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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Feburary 13, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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5 Crisis pregnancy

Young women come to crisis pregnancy centers to find an answer to a question: Am I pregnant? Before they leave, they have the answer and receive counseling. The Home Mission Board has developed a plan for establishing crisis pregnancy centers that provide a Christian witness as well as the standard service.

10 1992 Evangelism Conference

"We are very grateful to our Lord for the dynamic moving of the Holy Spirit in our state evangelism conference," declared Clarence Shell, ABSC director of evangelism, regarding the conference that convened in the Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, on Jan. 27-28. Centered around the theme "Building God's Family—Foundation and Structure," the event drew more than 1,200 participants to hear 16 program personalities.

14 Drummond to retire in June

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Lewis A. Drummond announced his retirement effective June 30, following a closed meeting of the seminary trustees' executive committee at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus Jan. 30. The search for a new president began immediately for the 12-member executive committee, which will serve as the presidential search committee.

15 Cooperative Program concerns

A summit meeting of Southern Baptist leadership concerning the denomination's unified giving plan found "enthusiastic support" for the Cooperative Program. Although January CP receipts also showed an upturn, all SBC agencies and institutions will share equally a slight decrease in the proposed 1992-93 Cooperative Program allocation budget.

23 Missionaries resign in protest

Charles and Kathie Thomas, Southern Baptist missionaries for 17 years, have resigned from service in Romania to express their opposition to what they term "a hostile takeover" of the Foreign Mission Board.

Cover story

1991 photo / Don Rutledge



Prayer is 'foundational'

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In the former Soviet republic of Georgia, Christian believers pray fervently during Sunday morning worship services. Disciplined, heartfelt prayer like this is an ingredient Southern Baptists are beginning to envision as a vital strategy in their foreign mission efforts.

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The Holy Land

J. EVERETT SNEED



Recently this editor, along with several other Southern Baptist editors, had the privilege of visiting Israel as a guest of the Israeli government and El Al Airlines. Although we previously had been privileged to be in the Bible lands on numerous occasions, this was again a delightful learning experience. A visit to the Bible lands makes the pages of the Old and New Testament come alive.

In this brief editorial, we will review some of the exciting learning opportunities that we had. In the next issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* we will have a couple of stories on the work of Southern Baptist representatives who are serving our Lord in Israel.

Israel is a land of great diversity. It is a blending of the old and the new, as well as a mixture of the Oriental and the Occidental. The land, its people, its methods, and its customs are all a homogenous blending of the past and the present. The leadership has both eyes focused on the future.

Both the land and the people have endured much hardship and bear scars of the troubles past. Yet, both seem remarkably free of brooding. It appears that the attitude is focused on developing a significant and meaningful future.

Israel numbers just over 3.5 million Jews. There are a little over 800,000 Arabs amid very few of other nationalities. With the exception of America, however, Israel probably has the greatest diversity of any country in the world today, for the people come from almost every cultural and national background.

Israel is a small country. It is bordered by the Mediterranean, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, and the Red Sea. Before June 1967, its total land area was only 8,000 square miles. In the 1967 war, an additional 26,100 square miles came under Israeli jurisdiction.

The country, as small as it is, has three distinct climates. The desert has hot summers and cool nights. The desert area is very fertile, but until recently had not been cultivated for many years. This area is very important since it covers approximately 62 percent of the little country.

There are several ways in which the Jews are working to reclaim the desert for agricultural use. The most important, at present, includes the piping of water from

the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River.

The second method is the planting of trees. As vegetation produces rainfall the desert is eliminated. The final method is the growing of crops in the desert itself. Experiment stations are using existing rainfall and dew to produce crops. Other experiments are being conducted with salt water.

Only about 15 percent of the people are Orthodox Jews. The remainder mostly are secular Jews who occasionally attend synagogue services. Most of the people keep the High Holy Days.

Orthodox Judaism, however, has a tremendous impact on the country. Its controls are accomplished mainly through its input into government.

