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July 24, 1997

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



news magazine



FIRE

Camp Paron dining facility destroyed in July 9 blaze caused by lightning strike.

“ I can't help but be thankful there was no one injured after seeing the devastation of the building. ”

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

BOBBY BEAN
Resident manager, Camp Paron



Prayer for evangelism highlights BWA council

Baptist World Alliance president Nilson do Amaral Fanini continued his drive to call 10 million Baptists to prayer for world evangelization during the July 3-9 meeting of the BWA's general council.

Fanini recapped the prayer initiative, "World Prayer 2000," to more than 500 delegates from 30 countries at the BWA meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"World Prayer 2000" asks Baptists to pray both for personal revival and for the evangelization of the world. "We need prayer power more than any other power," Fanini stressed.

Fanini's emphasis on prayer is part of his threefold goal: that every Baptist will win one more person to Christ before the year 2000, that every church will begin one new congregation before the turn of the century and that each member commit to World Prayer 2000.

In other business, the council approved an International Conference on Racism and Ethnic Conflict to be held in January 1999 in Atlanta to coincide with the birthday of slain civil rights leader and Baptist minister Martin Luther King Jr.

"We as Baptists must be in the forefront of reconciliation," BWA general secretary Denton Lotz told the council. "That is part of our tradition as Baptists."

The council also called for a renewed commitment to human rights, peace in the Middle East and a ban on land mines.

According to BWA communications officer Wendy Ryan, the stance adopted in Vancouver on human rights noted that the BWA "recognizes with gratitude that 1998 will mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' which has exerted a great moral influence in the cause of justice, peace and religious tolerance." The BWA called on its member unions and conventions and their local churches "to unmask everything that does violence to human dignity and to seek justice for all peoples, especially those who have no voice, no power and no friends," Ryan reported.

Concerning the Middle East, Ryan said, the council expressed concern "that the Middle East peace process has only partially been implemented and this threatens the stability of all the states in the region." The BWA encouraged its member unions and conventions "to take all steps possible to urge their governments to strengthen the hand of the United Nations in its efforts to counteract aggression within the area and to ensure the full implementation of the March 1993 peace accords," Ryan said.

Recounting that more than 100 million anti-personnel land mines are deployed in 70-plus countries and another 100 million are stockpiled by governments, the council affirmed an agreement by more than 60 national governments to ban land mines. Ryan said the BWA encouraged Baptists worldwide "to investigate whether their respective governments have agreed to ban the production and use of land mines and if necessary to secure their commitment to join the community of nations pursuing the elimination of this scourge."

In other actions, the council approved the August 1998 operating budget of just over \$1.5 million and a funding goal of more than \$2 million for Baptist World Aid relief projects.

It accepted three new member bodies: the Federation of Baptists in El Salvador, the Union of Baptist Protestant Churches in Benin and the Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Burkina Faso, bringing BWA to 191 member bodies.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (BP)

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine



Cover Story

Camp Paron fire.....3

The dining hall facility at Arkansas Baptists' Camp Paron was destroyed by fire July 9, prompting a Girls in Action camp to be cancelled. Other camp activities resumed July 14.

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Available on CompuServe through the Publications Library of SBCNet.

Next issue: August 7

Fire destroys Camp Paron dining hall

Lightning hits Baptist camp facility, damage estimated at \$250,000

Fire destroyed the dining hall and kitchen at Camp Paron July 9, prompting the cancellation of a Girls in Action camp scheduled to begin the following day. The fire apparently was caused by a lightning strike, according to fire and insurance officials.

The 4,500-square-foot facility, valued at approximately \$250,000, was about 35 to 40 years old. The camp, owned by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is located on a 236-acre site west of Little Rock on Highway 9. In addition to the loss of the dining facility, lightning damaged the heating and air conditioning units in the camp's infirmary building.

The dining hall fire was discovered by GA camp director Sandy Wisdom-Martin, who had traveled to the camp the evening of July 9 to prepare for the next day's activities. "We had come through a terrible storm," Wisdom-Martin recalled. "When we turned onto the Camp Paron road, we saw smoke billowing from the camp."

By the time she and three camp counselors reached the site, "the dining hall was already engulfed in flames," Wisdom-Martin noted. After she called 911 to report the blaze, volunteer firefighters from Paron, Salem and Crows responded, with the first units arriving at the camp eight minutes after the alarm. Fire officials noted on their report, however, that the structure already was "fully involved" before they arrived.

Resident camp manager Bobby Bean, who was attending church when the fire broke out, said he wasn't aware of the crisis until he saw the smoke as he returned to the campground that evening. Noting that the structure's "roof had fallen in" by the time he arrived at the scene, he said it was "a devastating feeling" to watch the facility burn.

Despite the loss, Bean pointed out that the night of the fire "was the only Wednesday this summer when there were not campers scheduled to be here." Another group of GAs had completed their camp earlier in the day and had left Camp Paron several hours before the fire began.

"I can't help but be thankful there was no one injured after seeing the devastation of the building," Bean remarked.

"I was eternally grateful that it happened when no kids or staff were at camp," Wisdom-Martin agreed.



▲ Bobby Bean (above, left), resident manager of Camp Paron, and Dan Jordan, director of business services for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, survey the devastation from a July 9 fire that destroyed the Baptist camp's dining facilities. Bean emphasized that he was "thankful there was no one injured after seeing the devastation of the building."

According to Dan Jordan, Arkansas Baptist director of business services, the destroyed facility was adequately insured with replacement-cost insurance as well as coverage for debris removal and other related expenses. Demolition and debris removal were scheduled last week.

Five days after the fire, a scheduled Royal Ambassadors camp went on as planned thanks to the assistance of Paron School officials. The school leaders volunteered the use of the school cafeteria for meal preparation for the rest of the summer. Bean said the meals are being prepared at the school by the camp kitchen staff and then transported to the campground and served in the camp's activities building.

Voicing appreciation to the firefighters, school officials and others "responding to our need in a time of crisis," Bean said the first week of camp after the fire "has been pretty hectic but we've survived so far." He added that the campers "seem to have

adjusted" and realize that "we're doing the best we can do."

State convention executive director Emil Turner said convention officials plan to begin working with an architect to develop new building plans following completion of the insurance settlement. Noting that "we're moving with all reasonable haste," he said he anticipates that a new structure will be completed prior to next summer's camping season.

"This has opened the door to long-range planning about how we can improve Camp Paron overall and make it more usable to Arkansas Baptists," he noted, adding that Bean's expertise as camp manager "has proven to be invaluable during this crisis."

Emphasizing that day-to-day camp operations are going "as smoothly as we could expect right now," Bean pointed out, "Hopefully, we can come out of this with a better facility and more up-to-date equipment."

A Pastor's
Heart

Emil Turner

ABCs Executive Director

Phone calls. Nineteen. That is the average number of phone calls per hour that come to our building through our toll-free number (1-800-838-2272). But the calls do not all come at the same time. They come in flurries. Almost every call represents a question. Usually the calls deal with ministry needs that we can meet. Occasionally, there are some "doozies."

A lady — not a member of a Baptist church — was upset about the ordination practices of a church in another state. "Why aren't you doing something about it?" she asked.

Another caller — not a Baptist — was upset about the plans of a nearby church to relocate. She thought she should "report them to headquarters."

An anonymous caller wanted to know

if we have "caller I.D." We don't.

A surprising number of non-Baptists call us — usually wanting to complain about something some Baptists have done. Reporters call usually because something controversial has happened. (No one from the *Democrat-Gazette* has asked about our 12-year high in baptisms.) Pastors call — we are glad they do — for a wide array of reasons. Church members call. Again, we work for them — we are glad they call.

With more than 150 calls per workday, our automated answering machine helps us keep up and our switchboard workers do a great job. By the way, we are glad you called. Call back soon.

■ Have you read *Fatal Illusions* by James Lucas? (AMA, 1997). This is a book about getting things done. Written for managers, it identifies "illusions" or mistaken ideas that keep us from being effective. This book does not have a biblical message, but applying it to churches will help pastors and church workers identify misconceptions about their ministries.

Executive director's schedule:

July 27 FBC, DeQueen

July 28 Convention Nominating

Committee

July 29 Finance Committee

August 8-9 Iowa Partnership

August 10 FBC, Dierks

In the course of our conversation Truett said something like this, "Dad, I know if I am a preacher I'll never do as well as you." My heart was (and is) touched by his words, but he is wrong in his assessment. No one knows their limitations and failings better than I know mine. I have always been convinced that the measure of a ministry is not best measured by statistics, size and recognition. God calls us, gifts us and places us where He wills. This makes comparisons with other ministers and ministries fruitless.

There are no such things as small works for God. So many look for the next "promotion" in church or denominational life, believing that will bring peace and contentment. Remind yourself that God placed you here and are, knows where you are and is perfectly capable of placing you somewhere else in His time. It is God who exalts, lifts up and "promotes."

How often have we thought, "If I only served that church...or, if I were him, I would..." You don't and you aren't so let us all serve the Lord where we have been placed. There is one thing we are commanded to do for each other: "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law" (Rom. 13:8).

Rex Worme, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

President's
Perspective

Rex Worme

ABCs President

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psalm 75:6-7).

My 12-year-old son and I were discussing the will of God recently. He told me there were times he felt God might be calling him to preach. I, of course, am thrilled that my children would desire to know and do the will of God. I am pleased that my son recognizes vocational ministry is a call from God and not the choice of man.

On the other hand, I confess I was also troubled. Every pastor can look across their ministry and remember heartache, disappointment and pain. You don't want that for your child. You do, however, quickly confess that all the challenges we face pale to nothing when compared to the privilege of serving the Lord Jesus.

quotes

"We as Baptists must be in the forefront of reconciliation."

—Denton Lotz, general secretary
Baptist World Alliance

"Growing churches are churches that have effective discipleship programs."

—Betty Jones, discipleship training
director, Red River Association

"God calls us, gifts us and places us where He wills."

—Rex Worme, president
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

Now is the time for prayer power

Declaring that "we need prayer power more than any other power," Baptist World Alliance president Nilson Fanini has issued a call for 10 million Baptists to fervently pray for world evangelization as part of "World Prayer 2000," an international prayer initiative.

Fanini's appeal coincides with Southern Baptists' annual Day of Prayer for World Peace which is scheduled this year for Aug. 3. "Lord, You will establish peace" (Isa. 26:12) is the focus of the '98 prayer emphasis.

Another growing phenomenon in Southern Baptist life is prayerwalking. According to Randy Sprinkle, director of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's international prayer strategy office, prayerwalking involves walking with a partner in an area where there are needs and praying as the Holy Spirit makes individuals sensitive and aware of the needs.

Sprinkle, who directed a prayerwalk practicum in Little Rock earlier this year, emphasized that "prayerwalking is not a stroll in the park; it is praying on site with an unusual insight for those who are captives in a darkened world." He added that "what God is doing when we walk with Him out among the people of the world is that our intercessions move to a whole new level."

On both the state and national levels, prayer has become a prominent focus of student-led "See You at the Pole" events each fall as well as more traditional prayer emphases for state, national and international mission efforts. Here in Arkansas,

Straight from the Editor



Trennis Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Missions Service Corps volunteer Dave Greenman serves as the state convention's Bold Mission Prayer Thrust coordinator, seeking to actively involve local Baptist churches and associations in intercessory prayer ministries.

“ We must be careful to guard against the extremes of spiritual arrogance and spiritual apathy....The starting point is bowing humbly in prayer. ”

What do each of these prayer strategies have in common? Each emphasis is a reminder of the vital power of prayer among Christians earnestly seeking God's

will. A renewed focus on the priority of prayer also points toward the Holy Spirit's constant presence in the life of every believer.

Emphasizing in Luke 18:1 that "men ought always to pray," Christ's words are echoed by the apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 5:17 as he urges fellow believers to "pray without ceasing."

In our churches, nation and world, it often seems that prayer is a low priority, even among those who consider themselves followers of Jesus Christ. Politics, business, recreation and countless other time-consuming activities generally vie for our attention while spiritual matters slide far down the list.

Whether the concern is world peace, evangelistic fervor or local mission efforts, Southern Baptists should lead the way in making faithful prayer a top priority in our personal lives, our local churches and our denomination. We must be careful to guard against the extremes of spiritual arrogance and spiritual apathy derailing efforts to encourage genuine spiritual renewal among God's people.

James 5:16 reminds us that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." As our world moves rapidly toward the dawn of a new millennium, there is no better time to be challenged by Fanini's reminder that "we need prayer power more than any other power."

Far more urgent than physical peace or even emotional peace, the world's greatest need is spiritual peace. The starting point is bowing humbly in prayer before the Lord.



letters to the editor

Is boycott biblical?

Baptists may be divided about many issues, but we should always allow the Bible to settle our differences. That's why I was written (Luke 1:4). So what does God think about this Disney boycott?

It's fine to use Disney products, and no one will go to hell for watching a Mickey Mouse cartoon. However, when Disney invites me into celebration of a homosexual lifestyle through the use of their products, I cannot indulge them in their sin. I must refuse for conscience, not my own, but theirs (I Cor. 10:27-29). Pray about this passage of scripture. It is the Lord's teaching on boycotts.

We do not use financial pressure to impose our values on the world. Jesus never did. The gospel imposes God's values

on the heart. Then, we are the salt of the earth, and will no longer hold the world's sin up for celebration. The Disney Corporation asks me to celebrate sin with them during gay pride days. At this point, I must turn and politely refuse. It is unloving for me to allow them to think that a committed follower of Jesus Christ will celebrate the sin of homosexuality. Jesus Christ forgives sin. It is too awful to celebrate — after all, it cost Him His life.

James Johnston
Combs, AR

Don't waste time

Christian people certainly *should* be selective in their buying and spending practices, and support those who build up our communities and our country, and

decline to buy from those who tear down. Our church covenant declares that we are to abstain from the sale and use of beverage alcohol, yet many unthoughtful church members buy from stores that sell it and thereby support the traffic.

The amusement or entertainment issue needs to be addressed at the most basic level: Why ought Christian people need to be entertained all the time? When there are so many enjoyable and useful things to do, there is little excuse for spending hours in front of the TV or even reading newspapers and magazines. Most of what is called "entertainment" is destructive to spiritual and mental growth, as well as a waste of time — the only thing we have that cannot be replaced.

Clay Hale
El Dorado, AR



Students help build 'world of change'

World Changers renovate homes in West Memphis

Russell M. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Erma Harris of West Memphis had her world changed the week of July 14-18 as college and high school students stripped six layers of shingles from her home and replaced them with tar paper and a fresh shingle layer.

A group of 120 Baptist students and 57 adult leaders from across the nation replaced and repaired roofing, porches, siding and foundations of 15 homes during the week. The work marked the third consecutive year a World Changers project has been held in West Memphis, with most of the work done in a predominantly poor black neighborhood on the city's south side.

Harris, who watched the work from her porch along with her husband, Rass, was quick to note the contributions of participants. "These kids are doing a great work. What would I be doing if they weren't doing this? I would have no means of getting it done because I am not able."

The long-term impact of the work of World Changers in West Memphis has begun to show, noted construction coordinator Ronnie O'Neal. "Three years ago, the only people that you would see on the streets on the south side were drug dealers and a few prostitutes. It is amazing the children you see this year. A lot of this is because of World Changers."

