a deep burden for unreached people since serving as a missionary in Papua, New Guinea," said Tony Cupit, BWA director of evangelism, who led the

conference targeting the unevangelized regions, often called "World A."

"If we fail to reach out to the non-Christian world with the message of God's love, who will?"

While there was no argument about the responsibility of Baptists and other Christians to reach out, several reasons were given why the Christian church has not placed most of its resources at "this resistant belt" to its faith.

## Barriers identified

Language, poverty, illiteracy, non-Christian religions, undemocratic governments, lack of human rights and religious freedom, lack of understanding and stereotypes have put up almost impenetrable walls to the gospel.

"If they are poor and illiterate, they have the least chance of hearing the gospel," said Jim Slack of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Slack, working with English researcher David Barrett, has used the computer and world demographics to demonstrate the need for a focus on the unevangelized.

"There is a great gulf of misunderstanding of people, areas and religions of the Middle East," said Bill O'Brien, director of the Global Mission Resource Center at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. "Many Westerners think all Arabs and Muslims are terrorists and there is a woeful ignorance in the Christian community about the complexities of the Middle East."

Baptist disunity also was given as a reason. "Our fighting gives us little time for the rest of the world," said Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary.

"Without a doubt, 'World A' presents a challenge to Christians," said Cupit, "but if we neglect those areas ... and work only among potentially productive areas, we must ask ourselves, 'Is this the way of the cross?'"

"If I ask you to go to a map and point out the least evangelized, you would know," said Jimmy Maroney of the FMB. "We've known it but as Christians have been disobedient."

Maroney pointed out many areas of World A have had a Christian history and "a small Christian body, capable of explosive, spontaneous activity without outside interference."

"There is a depth of spiritual maturity, a commitment and sacrifice by believers in these areas that the West could learn from," Maroney said.

"We as Christians must be wise and use creative means of getting the gospel to people when political and religious barriers are created," he said. "God has not released us from our responsibility."

"Do we really believe God cares as much for Muslims, animists, Buddhists, all nations?" asked Knud Wumpelmann, BWA president.

"It is so easy for us to find good excuses for not doing what God wants us to do and go where God wants us to go," he said. "God calls us to go to the poorest and most difficult places at once."

## Agteens Encounter

April 8-9, 1994

Ouachita Baptist University • Arkadelphia

Friday, 7:30 pm - Saturday, 3 pm • Registration begins Friday at 6:30 pm  
Sturgis Physical Education Center

### Join God's Team

For Junior and Senior High Girls  
PLUS: Special Invitation to  
Sixth Grade Girls

COST: "Early Bird Special" - \$8 per person until Feb. 25  
\$10 per person Feb. 26 - March 29  
Deadline for fees is March 29

Included in the registration fees are two meals: pizza Friday night and lunch on Saturday;  
program guests expenses and honorariums; use of facilities and a small gift.

### Featuring:

Activators • Missionaries • Friend to Friend • For Seniors Only • Music  
StudAct Recognition • T-shirts • Swimming • Team Games • State Panelists

### For more information:

State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5137

AUTHORIZED

**Konica**  
COPIERS • FAX



Ralph Croy and Associates Inc.

701 W. Capitol, Little Rock • 378-0109  
1640 E. Grand Ave., Hot Springs • 623-7292  
1022 W. 8th, Pine Bluff • 534-8811



Are your Seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an Aisle, Raised Roof & Electric Step. Call Trity Transportation Today!



1-800-330-3622 • (817) 458-4844  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

## PEW CUSHIONS

Quality Custom Manufacturers of:

Upholstered Seats & Backs

717 North Cypress, N. Little Rock

WV-1; P.O. Box 5700, N.L.R., AR 72119

Call for more information: 501-375-2921

**Albert George Mfg. Co.**

# Leaders urge churches to help provide health care

By Sarah Zimmerman

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Integration, not separation, of church and state is needed to resolve America's health care problems, the U.S. surgeon general told 150 religious leaders.

"You've got power, prestige and positions of influence. We've got scientific knowledge and no power. We need your leadership to get things done," Joycelyn Elders said during an interfaith meeting in Atlanta Jan. 23-25.

The meeting was sponsored by the Interfaith Health Program of the Carter Center, an Atlanta-based public policy institute led by former President Jimmy Carter.

Churches can be involved in preventive medicine by becoming partners with public health agencies, said Elders, who has been criticized for her support of condom distribution and school-based family planning clinics.

She challenged religious leaders to "develop an action plan that's right for your community" and to minister to people in the "5-H Club." The club includes "the hungry, the healthless, the homeless, the huggless and the hopeless."

The huggless, Elders said, are people with no one to care for them. "It's easier for them to find drugs than hugs. It's easier to find a gun than a friend."

Speaking to the group 24 hours before Elders, Jimmy Carter predicted Congress will scale back President Clinton's health-care reform proposals, leaving gaps in health care that churches can fill.

"Be ready to move forward," Carter

said. "There couldn't be a more propitious time for you to be involved in health care and to serve God through the alleviation of suffering of fellow human beings."

Some ways Carter suggested for churches to be involved are making childhood immunizations more accessible, caring for the elderly and offering basic examinations in their facilities. Carter said he favors an increased tax on tobacco products and he also urged church leaders to speak against behaviors that cause health problems.

**"Be ready...to serve God  
though the alleviation  
of suffering of fellow  
human beings."**

— Jimmy Carter

Physician Fred Loper, a Southern Baptist home missionary, affirmed the need for churches to cooperate with other groups to provide health care. Most churches do not have the professional staff or the financial resources to independently address health needs, noted Loper.

During another session, participants discussed potential conflicts in church and health department partnerships. Two examples were church support of sexual abstinence outside marriage and criticism of drug abuse while some health departments distribute condoms and promote needle exchanges to lessen transmission of the virus that causes AIDS.

Congregations should wrestle with the issues to develop their response, said

Dwight Jackson, pastor of Webster Groves Baptist Church in Webster Groves, Mo. If churches do not address health concerns, "solutions will be based on economic rather than moral principles," he said.

Jackson, a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary, works with the Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis which represents 1,300 congregations in more than 35 denominations. "We don't identify a response that everybody has to follow," Jackson said. "We're never going to agree on everything. We just agree that there's a problem."