In excess of 14 percent of Israel's work force has some higher education. This is the world's highest educational level, followed by the United States and Canada. Today, 40-50 percent of the young people attend one of the seven universities after completing compulsory military service. A university professor summed up the country's attitude as she said, "We believe that the future of Israel lies in its people—their ability and their commitment."

No trip to the Bible lands would be complete without a visit to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the most important Hebrew city of Bible times. It was the national capital of Israel during various periods of history, and still is today. Located on hills near springs, it is at least 3,000 years old.

The City of David has indelibly stamped in her soil the words and deeds of the Judeo-Christian heritage. The name "Jerusalem" means "peace," yet many bloody wars have raged about her. In the old ruins of the temple there are various types of architecture. Each of the two later temples, Zerubbabel and Herod, were built in connection with or on the foundation ruins of Solomon's Temple.

It was Herod's Temple in which Jesus worshipped. The temple was completed in the 18th year of Herod's reign or in 19 B.C. During the siege of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the Jews themselves used the temple as a fortress. After the conquest, the Romans threw down the walls, destroying the temple.

Another highpoint of any trip to Jerusalem is a walk up the *Via Dolorosa*

(the Way of Sorrows) where Jesus carried the cross. As one walks this pathway it is easy to imagine the event. The old twisting, narrow streets make a visitor feel that he has turned back the clock 2,000 years. The general route that Jesus carried the cross is accepted by all Bible students. It is probable that the actual ground where Jesus walked is several feet deeper than the streets of today.

Another high point is the crucifixion and burial place of our Lord. These are located outside the city walls since executions and burials were forbidden within the city by Jewish laws. The most logical location would then be north of Jerusalem.

Some visitors are disturbed by numerous churches which are erected over locations (or supposed locations) of significant events. It is likely, however, that these locations would have been lost except for the churches.

Nazareth is another significant location since it is the city of Jesus' childhood. It is where Joseph and Mary lived and is the place where Jesus was brought up and spent the greater part of 30 years prior to entering his public ministry.

The monks point to sites for the announcement of the birth of Jesus, the ruins of the home of Joseph, and the ruins of the home of Mary. Although these sites are in the vicinity of the original ones, most scholars do not believe that they are authentic.

As one walks down the streets of old Nazareth he can imagine that the calendar has been turned back and that he is here to visit Mary and Joseph or perhaps, even Jesus. The busy market place, the narrow streets, and the smell of spices mingled with onions, grapes, and artichokes, all capture the mind of the visitor. Nazareth, today, is the administrative center of lower Galilee. Its population numbers about 40,000 and approximately half of the people are Christians, representing five denominations.

Capernaum, where Jesus spent a great deal of time during his Galilean ministry, is an extremely interesting archeological site. An excavation of a house has been discovered which is thought to be the home of Peter's mother-in-law. A church was built over this location in the Third or Fourth Century. But the doorway of the house has been preserved.

A visit to the Bible lands can assist in making the Bible come alive. The work of archeologists has assisted the Bible student to gain greater insights into the moving of God through history. As one views Israel, past and present, he gains a historical perspective which provides both witness and faith.

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



Thank God for another fine State Evangelism Conference! Our outside preachers were at their best. Our Arkansans people did an equally good job. The Lord visited us through his Word and through his servants. We thank him! We also pray for disciplined lives to follow up on the impressions and convictions he gave us. If we will, he will bless, and we will see many more born into the Kingdom of God.

Another great experience awaits the pastors who participate in the annual Pastors' Retreat, March 9-10, at Camp Paron. Our Pastors' Retreat committee has put together a program that allows for more informal discussion, while retaining the rich worship experiences led by John Dresbach and our Bible study leader, David Garland. Leon Kilbreth, "Mr. Sunday School," will inspire us and equip us to be leaders of dynamic churches. There are many pastors who will need the encouragement of their spouse, a lay person and perhaps a little boost from the church treasury to make this trip and benefit from the blessings.