Crew chief Turk Cunningham of Newark Southern Church, agreed. "You can tell by driving down the road that people's yards are cleaner, there's more pride in the community. I talked to one of the residents who said that a lot of the undesirables have left. When we first got here, people didn't get out. Yesterday, kids were walking up and down the street and neighbors were talking."

While the neighborhood has improved, signs of vice still exist. One World Changers team prayed in a circle with a woman three doors from a crack house adorned with spray-painted gang graffiti where a young man was "greeting" customers street-side.

Since their first project in 1995, students have renovated 64 homes in West Memphis. The project is one of 44 World Changers operations held in 1997 that include 40 domestic projects and foreign projects in Antigua, Nicaragua, Trinidad and the Dominican Republic. World Changers is again scheduled for West Memphis in 1998 and also will add Pine Bluff.

The projects have helped build trust among neighbors and workers. Resident William Gillespie noted that last year students "did a wonderful job" renovating his neighbor's home. "That house needed destroying. It was in pitiful shape. They did a new top, new rafters, new studs and shingles. She appreciated the good job. She was a widow woman."

Resident Dovie Jones, whose house was re-roofed, said the work "makes me feel good. I just fell in love with them, their attitude and they were just like me, down-to-earth Christian people."

For many of the students, such as Erin Grice of Georgia, it was their "very first missions trip. I love helping people and I've done Habitat for Humanity before, but this has been a good time for me to get away and get closer to God while helping others."

Candice Sharp of Texas, who plans to attend Ouachita Baptist University this fall, said she overcame "a fear of heights" to work on the Harris house roof, adding that "they couldn't do this themselves. We tore off six layers of shingles because others who did this work didn't. They (the Harris) got ripped off."

The week also featured nightly worship at First Church in West Memphis, with a program urging students to be "A Step Above." Team leader Audette Jenkins of Alabama said the theme challenged students "to go above and beyond what is normally required, whether that is in their Christian faith or just getting up on a roof."

While construction is the thrust of World Changers, the projects also build trust and opportunities to witness to residents. During the week, 39 people made professions of faith in Christ.

"We haven't intentionally set this up to do evangelism, but these young people walk down streets, share their testimony and what they are doing," O'Neal observed. "They are very receptive because of what we are doing."

At one location, Steve Cox of Texas led a garbage collector to the Lord. "I started talking to Darnell and he indicated that he had a fear of meeting God," said Cox. "So we talked a little bit about that. I asked Darnell if he would like to meet Jesus someday and not have that fear. He said, 'Yeah, that would be great.'"

"I said, 'We can all ask Jesus into our lives,'" Cox recalled. "The guy was keeping his horn on the truck, getting ready to go. I asked, 'Would you like to pray?' and he said, 'I don't know how.' I prayed with him and he asked God to come into his life."

"These young people are so devoted in their work," said crew chief Les Childers of First Church in Glenwood. "These kids will get down off the roof...and they witness to people. On their day off, Wednesday, they took a half day and went over to witness in Memphis at gas stations and on street corners. Baptists all over Arkansas need to be aware of what we are doing."



Rowell seeks state convention presidency

Travis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

In an unprecedented move in Arkansas Baptist life, Ben Rowell officially announced his candidacy for state convention president during a July 14 press conference in Little Rock. Rowell, pastor of First Church in Rogers, will seek election to the statewide leadership post during this year's Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting in November.

Reck Horn, current state convention president, will conclude his second one-year term as president this year. Candidates for convention office traditionally have been announced to messengers during the annual meeting rather than publicly announcing their intention to run prior to the convention.

Rowell was introduced to a group of about a dozen supporters by Jim Lagrone, pastor of First Southern Church in Bryant. Noting that "this is an unprecedented meeting," Lagrone added, "It is an exciting time. It's great to have a time of openness and honesty and integrity which is what Ben is all about."

Emphasizing that "we cannot turn the clock back on our history and go back to the way things used to be," Lagrone said, "All of us in this room bear the scars of the denominational struggle. We need someone who has stood the test of time."

"My desire to be president of Arkansas Baptists is not a deep-rooted thing," Rowell remarked. "Last spring God just laid it on my heart and said, 'This will be something that you could do to help Arkansas Baptists.'"

"My desire is to bring us forward together in love and appreciation for each other," he explained. "Unity among Arkansas Baptists is my one and only real desire for Arkansas.... If don't win, I'm not going to bite anybody's ear off."

Insisting that his announced candidacy nearly four months before the state convention annual meeting is not an effort to duplicate Southern Baptist-style political strategies on the state level, Rowell said, "I am not copying the SBC.... I've never been really involved in a lot of political agendas in the state."

Describing missions and evangelism as "my real heartbeat," he added, "Winning people to Christ is probably my No. 1 priority in my whole life."

"I'm an inerrantist," he pointed out. "I believe in the inerrant, infallible Word of God — always have. I am really strong in what I believe about the Word of God."

"If I'm elected president, I'm going to talk about the inerrancy of the Word of God, I'm going to talk a lot about winning people to Christ and I'm going to talk



Ben Rowell visits with supporters after announcing his candidacy for Arkansas Baptist State Convention president.

about missions a great deal.... I think I'll be fair to everyone. I'm a conservative but I have no hidden agenda."

Affirming his commitment to the Cooperative Program, Rowell said his congregation gives 17.75 percent of its receipts through CP. The church, which has an average weekly attendance of more than 1,000, reported 79 baptisms last year.

Emphasizing that "I've never found anything better than the Cooperative Program," Rowell said he has "a lot of problems" with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. "I don't think we ought to ever participate with them in anything," he declared. "I think it's a divisive movement for Arkansas. I would be against anything they're connected with."

Rowell opposes OBU proposal

The most publicized issue facing messengers this fall is a proposed constitutional bylaw which would formalize a reconciliation agreement between the ABSC and Ouachita Baptist University.

Following a vote last October by OBU trustees to re-establish a self-perpetuating board, a group of convention and university leaders proposed a plan in which state convention nominating committee members and OBU trustees would agree on a slate of trustee nominees to be presented for messenger approval each fall. Messengers voted 801-456 last November to approve the agreement.

Convention guidelines call for messengers to approve bylaw changes by a two-thirds majority two years in a row to officially implement the plan. A group of Arkansas Baptists opposed to the proposal reportedly are seeking enough votes to block approval of the recommendation.

Rowell acknowledged that he is among those who plan to vote against the bylaw plan in November. Noting that he "reluctantly" voted for the reconciliation

proposal last fall, he said that since that time, "I really got under personal conviction about that thing."

Insisting that "I love Ouachita," Rowell added, "I think Arkansas Baptists could lose by approving this.... I'd like to see us go back to the same way we've been for years" before last year's actions. Pointing out that "I've got friends on both sides," he said, "I don't want it to be a bedrock of my campaign."

According to Lagrone, "This is not a test of fellowship for Ben Rowell and it won't be a test of fellowship for Arkansas Baptists if he is convention president."

Lagrone, who also voted for the reconciliation plan last year, said he is "going through much of the same experience" as Rowell. "I've tried to sit back and think, what did we do?" Lagrone noted. "That's where I am now."

State convention Executive Board president Chuck McAlister, who chaired the committee that drafted the reconciliation proposal, was among Rowell's supporters at the press conference. Although "Ben and I don't agree on the Ouachita issue, I appreciate Ben's spirit," said McAlister, pastor of Second Church, Hot Springs. "I have never seen him promote a personal agenda."

Former state convention president Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, also attended the conference and affirmed Rowell's candidacy. "I think your heart is to serve Arkansas Baptists," Rogers told Rowell. "I appreciate your willingness to serve and to give what is needed for that position."

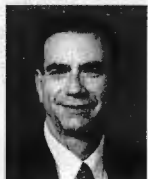
Bill Elliff, who was elected last year as a Ouachita trustee, sent a letter endorsing Rowell's presidential bid. Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, wrote that Rowell's "stand for the foundational truths which grassroots Southern Baptists have repeatedly endorsed over the last 20 years indicates his convictions."

Rowell, who grew up in Morrilton, is a graduate of Southern (Williams) Baptist College, Kansas City University and Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. Serving as pastor of First Church, Rogers, since 1975, he previously was pastor of churches in Paris, Hughes, Parkin, Crawfordsville and Forrest City as well as churches in Missouri.

Currently serving as chairman of the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board's operating committee, he was on the search committee which recommended Emil Turner as state convention executive director. Rowell also has served as president of the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference and is a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Missions in action

Missions ministries team designed for impact



“Whether this team works or not hinges on volunteers. We never will have enough staff to handle the entire state.”

JIMMY BARRENTINE
Team leader of proposed missions ministries team

Jimmy Barrentine has a clear opinion about the impact that the proposed restructuring of the state convention departments into teams will have on missions in Arkansas: “It means that we will have a better-defined vision and assignment. It is logical and we’ve been freed to ‘Go do what God wants you to do to reach Arkansas for Christ.’”

If Arkansas Baptist messengers approve the restructuring of executive board programs this November, Barrentine, who has served as missions department director for six years, is slated to become the leader of the new missions ministries team.

The team structure, said Barrentine, will focus on five major areas, including associational missions, new church starts, missions mobilization and education, chaplaincy and church and community ministries. Each of the function areas will be the focus of a planning group containing group planning leaders and members (see sidebar on next page).

And, while many of the new team’s functions will weather the change from missions department to missions ministries team, the team also will pick up many of the duties previously assigned to the Brotherhood and Cooperative Ministries departments – without a significant addition of staff.

He emphasized that the newly-added ministries “are not step-children. They will receive more funding and we are intent on moving forward with men’s and boy’s missions education.”

Barrentine stressed that each team member will be cross-trained to perform all duties in the team, noting that “every team member must be able to function in all aspects of the team.”

ABSC executive director Emil Turner cited the importance of the team’s work, noting that

“I see tremendous chances for this team.

“They will become responsible for Cooperative Ministries, they will become responsible for missions education for men and boys, for disaster relief and for starting churches. It is a tremendous change for them.

Turner noted that the team’s performance “will be evaluated by their impact statements, which require them to have measurable impact on churches. That is a totally new paradigm.”

A list of eight impact statements developed by the team highlights the team’s desire to help churches

and associations “discover, understand and interpret missions ministries needs”; establish and have more effective missions ministries; strengthen associational ministries; seek to place more missionaries in church and associational work; involve more people in missions promotion, education, support and mobilization; extend their outreach; and aid churches in experiencing renewal.

To accomplish its goals, said Barrentine, the team must rely on volunteers. “Whether this team works or not hinges on volunteers. We never will have enough staff to handle the entire state.”

He said the team will seek to enlist and train more volunteers through “existing volunteer networks and database research. A lot of new church starts ought to be begun by volunteers.”

Barrentine credited his current department members with facilitating the move from department to team, calling them “heroes” for their willingness to relocate outside of the Baptist Building as field consultants. While not tied to the restructuring, the moves of four staff members to off-site locations in February was enacted to increase service to Baptist constituents, a major premise of the restructuring.

“They were willing to move their offices and homes to more effectively minister to Arkansas Baptists,” he said. “Sandy Wisdom-Martin, Jack Ramsey, Jim Hausler and Eddie Jones Sr., all made that commitment without complaint.”

He also singled out Tommy Goode, church and communities associate in the current structure, for his flexibility.

“He is one of the premier church and community ministries leaders in the nation, widely-known for his expertise,” Barrentine explained. “But we moved him to missions mobilization and education, which required him to master new skills and work with new volunteers.

“This is a major career change for Tommy and very few people would have done it,” he emphasized. “But if you want to know how important this area is – we asked Tommy Goode to do it.”

Vision statement

“To lead Arkansas Baptists to strengthen their commitment to a biblical missions vision and lifestyle.”

Field consultant directory

The ABSC missions department, as well as its proposed successor, the missions ministries team, will utilize field consultants to reach a broader area of the state. Although listed along with their proposed duties, they may be reached now at the following numbers:

New church starts.....1-800-838-2272, ext. 5149

Jack Ramsey, group planning leader, 501-890-3466

Jim Hausler, 501-754-9139

Eddie Jones Sr., 501-221-7273

Paul Roaten, 501-777-8219

Church & community ministries.....1-800-838-2272, ext. 5249

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, group planning leader, 870-875-2566

Missions mobilization & education.....1-800-838-2272, ext. 5150

Ronnie O’Neal, 501-229-4069

(O’Neal currently is assigned to the Brotherhood department.)

Missions ministries team: Members & duties

While leader Jimmy Barrentine stressed that missions ministries team members will be cross-trained in other team functions, the proposed team will consist of six planning groups to help carry out its work. Barrentine will give direction and supervision to team areas, coordinate budgets and calendars, work with ABS-C administration and serve as liaison to the North American Mission Board and National Baptists. Other team members will be a part of the:

Associational missions planning group. Every team member will be responsible for relating to associations through personal contact, associational strategy planning and organizational development.

New church starts planning group. Leader Jack Ramsey, Eddie Jones Sr., Jim Hausler, Paul Roaten and a yet-to-be-named strategist will relate to Arkansas Baptist churches and volunteers in starting new works across the state.

Missions mobilization and education planning group. Group planning leader Tommy Goode and Ronnie O'Neal will promote voluntarism and missions education in the state through ministries that include components transferring from the Brotherhood department, such as disaster relief, construction, Campers on Mission, men's and boy's missions education and Senior Partners, as well as through Mississippi River Ministry.

Church and community ministries planning group. Group planning leader Sandy Wisdom-Martin and Diana Lewis will develop, plan and serve as resources for Christian social ministries such as creative, resort, feeding and literacy ministries as well as summer missionaries.

Chaplaincy planning group. Group planning leader Mason Reynolds will join chaplains Dan Chandler, Chris Copeland, Benny McCracken, Ruby Swanigan and a yet-to-be-named team member to develop chaplaincy ministries in correctional facilities, hospitals, military and law enforcement agencies and businesses.

Secretarial planning group. Because many team members work throughout the state, group planning leader Ruth Eckhardt and members Diane Moss, Oleta Raines and Judy Spencer will work together to develop team communication strategies and streamline document processing.



Ouachita president Ben Elrod greets guests who attended the dedication of the new Harvey Jones Science Center, which includes classrooms, laboratories and a library.

OBU dedicates new \$8 million Harvey Jones Science Center

Jeff Root

Ouachita Baptist University

Honoring both her late husband and coming generations of students, faculty and staff at Ouachita Baptist University, Bernice Jones recently cut the ribbon to dedicate OBU's new \$8 million Harvey Jones Science Center.

Jule Beckwith, a junior chemistry major from Hot Springs, thanked the donors on behalf of the students, and Joe Jeffers, chairman of the division of natural science, spoke for the faculty.

"Words cannot express the joy associated with moving into the Harvey Jones Science Center," noted Jeffers. "Bright, cheery surroundings; modern teaching laboratories; a beautiful student lounge and library; computer labs; research labs; hookups to the Internet in every classroom, lab and office; and office suites with additional work areas...make Harvey Jones Science Center a dream come true."

The four-story facility was made possible by a gift from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust of Springdale, with assistance from other longtime supporters of the natural sciences at Ouachita.

"We are grateful for this beautiful addition to our campus made possible through the generosity of the Jones Charitable Trust and several other special friends of Ouachita," remarked OBU president Ben Elrod.

Mrs. Jones' previous projects at OBU include the Harvey and Bernice Jones Performing Arts Center, endowment of the Bernice Young Jones School of Fine Arts, the Harvey Jones Chair of Marketing and gifts to the telecommunications program of the mass communications department.