Churches don't have to support controversial programs to address health concerns, said Joni Goodnight of Health Ministries Association in Los Angeles. Churches can offer health screenings, education programs and assistance for people seeking health care, she said.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has developed two documents to help Christians judge health care reform proposals (see related article on page 21). The documents will be distributed to all Southern Baptist pastors and are available from the CLC in Nashville, Tenn.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board offers resources to churches wanting to begin programs ranging from respite care for the disabled to after-school programs for children. For information, call the HMB church and community ministries department at 404-898-7401.

## BIG 12TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN GOSPEL SINGING

Friday, August 5, 1994 through Saturday, August 13, 1994

Lester Flatt Memorial Park -- Vilonia, AR

**TALENT:** Wendy Bagwell and The Sunliters, Nelons, Bishops, Florida Boys, Perfect Heart, Palmetto State Quartet, Primitive Quartet, Gov. Jimmie Davis, Dixie Melody Boys, Countrymen Quartet, Free Spirit Singers, McKeithens, Happy Rhythms, Sounds of Life, Scrap Iron Quartet, plus more groups to come!

**TICKETS:** Admission adults all-9 days \$30.00, Saturday \$8.00, daily \$7.00 and children 6-10 half price. Camping \$6.00 per day with festival tickets, all other days \$12.00. Call days- 501-835-2451 or nights- 501-796-2030. Fishing, swimming and paddle boats. Hot and cold showers available. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs. Absolutely NO alcohol or drugs. Sunday morning preaching and potluck dinner on the ground. Plenty of watermelons. Bring your ice cream freezer. If you need a free flyer, write to Lester Flatt Memorial Park, 850 Lester Flatt Drive, Vilonia, AR 72173.

## THE ARK

CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER

15 MILES TO EUREKA • 30 BRANSON

ACCESS TO TABLE ROCK LAKE • MAIN BUILDING FOR MEETINGS

• 15 ROOM (2 HANDICAPPED) 2 DOUBLE BEDI • BATH

GAME ROOM • FULL SIZE OVA • EQUIPPED KITCHEN

BOX 152 EAGLE ROCK, MO 63841

(417) 271-4530 / (417) 442-3496



## imperial

PEWS—PULPITS  
STAINED GLASS

Manufacturer Serving the Nation, Since 1960

1-800-234-6624



A Symbol  
To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett  
Healy & Roth

LESTER FLATT

Memorial Park

LESTER FLATT

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills

LESTER FLATT

GROSS  
FURNITURE HOME

1983-1993

PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

## CLC leaders voice concern over health care proposals

**Music/Youth minister** — First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 578, Des Arc, AR 72040, is now accepting resumes for a music and youth minister.

**Pastor Search** — The Pastor Search Committee of First Baptist Church, Greenwood, Louisiana, is receiving resumes for prospective pastor. Please send reply to Mr. Billy Grisham, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 307, Greenwood, LA 71033.

**Receptionist/secretary** — For Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F, \$7 an hour, computer experience helpful. Send resume to Ross Burton, 1901 N. Pierce, Little Rock, AR 72707.

**Need Bivocational Music Director** — Cross Road Baptist Church. Send resume or call, 19126 Congo Ferndale Road, Little Rock, AR 72210. (501) 821-3078 or (501) 821-4653.

**Used church pews for sale** — with cushions, pulpit, two sedalias, communion table. 22 20-ft. pews, 44 13 1/2-ft. Call 318-396-1116 (Louisiana).

**For Sale** — 1967 Silver Eagle Bus. Low mileage on engine. Rest room equipped. Willow Meadows Baptist Church (Houston). Phone 713-723-2870, M.A. Clark 713-774-9007, Geo. Addison 713-723-8341.

**Powerful new Christian publication** — 25-state circulation, veteran SBC editor. A delightful monthly spiritual experience for thinking Christians. \$30 annually. "Light For Your Path," 20 Cinderwood Cove, Maumelle, AR 72113. (501) 851-2365.

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

WASHINGTON (ABP/BP) — No issue will have higher priority for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in 1994 than helping Southern Baptists understand various health-care reform proposals, CLC executive director Richard Land said at a recent Washington press conference.

Land said the CLC believes it has "a special responsibility to address health-care reform" because the agency opposes many elements in the Clinton administration's plan and because President Clinton is a Southern Baptist.

The press conference followed a one-day consultation on health-care reform that was hosted by the CLC. Twenty-one people attended the invitation-only meeting, including seven CLC staffers. Reporters were denied access to the meeting.

The consultation resulted in a "moral preamble and a statement of concerns that will be used as an interpretative and evaluative grid through which all proposed health-care reform legislation will be analyzed and critiqued," the statement said. The CLC plans to distribute the documents to all Southern Baptist pastors.

The documents specifically criticize aspects of President Clinton's proposal which the CLC says endanger the sanctity of human life, religious liberty, the physician-patient relationship, family relationships and the ministry of Southern Baptist churches and agencies. Funding for abortions tops the list of CLC concerns.

"Without question, the inclusion of abortion on demand in the final version of any health-care reform would be the most devastating setback for the pro-life movement since Roe vs. Wade," the statement says. "In 1973, the pro-life movement was caught by surprise when the Supreme Court decided Roe vs. Wade.

"The decision about health-care reform will not be by judicial fiat but will be decided by a democratic political process. And this time the pro-life movement is ready."

Other concerns listed in the statement include:

■ **Revamping the traditional physician-patient relationship:** The intrusion of health-care alliances into the relationship between a doctor and a patient can erode trust, the CLC said. "A physician's best efforts to preserve human life must never be impeded by harmful government intrusion."

■ **Religious liberty and freedom of conscience:** "It is embarrassing that a president who claims the Baptist heritage of religious freedom would consider so violating the consciences of millions of pro-life Americans by forcing them to pay for abortion with their taxes. This destroys the essence of true religious freedom."

■ **Allocation of limited medical resources:** The agency will oppose any form of "restricted access based on age, quality of life or disability."

■ **Interference with families:** "We will resist any plan which will fund abortion counseling, contraceptive distribution to minors, medical care without parental consent and school-based clinics which facilitate these activities."

■ **Impact on Southern Baptist entities and agencies:** Every Southern Baptist individual, church and organization will be "impacted significantly by any of the health-care reform proposals currently under consideration."

Acknowledging that health care is a new area of concern for the moral concerns agency, CLC officials said the statement will provide a foundational, moral framework from which they will operate.