Another matter of very grave importance in March is the home mission study, the Week of Prayer and the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions. Southern Baptists have faltered in mission support. We fell far short of our home mission goal last year. We Southern Baptists did not give as much to the Cooperative Program as we did before. With the additional loss of buying power because of inflation, both home and foreign missions have less to work with than a year ago.

That can be corrected! If finance committees will look at this seriously, if pastors will address the problem vigorously, Baptists will turn this thing around.

I want to challenge our mission organizations, our pastors and our lay leaders to become informed, inspired and aggressive in funding mission work in the USA.

The Annie Armstrong Offering and Cooperative Program are the best means of supporting missions in the homeland.

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

Woman's Viewpoint

Taking his name in Spain

MARCIE HATFIELD

My very concerned six year old questioned me, "Mom, why do people take God's name in Spain?" I asked her if she meant speaking his name in Spanish. She very assuredly repeated, "No! Take his name in Spain!"

For the next few minutes as we drove across town to pick up Lindsey's big sisters, I explained that the word was vain, not Spain. We talked about how we would feel if someone spoke our name with ugly descriptions, and how God must hurt when people take his name in vain. After our discussion, she understood.

Later as I was alone and remembering the sweet time of teaching, I was prompted to admit that sometimes, in my busyness, I take the Lord's name in vain without ever opening my mouth. The true meaning of the third commandment (Ex. 20:7) is:



"You shall not lift up the name of the Lord for nothing." I thought back to times when my attitude caused me to break this commandment. How often did my stubborn heart, or "know it all" attitude keep Christ from being the Lord of my life?

There are times when our lack of vision can cause us to hold up his name for nothing. We have an old piece of furniture that was caked with multiple coats of paint which had cracked and peeled. A friend, visiting us from out of town, saw a beautiful piece of furniture beneath the old, cracked paint. After a day of hard work, because of her vision, we

uncovered a beautiful oak finish. Do we hinder God when we refuse to look at things as he does?

We attain the title "Christian" when we ask Jesus into our hearts. Sometimes we forget that responsibility comes with that title. We are to grow, to share, and to hold up his name for something. We have held forth his name for nothing long enough. Our witness should be clear and bold and not in vain, or as Lindsey would say—in Spain!

Let us hold forth his name for something, by living lives in such a way that people will know we serve a living and loving God.

Marcie Hatfield lives in North Little Rock, where her husband, Stephen, is pastor of Baring Cross Church. They have five children. She has spoken to many ladies' groups on Timeless Notions—time management for today's Christian woman.

Arkansas Baptist

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Crisis pregnancy

HMB helps churches start pregnancy centers

by Ferrell Foster
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Young women come to crisis pregnancy centers to find an answer to a question: Am I pregnant?

Before they leave, they have the answer and have received counseling. "Crisis pregnancy center" is a "generic" name used for such services provided in communities throughout the country, according to Sylvia Booth, coordinator for Alternatives to Abortion Ministries at the Home Mission Board.

All such centers are not alike. But the Home Mission Board has developed a plan for establishing crisis pregnancy centers that provide a Christian witness as well as the standard service.

"Crisis pregnancy centers usually are located in a neutral setting outside of the church building," Booth said in a telephone interview. "They offer free pregnancy tests and confidentiality."

Young women come primarily for the pregnancy test, she said.

The HMB program offers the woman a choice of counseling presentations while she waits for the test results. Usually she will view a 26-minute video called "Your Crisis Pregnancy," produced by James Dobson's Focus on the Family, Booth said.

Whenever her choice of presentation, the woman will be told about the development of the "pre-born," procedures used in abortions and about emotional problems associated with having an abortion.

"It's not a film that has dead babies in a bucket," Booth said of the Dobson video. "It has a profound impact on those who view it without the gore. 'We are trying to educate her... on the ramifications of her choices,'" she said. "We don't force anyone to see a film." By giving them the choice "they are in control of the situation."

Women view the video in a private room, and Booth said she has never had a client stop it.

After the test results are known, more counseling is offered.

"If the test is positive, 'some women just fall apart,'" Booth said. "Others just sit there."