The new science center houses the departments of biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science, and family and consumer sciences.

Special facilities housed in the building include:

■ The June Waggoner Center for Family and Consumer Sciences. Virgil and June Waggoner, longtime supporters of OBU, attended the dedication. Waggoner is the president and CEO of JVV Investments of Houston and is a former president and chairman of the board of Sterling Chemicals in Houston. He and his wife are 1948 graduates of Ouachita.

■ The Nell Mondy Organic Chemistry Laboratory. Nell Mondy, a 1943 graduate of Ouachita, is professor emerita of chemistry at Cornell University. She is a nutritional chemist with extensive international experience as a consultant on plant biochemistry as it relates to human nutrition.

■ The J. D. Patterson General Chemistry Laboratory. Patterson, a member of the Ouachita class of 1947, is a dentist in Searcy. He is an active Ouachita supporter and has participated in many international missions trips. He has been honored by the Arkansas State Dental Association for meritorious service to the people of Brazil.

■ The E.A. Provine Classroom. Provine was professor of chemistry at Ouachita from 1929 until 1968.

■ The Harold B. Leeton Science Library. Leeton was an active alumni leader after his 1936 graduation from Ouachita. He served with Gulf Oil Company as Eastern Hemisphere Operations Manager.

■ A state-of-the-art natural science computer laboratory was provided by an anonymous donor.

LIFE Support makes ministry impact

Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Overwhelmed with many personal problems, the woman was considering suicide. Now she is productive and teaching Sunday School. What made the difference? A Christ-centered support group sponsored by a local Southern Baptist church.

"Satan uses emotional bullets to fight spiritual warfare," emphasized Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Church in Conway. "Because people don't know how to experience and process emotional trouble, the effect is enormous."

Conway Second was involved in pioneering small-group ministries in the late 1980s. During the early '90s, the Discipleship and Family Development Division of the Baptist Sunday School Board introduced LIFE Support, which provides resources and training seminars to enable

local churches to conduct support group ministries for a variety of needs.

"All of these resources are Bible-based, with the clear message that Jesus Christ is the answer to dealing with life problems," noted BSSB division director Roy Edgemon. The materials include such topics as building self-worth, coping with family problems, divorce, abuse and loss.

"Some churches conduct LIFE Support groups on an ongoing basis, and some do them from time to time," explained Gerald Jackson, associate in the Arkansas Baptist discipleship and family ministry department. "These are some of the best materials available anywhere, and are even beginning to cross denominational lines."

Pillow began his pilgrimage in small-group ministry while working on his doctorate through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He decided to do a retreat for adult children of alcoholics as a project. He expected 10 people; 45

showed up. Discovering that the results weren't a fluke, Pillow conducted a second retreat with the same response.

As part of his degree work, Pillow also participated in a 10-month internship, working with in-patients at a local private psychiatric hospital. "I was surprised to discover two very important things," he explained. "First, people in the ward were helping each other through Spirit-filled, Christ-centered interaction."

"When I finished, I realized most people in the church don't need and can't afford \$700-a-day psychiatric care," Pillow remarked. "Many do need and should be able to afford a similar opportunity to experience healing and change." He decided that follow-up groups to his initial retreats would be a good place to start.

Because of the church's ministry efforts, Pillow was invited to attend the introduction of the LIFE Support materials in the early '90s. "I immediately recognized the quality of the resources," he noted.

At the same meeting, Pillow met an editor who was interested in what the church was doing. "The final product was that I ended up writing a book," he said. *Family and Friends*, authored by Pillow, is part of the materials that deal with the changes someone goes through in recovery and how family and friends can help and adjust to those changes.

"This is something I can't not do," Pillow explained. "It has enlightened the church to the needs of people, and encouraged the church that we can meet those needs."

"It has expanded the church by reaching people we could not have otherwise reached and opened the doors of ministry," he added. "It has helped our church develop a reputation of caring for people."

Conway Second has ministered to more than 1,000 people and assisted several other churches in starting support group ministries. Staff member Betsy Carver has directed the day-to-day operation of the church's support group ministry for the past two years. She enrolled in the program to resolve some family issues, and then served as a facilitator for five years before becoming a staff member.

"I've always just cared about others," Carver said. "I want to encourage people who are hurting." Carver's academic background in community health education complements her ministry. "We have expanded our ministry to include work with the American Cancer Society and grief groups," she noted. "We want to

LIFE Support materials available

LIFE Support materials address a variety of issues related to life problems. The Baptist Sunday School Board materials available for support groups include:

Exploring Life Issues:

- Search for Significance. Helps persons build their self-worth on the forgiveness and love of Christ instead of relying on their own abilities to please others.
- Untangling Relationships. Helps anyone who desires to understand, to recover from or to minister to those who are codependent.
- Family & Friends. Assists family members and friends of persons in recovery to understand the changes they are experiencing and how to give them the support and encouragement they need.
- Breaking the Cycle of Hurtful Family Experiences. Helps participants change the patterns of poor communication, passivity, indirectness, lack of affirmation, abuse and neglect that may have been modeled in their family.

Resolving Life Issues:

- Making Peace with Your Past. Practical, biblically-based guidance to lead adults to identify, understand and come to terms with feelings and problems of growing up in a dysfunctional family.
- Shelter from the Storm. Offers hope and healing for persons who have sustained sexual abuse.
- A Time for Healing: Coming to Terms with Your Divorce. Ministers to the crucial needs of adults experiencing divorce.
- Recovering from the Losses of Life. Helps individuals understand and work through the grief process and shows how they can cope in a more positive way.
- New Faces in the Frame. Helps develop skills to succeed as a blended family.

Taking Responsibility for Life Issues:

- Conquering Chemical Dependency
- Conquering Codependency
- Conquering Eating Disorder
- Moving Beyond Your Past
- Faithful and True: Sexual Integrity in a Fallen World
- Quitting for Good: A Christ-Centered Approach to Nicotine Dependence

The BSSB's Adult Discipleship and Family Development Division sponsors events for leadership and training events related to a support group ministry. Call 615-251-2278 for more information or 1-800-458-2272 to order materials.

help people have the best quality of life.

"For the facilitator, every group is different," Carver explained. "There are different personalities and issues to deal with — the challenge is to bring it together and move it forward on a positive note."

"Most of the people in the groups need to re-connect with God," she emphasized. "Some are Christians, some are not — they all have an obstacle keeping them from growing with God. We try to identify the obstacle and help them work through it."

"Some people who are not active in church are angry at God, others have tried everything else, including other support groups and some are active church members who realize they don't have it all together," Carver noted.

The support group ministry runs on a semester basis, with about 12 groups each in the spring and fall, and a smaller summer schedule. Carver said there are certain keys to help make any church's support group ministry successful:

- "Confidentiality is the real key to ongoing ministry — people need to feel safe."

- "Limit your numbers. Our groups are limited to 10 so that everyone has time to respond."

- "You can't help everyone — this a support group from a Christian perspective, not therapy. Some will need other help."

"This ministry has really sent a message to the community that we are a church who cares," she observed. "I've never seen a ministry where there is so much change in people's lives from week to week."

Revealing needs and assisting the pastor was also the experience of Bruce Swihart, currently director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department. While pastor of East Side Church in Paragould, he and his wife, Whanda, attended LIFE Support training.

The church conducted a 30-week training session for leaders and then started small groups. "Out of this came personal encounters that led to pastoral care and also identified needs," Swihart noted. "It provided an opportunity for fellowship and growth for people who were active in the church but carried a tremendous weight of life problems."

"It actually lightened the load of the pastor for counseling, because problems — emotional, psychological, spiritual — could be worked out in the group," he explained. "The church had a growing sense of spiritual health."

For additional information about the LIFE Support program, training or materials, call Gerald Jackson in the ABCS discipleship and family ministry department at 800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.

Needs-based materials help encourage discipleship growth

Churches are discovering that discipleship training ministry is not limited to what takes place in the church on Sunday night," pointed out Bob Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist discipleship and family ministry department. One result of that discovery was last year's reported increase of more than 8,000 participants in discipleship training efforts throughout the state, an enrollment gain of more than 11 percent. That rate exceeded Southern Baptists' overall discipleship enrollment gain of 8 percent.

Holley feels there are several factors that have contributed to the increase. "I think many pastors are experiencing a renewed concern for discipleship and the desire to see their members grow spiritually," he remarked. "There is a hunger in many people for in-depth spiritual growth experiences and discipleship training can provide that."

"Churches are becoming aware that the members need to be well grounded in faith, assimilated into the life of the church and equipped for the ministry of the church," Holley continued. "They are discovering the flexibility of the program in terms of schedules and curriculum selection — many of the resources are needs-based and relate to the concerns of the church families."

The new LIFE materials, focusing on specific needs, has revitalized many discipleship programs in Arkansas churches. Experiencing God, The Mind of Christ and Search for Significance are among materials currently available.

Elvis Smith, pastor of Cockerbur Church in Ward, has seen significant spiritual growth in his congregation as a result of discipleship training. "When someone can go from sitting on the back pew to actively participating in an Experiencing God discussion — that's spiritual growth," he affirmed.

"For our church, church growth is internal spiritual growth — people are the church, not numbers," Smith emphasized. "We conference train as many people as we can."

Smith's congregation also has used the flexibility of the program to meet needs. There have been times, he noted, when various groups were meeting almost every day of the week. The church, although small, usually offers several LIFE courses at once as well as age-related curriculum. "As goes

discipleship training, so goes the church," Smith noted.

A belief in that kind of priority for discipleship prompted a life change for Betty Jones of Arkadelphia, who retired early as a professor at Henderson State University to serve as discipleship training director for her church, Second Church in Arkadelphia, and her association, Red River. "Discipleship training is the answer to our complacency," she emphasized.

Strongly sensing God's call in 1994 to minister in that area, Jones has been on fire for discipleship ever since. "Growing churches are churches that have effective discipleship programs," she explained.

Total church involvement

The new needs-based curriculum plays a large role in growing a program, Jones pointed out, but the revamped age-related materials are excellent as well. "We started a Team Kids program in our children's area and went from three to 40 in the program," she said. The church offers a number of LIFE courses, usually four to five at a time. Her goal: Total church involvement.

"I am an advocate, a zealot for discipleship training — I feel it answers a need in the church for spiritual enrichment and growth," she shared. "It provides what is needed for a closer walk with God."

Monte Pierce, minister of education at First Church in El Dorado, feels that his congregation, although very traditional, has responded well to the flexibility of the new curriculum. "We have had good response to offering a variety of options," he noted. "It has met a variety of needs."

In addition to Sunday night, the church has offered classes on Sunday morning, Wednesday night and even during the day for stay-at-home moms and senior adults.

"We also had 120 participants go through Experiencing God at the same time — 12 groups with 10 in a group," Pierce explained.

"We had sermons preached on it and even had an Experiencing God budget, where we based where the money went on seeing where God is at work rather than just duplicating last year's budget," he added. "It had a positive impact on how to operate a church."

people & places

COMPILED BY

MILLIE GILL

CHURCH LIFE

Eastside Church of Osceola recently dedicated a new sanctuary and related facilities. The 10,350-square-foot building was constructed at a cost of \$195,000. It houses a 250-seat sanctuary, educational space, offices and a fellowship hall. Tom Doty is pastor.

Pleasant Ridge Church of Greens Ferry will observe homecoming Aug. 3 with activities which will include Sunday School, morning worship, a noon potluck luncheon and an afternoon musical praise service. Steve Morrison, a member of First Church of Russellville, will be the featured speaker with music coordinated by Clea Davis and Gail Hipp. Joe Nipp is pastor.

East Side Church of Pine Bluff recently voted to begin a remodeling program and to construct a fellowship hall at an estimated cost of \$30,000. The new facilities will include a kitchen and a more accessible place for fellowship meetings. Ray Edmondson is pastor.

Bairns First Church will celebrate 100 years of ministry July 27 with services which begin at 10:30 a.m. Marvin Gennings of Richmond, Va., pastor from 1947-48, will be the featured speaker. A potluck lunch will be served at noon, followed by a 1:30 p.m. music program, featuring the Testimonies from Nashville.

Grace Church of Camden will observe "Homecoming Day" Aug. 3 with activities which will include morning worship at 10 a.m., a noon meal and an afternoon program focusing on memories of the past and plans for the future.

Park Hill Church of North Little Rock will conduct a Children's Music Camp Aug. 4-8 from 9 a.m. to noon for children who have completed the first through sixth grades. The camp will provide opportunities for children to participate in handbells, piano lab, Orff instruments, autoharps, Rockin' Rhythms, ukuleles, Bible study and recreation. Participants also will learn the musical "Nic at Night" and will present it at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10.

Malvern Third Church mission team of 15 youth and four adults has returned from Des Moines, Iowa, where they helped with activities in classes, recreation, dormitories and the kitchen of the Metro Association Children's Camp. Associate pastor Dinky Doss coordinated the trip and pastor Rick Hyde served as camp pastor.

Robbers First Church held a Kelly Green Harvest Crusade July 20-23. Dwayne Monk led the music which featured the church's

Exaltation Choir and Orchestra. Recording artist Luke Garrett was the guest soloist, Monday through Wednesday. Ben Rowell is pastor.

Malvern area Southern Baptist churches, including First Church, Third Church, Trinity Church and Calvary Church, all of Malvern, and Magnet Cove First Church celebrated Independence Day weekend with a combined choir presentation of "If God Be for Us." The program was directed by Dinky Doss and Billy Williams.

TRANSITIONS

David Wood began serving July 6 as pastor of Central Church of Magnolia, coming there from Floyds Knobs, Ind., where he served 17 years as pastor of First Southern Church. He previously served Northvale Church of Harrison, Corinth Church of Wilmar and Linwood Church of Moscow. A native of Warren, Wood is a graduate of the University of Arkansas in Monticello and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Gail, have four children, Jonathan, Karen, Kelly and Leslie.

Lynn Green began serving July 13 as pastor of Oak Grove Church of Ashdown. A member of Beech Street First Church of Texarkana, he previously was pastor of Central Church and College View Church of Texarkana, Beech Street Church of Crossett and Bodcaw Church. Green is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University of Magnolia and attended the Baptist

Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas. He and his wife, Betty, have a daughter, Renae.

Roger Robins is pastor of Highfill Church, coming there from Calvary Church in Bluefield, W. Va. He previously served other Arkansas churches in Camden, Wynne and Cherry Valley. Robins is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and attended Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Stephanie Gaddis.

Bobby J. Dailey has accepted the call to become pastor of West Church of Batesville. He will come there from Conway where he has served more than 10 years as pastor of Pickles Gap Church. He also has been pastor of First Church of Lepanto, Second Church of West Helena and Belview Church of Melbourne, as well as churches in Illinois, Texas and Missouri. Dailey is a graduate of Williams Baptist College, Southwest Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently is pursuing his doctor of ministry degree through Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Patsey, have four children, Melissa Ann, Michelle Renae, Micah Allan and Monica Marie.

Howard Kisor has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Church in Hampton, going there from Lake Hamilton Church. He and his wife, Mary, are on the field. Kisor is a graduate of Governor's State University in Chicago and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

George Fink is pastor of Tilton Church, going there from First Church of Weiner. He previously has served other Arkansas churches, including Vannsdale Church, Morton Church of McCrory and First



Members of First Church of Dumas "pulled together" June 29 to break ground for a new education and family life center, as pastor Neil Bennett and building committee chairman Scottie Grimes guided the plow. The facility, estimated to cost \$620,000, is expected to be completed in seven months. The groundbreaking service signified the entire church's cooperation in construction of the new facility which will include classrooms, a library and a commercial kitchen, as well as fellowship and recreational space. Other building committee members are Jessie West, Rickey O'Briant, Paula White, William "Doc" Puryear, Glenn Deweese, Sandy Patterson and Ann Brigham.