**Health Insurance Unaffordable?**

Call All States  
1-800-259-0095

This scriptural concept of burden sharing is the alternative to expensive insurance.

- People helping people.
- Pay only \$300 + 20% of first \$3,000.
- \$122 per mo. average family burden share.
- Assistance with maternity expenses.

### KITE SPECIAL!

Promote attendance — give your boys and girls "Jesus Loves You" kites.

Colorful — Top Quality

- "Jesus Love You" Kite...
- Two-stick paper kite - 30" by 24" (One gross or more \$13.95/Dozen)
- 200' Kite Cord Only \$5.75/Dozen

Add \$2.00 Shipping (7% on orders over \$30.00) (Alabama Residents add Sales Tax)

Order From: **MINISTRY SERVICES**  
P.O. Box 432, Pleasant Grove, AL 35127  
Phone: (205) 744-6395



**ASC** COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNALING SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR

**Arkansas Sound Corporation**

7000 Remount Road  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Serving Arkansas since 1977

For All Your COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

Ask for our church sales rep. David Dillard has 25 years experience in music ministry and is here to assist you in selecting the right sound system for your needs.

STATEWIDE SALES AND SERVICE  
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE SURVEY  
(501) 753-5674 AR WATTS 1-800-441-1272

## Brotherhood leaders examine new program options and revisions

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—Brotherhood leaders representing 29 state Southern Baptist conventions got a review of a number of new and revised program offerings at a meeting termed "historic" by Brotherhood Commission president James D. Williams.

"I am evermore convinced there is a host of Southern Baptist men and boys out there who have not yet been touched and reached, and who can be," Williams said, through "new approaches" that include Challengers for young men, the EZRA method for leading Royal Ambassadors and men's ministries.

Williams' comments were made during the Jan. 26-29 Brotherhood Leadership Conference in Memphis.

Challengers will combine the agency's Pioneer Royal Ambassadors (grades seven through nine) and High School Baptist Young Men programs and offer materials designed specifically to meet the needs of male youth in grades seven through 12. They can be adapted for other youth according to individual church needs.

Resources for Challengers will include *Challenge* magazine, a leader edition of the magazine, the existing Express Missions resource kit and a reference and resource book, *Leading Challengers*. The program centers around meetings with a monthly cycle of weekly topics: foreign missions, home missions and personal missions, with use of Express Missions during the fourth week of every month.

The state leaders also examined plans for EZRA, an acronym for "Easy Royal Ambassadors," a leadership method introduced last year in a pilot experiment in Ohio. Of the 30 churches participating in the project, 22 started new Royal Ambassador units.

EZRA relies on shared leadership of the boys involved, a simplified meeting plan and multiple options for grouping of the boys, according to Tim Seanor, director of Royal Ambassadors at the Brotherhood Commission.

"We did not set out to rewrite the existing RA materials, but to make them easier for the leaders to use," Seanor said. "Boys need adult leadership, so that's what we focused on. Our existing materials are very, very good ... but if we don't have an adult to lead these boys, they're not going to benefit."

Both Challengers and EZRA will be offered starting in October. The agency's involvement in men's ministry also was reviewed by the state leaders. Williams said the "Men Making a Difference" rally concept, first announced to state convention executives last December, continues to develop.

The state leaders also heard a report on Families Making a Difference, the agency's pilot program for directing entire families into direct missions involvement. Thus far, the two-hour seminars have been offered in six local churches, with a total of 500 participants.

## Real Evangelism 1994 Bible Conference

ST. LOUIS, MO  
February 23-25, 1994

Plus: Jimmy Draper, Rick Baldwin, Bobby Boyles, Ron Phillips

Music By: Rick Stone, Greater Vision, Luke Garrett

First Baptist Church  
2012 Missouri State Rd.  
Arnold, MO 63010

For more information call:  
(314) 296-2703  
(Nursery Provided)

Bailey  
SMITH  
MINISTRIES



Bailey Smith



Jerry Falwell



Phil Hoskins



Bill Stafford

A Dynamic 3-Day Conference Featuring Some of America's Best Preachers and Musicians—Presented by Bailey Smith Ministries

## The Arkansas Baptist's

# CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

### Baptistries/Steeple

Construction Sales Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 1049  
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049  
1-800-526-9663 FAX: 501-234-6475  
Also Laminated wood arches, beams and decking.

### Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)  
9101 W. Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
501-225-6009

### Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning  
1612 Park Avenue  
Stuttgart, AR 72160  
673-2081

### Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Almco Wholesale  
10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
228-0808

### Puppetry

House of Puppetry  
P.O. Box 190055/ 78 Westminister Dr.  
Little Rock, AR 72219  
Fredda Hicks  
501-568-7769  
Puppets and Puppet Supplies

### Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1719  
Ruston, LA 71273  
Edwards, Young & Blake, Owners  
318-251-0290 FAX: 318-255-3363  
Audio system and acoustic design-installation-rental.

### MP Productions, Inc.

6301 Murray St.  
Little Rock, AR 72209  
Ken E. Newberry, Contracting Manager  
501-562-7425 FAX: 562-7521  
System design, installation, and service.

For a listing call the ABN  
at 376-4791, ext. 5155

## FMB leaders urge Muslim prayer focus

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—There's only one way to scale the towering walls of Islam with the Christian gospel, say experts on the Muslim world — with prayer.

Christians may spend 30 days doing just that Feb. 11-March 12 — coinciding with Ramadan, the annual Muslim period of prayer and fasting — as they join other Christians in praying for Muslims around the world.

For the second year, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is asking missionaries, churches, individuals, Women's Missionary Union groups and denominational leaders to set aside a month for prayer, using the booklet "30 Days: Muslim Prayer Focus."

The booklet, published by Youth With a Mission, contains information provided by numerous evangelical groups committed to Muslim ministry. It explains the basics of Islam, identifies major Muslim populations and focuses each day on a different subject of prayer such as Muslim leaders, cities, trouble spots, refugees and converts to Christianity. It may be used by individuals or groups.

Free copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Foreign Mission Board's customer services office. Call toll-free at 1-800-866-FMB1 or write FMB Customer Services at Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for strategies to reach World A, stressed the first and most important evangelism strategy is prayer.

"One of the first efforts we want to put

in place in the new World A strategy role is to find a way to call on the global Christian community to join in prayer for Muslim ministries," Myers said. "This is one of the ways we're going to get at World A" — the least-evangelized portion of the globe.