"We try to communicate with her that whatever her need is we can help her through that."

About 60 percent of women tested are not pregnant, she said. But counselors still have the "opportunity to talk to them about lifestyle."

Booth said the counseling "provides a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel."

"We have done training for 30 crisis pregnancy centers in the past two years," she said. "Last year they reported over 600 salvation experiences."

HMB provides a \$50,000 budget for Alternatives to Abortion Ministries. The goals of the ministry are "to educate, motivate and equip Southern Baptists to be actively involved in crisis pregnancy ministries," Booth said.

The response has been "overwhelming," she added.

There are four HMB trainers involved in the ministry, and Booth projects openings of 10 pregnancy centers each year.

"Everything we do is free" to Southern Baptist churches or interdenominational ministries supported by them, she said. That includes help in getting started and training of workers. However, "we ask churches that are able" to support the ministry.

She encourages churches interested in operating such a ministry to "take the time and lay a strong foundation... It's not unusual for it to take 18 months to two years to put it all together."

"A lot of people get emotional about this issue, and they want to do something," Booth said. But a crisis pregnancy center should be viewed as a long-term ministry.

The biggest challenges most centers face are finances and volunteers, she said. "Usually the director is paid and everyone else is a volunteer."

The average annual cost is a minimum of \$25,000-\$30,000, Booth said. It can get as high as \$60,000-\$100,000.

Once a center gains "legitimacy," it becomes easier to get financing, she added.

Booth has been in her HMB post for nearly four years. Before that, she worked in a pregnancy center in Oklahoma City. "This is a ministry in which God brings the mission field to you," she said.

"We encourage our volunteers to see each individual as a precious creation of God."

Booth got involved in this type ministry because she "really wanted to be a part of healing and be a positive person" on the abortion issue. "I wanted something more than picketing. I wanted something that would really be long term."

The toll-free phone number for HMB Alternatives to Abortion Ministries is 800-962-0851.

Classifieds

Seeking—full-time minister of Youth/Outreach, primarily youth. Church in top five growing churches statewide. Send resumes to Noland Road Baptist Church, 4505 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO 64055. 2/73

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

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LOCAL & STATE

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People

Jacques Steib is serving as pastor of Marlbrook Church at Blevins, coming there from Georgia.

Mark Wheeler is serving as pastor of Shiloh Church, Arkadelphia.

Jim Parker is serving as pastor of Mount Bethel Church, Arkadelphia.

Len Fryar is serving as pastor of Whelen Springs Church.

Phillip Runyan is serving as associate pastor of youth at Park Hill Church in Arkadelphia, going there from Mount Olive Church in Arkadelphia where he had been serving as pastor.

Steve Roberts has resigned as pastor of First Church of Curtis.

Rusty Kisting has resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church, Arkadelphia.

Doug White has resigned as pastor of First Church of Belrne.

Terry Mann is serving as pastor of First Church of Belrne.

Glenn Kauffman, a retired Southern Baptist minister, died Jan. 19 at age 71. Survivors are his wife, Sarah Kauffman; two sons, Ronald D. Kauffman of Russellville, and Roy G. Kauffman of Linn Creek, Mo.; a daughter, Rebecca A. Ellison of Lake Worth, Fla.; two brothers; four sisters; 13 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Dora Butler of Judsonia recently died at age 90. The widow of Raymond Butler, who served as pastor and associate pastor of several Arkansas churches, she was a member of First Church in Judsonia. She is survived by 10 children; 33 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and one sister.

Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus of Central Church in Jonesboro, is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Marlon.

Dennis Jones is serving as pastor of Sylvan Hills Church, Camden.

Monty Pierce has joined the staff of First Church of El Dorado as minister of education and business manager, coming there from First Church of New Boston, Texas, where he has been serving as associate pastor of education and youth. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University,

Marshall, Texas, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Candace, also is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University.