Church of Marmaduke as well as churches in Missouri. Fink and his wife, Robbie, have five children, Madeline, Robin Lea, Valerie Lynn, Jennifer Kay and Chad Franklin, currently a staff member of Pleasant Hill Church of Vandale.

Mason Lane Harrison is pastor of First Church of Huttig. He previously served on the staff of First Church of Strong where he was ordained to the ministry and First Church of Nashville. Harrison is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Christin Smith, also an OBU graduate.

James Copeland was named pastor emeritus of First Church of Pencil Bluff June 29. He was presented with a certificate by pastor David Birdsong. Copeland, who served the congregation as pastor from 1970-1988, has been a member there since retirement.

Michael Paul Hamilton recently resigned as pastor of Oak Grove Church in Ashdown, following five years of ministry. He has moved to Moore, Okla., where he is pastor of Regency Park Church.

Gray Pearson joined the staff of First Church in Pine Bluff July 1 as minister of education and youth. He is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Tammy, have three children, Parker, Chandler and Jonathan.

Kevlin Floyd has joined the staff of First Church of Sherwood as minister of youth. A native of Jacksonville, he graduated in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas. He previously served as youth associate at Cana Church in Burleson, Texas, and as minister to youth and children at Markham Street Church in Little Rock. He is married to the former Amy Hamby.

David M. Jones began serving July 1 as bivocational minister of education for Indian Springs Church of Bryant. A graduate of Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he serves as a securities examiner with the Arkansas Securities Department. Jones and his wife, Pat, have five children, Sandra, Gary, Susan, Steve and Jack.

Brian Jones has joined the staff of First Church of Gravel Ridge as associate pastor and minister to students, coming there from Springdale where he was a member and volunteer youth worker at First Church. Jones recently completed his studies in youth ministry at John Brown University. He and his wife, Dyanna, have a son, Taylor, and a daughter, Kennon.

Jared Pruvitt has accepted the call to join the staff of First Church of Ashdown as minister of music and youth and will come there from Jerusalem Church in



John Ross (right) director of development for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, presents a check for \$1.06 million to ABCFM executive director David Perry. The money was given or pledged at a July 9 luncheon of Texarkana-area supporters. The luncheon, featuring a keynote address by Arkansas first lady Janet Huckabee, was hosted by Tom and Dee Marshall, members of Beech Street Church in Texarkana. The check is part of the agency's "Embracing the Promise" campaign, which is seeking to raise \$6 million over the next three years. The Texarkana check brought the current total raised or pledged to \$2.9 million.

Hammond, La. A graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville, he currently is completing his master of music degree at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Prewitt and his wife, Leigh Anne, have a son, Steven Matthew.

Sтивен Cole has joined the staff of Central Church in Pine Bluff as minister of music and activities. He and his wife, Dana, moved there from Conway where he was an associate in music for First Church.

Joe Botwinick is serving as minister of music and youth for First Church of Plainview. He and his wife, Glenda, are graduates of Arkansas Tech University. He currently is pursuing a master of divinity degree with the Southwestern Seminary extension program of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Justin Sockrider is serving as minister of youth for Kelly Heights Church in Russellville. He is a student at Arkansas Tech University.

OBITUARIES

J. B. Huffmaster, 77, of Willisville died July 4 of heart failure. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he had served for 60 years in Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, California and Arkansas where he served First Church of Falcon, First Church of Success, Shiloh Church of Corning, Bradley Church and Southside Church of Prescott. He was a graduate of Columbia Bible School, East Texas Baptist College of Marshall, and Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College). Survivors are

his wife, Sarah Huffmaster of Waldo; three sons, J. B. Huffmaster of Paragould, Richard B. Huffmaster of Lonoke and Fredrick W. Huffmaster of Waldo; a daughter, Deborah Mabou of Waldo; two sisters; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Leta Mae Brown Teel of North Little Rock died July 5 at age 96. She was the widow of Lester Teel and Otto H. Brown. Teel had served as a children's Sunday School teacher and a hospital volunteer. Survivors are a son, Otto Brown, pastor of Levy Church of North Little Rock; a daughter, Laverba Hunsicker of New Albany, Ind.; a step-daughter, Zelma Brown of Eldorado, Ill.; a brother; five grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Levy Church.

ORDINATIONS

Forsyth Park Church of Pine Bluff ordained pastor Eric Smith to the gospel ministry June 22. Participating in the service were Ed Smith, director of missions for Harmony Association; interim pastor Clyde Jones; and Bill Smith, father of the candidate.

Cedar Heights Church of North Little Rock recently ordained Michael Head, an associate pastor, to the gospel ministry.

Valley Church of Searcy ordained Sherman Brown as a deacon June 22.

James Park Church of Mansfield ordained Loyce Carter, Pete Morris, Ron Silvey and David Tucker as deacons June 29.

Rogers First Church ordained Joe Talarski as a deacon June 29.

30 summer workers evacuate Cambodia, return home to U.S.

Thirty Southern Baptist summer workers fled an intense street war in Cambodia July 9, taking a commercial flight from Bangkok, Thailand, to Los Angeles July 11. The group had planned to teach conversational English in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during the summer.

The summer workers, students at universities in the United States, were able to catch the first Red Cross flight out of Cambodia. They were to return to their homes and are not expected to go back into Cambodia.

Traveling with the student workers were four families assigned to Southern Baptists' Cooperative Services International, which organized the English teaching jobs.

The students sought safety in the home of CSI workers Steve and Patti Ellis July 5 after troops of rival prime ministers squared off against each other with mortar and machine gun fire in Phnom Penh.

Fighting raged five blocks from the Ellis home, and the sounds of gunfire and mortar blasts echoed through the neighborhood.

The university students arrived July 3 and had just begun to familiarize themselves with Phnom Penh when they were forced to leave their hotels and move in with the Ellises.

Weeks of tension and occasional clashes in Phnom Penh erupted into a full-scale mortar and rocket battle July 5.

The next day troops loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen drove out forces loyal to First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and sealed the capital. As many as 150 people were killed before fighting subsided July 6 and Hun Sen's soldiers turned to looting, news reports said.

BANGKOK, THAILAND (BP)

World missions

Hong Kong's leader says religious freedoms intact

Hong Kong's religious freedoms will remain intact under Chinese rule, Hong Kong's new chief executive assured an international group of Christians July 9, nine days after the former British colony came under control of mainland China's communists.

Hong Kong administrator Tung Chee Hwa spoke to the Lutheran World Federation, the first major international body to meet in Hong Kong since the July 1 handover. "The government of the People's Republic of China has granted Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and a lifestyle that will not change for a long, long, long time to come," Tung reportedly told the 900 Lutheran delegates.

Tung, a Shanghai-born Hong Kong businessman appointed by China to govern the island region which borders the mainland, praised the "one country, two systems" approach adopted by the Chinese, which allows Hong Kong to keep its economic and religious openness while accepting Chinese sovereignty. Religious freedom in mainland China is severely restricted.

Tung, greeted with a standing ovation, read Article 141 of the Basic Law of China which protects the beliefs, activities, financial transactions, property rights and foreign associations of religious groups. About 8 percent of Hong Kong's 6.4 million people are Christian. Most others are Buddhists.

Most Hong Kong citizens are reportedly cautiously optimistic about China's promise of freedom, while others are taking a wait-and-see attitude.

HONG KONG (ABP)

Mission 'fields' becoming international missions force

Continents traditionally viewed as mission fields — Africa, Asia and South America — are now taking the lead in a new push to send Christian missionaries to unreached peoples, said organizers of a June 30-July 5 strategy meeting in Pretoria, South Africa.

Sponsors called the Global Consultation on World Evangelization the "most significant conference ever held in Africa."

The meeting was convened by AD2000 and Beyond Movement, a coalition aimed at coordinating an estimated 2,000 separate plans for global evangelization being carried on simultaneously by organizations around the world.

Nearly 80 percent of the almost 4,000 conference delegates came from countries that were formerly viewed as missionary-receiving countries. Nearly two-thirds came from Africa, indicating the world's missionary leadership base is now firmly established there, conference organizers said. Only 20 percent of the delegates came from the traditional missionary-sending countries in Western Europe, the U.S., Canada, New Zealand and Australia. More than 8 percent came from Asia and 7 percent from Latin America.

Luis Bush, founder and leader of the AD2000 and Beyond Movement, described the conference goal as "a church for every people and the gospel for every person by the year 2000." He said an estimated 338 million Africans are born-again Christians, comprising 17 percent of the global Christian community. At the turn of this century, Africa was home to only 2 percent of the world's Christians.

In addition to plenary sessions, participants chose from 10 consultations specializing in concerns including meeting human needs, worship and ministry to children.

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA (ABP)

BWA women's leader Willene Pierce forced to resign

Willene Pierce, executive director of the Baptist World Alliance women's department, reportedly has been forced to resign. Pierce is a former staff member of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union department.

A joint statement issued July 14 by Pierce and the BWA group's executive committee said the executive committee accepted Pierce's resignation "because of differing perspectives regarding ministry philosophy and leadership style."

"Any further comments regarding the nature and substance of these differences would dissolve the women's department ministry, the individuals involved and the cause of Christ," the statement said. "The executive committee is thankful for the contribution Miss Pierce has rendered the BWA women's department."

According to BWA general secretary Denton Lotz, "While the women's department is an auxiliary of the BWA, we are part of the one family and are therefore very concerned about the development. We are called to a ministry of reconciliation and will work with and pray for both the women's department and Willene Pierce."

Pierce, 54, served 13 years as WMU executive director in Maryland/Delaware after working in Arkansas. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (BP/ABP)



Scott Duwall, associate professor of religion at Duquesne Baptist University, leads the seminar, "Understanding and Applying the New Testament," one of several training seminars featuring Arkansas Baptist speakers.

Arkansas team trains European Baptist leaders

A team of Arkansas Baptists traveled to Interlaken, Switzerland, July 5-10 to supervise preschool and children's programs and to serve as program personnel for training conferences held during Interlaken '97, the European Baptist Convention's summer assembly.

More than 800 Baptists from the EBC's 60 English-speaking churches attended, many of them participating in conferences led by Arkansans.

Topics led by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention volunteers ranged from missions leadership, New Testament study and Christian parenting to single adult discipleship and managing church conflict.

The team served at Interlaken as part of the missions partnership between Arkansas Baptists and European Baptists, now in its fourth year.

Photos by Mike Cateswell, MB

Richard Bell (left), ▶ a Southern Baptist missionary based in Croatia, enjoys a cup of coffee served by Glenn Toler, partnership coordinator for the European/Arkansas Baptist missions partnership. Arkansas Baptists sponsored a hospitality area for the 800 Interlaken participants.



Glenn Toler (left), partnership coordinator for the European ▶ missions partnership, talks with Jerry and Bobby Rankin. Jerry Rankin, International Mission Board president, was the keynote speaker at Interlaken while Bobby led a prayer conference.



▲ Bruce Swihart advises European Baptist seminar participants about "Dealing with Conflict and Controversy in the Church." Swihart is director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department.

NATION

Second chairman of SBC task force joins NAMB staff

John Yarbrough, who succeeded Bob Reccord as chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Board's Implementation Task Force, has been hired by Reccord for an upper-level position with the new North American Mission Board.

Reccord and Yarbrough, who were influential in the organization of the NAMB structure, both now hold administrative posts with the new board. By contrast, the creation of NAMB resulted in more than 200 employees losing their jobs at the former Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission.

Reccord resigned as task force chairman in March after becoming the top candidate for NAMB president. He was elected by the full board last month with an annual salary range of approximately \$140,000 to \$200,000.

He has named Yarbrough, pastor of First Baptist Church of Perry, Ga., to become lead strategy coordinator at NAMB. Yarbrough will direct a group of strategy coordinators who serve as liaisons between NAMB and state Baptist conventions.

Only five of the 107 management-level staff members announced by NAMB have come from positions outside the three agencies. In addition to Reccord and Yarbrough, they are Nate Adams, vice president for media and missions education, who was a vice president with Christianity Today Inc.; David Clark, executive director of NAMB's media technology unit based in Fort Worth, Texas, who was a media producer for another company; and Arkansas native Dewey Hickey, director of strategy and resource development at NAMB, who was executive director of the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship.

"Dr. Reccord and other management team members are in various stages of searching for persons to fill more than three dozen positions," said Gary Jones, NAMB director of human resources. "Dr. Reccord has told the staff he is hopeful that all new staff will be on board by the first of September."

Managers yet to be named include a vice president for evangelization and directors of 11 of NAMB's 21 divisions. More than two dozen other mid-level management positions have not yet been filled. All of those vacancies reportedly will be filled by people who did not previously work at one of the three merged agencies.

ATLANTA (ABP/BP)

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Martin named Children's Homes El Dorado area director

Frank Martin has accepted the position of area director in El Dorado for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. He succeeds Mark Weaver, who has accepted the position of area director for the ABCHEM's Fayetteville office.

Martin will supervise the statewide ministry's Promise House in El Dorado, a home for pregnant girls and girls at-risk for pregnancy; the Camden Emergency Receiving Home; and the El Dorado area office.

He previously has served as a social worker in the medical and home health

fields and as a case worker for the Salvation Army as well as a pastor of churches in Texas and Illinois. He most recently served as a medical social worker for Hospice of Central Arkansas.

Martin earned the master of social work degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and the bachelor of



arts degree from Judson College in Elgin, Ill.

His wife, Sandy, is a church and communities field consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department. She will continue her statewide field work.

ABCHEM executive director David Perry said Martin's education and work experience "has given him a sensitive heart that will allow him to provide good service for hurting families."

"I am looking forward to doing marriage and family crisis counseling and serving families in needs," Martin confirmed. "It will allow me to have a personal touch with them and share Christ with them."

He noted that he also is anticipating the "new ministry, for me, with the Promise House, helping meet the needs of unwed mothers and finding concern and love for them there."

Critical Legal Trends & The Church

The Church & The Law

Critical information pastors and church leaders need to know about the legal system and why it

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The Church & Youth/Child Safety

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select and supervise children workers; Background checks on workers; Guidelines, policies and procedures on children's Sunday School, mother's day out and child care programs; Documenting and reporting child abuse; Child abuse insurance issues.

■ Aug. 11 - Ridgeview Baptist Church, Fayetteville

■ Aug. 12, - Nettleton Baptist Church, Jonesboro

■ Aug. 13 - First Baptist Church, Conway

All sessions are free and held 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A Cooperative Program Ministry of the Church Leadership Support Department, ABSC. For additional information, call 1-800-838-2272 or 376-4791, ext. 5148.



Led by Steven Lewis Attorney & Counselor at Law, Oklahoma City, Okla.

EMPLOYMENT

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries has the following openings for employment:

■ Secretary (32 hours a week) at the Little Rock Area Office call Kelly Crow at 1-501-376-3187

■ Houseparent couple at the Arkansas Baptist Home in Monticello call Royce Aston at 1-870-367-5358

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TV industry, except NBC, agrees to revised ratings

The television industry, minus one network, has agreed to revise its six-month-old ratings system to include new symbols to warn viewers about programs that include sex, violence and offensive language.