Last year's 30 days of prayer for Muslims "greatly heightened awareness of who Muslims are, where they live, how we might relate to them both here and around the world and how our personnel are trying to minister to and among them," Myers added.

The Foreign Mission Board also has declared 1995 a "Year of Prayer for the Muslim Peoples."

## Churches, individuals needed for Cross Over

ATLANTA (BP)—With 173 churches in central Florida planning to participate in Cross Over Orlando, churches and individuals from other areas are needed to help carry out the evangelistic thrust prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Participating churches represent more than half the churches and missions in the six central Florida associations, said Jerry Pipes, national missionary for the Home Mission Board's evangelism section.

"We want to match a partner church (from outside the area) with every participating church in central Florida," Pipes said.

Cross Over Orlando is jointly sponsored by six local associations, the Florida Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board. Church and individual volunteers will be

matched with Florida churches by May, and most Cross Over events will be Saturday, June 11, Pipes said.

Last year, 1,267 professions of faith, 196 rededications and 1,448 prospects were reported in Cross Over Houston.

For information on becoming a partner church or individual participant, contact the Home Mission Board at 404-898-7687.

## National conference on spiritual awakening set

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Church leaders seeking instruction for guiding their members to spiritual awakening and recovery from painful pasts can find it during a national conference March 17-19 in Euless, Texas.

"Fresh Encounter" and "Experiencing God" author Henry Blackaby and Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper Jr., will be among the keynote speakers at the National Conference on Recovery and Spiritual Awakening, to be held at the First Baptist Church of Euless.

The conference will train church leaders to help individuals who struggle with critical life issues such as painful pasts, low self-worth, codependency, eating disorders, chemical dependency, life's losses, divorce and sexual abuse recovery. The conference is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Conference fees, which include registration and conference materials, are \$35 per person. To register write National Conference on Recovery and Spiritual Awakening, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203; phone 615-251-2294.

Everyone needs HOPE...  
especially our YOUTH



Adolescent Inpatient and Outpatient Services for  
Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Treatment  
beginning February 1, 1994. Treatment for:

- > Psychiatric disorders > Substance abuse > Dual diagnosis
- > Significant behavioral problems > Sexual trauma
- > Attention deficit / hyperactivity > Compulsions

Living Hope Institute is a service at Doctors Hospital - providing a Christian component to adult and adolescent treatment.

**663-HOPE or 1-800-829-HOPE (4673)**



# Jesus' film makes eternal impact in Swaziland

MBABANE, SWAZILAND (BP)—The children filed into the brightly lit school auditorium in Swaziland, where Southern Baptist foreign missionaries Wayne Myers and Sonny Sweatman had been invited to show the "Jesus" film.

The two men were expecting only the primary-age children, but the entire school showed up, including administration — about 600 in all. A buzz of excitement and anticipation grew among the children as the missionaries prepared the film.

When the projector began rolling, a sudden hush fell over the auditorium. The children sat mesmerized by the story of Jesus unfolding on the screen. The brightness of the day created less than ideal conditions for viewing a movie, but the children strained to see, hanging on every word.

Returning the next day to complete the

film, the missionaries recruited secondary students to help them cover the big windows with blankets and black trash bags. Again the children eagerly watched as the life of Christ appeared on the screen. The vividness of Christ's last days brought strong reactions from them. As the resurrection took place, the auditorium rang with cheers.

The movie ended. Before leaving, Myers shared his Christian testimony and the two missionaries introduced special evangelical literature they had brought.

They expected the students to depart in orderly files as they had the previous day. Instead the missionaries stood in shock when the teachers simply dismissed the students, who rushed in mass to receive the literature.

As the last of the children left and the two missionaries gasped for breath,

Sweatman felt a light tug on his shirt sleeve. Turning around, he saw a small 10-year-old boy.

"What do I need to do?" the boy asked.

Since the boy was holding an enrollment form for a Bible correspondence course, Sweatman assumed he needed help with it. "Let me help you fill it out," he replied.

"No!" the boy responded immediately. "What do I need to do to know Jesus?"

Stunned by the child's sense of urgency, Sweatman took him to a quiet corner of the auditorium. There the boy invited Christ into his life.

"It's truly a privilege to be serving in Swaziland and to see God working in the lives of people in this small corner of southern Africa," Sweatman said. "Thanks to Southern Baptists for providing evangelism tools such as (copies of) the 'Jesus' film — it's making a difference!"

## Arkansas Youth Leadership Summit



"Is there not a cause?" — 1 Samuel 17:29

God, Home, Country  
June 5-18, 1994  
Camp Paron

Director: Dr. Pat Briney  
501-443-0510

**COST: \$295 includes lodging, workbook, insurance, recreation**



Arkansas' 2nd year, using curriculum from Colorado Summit Ministries, "Understanding the Times," with outstanding speakers.

### Subjects offered at AYLS

- Old and New Testament Survey • Christianity, Marxism & Humanism • The New Age Movement • Biblical Economics • Christian View of Courtship & Marriage • Creation vs. Evolution • Biblical Ethics: Abortion, Homosexuality, Drugs • Biblical Principles of Freedom • Christian Leadership Principles • Cultural Crisis in Literature, Art, Music • Biblical View of War/Peace • America's Christian Heritage • Strategy for Christian Action

### What AYLS can do for you

- Inest two weeks in us, and we give you in return:*
- A solid foundation of Biblical truth • A Christian conservative perspective in theology, philosophy, psychology, science, economics, etc.
  - An understanding of the ideas and forces shaping our time (1 Chronicles 12:32) • A positive defense of the home, state and church • A critique of Humanism (secular and New Age), Marxism, socialism, evolution, liberalism, ethical relativism, etc. • Great Christian friendships • The best in Christian leadership training • A new confidence in your ability to take positive and effective action in the world around you.

*"God is not silent about society. Nor is He silent about our responsibility for our society. I greatly admire the courageous leaders of the Arkansas Youth Leadership Summit who are seeking to fill the need of equipping Christian young people to be informed and effective Christian citizens."*

— Don Moore, executive director  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

*"AYLS is one of the most positive prospects for helping to identify and encourage leadership based on a biblical world view!"*

— Mike Huckabee  
Arkansas Lt. Governor

### Hey Kids!

Join us for a summer conference that will change your life! It will be the most intense, enjoyable and challenging two weeks you have ever experienced. Bring your ball glove and musical instrument. Being a Christian in the twentieth century can be tough. At the Arkansas Youth Leadership Summit you will discover that a worldview based on God's Word is superior to other ways of life. You will learn how to defend your faith and live life with meaning and purpose. Most of all you will get the "boost" of preparation, motivation and direction you need to make an impact for Christ in the world.