Bernice Edwards Stacks of Warren died Jan. 15 at age 80. She was a homemaker and member of First Church at Warren where she was active in the TEL Sunday School class. Survivors include her husband R.E. Stacks of Warren; a son, Gene Stacks, pastor of Dallas Avenue Church of Men; a daughter, Martha Clark of Monticello; a brother; three sisters; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Eddie Howell is serving as pastor of First Church of Petit Jean, coming there from First Church of Plumerville where he has been serving as music director.

Ben Bates has resigned as pastor of First Church of Casa.

Michael Billings, pastor of Hagler Church at Stuttgart, was ordained to the gospel ministry Jan. 26 by First Church of Stuttgart.

James Wells recently observed 10 years of service as pastor of New Antioch Church, Brookland.

Alan Cureton, a member of First Church of Cash, has accepted the pastorate of First Church in Arbyrd, Mo.

Sharon Groves has joined the staff of Nettleton Church in Jonesboro as director of preschool ministries.

Jim Roberts was recognized Jan. 19 by Second Church in Little Rock for his volunteer service as senior adult minister.

Tom Lowry has joined the staff of Second Church in Little Rock as minister to married and senior adults. A member of the church, he has been serving for several years as the adult Sunday School division coordinator.

Denny Neff has resigned as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Van Buren.

Ira Upton has resigned as pastor of First Church of Coal Hill.

Bill Powell is serving as pastor of First Church of Coal Hill.



Bryant First Southern Church held a "final note burning" service January 19 as the culmination of a several month emphasis the church had on retirement of three different debt layers. The congregation will break ground on an expansion and remodeling project later in the year to provide more space for children and preschool. Pictured are: (left to right) Garland Pinell, Larry Mitchell, James Tolleson, John Oldner, and Pastor Jim Lagrone. The children preparing to burn the note are Heaber Anthony and Joseph Whittington. The reason for using children in the service, according to Pastor Lagrone, was to illustrate, "We paid off our debt, not theirs. We did not want our children to be liable for things we use now."

Don Taylor has resigned as pastor of Rudd Church, Green Forest, to serve as pastor of Beth'el Mission, Green Forest.

O.D. Chaney Jr. is serving as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Harrison.

Dan Hill has resigned as pastor of Everton Church to move to Illinois.

James Stone is serving as pastor of Morning Star Mission near Marshall.

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

Tom Wood is serving as pastor of Rudd Church at Green Forest, going there from Burlington Church, Omaha.

Ralph Baker has joined the staff of Northvale Church in Harrison as minister of music and youth.

Rudy Ring has resigned as pastor of Harmony Church, Paragould.

R.L. Williams has resigned as pastor of First Church, Greenway.

Brenda Ball, a member and Sunday School teacher at East Side Church in Pine Bluff, has been recognized as Arkansas Teacher of the Year. She is an English teacher at Pine Bluff High School.

Thomas G. Morris is serving as pastor of Broadmoor Church in Brinkley.

Willis Jones is serving as interim pastor of Spadra Church, Clarksville.

Paul Walker is serving as interim pastor of Eastern Heights Chapel, Van Buren.

Harold "Gene" Lloyd Jr. is serving as interim pastor of Webb City Church, Ozark.

Melissa Anne Fox, daughter of Elton and Ruth Dial of Prairie Grove, recently was among a group of 11 students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Fox, a master of church music student at the seminary and a graduate of the University of Arkansas, is youth choir director at Nashua Church in Kansas City, Mo. Her husband, David, also is a student at Midwestern Seminary.

David Callison, minister of youth for Rynan First Church of North Little Rock, was licensed to ministry Jan. 15 in Central Church of Jonesboro. Rex Holt, pastor of the host church, led the service.

Dale Thompson is serving as pastor of First Church of Fort Smith, going there from Immanuel Church of Rogers.

Douglas Willis has joined the staff of Emmanuel Church in Conway as youth director.