The cable and broadcast networks, except for NBC, have committed to use letters at the start of programs to denote specific content. The new ratings will be S for sexual depictions, V for violence, L for foul language and D for suggestive dialogue. The new system is scheduled to go into effect Oct. 1.

The agreement worked out by TV industry leaders in discussions with child advocacy and parents organizations, as well as members of Congress, was announced at the White House July 10.

The new symbols will be added to the oft-criticized, age-based ones in effect since January. The criticism of the current ratings system has been its failure to provide parents with specific information about choosing programs suitable for viewing. The system uses TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14 and TV-M, much like the motion picture industry uses G, PG, PG-13 and R.

In announcing the agreement, Vice President Al Gore said, "Today, America's parents have won back their living room."

"I recently met with some parent groups, and I wasn't surprised with what they told me: Age-based ratings were very helpful but not enough. Parents needed to know more. They need to know about the television images their children will see. And they need to know about the language

and dialogue their children will hear."

NBC, which refused to support the new system, said it will provide its own advisories, according to an article in *The Washington Post*.

"While we believe that more information is useful to parents, NBC is concerned that the ultimate aim of the current system's critics is to dictate pro-

gramming content," network officials said.

"This is not about censorship," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. "It's about giving parents the information they need to make informed decisions about the programs their children watch on television."

WASHINGTON (BP)



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OBU Box 3783, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

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For registration information, please contact: Brotherhood Department, ABSC, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone 376-4791, ext. 5158; FAX 374-2754.



Congressional hearing explores ways to respond to RFRA ruling

Congress should act to offset a recent Supreme Court decision harmful to religious liberty but should not pursue a constitutional amendment yet, a House of Representatives panel was told July 14.

In testimony before the Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, six of seven witnesses criticized the court's June 25 opinion in *City of Boerne v. Flores*. In the ruling, the court struck down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which Congress passed nearly unanimously and President Clinton signed into law in 1993.

The decision "makes religious liberty an inferior right," Prison Fellowship president Charles Colson said. Colson and other supporters of RFRA recommended several remedies other than an amendment. Among potential congressional responses cited were:

- A nonbinding, joint congressional resolution supporting protection for the free exercise of religion.

- Legislation requiring state and local governments to meet the "compelling interest" test on religious exercise before receiving federal funds.

- A bill mandating that the "compelling interest" test be applied to religious practice affecting interstate commerce.

- Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

which provides more protection for religion than the Smith decision does.

Seeking a constitutional amendment now would be an admission by Congress that the court was correct in its separation of powers ruling, might cause a greater problem than the one that already exists, and is a long and difficult process, some witnesses said.

The subcommittee chairman, Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., agreed that it would be "ill advised" to seek a constitutional amendment now.

"Personally, I do not feel that a compelling argument has been made that there is any practical solution to the problem other than a constitutional amendment," said Will Dodson, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. "Over time, I believe more and more people will become of the opinion that a constitutional amendment is the most effective and the most practical solution." WASHINGTON (BP)

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Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in August:

- Aug. 11: Jeremiah Thompson, University of Arkansas, College Park Apartment, 1225 Mt. Comfort Road, Fayetteville, AR 72703; sophomore from Taiwan.

- Aug. 13: Rachel Caldwell, OBU Box 4242, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Brazil.

- Aug. 15: Beth Taggard, OBU Box 3613; junior from Kenya.

- Aug. 24: Jennifer Blackwell, OBU Box 3814; freshman from Brazil.

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TRAINING

Gospel music event to include 'Sound Advice'

The Southern Gospel Jubilee will offer participants "an evening of enjoyment of the gospel music that is loved by many in the state," said Glenn Ennes, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department. The jubilee, to be held Sept. 27 at First Southern Church in Bryant, will feature performances by gospel groups and Won By One, a gospel trio from Morristown, Tenn.

He urged groups to audition by Sept. 2 by completing an audition form and sending a tape with at least two selections

for consideration. The jubilee will be held from 6:30-8:45 p.m. The "Sound Advice" Workshop will be held prior to the jubilee, from 1 to 4 p.m., reviewing the topics of sound systems, microphones and set-up.

The cost for the jubilee is \$1 per person and the cost for the sound workshop is \$5 per person. Sound workshop participants must pre-register by Sept. 2.

For more information or to preregister, contact Ennes toll-free in state at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791, ext. 5121.

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MEN'S MINISTRIES

Unity theme of men's conference

A Christian men's group in the state has announced plans to host a men's conference focusing on reconciliation, to be held in Little Rock Sept. 6 at Barton Coliseum. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 8:40 p.m.

Ken Palmquist, president of Central Arkansas Men of Integrity, said the "Celebration of Unity" conference will feature a slate of nationally- and locally-known speakers and will focus on "Reconciliation: a Revelation from Jesus Christ of His Love for Men."

"The messages given by the speakers will...call each man to be reconciled God's way," said Palmquist, who also serves as the event's program manager. "First, to be reconciled with God, then with his family and, finally, with his fellow man."

Palmquist cited "several important environmental factors that are coming together at this place and time" that will impact participants.

They include "the 40th anniversary of the racial integration of Central High School" in Little Rock and "Promise Keepers has been a magnet for such men who are seeking to strengthen their walk with the Lord."

Promise Keepers is the popular Christian men's movement founded by Bill McCartney, former head football coach for the University of Colorado.

Highlighting racial reconciliation, the Little Rock program will showcase a variety of black and Anglo speakers. It will feature E.V. Hill, senior pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles and a popular speaker at Promise Keepers events across the country.

Also speaking will be: Paul Holderfield, pastor of Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene in North Little Rock; Crawford Loritts Jr., national director of Legacy Ministry of Union City, Ga.; Michael Brown, president of CN Ministries in Brownsville, Fla.; Robert Smith, director of Word of Outreach Christian Center in Little Rock; and John Trent, president of Encouraging Words in Phoenix, Ariz.

In addition to speakers, the event will include a youth program led by Rick Caldwell of Benton and music by groups Aaron-Jeffrey, Twice Brothers and Generations. For more information, call the ABCS Brotherhood department at 1-800-838-ABSC. For ticket information, call 1-800-611-2993 or 501-945-6033.

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Bluffton	284.30	150.00
Briggsville 2nd	247.00	80.00
Calvary	2,006.80	365.00
Centerville	377.79	0.00
Clarksville First	15,336.57	8,520.03
Crow Mountain	8,018.92	1,819.07
Darville First	20,640.86	18,865.84
Dardanelle First	5,010.00	4,321.00
Delaware First	3,048.99	1,038.10
Dover	21,472.75	1,686.00
East Point	2,389.60	656.87
Fair Park	960.08	281.10
Grace Memorial	150.00	262.00
Havana	2,657.73	1,797.70
Hector First	700.05	1.85
Hopewell	558.16	0.00
Kelley Heights	1,920.57	287.00
Knoxville First	2,370.14	1,257.00
London First	3,171.92	1,058.50
Moreland	0.00	0.00
New Hope	1,023.92	244.00
Ola First	3,858.79	1,084.07
Plainview First	2,903.44	1,632.28
Pleasant View	471.08	100.00
Pottsville	923.60	217.36
Rover	1,667.40	237.25
Russellville First	121,046.76	111,629.38
Russellville Second	25,700.13	4,831.34
Scranton First	2,898.54	963.00
258,514.13	166,668.05	

Arkansas Valley Church

	Coop Prog	Designated
Arkansas Valley	0.00	0.00
Barton	1,000.00	640.00
Bethel	77.86	0.00
Brinkley First	30,989.16	24,864.87
Broadmoor	1,495.00	3,589.24
Calvary	390.00	0.00
Clarendon First	8,125.98	3,571.26
Elaine	8,759.16	4,011.65
Friendship	1,045.00	900.25
Helena First	8,159.60	5,283.00
Holly Grove First Southern	0.00	0.00
Immanuel	940.16	548.33
Lambrook First	715.45	22.94
Lexa	3,921.84	1,460.00
Marianne First	24,426.79	12,738.50
Marvell First	9,501.50	635.73
Monroe	120.00	240.00
Moro	1,108.84	135.00
Petty's Chapel	132.00	0.00
Snow Lake	17.71	0.00
Turner	1,180.83	268.00
West Acres	800.00	394.00

West Helena 9,787.12
West Helena Second 13,592.01
126,055.81 85,339.64

Ashley County Church

	Coop Prog	Designated
Ashley County	0.00	178.00
Calvary	683.81	0.00
Community Chapel	87.44	121.47
Corinth	1,091.15	310.00
Crossett First	119,985.43	27,333.54
Crossett Second	399.05	0.00
Eden	2,434.76	1,556.50
Fellowship	300.00	95.10
Fountain Hill First	450.00	52.81
Gardner	3,997.16	426.00
Hammberg First	25,106.58	3,125.01
Jarvis Chapel	800.00	0.00
Magnolia	9,184.68	1,519.54
Martinville	1,782.00	580.91
Meridian	6,619.09	757.45
Mount Olive	32,067.19	8,971.88
Mount Pleasant	2,208.11	511.05
Mount Zion	0.00	0.00
North Crossett First	2,415.09	541.75
Pleasant Lane	564.59	456.72
Sardis	0.00	0.00
Shiloh	533.66	479.64
South Main	4,005.00	881.91
Temple	2,676.28	875.20
Wilton	5,849.69	1,438.01
223,020.76	50,212.49	

Bartholomew Church

	Coop Prog	Designated
Antioch	0.00	0.00
Bartholomew	0.00	0.00
Calvary	9,802.21	2,124.28
Cominto	1,073.00	0.00
Corinth	1,166.62	168.00
Eagle Lake Crossroads	1,088.45	0.00
Ebenezer	1,165.92	1,409.00
Enon	2,330.38	207.88
Florence	809.16	291.00
Green Hill Community	1,337.07	250.00
Hemittage	7,999.83	1,182.80
Immanuel	27,367.76	4,844.15
Ladelle	1,069.61	0.00
Macedonia	675.48	236.00
Marsden	0.00	0.00
Monticello First	38,410.52	5,314.16
Monticello Second	7,664.64	1,592.53
Northside	2,044.10	120.00
Old Union	1,089.81	0.00
Pleasant Grove	0.00	0.00
Prairie Grove	1,311.07	100.00
Primeria Iglesia Bautista Hisp	0.00	0.00
Saline	1,702.39	110.95
Selma	0.00	0.00
Southside	788.43	50.00
Union Hill	1,934.63	0.00
Warren First	35,789.21	14,468.35
Westside	1,118.21	422.85
Wilmar	2,983.06	1,403.28
148,113.57	34,295.88	

Big Creek Church

	Coop Prog	Designated
Big Creek	0.00	0.00
County Line	0.00	0.00

Elizabeth 180.00
Enterprise 308.00
Flora 150.00
Marion Spring First 50.00
Mount Lebanon 921.23
Mount Zion 1,292.11
Saddle River 1,605.56
Spring River 60.00
Union Hill 504.53
Viola 400.88
270.00
64.39
2,400.00
6,097.86
4,259.13

Black River Church

	Coop Prog	Designated
Alice	738.18	28.00
Amegon	40.47	0.00
Banks	292.72	0.00
Black River	0.00	0.00
Black Rock First	2,295.52	661.48
Calvary	1,302.41	1,321.70
Campbell Station	750.87	234.00
Clear Springs	302.56	0.00
Crossroads	0.00	154.25
Diaz	2,058.00	350.00
Grubbs First	1,792.49	800.00
Hoxie First	3,070.43	249.11
Imboden First	4,150.51	2,449.16
Immanuel	3,618.66	698.92
Jacksonport	1,404.82	0.00
Murphy's Corner	- 0.00	0.00
New Hope #1	1,302.28	1,026.84
New Hope Hardy	1,461.93	1,372.16
Newport First	50,939.39	14,232.25
Old Walnut Ridge	667.06	256.00
Pitts	188.33	0.00
Ravenden First	506.00	100.00
Sedgwick	1,642.77	250.00
Smithville	793.87	793.87
Spring Lake	791.06	337.68
Swifton	2,287.39	187.75
Tuckerman First	2,055.46	4,499.49
Walnut Ridge First	22,947.18	8,482.57
White Oak	300.00	200.00
107,699.36	38,187.19	

Buckner Church

	Coop Prog	Designated
Abbott	191.70	0.00
Bates	125.00	0.00
Boles	428.08	100.00
Buckner	0.00	0.00
Calvary	666.77	328.97
Carthron	0.00	0.00
Cedar Creek	383.05	200.00
Dayton	1,290.00	190.00
Denton	0.00	0.00
Evening Shade	408.50	0.00
Fellowship	5,707.42	4,890.35
Friendship	0.00	0.00
Hartford First	9,672.36	1,830.00
Haw Creek	12,293.99	841.25
Hon	361.09	0.00
Huntington First	421.41	13.60
Iona	0.00	0.00
James Fork	2,065.14	500.00
Long Ridge	1,569.50	0.00
Mansfield First	10,884.82	6,481.12
New Providence	1,383.25	575.87
Parke	628.64	3,398.00
Pleasant Grove #2	1,789.28	678.00