CALL 501-369-4923 or 497-1207 or write  
Arkansas Youth Leadership Summit

Kelly Hill, Student Director  
17400 Boston Mt. Rd.  
Mountainburg, AR 72946

I am 15 years old or older

- Please send AYLS student application
- Please send AYLS counselor application
- Please send AYLS video (loan)
- Would like team to come to our church

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_









Evening Shade First-Everi Central-Magnolia Franklin-Franklin Gouin-Gouin, AR Sage-Hardy Horsehoe Bend First-Hors Immauxal Southern-Salem Maconns First-Melbourne Midway-Melbourne Mount Pleasant Southern-M Wynona Ash Flat Oxford-Oxford Rocky Bayou-Franklin Sage-Sage Salmon First-Salem Sidney-Sidney Sylvers First-Calico Roc Zion Hill-Melbourne	322.63 72.83 892.75 2,090.00 3,689.88 3,089.18 753.34 5,830.37 2,111.90 207.50 335.21 80.00 840.35 1,540.76 2,098.15 1,696.99 2,699.99 1,633.98	1,481.20 1,251.80 833.50 82.21 8,252.89 10,520.43 600.00 12,887.67 4,232.42 6,000.00 1,240.98 846.80 0.00 3,993.77 4,688.77 5,973.60 677.71 1,214.32	Good Hope-Forest City Good Hope Harris-Wynne Hydrick-Cherry Valley Imperial-Forest Memphis Ingram Boulevard-West Mem Lakisha Estates-Marion Lynch-Hughes Madison First-Madison Marion-Marion Marion-Hughes Morton-Morton Mystic-Myrtle Palestine-Myrtle Palmer First-Palestine Parkin First-Parkin Pineville-Myrtle Pleasant Hill-Wynne Richard-West Memphis Riverside-Wynne Slick Lake-Heth Titton-Hickory Ridge Trotter Union Avenue-Wynne Vanderbilt Avenue-West Me Vandale-Vandale West Memphis First-West M2 West Memphis Second-West Westley-Whidener Widener-Whidener Wynne-Wynne	1,500.00 860.38 1,121.03 84.00 541.00 2,263.63 60.00 3,339.50 227.09 5,000.06 2,339.50 432.45 190.00 259.00 2,680.10 430.00 934.48 331.39 426.00 120.00 1,220.00 426.00 1,085.91 1,302.26 1,356.76 3,385.00 2,020.00 11,387.17	3,158.00 1,831.83 2,013.00 890.77 4,071.00 11,152.22 1,158.17 2,581.31 1,981.80 27,483.75 2,581.31 1,855.84 1,430.10 2,581.31 1,072.00 1,726.95 2,485.02 2,400.00 2,381.00 1,428.00 2,485.02 13,527.71 1,356.76 132,378.06 15,212.16 4,305.00 1,735.50 43,100.04	Farrington First-Farrin Fayetteville First-Fayette First Southern-Kingston Friendship-Springdale Joshua-First Southern-Gos Greenland First-Greenland Hindville-Hindville Huntsville First-Huntsvil Immauxal-Fayetteville Johnson-Johnson Lake Hill-Fayetteville Liberty-Lincoln Life Change Com. Fellowsh Lincoln First-Lincoln Northeast Southern-Fayett Oak Grove-Springdale Old Missouri-Boon-Sprin Prairie Fost-First-Pair Providence-Fayetteville Ridgewood-Fayetteville Sang Avenue-Fayetteville Sierra Estates-Fayettevil Silent Grove-Springdale Sona-Springdale Southside-Westfork, AR Springdale First-Springda Sturges-Fayetteville University-Fayetteville Washington-Madison-Fayett Wedington Woods-Fayettvil West Fork-First-West For Western Hills Southern-Fa Winslow First-Winslow	725.48 43,535.53 78.27 1,898.21 2,157.01 2,157.01 898.28 2,850.00 1,908.07 787.80 1,536.00 1,137.61 1,581.00 2,021.78 2,310.00 252.68 2,850.00 6,582.88 9,891.64 525.76 1,939.00 8,822.73 10.00 2,284.12 2,284.12 1,32.38 5,204.45 6,822.73 5,204.45 4,500.00 4,500.00 71.00 1,682.88	8,890.40 104,487.84 78.27 3,742.35 5,737.07 3,000.00 3,348.86 10,868.98 1,908.07 1,536.00 4,587.25 11,586.81 1,101.69 2,048.67 10,264.28 8,981.64 9,891.64 1,581.00 4,284.12 2,284.12 4,208.15 688.00 2,284.12 4,208.15 218,668.38 3,210.32 40,233.78 4,208.15 1,921.87 861.00 4,882.89			
<b>Southeast</b>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Coop</i>	<i>Tri-County</i>	<i>Trinity</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Coop</i>	<i>Washington-Madison</i>	<i>White River</i>	<i>Designated</i>		
Anderson-Hope Arapella Heights-Texarkana Beech Street First-Texark Bradley-Bradley Calvary-Hope Canfield-Lewisville Central-Magnolia Comarstone-Texarkana Faith-Texarkana Fayetteville-Texarkana Forks First-Forks Gautka-Gautka Groves First-Groves Greco Community-Texarkana Guernsey-Hope Hickory Street-Texarkana Highland Hills-Texarkana Hope First-Hope Imperial Magnolia Lewisville First-Lewisville Macedonia at Doddridge-Div Macedonia First-Forks Mandeville-Texarkana McNeil Second-McNeil Memorial-Waldo Mitchell Street-Texarkana Mount Zion-Doddridge Piney Grove-Lewisville Pinson Park-Texarkana Playa-Forks Ree River-Bradley Rocky Mount-Forks Shiloh Memorial-Texarkana South Texarkana-Texarkana Springhill-Forks Styer First-Stamps Sylvers-Forks Tennessee-Texarkana Trinity-Texarkana Westside-Magnolia	316.00 646.20 52,232.20 2,130.87 6,843.03 1,048.66 1,175.34 2,879.00 851.68 360.00 1,535.39 1,638.12 0.00 8,665.00 2,029.45 47,294.70 360.00 2,245.00 1,610.00 1,088.08 163.50 517.00 1,306.00 0.00 787.00 864.54 883.70 0.00 1,264.00 1,500.89 817.00 7,259.92 1,171.32 2,248.98 12,493.74 835.98	2,642.38 1,168.76 120,619.04 862.30 4,077.08 1,833.28 1,754.75 16,202.33 2,013.79 997.36 17,451.02 343.00 5,687.08 0.00 11,518.68 8,748.27 91,045.33 997.36 11,287.29 1,801.00 1,988.08 1,685.12 78.00 7,378.73 0.00 3,147.48 1,493.05 2,602.81 668.72 1,760.47 6,325.64 1,900.95 2,817.76 22,367.00 5,200.47 3,554.06 117,340.30 835.98	132,358.95	403,541.80	452.80 819.32 2,458.89 897.00 1,159.32 236.74 1,889.00 3,289.49 236.74 1,889.00 1,889.00 1,889.00 1,061.51 3,289.49 3,710.00 4,732.25 1,889.00 2,086.38 751.00 3,871.41 863.00 324.65 860.00 1,500.50 334.18 1,089.57 61,003.24 883.00 1,792.14 905.61 225.00 5,803.78 1,442.95 412.00 45.88 385.00 60.71	819.74 10,160.12 1,200.12 1,593.75 1,651.35 956.15 1,372.35 658.37 2,147.20 3,289.49 1,858.98 10,348.87 2,362.33 12,594.51 2,271.93 14,182.95 583.02 350.54 600.00 13,459.67 2,227.27 1,583.93 2,443.30 783.00 1,792.14 1,304.88 643.76 3,047.26 869.37 91.52 1,897.04	Washington-Madison 230,126.45	White River Antioch-Flippin Arkana-Mountain Home Big Flat-Big Flat Bruno-Everson Bull Shoals-Bull Shoals Cotter First-Cotter East Oakland-Mountain Hom Eastside-Mountain Home Rappin First-Fippin Gamaliel-Gamaliel Gasville-Gasville Henderson First-Henderson Hill Top-Oakland Hopewell-Mountain Home Lone Rock-Norfork Midway-Midway Mountain Home First-Mount Mountain Home-Mountain Ho New Hope-Yellville Norfolk First-Norfolk Peel-Peel Pilgrims Rest-Gasville Pett-Pett Rea Valley-Fippin Summit-Summit Tombahawk-Saint Joe White River-Fippin Whiteville-Gasville Yellville First-Yellville	2,500.00 2,408.58 71.00 1,682.88 320,126.45	825.99 210.00 66.00 1,000.00 1,000.00 2,326.62 5,204.45 26.00 4,430.24 1,718.95 419.44 1,127.49 2,438.89 201.27 163.00 406.00 2,937.47 131,714.28 445.30 175.00 179.75 267.89 1,578.00 654.05 0.00 659.15 882.03 4,823.34	713.82 1,929.00 3,300.00 8,169.98 4,483.43 5,204.45 480.10 16,461.70 3,100.05 721.08 8,027.08 4,147.15 203.94 843.43 3,333.92 7,987.38 1,174.28 7,868.83 2,281.74 1,352.00 854.77 1,735.00 3,398.48 1,420.00 3,937.51 1,069.38 16,415.27
<b>Tri-County</b>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Coop</i>	<i>Trinity</i>	<i>Washington-Madison</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Coop</i>	<i>Individual Contributions</i>	<i>Designated</i>			
Antioch-Wynne Barton-Tyronza Beckspur-Forest City Burnt Camp-Widener Cherry Valley-Cherry Vall Cok-Cok Crawfordsville-First-Craw Earle-Earle East-Wynne Forest City-Forest City Fair Oaks-McCrory Faith-Forest City Fayetteville-Wynne Forest City First-Fores Forest City Second-Fore Glenwood-Glenwood Gladden-Earle	200.00 377.00 1,861.95 4,482.00 3,912.54 460.00 382.00 31,739.70 1,126.26 2,663.02 1,403.59 77.34 2,663.02 17,030.26 2,378.83 215.00 475.00	1,095.60 2,604.53 11,890.45 600.00 10,956.60 11,890.45 14,989.02 4,048.57 5,203.75 5,203.75 1,141.20 2,663.02 30,000.00 12,552.00 1,890.00 938.55	2,604.53 4,048.57 5,203.75 1,141.20 2,663.02 30,000.00 12,552.00 1,890.00 938.55	2,471.00 7,634.90 5,858.17 2,309.54 51.00 4,092.50 2,309.54 21.00 240.00 285.00 240.00	2,471.00 7,634.90 5,858.17 2,309.54 51.00 4,092.50 2,309.54 21.00 240.00 285.00 240.00	243,934.97	77,798.64	1,940.00			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Coop</i>	<i>Tri-County</i>	<i>Trinity</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Coop</i>	<i>Individual Contributions</i>	<i>Designated</i>			
	5,712,391.86	15,192,944.06									



# One Motive -- Serving ALL Mankind

Observe Cooperative Program Day, Sunday, April 17

## Convention Uniform

### True greatness

By Lonnie W. Latham, DOM,  
Bartholomew Association  
Basic passage: Luke 22:1-30  
Focal passage: Luke 22:24-30  
Central truth: The true greatness of a Christian is the willingness to sacrifice so that others may be blessed.

We join the apostles and our Lord Jesus at the Last Supper. What a myriad of thoughts must have whirled through the mind of Jesus. This was His last night to be with them. He warned them of His eminent betrayal. They struggled with the identity of this person.

At the same time they struggled over who would be the greatest among them. Pride was robbing them of the truth of that moment. Betrayal raised its ugly head in two forms: the betrayal of the person of Jesus, and the betrayal of His teachings on service and humility.

True greatness is seen in Jesus. He is the ultimate in greatness. He is our pattern, our ideal, our motivation, our goal. All that He is, we are ultimately to become. No other model is offered for us. No other is needed. Did they have trouble recognizing His true greatness? Do we?

True greatness is not found in having power over people. True greatness is the power to serve. We often hear about spiritual pyramids. I believe in an upside down pyramid for all Christians. The idea of true greatness is not working our way up over people, but working our way down under them. True greatness is getting underneath others to support them, to lift them up, and to help them.