Pleasant Grove #3	339.73	170.28	Sidon	571.00	300.00	Eastside	736.00	183.85
Rock Creek	1,017.37	0.00	Temple	9,885.36	902.50	Faith	1,273.00	1,121.00
Shiloh	0.00	0.00	Trinity	21,889.94	3,345.39	Gilbert First	2,799.21	1,047.85
Southside	1,389.85	0.00	Tupelo First	1,770.18	371.00	Hagler	0.00	0.00
Temple	461.81	1.00	Union Valley	8,938.31	1,088.11	North Maple	977.96	0.00
Unity	233.73	0.00	Valley	8,167.00	836.00	Reynold	300.00	25.00
Waldron First	16,874.01	2,822.32	West Point	790.00	266.00	Seal Charles	4,228.29	1,163.29
West Hartford	429.82	120.00		256,117.21	84,556.26	Southside	4,084.95	597.00
Winfield	1,217.87	251.73				Sturtgart First	53,877.00	13,277.00
	61,895.99	23,366.29	Carey Church			Tichner	60.00	120.00
Buckville Church			Coop Prog	Designated			95,437.23	28,725.00
Buckville	0.00	0.00	Bearden First Southern	3,499.98	750.00	Central Church		
Mount Taber	102.70	0.00	Bethesda	1,088.28	163.47	Balbos	20,676.40	4,412.00
Rock Springs	1,422.50	0.00	Calvary	19,625.73	2,111.90	Barcelona Road	39,810.43	7,382.08
	1,525.20	0.00	Carey	0.00	0.00	Benton First	137,773.11	52,718.99
			Eagle Mills	3,033.00	750.00	Buia	199.13	72.00
Caddo River Church			Faith	247.30	0.00	Calvary	13,098.42	3,168.15
Amity Second	120.00	0.00	Fordyce First	26,571.57	8,386.72	Calvary	1,509.94	481.00
Big Fork	286.50	0.00	Grace	752.58	302.00	Central	10,250.88	6,999.50
Black Springs	4,007.61	600.00	Grant County First Southern	64.77	0.00	Central	0.00	31.75
Caddo Gap	140.00	0.00	Hampton First	5,299.18	1,725.50	Congo	4,344.17	903.00
Caddo River	0.00	0.00	Holly Springs	566.73	300.00	Contra	589.55	250.00
Community Bible	0.00	349.00	Marion	1,413.81	0.00	Greenwood	2,483.29	300.00
Concord	0.00	0.00	Marion	1,413.72	200.00	Highland Heights	22,366.87	3,424.35
Glenwood First	15,067.52	3,547.56	New Hope	2,004.72	299.00	Hildes	1,977.00	225.00
Lake Ouachita	4,906.73	1,890.00	Ouachita	718.00	110.00	Hot Springs	51,240.91	22,456.94
Liberty	0.00	0.00	Prosperity	794.12	1,345.00	Hot Springs First	78,879.42	35,415.96
Little Hope	200.00	0.00	Shady Grove	100.00	200.00	Hot Springs Second	53,800.02	30,029.93
Mount Glead	384.77	0.00	Smead Community	0.00	0.00	Hurricane Lake	2,082.26	553.55
Mount Ida First	10,280.73	1,983.50	South Side	2,054.96	405.50	Lake Hamilton	4,854.45	3,167.00
Murphy	40.00	200.00	Sparkman First	14,022.62	7,127.35	Lakeshore Heights	5,492.29	3,878.00
Norman First	600.00	535.00	Thornton First	1,519.35	28.00	Lee Chapel	748.18	36.11
Oak Grove	60.00	20.00	Tinsman First	120.00	0.00	Lighthouse	0.00	0.00
Oden First	1,260.28	729.00	Tulip Memorial	370.11	1,000.00	Lonsdale	450.00	0.00
Pencil Bluff First	2,767.79	425.00	Caroline Church	85,625.73	25,204.44	Macedonia	251.00	0.00
Pine Ridge	0.00	0.00	Coop Prog	Designated		Magnet Cove First Southern	4,305.28	929.50
Refuge	0.00	0.00	Austin Station	3,744.00	900.00	Malvern First	14,001.48	6,877.98
Sims	317.00	321.00	Baugh Chapel	2,307.21	1,198.11	Malvern Third	19,708.72	5,643.48
Sulphur Springs	0.00	0.00	Biscoe First	3,625.23	410.00	Meadowview	2,046.01	558.15
	40,438.93	10,700.86	Brianwood	719.89	45.00	Memorial	2,561.94	168.41
			Brownsville	3,153.63	51.00	Mount Varnon	2,423.93	1,025.00
Calvary Church			Cabot First	75,097.50	21,612.07	Mountain View	0.00	0.00
Antioch	631.00	1,575.00	Cabot Second	723.46	0.00	New Life	3,394.91	1,642.00
Augusta First	6,981.11	1,199.63	Calvary	1,844.83	490.50	New Life Bible Fellowship	55.00	0.00
Beebe First	12,857.05	8,127.73	Canary Creek	359.57	561.00	North Main	699.12	763.72
Bethany	642.13	300.00	Cardale First	16,184.05	1,826.00	Old Union	2,375.07	300.00
Bradford First Southern	292.68	0.00	Caroline	0.00	0.00	Owensville	3,806.00	905.00
Calvary	318.67	2,431.59	Cocklebur	6,591.71	1,322.85	Piney	5,884.91	1,123.00
Calvary	0.00	500.00	Coy	7,139.60	21,000.00	Pleasant Hill	8,935.39	753.51
Central	0.00	0.00	Cres Roads	860.00	0.00	Ridgecrest	1,138.70	730.00
Central	18,128.04	12,483.15	Des Arc First	29,502.99	1,258.25	Riverside	2,024.04	1,040.59
Cotton Plant First	3,085.26	1,289.53	DeValls Bluff First	1,531.79	583.00	Royal	995.13	570.00
Crosby	730.00	200.00	England First	10,423.35	3,884.00	Salem	16,538.80	5,511.85
Denmark	395.00	161.00	Hazen First	10,210.53	2,540.00	Shorewood Hills	0.00	0.00
El Paso First	774.34	309.70	Immanuel	2,867.69	483.74	Social Hill First	1,128.52	423.04
Floyd First	700.02	325.90	Keo	2,838.41	0.00	Temple	2,135.19	684.25
Gateway	395.43	0.00	Lonoke	26,946.14	2,456.37	Trinity	1,004.53	3,351.70
Good Hope	635.76	40.00	Mount Carmel	19,910.75	7,664.11	Trinity	3,254.72	3,271.65
Grace	1,200.00	1,214.27	Mountain Springs	1,166.19	588.19	Walnut Valley	1,675.79	799.08
Gragory	138.24	25.00	New Hope	1,196.46	600.00		562,115.51	213,945.43
Griffithville First	1,581.71	50.00	Oak Grove	904.94	727.47	Clear Church		
Hunter First	1,000.00	350.00	Oakridge	0.00	300.00	Coop Prog	Designated	
Judsonia First	14,609.44	5,694.68	Old Austin	700.00	159.00	Alma First	27,494.02	17,909.76
Kansett First	3,736.00	2,531.88	Pleasant Hill	2,646.08	103.00	Altus First	535.55	109.00
Liberty	308.84	135.00	Roberson	1,509.48	60.00	Batson	259.00	690.00
McCroy First	11,222.33	4,430.71	South Bend	707.76	206.75	Cabin Creek	541.39	710.49
McRae First	4,998.44	892.50	Steel Bridge	1,077.83	1,014.00	Cass	0.00	35.00
Midway	424.34	24.00	Taltec	4,881.41	1,112.74	Cederville First	1,600.04	169.00
Mount Hebron	2,523.27	1,413.26	Ward First	4,290.76	454.83	Cederville Second	7,229.72	2,092.00
New Monroe	70.00	0.00	Wattensaw	2,215.34	1,212.70	Clarksville Second Hispanic M	0.00	0.00
Pangburn First	4,782.77	165.50	Centennial Church	247,324.68	74,924.88	Clear Creek	0.00	0.00
Patterson First	0.00	0.00	Coop Prog	Designated		Coal Hill First	544.88	675.00
Pleasant Grove	1,002.96	614.20	Aberdeen First	1,272.48	545.19	Concord	16,500.12	1,774.00
Rocky Point	1,026.03	0.00	Almyra First	10,276.67	2,949.02	Dyer First	1,046.71	106.00
Rose Bud	3,340.04	1,750.94	Centennial	0.00	0.00	East Mount Zion	7,470.78	2,713.84
Royal Hill	0.00	0.00	DeWitt First	15,553.67	7,898.00	Eastern Heights	2,082.65	1,359.00
Searcy First	105,674.72	38,211.09				Graphic Southern	309.40	0.00

Hagarville	0.00	0.00	Ratcliff First	785.24	834.95	Belleira	8,937.20	1,265.00
Hartman First	1,443.00	503.00	Roseville	300.00	661.00	Boydell	0.00	0.00
Kibler	4,753.90	4,946.70	Rye Hill	9,937.97	6,755.49	Chickasaw	344.32	31.00
Lamar	2,748.00	2,120.43	South Side	1,091.99	36.15	Collins	717.34	100.00
Lee Creek	2,712.06	30.00	South Side	13,500.00	7,748.52	Daniel Chapel	393.16	0.00
Mountainburg First	761.21	938.62	Southern Hills	1,771.96	100.00	Delta	0.00	0.00
Mulberry First	6,693.63	1,361.00	Southside	1,289.20	557.60	Dermott	6,775.38	2,580.50
North Park	12,695.81	4,357.33	Spradling	7,767.00	5,850.28	Eudora	7,032.14	1,717.50
Oak Grove	7,327.54	640.36	Temple	6,129.39	783.41	Gaines	0.00	0.00
Oark 0.00	0.00		Trinity	2,898.51	1,391.43	Halley	790.15	0.00
Ozark First	29,926.73	5,564.00	Union Hall	0.00	0.00	Jennie	1,655.73	734.20
Ozone	1,142.36	203.00	Vesta	0.00	0.00	Jerome	300.00	50.00
Rudy	792.00	438.00	Victory	564.55	390.42	Kelso	3,388.24	0.00
Shady Grove	414.44	169.25	Vietnamese	40.00	310.00	Lake Village	11,594.01	17,074.03
Shibley	0.00	110.16	Vietnamese (of Grand Avenue)	0.00	0.00	McGehee First	6,644.74	6,713.50
Southside	3,570.36	515.43	Westside	1,057.34	2,117.60	Montrose	778.02	572.00
Spadra	140.01	0.00				New Hope	1,964.04	0.00
Trinity	350.00	0.00				Northside	300.00	601.00
Union Grove	1,992.57	325.46	Conway-Perry Church	Coop Prog	Designated	Omega	546.20	500.00
Uniontown	983.34	0.00	Case First	732.28	314.75	Parkdale	300.00	300.00
Van Buren First	26,124.82	17,340.77	Center Ridge	459.47	657.00	Parkway	50.00	50.00
Van Buren Second	519.00	0.00	Conway-Perry	0.00	0.00	Portland	2,680.00	1,903.34
Vine Prairie	1,122.84	600.82	Coronerate	226.88	101.00	Shiloh	364.45	94.24
Webb City	1,856.83	456.38	Cove Chapel Southern	417.38	50.00	South McGehee	5,081.71	1,831.94
Woodland	1,611.92	812.10	Harmony	0.00	0.00	Temple	6,847.00	2,200.26
	175,308.33	69,773.90	Houston	1,726.34	737.50	Tiller First	1,936.82	675.00
			Morriton First	16,309.97	9,955.44	Watson	1,538.54	710.00
			Nimrod	2,315.00	1,096.00		80,793.10	41,581.80
Concord Church	Coop Prog	Designated	Oppelo	300.00	381.00	Faulkner County Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Barling First	2,241.17	913.83	Perry	350.00	100.00	Beryl	7,854.04	1,436.33
Bethel	0.00	165.00	Perryville First	8,737.53	6,014.97	Bigelow	2,391.07	1,200.00
Bloomer	0.00	0.00	Petit Jean First	486.53	868.95	Blaney Hill	0.00	0.00
Bluff Avenue	3,017.42	783.00	Pleasant Grove	40.00	60.00	Bono 492.64	33.22	
Boonville First	25,015.12	6,134.56	Plumerville First	1,704.32	1,618.81	Brookside	0.00	0.00
Branch	5,895.15	633.92	Solgochachia	1,243.00	231.00	Brumley	3,765.40	3,590.00
Briar Creek	0.00	0.00	Stony Point	415.00	415.00	Cadron Ridge	5,194.49	2,655.56
Burnville	178.00	0.00	Sweet Home	87.00	52.00	Conway Celebration Church	1,766.14	0.00
Calvary	6,624.50	4,015.58	Thornburg	1,671.29	918.00	Conway First	57,194.03	22,065.44
Canon First Southern	1,141.80	851.25	Union Valley	642.98	633.26	Conway Second	37,202.00	4,207.28
Charleston First	21,612.23	11,580.43	Wyo Mountain Southern	390.89	43.00	Eastwood	111.97	56.00
Citichurch	0.00	0.00		38,255.86	24,347.68	Emmanuel	1,722.27	178.27
Community Church of Ft Smi	200.00	0.00	Current-Gaines Church	Coop Prog	Designated	Enola	364.90	449.00
Concord	0.00	0.00	Biggers	0.00	186.00	Faulkner County	0.00	0.00
Crestview	1,030.23	193.95	Calvary	1,242.22	148.00	Friendship	8,993.87	270.00
East Side	103,311.02	12,575.23	Columbia Jarrett	494.36	54.00	Gold Creek	0.00	0.00
Enterprise First	0.00	0.00	Coming First	7,475.11	5,713.50	Greenbrier First	6,977.47	291.38
Excelsior	1,353.75	276.26	Current-Gaines	0.00	206.00	Happy Hollow	168.10	150.00
Faith	1,023.26	331.40	East Side Holly Island	5,074.00	290.05	Harlan Park	12,900.50	8,256.37
Fianna Hills	19,387.84	12,385.16	Emmanuel	2,074.45	337.75	Harmony	2,738.45	152.00
Fort Smith First	35,226.82	95,504.21	Greenway First	752.50	723.00	Holland	2,161.28	1,796.02
Ft Smith First Hispanic Mis	0.00	0.00	Harmony	376.00	45.00	Mayflower First	5,967.06	1,255.91
Ft Smith First Leotian Mis	0.00	0.00	Hopewell	988.56	584.00	Mount Vernon	2,227.00	202.00
Glendale	4,674.40	2,484.55	Knobel First	160.00	90.00	Naylor	285.38	83.82
Grand Avenue	112,827.29	17,435.97	Moark	60.00	0.00	New Bethel	0.00	0.00
Grayson	0.00	0.00	Mount Pleasant	0.00	427.88	New Hope	1,844.00	765.00
Greenwood First	39,100.83	5,694.62	New Hope	2,565.24	583.50	Oak Bowery	5,952.81	3,411.18
Hackett First	3,997.70	846.33	Nimmons	554.56	145.00	Perryville Second	175.00	985.00
Haven Heights	17,611.15	5,072.86	Oak Grove	589.00	552.00	Pickles Gap	20,951.77	5,221.50
Highway 96 First	200.00	150.00	Peach Orchard First	50.00	0.00	Pleasant Grove	8,607.32	1,849.95
Immanuel	11,006.00	3,145.00	Piggott First	27,657.65	3,211.59	Sahillo Heights	1,208.83	302.18
Jenny Lind	3,301.72	100.00	Pine Grove	371.88	94.00	Smyrna	0.00	0.00
Korsan	0.00	0.00	Pocahontes First	11,454.41	5,792.25	South Side	2,156.86	521.00
Laotian (of Grand Avenue)	0.00	0.00	Ravenden Springs First	634.28	375.53	Sunny Gap	2,328.00	536.95
Lavaca First	34,145.20	3,259.84	Rector First	6,624.42	2,689.25	Victory Southern	715.89	836.26
Magazine First	3,880.05	349.81	Reyno First	2,117.84	0.00	Woodland Heights	31,169.85	7,905.53
Memorial	961.94	640.00	Saint Francis	1,800.00	1,112.69	Wooster First	7,041.32	3,989.55
Midland First	3,190.83	1,766.40	Shannon	893.32	0.00	Zion	1,087.20	551.79
Mixon	149.30	0.00	Shiloh	240.00	79.00		243,688.64	75,014.48
Moffett - Grand Avenue	41.83	0.00	Success First	2,779.92	2,279.00	Garland County Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Mount Harmony	0.00	0.00	Witts Chapel	2,712.92	1,431.35	Amity First	2,593.02	2,154.26
Mount Zion	1,576.20	2,180.00		75,353.84	27,180.14	Andoch	7,170.84	2,404.47
New Hope	4,409.27	1,225.00				Cedar Glades	3,071.80	0.00
North Side	396.97	127.00	Delta Church	Coop Prog	Designated	Emmanuel	62.72	120.00
North Side	784.50	260.00	Anderson Chapel	1,161.32	85.00	Fairdale	4,964.92	2,480.80
Oak Cliff	20,333.70	10,628.70	Arkansas City	5,215.55	2,013.29	Garland County	0.00	1,800.00
Palestine	642.08	985.33	Beyou Mason	3,438.04	400.00	Grand Avenue	13,027.15	3,814.82
Paris First	18,444.17	11,175.30						
Parkview	2,530.31	972.00						
Phoenix Village	1,411.60	384.00						
Pine Log	0.00	0.00						