True greatness makes us understand the worth of others. Imagine 10 people sitting at a table. A bowl containing 10 pieces of fruit is passed from person to person. All the fruit is good but some is better than others. Everyone must take one piece of fruit. If all 10 people are right with God and have His heart, the last piece of fruit to be received will be the best piece. Why? Because in true Christianity, every Christian sacrifices to insure that others are blessed. That's our true greatness.

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

## Life and Work

### Our first priority

By Snookie Dixon, minister of education, First Church, Arkadelphia  
Basic passage: Luke 12:13-34  
Focal passage: Luke 12:15  
Central truth: In the day of our need God is sufficient and can be fully trusted.

Jesus took advantage of every opportunity to help us understand what our priorities should be in this life. Since He was a teacher and teachers were often asked to settle disputes, the door was open for another example to be shared with the people in order that they might learn what is most important in this life.

The rich fool never saw beyond himself and he never saw beyond this world. He was interested only in obtaining more and more so that when he grew old and retired, he would have much security. His was a self-centered life. Jesus called him foolish because when he died his goods would do nothing for him. They would be given to someone else. Such a person is not rich toward God.

Jesus also had some advice to those who had little. He asked that each person do his best and not worry about what they would wear, or what they would eat. Leave the rest to God. Jesus reminds the disciples to "consider the ravens...yet God feeds them" (v. 24); "...consider the lilies...even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these" (v. 27). "...how much more will He clothe you, O men of little faith!" (v. 28). God is sufficient for every need.

There are several reasons to avoid worldly anxiety. First, one misses what life is truly about; second, worry is ineffective, for the present is robbed of meaning; and third, worldly anxiety means that we do not trust God.

Living in the daily provision that God gives leads us to freedom and security in Him. "For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also" (v. 34). Jesus is the one thing that can never be taken away from us. He is our "treasure." He is our "first" priority.

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

## Bible Book

### The authority of life

By Rex Pilcher, associate pastor, Parkway Place Church, Little Rock  
Basic passage: John 5:1-47  
Focal passage: John 5:16-47  
Central truth: Jesus is Lord over life and we must respond to Him.

Jesus healed on the Sabbath and became the object of criticism and persecution. This provided Him an opportunity to express the truth concerning His nature and relationship to the Father and the Jews' heart condition.

A charge was made against Jesus in verse 16 and He disputed it in verses 17-38. In disputing the charge He gives evidence from His Father, from John the Baptist and from the results of His actions. In verses 39-47 He makes a charge against the Jews.

The Jews thought they were on solid ground in their criticism of His Sabbath healing. They misunderstood God's command concerning the Sabbath. It was a day to enjoy God's creative work, not be completely inactive. Jesus clearly realized God was engaged in His redemptive work even on the Sabbath day and He joined His Father in that work.

The Jews heard Jesus putting His work on the same level as God's and went berserk. This response revealed an unbelieving heart. They attempted three times to kill Him (John 5:17; 8:58-59; 10:30-31) and finally succeeded. But Jesus ignored their reaction and went on to make many phenomenal claims in this important passage.

Jesus described His relationship with God in clear terms. He said He could see what God was doing and He did those same things. This was possible not only because of His communion with God but because He was part of the Godhead and was aware of what God was doing. Jesus had the knowledge of God.

Jesus also had the love of God and He loved His Father. God indicated that He should heal the man and Jesus responded.

Jesus also has power over death and can give eternal life to anyone. God has given Him authority to execute judgment on all men. To judge rightly, one must have total knowledge. In our day there are some who claim Jesus was not God, but less than God. John 5 and other passages in John show who Jesus is based on His own claims. Jesus aptly pointed out in verse 39 that the Jews put their trust in words rather than in God.

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

## Convention Uniform

### Genuine power

By Lonnie W. Latham, DOM,  
Bartholomew Association  
Basic passage: Luke 23:32-47;  
24:13-35

Focal passage: Luke 23:32-47; 24:23  
Central truth: All genuine power  
belongs to God.

God is omnipotent, all powerful. We believe that, but exactly what does that mean? God can do absolutely anything.

One of God's powers since He has all power is to limit Himself. That is how God became man. He limited Himself into the form of a man (Phil 2:7). God in the flesh is God limited. That is His submissive power.

God has the power to die. Jesus did not die under the weight of sin, even though He received every sin that would ever and has ever been committed. He did not die from rejection, depression or political intrigue. He died because He had the power to die. "And He gave up the ghost" (Luke 23:46). His life was not taken from Him. He gave it to His Father. That's power! No need to pity Jesus on the cross. Jesus was absolutely in control of this event, because He was absolutely obedient to the perfect will of His heavenly Father. That is God's obedient power.

God has the power to save. Christ's ministry is to seek and save the lost. When the malefactor asked for Jesus just to remember Him, Jesus did more. He saved him. "Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). After all, ultimate salvation is being with Jesus. That's God's gracious power.

God has resurrection power. Jesus had told His disciples that if He laid down His life, He would pick it up again. Power to lay life down and power to pick it up again, that's power. "And when they found not His body, they came, saying that they had seen a vision of angels, which said He was alive" (Luke 24:23). The crucified, buried Jesus is alive. That's God's life-giving power.

All genuine power belongs to God. How He uses it is relative to His perfect moral will. That's God's moral power.

## Life and Work

### A father's heart

By Snookie Dixon, minister of  
education, First Church,  
Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32  
Focal passage: Luke 15:18-20  
Central truth: When a sinner comes  
home to God, there is indescribable  
joy.

Tax gatherers and sinners were always wanting to hear Jesus and get close to Him. But few wanted to accept the challenge of the kind of life He offered them just as the Prodigal Son did not want to accept the good life his father provided for him.

The Prodigal looked for fulfillment in a distant place. Blinded to his father's love, he asked for his inheritance. It was like telling his father, "I wish you were dead. Give me my share" (v. 12). Discontent robbed him of today's blessings.

The father had to let go. "And he divided his wealth between them" (v. 12). The son left. There is a far country in each of our hearts which builds a barrier to the Heavenly Father, though He pursues us.

The son looked for love inside himself, but he came to hate what he had become. He learned from bad choices. However, regret and remorse were accompanied by firm action, when he said, "I will get up and go...and will say to him" (v. 18). Many times experience is the best teacher.

The son looked to the father for love. He radiated repentance as he came into the view of his father. The father's love erupted. "His father saw him...felt compassion...ran...embraced...kissed him" (v. 20) and said to "...bring the best robe...put a ring on his hand...sandals on his feet" (v. 22).

The robe stands for honor; the ring for authority; and the shoes stand for a son as opposed to a slave. The father is always eager to embrace a repentant son and put him again in a place of honor.

This parable tells us more of a father's love than a son's sin. When we move outside the will of the Heavenly Father, we are faced with problem after problem. It is only when we "come to our senses" (repent) and come home to trust Him completely with life's circumstances that we begin to understand a little of how great God's love is for each of His children.

God is not a "give me" God but a "make me" God. When we reach this point in our relationship with God, then we are truly His.

## Bible Book

### The miraculous feeding

By Rex Pilcher, associate pastor,  
Parkway Place Church, Little Rock  
Basic passage: John 6:1-71

Focal passage: John 6:30-40  
Central truth: Whoever believes on  
the Son of God has eternal life.

In the first part of the chapter Jesus performed an astounding miracle: the feeding of 10,000 people. Yet just a day later many of the same people He fed asked Jesus for another sign. What greater sign could they have? Their response is indicative of the response of an unbelieving heart. It is more common in our churches than we might want to admit.

They said to Jesus: Why don't you do something like Moses did in feeding the people in the wilderness? It's great that you fed us, but do it for 40 years. Jesus corrects them by pointing out God fed the Israelites in the wilderness. And it is God who was giving them the true and living bread from heaven. Just as manna was from heaven, so Christ was from heaven.

In verse 35 Jesus makes the first of His seven "I Am" statements. This is the focal statement of Jesus' sermon. In other "I Am" statements, Jesus identified Himself with the I Am of the Old Testament. He is saying that believing is to one's spiritual life what eating and drinking is to physical life.

Some who had seen and heard Christ still did not believe in Him unto salvation (v. 36). Some in our churches today have seen Christ and heard about Him and still have not believed on Him for eternal life. In teaching this lesson we must not fail to press this point and create the atmosphere for someone to finally believe in Christ as savior. Do not assume that attendance is evidence of regeneration.

Jesus addresses the sovereignty of God in verse 37. The Bible teaches God predestines us to become His children. That predestination is based on or influenced by His foreknowledge. God knows all who will believe in Christ, gives them to Christ and Christ doesn't lose any of them.

One who has believed in Christ for salvation can be secure that he or she will live eternally with Christ, based on the promise in verses 39 and 40. When He says all, He even means all who have stumbled at times. Our security rests in God's word, not in our feelings or behavior.

Scripture is abundant with evidences of salvation not to be ignored. This promise gives great comfort for believers.



## Subscriber Services

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

Every **Resident Family Plan** gives churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

A **Group Plan** (formerly called the

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.  
P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, AR 72203

CAR-RT 50RT  
017557 COMP 2230  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203  
\*\*CR39

Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church. Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

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

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

## NEWS DIGEST

### Cooperative Program gifts continue to exceed budget

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January, although down slightly from January last year, continue the trend of monthly increases for the fiscal year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The CP gifts for January 1994 totaled \$14,254,071 compared to January 1993 of \$14,292,208, a 2.7 decrease of \$38,137. But the year-to-date figures, October through January, showed CP receipts at \$48,621,957 compared to the previous fiscal year-to-date of \$47,764,007 which is an \$857,949 increase or 1.80 percent.

The four month totals, fiscal year-to-date, show \$48,621,957 compared to that period's budget requirement of \$46,078,245 or 5.52 percent above the requirement. Designated gifts for the year-to-date, 1993-94 has \$28,113,779 compared to 1992-93 of \$29,560,263 or a 4.89 percent decrease.

### BSU student leader among murder victims at Taco Bell

CLARKSVILLE, TN (BP)—The slaying of four workers at a Taco Bell restaurant in Clarksville, Tenn., has brought grief to the entire community, including the Baptist Student Union at Austin Peay State University.

Kevin Campbell, an officer of the BSU, was one of the four killed Jan. 30. Campbell and the other three employees — all in their 20s — were completing work at the restaurant when they were killed during the early morning robbery.

Campbell — a student, employee and a new father — was preparing to co-lead a Bible study at the center, said Jim Alexander, BSU director at Austin Peay. Campbell and his wife, Lori, had a baby three weeks earlier.

### Court rules clinics can sue under racketeering law

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Groups which physically block abortion clinics or otherwise hinder women seeking abortions can be sued under a federal racketeering law, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously Jan. 24.

The high court reversed a lower court decision that abortion clinics could not sue protesters under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO). Under RICO, a pattern of racketeering amounts to two or more crimes from a long list of acts including extortion and murder.

The lower court said that RICO required that racketeering activity be motivated by economics, rather than ideology or religion. The Supreme Court, however, ruled that RICO can be applied even when there is no economic motive.

### Florida church will appeal ruling on financial records

SANFORD, FL (BP)—A Florida church will appeal a ruling by a circuit court judge which ordered the church to open its financial records to a woman who, the judge ruled, was improperly removed from the congregation.

According to William "Bob" Parker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Markham Woods in Lake Mary, the church plans to appeal Circuit Judge Newman Brock's ruling based on First Amendment grounds.

Ann B. Haynes filed suit Aug. 27, 1993, asking to inspect church financial records. However, Parker, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, claims Haynes was removed from membership prior to her request on Aug. 17.

Haynes questioned whether the pastor had properly spent a \$416,000 bequest, had received interest-free loans from the church and used the church's tax-exempt status to avoid property taxes on his home by transferring the title to the church. Parker claims an audit of the church records revealed nothing to substantiate those charges.

### Rainer, Mims named deans at Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has named an Alabama pastor and a current faculty member to deanships at the Louisville, Ky., school.

Thom S. Rainer, senior pastor of Green Valley Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., will head the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, and Lloyd Mims, associate professor of church music, will lead the School of Church Music. Both Mims and Rainer hold doctoral degrees from Southern.

Rainer, 38, has been senior pastor of Green Valley since 1990. He previously was pastor of churches in Florida, Kentucky and Indiana. He is a trustee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mims, 43, joined the seminary faculty in 1984. He served on church staffs in Kentucky and Mississippi.