Oak Grove	2,292.75	951.00	Magnolia Road	798.40	215.00	Parthenon	3,302.00	314.94
Ugden First	1,138.03	172.50	Monette First	11,333.49	894.00	Pindall	69.11	0.00
Ridgeway	9,366.33	3,002.97	Mount Pisgah	576.30	219.39	Rock Springs	1,060.40	708.43
Rock Hill	0.00	100.00	Mount Zion	4,056.07	566.00	Rudd	1,693.81	210.00
Stete Line	551.94	533.40	Mount Zion	0.00	0.00	Saint Joe First	0.00	20.00
Washington	450.00	200.00	Needham	792.85	695.10	Searcy County	844.64	0.00
Wilton First	1,231.00	638.79	Nettleton 36,858.17	16,807.84	0.00	Snowbell	226.16	80.00
	98,482.57	38,852.15	New Antioch	2,796.56	0.00	Southside	1,963.41	1,490.00
Mississippi County			New Hope	682.00	0.00	Trinity	266.23	73.90
Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	New Hope	1,090.15	25.00	Union	4,331.05	1,881.80
Armoral	4,985.41	1,875.41	North Main	7,657.59	1,486.00	Valley Springs First	11,682.05	8,027.31
Bethany	1,415.00	126.00	Philadelphia	8,124.51	1,646.53	Valley View	2,724.29	605.00
Bethany	60.00	0.00	Providence	1,202.83	2.39	Western Grove First	528.16	237.00
Blackwater	583.00	100.00	Rowe's Chapel	738.84	40.55	Woodland Heights	6,678.41	2,704.39
Bytheville First	89,492.42	13,556.14	South Caraway Chapel	2,537.36	404.10	Zion's Light	1,071.00	250.00
Brinkley Chapel	0.00	0.00	Strawflower	1,657.93	212.59		242,300.16	72,495.87
Brown Chapel	243.00	0.00	University	4,311.53	2,693.12			
Calvary	4,379.81	1,423.38	Valley Ridge	945.94	0.00	North Central		
Calvary	3,532.72	1,329.07	Walnut Street	31,915.28	3,060.60	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>
Clear Lake	3,180.17	2,834.11	Westvale	657.00	281.00	Angora	0.00	0.00
Cole Ridge	1,305.11	290.00	Woodsprings	578.90	871.00	Bee Branch	786.84	703.38
Crossroads	58.14	0.00		287,176.40	105,995.30	Botkinburg	137.00	0.00
Deil	3,782.16	1,681.00	No Membership In Association			Burnt Ridge	0.00	0.00
Dyess Central	240.00	40.00	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Clinton First	22,182.39	3,395.06
East Side	1,263.64	200.00	Cushman	0.00	0.00	Corinth	393.69	182.00
Emmanuel	627.98	75.00	Family Church Inc.	2,400.00	0.00	Fairfield Bay	9,300.23	2,270.17
Etowah	335.00	160.00	Koinonia	559.86	342.55	Formosa	2,510.20	625.00
Gosnell	9,790.96	3,428.58	New Beginnings	572.28	0.00	Friendship	7,256.28	1,633.00
Joiner	937.26	260.00	New Life	0.00	0.00	Hallmoon	30.00	0.00
Keiser First	0.00	0.00	No Membership In A	0.00	0.00	Higher Ground	0.00	0.00
Leachville First	17,907.00	2,149.00	Providence	0.00	0.00	Immanuel	1,399.86	400.00
Leachville Second	2,533.13	234.50	Rolling Hills	138.03	495.50	Leslie First	4,495.98	1,452.58
Leachville Second His Mis	0.00	0.00	Shepherd's Heart Com Chu	200.00	0.00	Lexington	770.00	0.00
Luxora First	2,561.25	675.00	Southside	0.00	0.00	Marshall First	5,768.77	1,898.85
Menia First	13,074.40	6,496.00	Trinity	0.00	0.00	Morning Star	336.65	0.00
Marys Chapel	125.00	0.00	Unity	0.00	0.00	New Hopewell	82.20	0.00
Memorial	0.00	153.54		3,970.17	838.45	North Central	0.00	0.00
Mississippi County	0.00	0.00	North Arkansas			Pes Dee	1,647.00	205.00
New Harmony	370.50	123.50	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Plant	449.60	133.82
New Liberty	5,092.58	1,071.42	Alpena First	2,492.93	1,025.94	Pleasant Valley	1,529.53	3,006.75
New Life Korean	1,646.56	531.00	Batavia	1,592.70	626.69	Rupert	1,184.07	0.00
New Providence	293.90	0.00	Bear Creek Springs	3,268.74	823.66	Scotland	1,230.40	1,082.85
Nodana	399.14	548.55	Beaver Lake	476.15	205.00	Shady Grove	625.66	1,089.49
North Tenth Street	5,509.61	759.38	Bellefonte	1,200.00	1,255.00	Shirley	2,540.66	1,295.00
Number Nine	369.27	232.09	Berryville First	810.59	0.00	Skyland Southern	996.43	445.00
Osceola First	17,581.03	8,205.75	Beth El	2,123.84	942.50	Sugar Loaf First	1,463.17	263.00
Pleasant View	0.00	0.00	Blue Eye First	3,078.21	1,380.26		67,116.61	20,832.83
Ridgecrest	1,496.00	838.00	Boxley	0.00	0.00	North Pulaski		
Rosa 0.00	0.00	0.00	Burlington	1,925.00	375.00	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>
Trinity	6,066.21	2,284.54	Cassville	871.00	563.00	Amby	4,555.41	435.00
Wardell	947.00	0.00	Deer	375.91	787.00	Barling Cross	25,479.03	22,747.32
Westside	4,031.00	1,448.00	Diamond City First	951.30	175.00	Bayou Meto	14,788.56	2,725.39
Whitton	268.87	0.00	Dove Circle	3,356.59	2,744.75	Berea	259.36	555.00
Wilson First	11,840.33	2,544.18	Eagle Heights	34,644.44	10,251.04	Bethany	3,177.31	2,831.15
Woodland Corner	481.73	43.92	Elixir	1,186.88	349.50	Bethel	8,969.12	2,585.00
Yarbo	3,380.07	609.00	Elmwood	1,418.46	250.00	Calvary	13,203.07	1,669.02
	222,166.38	56,266.66	Emmanuel	1,162.48	1,211.58	Cedar Heights	11,114.48	1,242.21
			Eureka Springs First	1,269.44	400.00	Central	49,932.78	14,812.10
Mount Zion			Everton	1,425.34	285.10	Chapel Hill	3,859.39	1,198.51
Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Freeman Heights	14,048.32	5,002.86	Crosspoint	5,902.02	4,023.73
Alsop	420.00	0.00	Gander	1,136.90	1,245.00	Crystal Valley	2,208.00	245.04
Bay First	8,428.69	2,851.49	Grandview First	8,345.34	2,313.85	Fellowship	1,348.22	0.00
Bethabara 2,256.16	100.00	0.00	Green Forest First	10,015.29	3,533.03	Forty-Seventh Street	1,500.00	1,127.24
Black Oak	1,547.88	612.49	Grubb Springs	1,408.18	480.00	Friendship	4,728.44	1,681.66
Bono First	289.16	733.23	Harrison First	76,385.73	6,824.00	Guthsmans	0.00	0.00
Bowman	4,110.06	320.00	Hopewell	756.00	250.00	Glyndale	0.00	0.00
Brockland	2,155.01	1,823.25	Jasper First	5,985.87	2,242.00	Good Stewardship	0.00	0.00
Buffalo Chapel	88.92	0.00	Lakeland	350.00	1,782.00	Grace	2,310.78	2,378.27
Caraway First	5,623.74	4,031.09	Lead Hill First	3,443.45	4,788.34	Gravel Ridge	17,039.34	5,361.15
Cash First	2,956.44	931.33	Merble Falls	0.00	0.00	Graves Memorial	5,511.00	2,714.65
Central	101,900.52	21,383.66	New Hearts Church	45.00	100.00	Highway	15,738.80	19,992.38
Childress	158.75	120.00	New Hope	2,383.41	234.54	Indian Hills	13,569.07	0.00
Daie	625.00	200.00	Newton County	437.34	102.22	Indianhead Lake	4,430.37	3,725.35
Egypt	100.00	302.47	North Arkansas	0.00	100.00	Jacksonville First	20,736.29	13,747.80
Friendly Hope	2,384.14	2,851.50	Northvale	12,764.55	2,554.00	Jacksonville Second	10,131.66	4,589.64
Highland Drive	14,693.00	10,487.87	Omaha First	315.13	0.00	Korean	200.00	0.00
Jonesboro First	24,825.77	24,182.46	Oregon Flat	987.11	148.50	Korey	0.00	630.00
Lake City First	6,458.83	4,778.50	Osage	3,434.01	438.70	Levan	21,386.76	5,573.95
Lunsford	834.53	151.75				Maddox Road	3,107.00	442.00

Marshall Road	13,496.95	15,800.09	De Queen First	29,782.00	15,236.72	West Side	1,259.09	535.00
Mauwelle	5,636.43	1,192.50	Gilham	1,250.00	59.50	Whispering Hills	103.70	0.00
Military Road	2,508.79	2,318.85	Grannis	3,114.55	821.87	Woodlawn	7,041.92	3,659.04
Morrison Chapel	477.87	204.14	Hatfield First	7,888.78	570.43	Woodson	572.90	465.00
North Little Rock First	5,419.94	5,472.05	Hatton	487.17	0.00			
North Puleaski	0.00	0.00	Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel	160.00	0.00			847,423,30488,987.50
Oakwood	300.00	0.00	Mena First	21,738.10	2,894.80	Red River		
Park Hill	192,555.04	89,942.25	New Hope	374.62	0.00	Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Remount	2,101.00	1,279.00	Ouachita	0.00	1,009.00	Anchor	106.74	0.00
Riverside	0.00	0.00	Rich Mountain	249.43	124.50	Antoine	598.75	282.45
Rowe	745.60	0.00	Salem	2,652.72	469.11	Arkadelphia First	43,129.19	35,781.81
Royal Oaks	0.00	0.00	Two Mile	77.81	0.00	Arkadelphia Second	19,184.27	3,723.00
Rumyan First	5,374.26	3,151.76	Vandervoort First	3,184.96	380.34	Beech Street	16,306.98	2,591.37
Saintsville	0.00	0.00	Wickes First	517.83	356.00	Beima First	1,456.35	610.00
Sherwood First	37,442.21	8,312.55	Yocana	381.95	50.00	Bethel	466.71	0.00
Sixteenth Street	0.00	0.00				Bethlehem	328.00	0.00
Stanfill	450.00	0.00		192,677.77	36,646.48	Bismarck First Southern	757.97	2,540.00
Sylvan Hills First	12,488.00	8,399.15	Puleaski Church	Coop Prog	Designated	Boughton	0.00	30.40
Trinity	1,200.00	800.00	Alexander First	5,665.09	1,933.20	Caddo Valley	1,859.03	852.00
Victory	2,840.00	624.56	Archview	5,568.19	2,195.47	Cedar Grove	220.00	0.00
Zion Hill	10,956.64	6,257.12	Barnett Memorial	891.73	460.32	Center Point	75.00	0.00
	558,889,00260,787.69		Bingham Road	9,127.60	2,726.82	Curtis First	2,868.91	233.00
			Bountiful Blessings	0.00	0.00	Dalark	0.00	0.00
Northwest Church	Coop Prog	Designated	Brookwood First	1,385.10	937.15	DeGray	1,633.00	700.00
Amazing Grace	0.00	0.00	Bryant First Southern	18,218.27	4,511.52	East Whelen	60.00	100.00
Avoca First	324.47	0.00	Calvary	60,563.17	38,539.63	Emmet First	1,448.10	87.93
Bella Vista	58,039.26	11,351.86	Charity	0.00	0.00	Harmony Hill	450.00	33.10
Bonita First	36,663.78	12,855.49	Chicot Road	591.59	1,061.76	Hollywood	0.00	0.00
Calvary	938.84	0.00	Community Church of LR	0.00	0.00	Lakewood	178.77	187.77
Centerton First	40,246.07	29,633.36	Cross Road	2,417.76	1,458.63	Life Line Chapel	563.25	0.00
Charity Southern	7,329.00	967.00	Crystal Hill	12,963.46	3,887.86	Maribook	1,645.93	240.00
Cornerstone	1,489.85	308.83	Douglasville	350.00	50.00	Mount Bethel	0.00	0.00
Decatur First	8,390.01	12,101.01	East End	10,738.39	2,674.65	Mount Olive	829.97	0.00
Emmanuel	0.00	0.00	Faith Southern	0.00	0.00	Mount Zion	1,626.00	408.55
Farfield	1,776.52	203.57	Forest Tower	5,338.88	730.51	New Hope	73.50	0.00
Garth First	6,755.03	1,136.37	Geyer Springs First	76,778.49	3,381.42	Okolona	100.00	0.00
Genesis First	22,954.47	14,468.88	Greater Grace	0.00	0.00	Park Hill	17,031.91	3,814.06
Grace	4,685.17	1,709.41	Greater Mt Carmel	50.00	0.00	Prescott First	12,669.53	2,117.00
Gravette First	1,629.72	1,177.23	Green Memorial	3,010.37	983.20	Primera Iglesia Bautista	109.85	314.28
Gum Springs	1,053.73	1,413.02	Hebron	4,666.42	145.00	Red River	0.00	0.00
Harvard Avenue	10,788.33	6,039.82	Highlands	0.00	0.00	Richwoods	25.00	650.50
Hickory Creek	0.00	0.00	Hispanic	0.00	0.00	Shady Grove	0.00	0.00
Highfill First	2,559.74	299.28	Holly Springs	960.77	449.39	Shiloh	959.00	450.00
Hivvasse First	1,871.96	665.84	Immanuel	268,470.38	112,014.31	South Fork	0.00	0.00
Immanuel	8,851.71	27,037.00	Immanuel West	0.00	0.00	Southside	0.00	0.00
Lakeside	6,873.62	2,174.65	Indian Springs	12,254.31	5,521.90	Sycamore	40.00	0.00
Lakewood	2,615.07	1,104.30	Ironton	8,998.00	830.00	Third Street	7,215.00	3,333.00
Lowell First	13,783.34	1,190.05	Lakeshore Drive	0.00	2,924.11	Unity	1,138.00	1,226.00
Lowell Spanish Mission	214.46	0.00	Lancaster Road	891.59	85.00	Whelen Springs	120.00	50.00
Meson Valley	1,432.97	493.70	Life Line	36,646.45	22,072.92			
Monte Ne	2,821.88	858.04	Little Rock First	123,859.04	164,943.79	Rocky Bayou Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Mountain Springs	1,558.00	38.00	Little Rock Second	1,803.20	26,276.90	Claret First	693.20	548.46
Northwest	0.00	0.00	Marham Church	29,701.64	27,651.91	Bethview	3,410.58	2,028.56
Open Door	2,477.58	0.00	Martindale	4,468.19	1,596.77	Boswell	0.00	0.00
Park Street	799.00	0.00	Natural Steps	8,351.90	4,569.00	Calico Rock First	4,241.75	4,573.02
Pea Ridge First	6,608.76	3,232.91	North Point	299.26	0.00	Cherokee Village First	8,645.55	5,647.50
Piney Point	1,217.34	0.00	Olivet	18,164.00	15,526.40	Dolph	782.51	300.00
Pleasant Hill	844.33	725.02	Otter Creek First	4,093.86	1,212.71	Evening Shade First	824.31	378.51
Robinson	0.00	606.00	Parkway Place	28,017.00	20,080.89	Finley Creek	226.80	0.00
Rogers First	99,326.88	11,124.80	Pine Grove	2,732.85	525.00	Franklin	2,834.89	1,282.24
Silam Springs First	12,568.43	4,460.29	Plainview 1,753.48	194.00	0.00	Guion	405.71	0.00
Spanish	0.00	0.00	Pleasant Grove	6,428.00	2,157.50	Herd First	6,407.95	938.50
Sulphur Springs First	400.33	210.00	Puleaski	0.00	0.00	Horseshoe Bend First	5,777.17	1,757.50
Sunny Side	0.00	1,500.00	Pulaski Heights	17,749.59	13,465.84	Immanuel Southern	2,250.00	219.00
Trinity	0.00	0.00	Reynolds Memorial	1,172.19	997.00	Jordan First	696.22	0.00
Twelve Corners	1,857.61	250.00	Roland	1,875.54	610.12	Melbourne First	6,645.00	5,820.15
	373,802.37	149,525.73	Rosedale	1,797.16	1,531.00	Midway	2,793.88	1,367.72
			Shannon Hills First	2,201.35	1,074.01	Mount Pleasant Southern	1,392.09	1,662.00
			Sheldon First	7,956.00	1,325.65	Myron	1,058.18	1,488.02
			South Highland	14,958.75	7,084.05	Oxford	1,120.28	125.00
			Sunset Lane	2,528.43	1,253.00	Rocky Bayou	0.00	0.00
			The Church at Rock Creek	2,950.00	0.00	Sage	1,976.52	1,377.01
			Thorn Oaks	270.83	0.00	Salem First	9,154.47	1,337.74
			Trinity	1,038.14	445.00	Sidney	2,984.69	807.60
			Tyler Street	2,580.06	1,222.00	Sylamore	246.64	0.00
			Viny Ridge Immanuel	938.61	964.00	Zion Hill	333.11	1,205.73
			Vision of the Light	884.00	0.00			
			West Puleaski	515.48	120.00			
			West Rock	3,213.94	317.30			
								84,881.80 31,386.26

Family Bible

Milk or meat?

By T. Clifford Toney, member,
Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage:

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Focal passage:

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Central truth:

Christians should move on to a mature faith toward God.

This passage categorizes Christians in two ways. The immature Christian and the mature Christian are described in several comparisons. The mature Christian is a teacher while the immature Christian must still be taught. Mature Christians are able to digest solid spiritual food and immature Christians still need spiritual milk.

Immature Christians cannot deal deeply with the things concerning the kingdom of God. They must be continually reinforced concerning the principles of faith. Much like a baby which never progresses from a milk bottle to steak, so the immature Christian never seems to be able to deal with the more perfect issues of faith toward God.

Mature Christians are those who have put their faith into practice enough to discern both good and evil. They can deal with the deeper issues of faith because they have learned to know God. They can recognize false doctrine because they have studied and practiced the right doctrine.

In verses 6:4-6, the author gives an example of

one issue which immature Christians of the day had difficulty digesting. The issue of apostasy is one which many to this day do not easily grasp. There are several points which reinforce our "Baptist" beliefs in these verses. Notice that verse 4 begins with, "For it is impossible...." This should be understood to reflect on the entire analogy in the following verses. Notice further that verse 6 begins with "If." The apostle Paul is not saying that it is possible for someone to fall away from grace. He is merely making an example for the sake of showing its impossibility. We know that Christ is not going to be crucified again.

If one did fall from grace after they had experienced what is outlined in verse 6:4-5, it would be impossible for them to regain salvation.

The passage ends with a commendation and an exhortation. The Hebrews are commended for their labor and ministry to the saints. Then they are exhorted to show diligence and to imitate those who, through faith, inherit the promises.

Life and Work

Wisdom for the ages

By Joe A. Fitzpatrick,
minister of music,
Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage:

I Timothy 5:1-10, 16; Titus 2:1-5

Focal passage:

I Timothy 5:1-5; Titus 2:1-5

Central truth:

Young and old alike have a responsibility to one another as members of the family of God.

The spirit of Paul's exhortations to Timothy and Titus in these verses is lived out before me today in such wonderful ways.

I have had a tremendous example set by my church family about how we should show respect to our more mature saints and how the snow-crowned aged should be vitally involved in ministry. My pastor added to his house to provide full-time home health care for his parents. Our minister of pastoral care has led our church to provide ongoing widow/widower and care-giver support ministries which offer emotional, spiritual and social encouragement. An active senior adult ministry offers many opportunities for involvement, service and ministry for our older saints.

Paul's letters demonstrate the very practical nature of God's Word to common man. Specific instructions and criteria are provided to show how we should relate to those in different stages of life. For instance, if a widow has family members who are available to provide for her care, then the church should reserve its burden for those who

are left alone in the world. Children and grandchildren should return the care they received from their parents. Older adults should refer to those who are younger as brother or sister and those who are younger should honor those who are older with respect, encouragement and dignity.

Instructions for Titus included the need to urge older men to display self control and for older women to show discipline and mentor younger women by living out a life of moral character. The experiences our senior adults have gleaned over the years enable them to serve as excellent role models. They can wield positive influence out of their wealth of knowledge and expertise, as well as their walk with the Lord. They should devote their lives to prayer, fasting and ministry to others.

Those of us who hail from younger generations must revere these older saints and provide for their needs. This would exemplify the teachings of Jesus which state that as we do this "unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Explore the Bible

Proclamation vs. tongues

By James Swedenburg,
member, Trinity Church, Benton

Basic passage:

I Corinthians 14:1-40

Focal passage:

I Corinthians 14:1-20

Central truth:

Our speech and witness ought to be such that will build up the body of Christ.

It is obvious that the issue of speaking in tongues was a problem in the Corinthian church. Chapter 14 deals largely with speaking in tongues and prophesying in the worship service. Immediately, the relationship between I Corinthians 14:1-19 and Acts 2:1-42 should be studied.

The question is: Are the two passages referring to the same speaking/utterances? Many students of Scripture believe that in Acts 2 "tongues" refer to utterances of a language that others could understand. In I Corinthians 14, they believe "tongues" refer to unintelligible ecstatic speech.

The basic difference between the two is that in I Corinthians 14 there is need for an interpreter and in Acts 2 hearers are able to understand without interpreters. In I Corinthians there is a distinct difference between speaking in a tongue and prophecy. There is no such sharp distinction in the account in Acts.

It is obvious that this became a problem in worship. Paul believed that prophecy or proclamation is better than speaking in tongues. He admits to

speaking in tongues (v. 18). He is convinced that prophecy, proclamation, is for the greater good of the church (vv. 5, 19).

Paul illustrates his beliefs with a series of comparisons. In prophecy one speaks to people to encourage them. In tongues one speaks to God. In prophecy one edifies the church (vv. 2, 4). Prophecy appeals to the spiritual needs of persons and announces that God is among you. He says that if an unbeliever is in the assembly and hears an ecstatic tongue, one may think that the one speaking is mad (v. 23).

Finally, Paul pleads that when the church comes together that all things be done with a view of building up the church (v. 26).

By way of application, we do not need to criticize the experiences of others, even if we do not understand them. We may not even desire them for ourselves. We must concentrate on what God is doing in our lives.

We must seek to use the gifts that He has given us for our work in His church.

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Family Bible

Be assured of your faith

By T. Clifford Toney, member,
Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage:
Hebrews 10:19-39

Focal passage:
Hebrews 10:22-25, 35-39

Central truths:
Christians should have bold assurance of their faith.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, Christians can have bold assurance of faith in our confession of hope. Verse 23 encourages us to hold fast to our confession of hope without wavering.

The reason we can have confidence in our faith is that "He who promised is faithful." Our confidence in Jesus is not a blind confidence. On the cross, Jesus paid the wages of sin and therefore paid for our eternal assurance. In the resurrection Jesus proved His power to overcome death for Himself and for us. Because of this, we truly can have confidence in our hope. Verse 24 gives us another way that we can be encouraged in faith.

We can consider one another in order to stir up faith within each other to love and do good works. It is in the assembling together of ourselves that we find the greatest opportunity to exhort one another. At church this Sunday, find someone in the church and encourage them in faith. You will probably discover that it is contagious.

This is also a reason for the exhortation in verse

25, to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. We need each other. As a matter of fact, this verse adds that we will need each other more as the day of Christ's return approaches. Verse 22 tells us that the way to hold fast to our confession is to do so with a true heart.

To have an unwavering assurance, we must also have an unwavering commitment. If you are not dedicated completely in your commitment to Jesus Christ, you will probably not have total assurance in the reality of our hope. Only by having a true heart can one have full assurance of faith.

In verse 35, the author says to not cast down our confidence. This indicates that a person's confidence or faith is, in part, a matter of choice.

Verses 36-39 state that we will have need of endurance. However, this endurance is not without end. It is only for a little while. He who is coming will not tarry. So be encouraged and encourage one another.

Is money the root of all evil? That question perplexes the hearts and minds of people. However, God's Word is clear when it states that the "love" of money is the root of all evil (v. 10). Money, in and of itself, is not intrinsically evil. It boils down to a matter of the heart for each individual.

There are many dynamic Christian philanthropists who give out of their wealthy abundance to further the work of God's kingdom. The widow who lived in poverty (Mark 12:41-44) proved the proper perspective of money as she gave all she owned, all she had to live on, to the treasury that day in the Temple. These have discovered it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

The Lord has promised to meet all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). Why should we be anxious then for what we should eat, or drink or wear? Jesus urges each of us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you (Matt. 6:25-33). It is all God's anyway. Everything we have belongs to God; we are just stewards of

the things He has entrusted to us. Our focus must be upon God as we remember He alone gives eternal value to all we possess.

We are commanded to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matt. 6:19-21). The greed of man drives him away from a heart yearning for the Lord and His ways. Contentment and gratitude for God's provisions, not material gain, will be the end result of godliness (v. 6) — a direct correlation between the way we live and the condition of one's heart.

Verses 17-19 are a postscript of Paul's previous exhortations, written especially for those who are rich, regarding the dangers of loving money. He instructs them to avoid a haughty attitude, to place their trust in God and not their wealth, to do good and to be rich in good works as they share with others what the Lord has given them. It is a good reminder regardless of your station in life that "we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

Life and Work

A matter of the heart

By Joe A. Fitzpatrick,
minister of music,
Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage:
1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

Focal passage:
1 Timothy 6:6-10

Central truths:
We are to be good stewards of what the Lord had entrusted to us for His kingdom's glory.

The significance of chapter 15 cannot be over-emphasized. It may be the earliest extended account of Jesus' resurrection. Paul made known the gospel to them. The Corinthians received it, their faith was firm and they were being saved.

Paul used a present tense indicating continuous action. It is true that when a believer is born again one is saved from the guilt of sin (v. 1).

It is also true that when forgiven, one continues to be saved from the power of sin. Christ's resurrected presence enables so that our testimonies honor Christ (Col. 3:1-5). Our salvation is a kind of life that death cannot destroy. It includes growth and development until our physical life ends.

The Corinthians were saved and possessed a new relationship with Christ. Verse 2 has an appropriate word of encouragement. Some have thought "not to hold on" means that one may lose salvation if one does not hold fast.

Paul was saying that those who do not remain committed to Christ and who do not remain committed to the gospel, their faith is not firm enough

on which to stand; that it is groundless. Saving faith perseveres. Perseverance, then, shows the reality of faith.

It is sad, but church membership records are saturated with names of people who have no living relationship with the body of Christ. Is it fair to say that many people we think have "backslidden" may never have "slid forward" in the first place?

The resurrection was at the core of Paul's preaching, "as of first importance." Verse 4 has the perfect tense for "was raised" which means that Jesus was raised and forever remains so. Paul lists three appearances to individuals and three appearances to groups. There are 11 appearances noted in the gospels. Paul's teaching seems to use these appearances to declare that Jesus is alive (vv. 4-7).

Christ's appearance to us is also real. He abides in us and we also know that He is alive. Has this chapter helped you to believe that Jesus is alive and that He will give forgiveness and eternal life?

Explore the Bible

Receiving and believing

By James Swedenburg,
member, Trinity Church, Benton

Basic passage:
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Focal passage:
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Central truths:
The death, burial and resurrection of Christ may be received personally as life and hope.

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Annual church statistics reflect modest growth, declines

NEW YORK (ABP)—Denominations in the United States generally experienced either modest growth or decline last year, according to the *1997 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*.

"Denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention which have experienced growth over the last decade continued to grow. However, they grew at a more modest rate than in many past years," wrote editors of the annual compilation of statistical data by the National Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. "Denominations like the United Methodist Church who have declined in recent years continued to decline, but they lost fewer members this year than in some previous years."

Overall, U.S. church membership increased by about a quarter of a million members. Most of that growth was accounted for by three groups: Mormons, Catholics and Southern Baptists.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grew more than any other religious group last year, registering a membership increase of 98,400 (2.39 percent). The Roman Catholic Church showed the second-highest numerical increase, with membership up by 89,849 (0.15 percent). The SBC was third, increasing by 49,236 members, a percentage growth of 0.32 percent.

Disney stock drops, diverse reasons cited

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—As Wall Street stock prices continue soaring to new records, the price of Disney stock "has slipped 9.7 percent from its 52-week high of \$85.375 a share" on May 12 to close yesterday (July 10) at \$77.0625, "according to *The New York Times*."

Meanwhile, Disney's latest animated feature, "Hercules," earned \$58 million in its first two weeks in theaters — a "poor showing," according to *The New York Times* article — roughly equal to last year's slump with "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," compared to "Pocahontas" and "The Lion King" the previous two years.

While American Family Association vice president Tim Wildmon said the financial news indicates that the Southern Baptist Convention's Disney boycott "is beginning to put heat on the mammoth corporation," the *Times* article predicted that Disney should be able to "withstand...conservative Christian protests." The paper attributed Disney's struggles to management upheavals at ABC, the disappointing "Hercules" box office and less-than-hoped-for theme park attendance.

New Orleans Seminary trustees elect Lemke as provost

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Steve Warner Lemke, a former professor at Williams Baptist College, has been elected provost of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He will begin his new position Aug. 1.

"We are thrilled over the addition of Dr. Steve Lemke to our administrative team," said seminary president Chuck Kelley. "He brings the mind of a scholar, the heart of a pastor and the passion of a missionary to the office of provost."

Lemke has been chairman of the philosophy of religion department and associate professor in philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1990. He previously was chairman of the religion and philosophy department and associate professor of philosophy at Williams Baptist College in 1984-88 as well as a pastor and college instructor in Texas.

Lemke is co-editor of *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech and Southwestern Seminary and currently is pursuing a degree from Texas A & M University.

Oklahoma Baptist University president Agee to retire in '98

SHAWNEE, OK (BP)—Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University since Sept. 1, 1982, has announced his plans to retire on Sept. 1, 1998.

The school's trustees have named a seven-member presidential search committee, with a target date of recommending a candidate by the July 1998 trustee meeting.

Following his retirement as president, Agee will assume the role of president emeritus. Although the title will carry no administrative authority, he will assist the university with specific tasks through the year 2000, primarily assisting with a transition to new leadership and with fund-raising efforts.

Agee has recently gone through a second bout with leukemia and recovery from chemotherapy treatments. Doctors expect the leukemia to be back in remission by the end of the summer.