ABN photos / J. Everett Sneed



Quacbita Association dedicated a new office facility Jan. 25. Speaker for the occasion was ABSC Executive Director Don Moore. The service was held at the Dallas Avenue Church, Mena, and was followed with an open house at the associational office. The building is located directly across the street from Rich Mountain Community College, so that BSU Director Kay Humphrey also can have an office. The 2,404 square foot facility, completed at a cost of \$75,000, contains offices for the director of missions and secretary, BSU director, and a social worker, as well as a library, large conference room a fully equipped kitchen, and three restrooms. Dillard Miller is director of missions.



The Quacbita Association recently held an open house to display the new home for the camp director. The house was constructed for \$33,000 with the use of volunteer labor and materials. The house has 1,800 square feet upstairs and 200 square feet downstairs for a two-car garage. The 2,000 square foot facility has a living room, formal dining room, study/family room with entertainment center, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, service room, and porch. The facility has central heat and air and is carpeted throughout. Camp Director B.J. Edwards, who directed the construction, said, "It would have been impossible to have constructed this fine house apart from the donated labor and materials."

LOCAL & STATE

Jim Glover resigned Feb. 2 as pastor of Mount Zion Church, Concord.

Fred Oaks resigned Jan. 12 as pastor of Quitman Church.

Ed Claybrook is serving as interim pastor of Bradley Church.

Art Horne has joined the staff of Central Church of Magnolia as minister of education and outreach. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Robert Ellis is serving as interim music director at First Church, Mena.

Henry Arvol Nettles of Little Rock, a retired Southern Baptist minister, died Feb. 2 at age 96. He was the widower of Lillie Robbins Nettles. Survivors include a daughter, Nova Jones of Little Rock; a brother; and three sisters.

Rogers First Church held a Choir/Television Ministry awards banquet Jan. 18. Those receiving awards were Steve Long, choir member of the year; Ralph Brooks, director's award; and Steve Allmendinger, video crew member of the year.

Jacksonville First Church will host Dino in concert March 16 at 7 p.m.

Cross Road Church of Little Rock recently ordained Terry McCallister to the deacon ministry. Glenn Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association, delivered the ordination message.

Three Creeks Church near El Dorado is observing the "old and new" in Baptist life

with four weeks of protracted meetings that began Feb. 2 and will continue nightly through Feb. 28, except for the evenings of Feb. 10, 17 and 24. Evangelist William Blackburn of Fort Smith will be the speaker for the entire month. Lowell Snow is pastor.

Osceola Calvary Church began using the musical score "Joy To The World" in 1979 as a theme for its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with members singing the notes that had been lighted as gifts were given. The same theme has been used each year since 1979 with the offering growing from \$250 to more than \$3,000 in 1991.

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries - Top 20 Churches

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries has released the names of the top 20 churches contributing to this ministry through direct gifts in 1991. A complete report of contributions will be published in the Feb. 27 ABN.

Church	Association	Amount
El Dorado First	Liberty	\$57,675.00
Pine Bluff First	Harmony	12,311.41
Brown's Chapel	Greene County	9,561.92
Searcy First	Calvary	5,966.29
Central	Mt. Zion	5,097.50
Little Rock Geyer Springs	Pulaski	5,056.89
Fort Smith First	Concord	4,931.28
Immanuel	Liberty	4,458.30
Siloam Springs First	Benton	4,379.05
Highway	North Pulaski	4,272.23
Valley Springs First	North Arkansas	4,123.32
Russellville First	Arkansas River Valley	3,825.00
Hope First	Southwest	3,747.69
Jacksonport	Black River	3,688.20
Little Rock First	Pulaski	3,219.82
Mt. Home First	White River	3,106.25
Gentry First	Benton	3,058.46
Immanuel	Bartholomew	2,984.00
Jarvis Chapel	Ashley	2,981.02
Barcelona Road	Central	2,827.10

Briefly

Searcy Trinity Church will celebrate its 30th anniversary of service Feb. 16 with activities that include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., a worship service at 11 a.m., and an afternoon service, beginning at 2 p.m.

Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff ordained Travis Duffee, Jeff Golden, Doyle Humphries, and Steve Still to the deacon ministry Jan. 26.

Columbia-Jarrett Church at Maynard is giving financial assistance to Antioch Church in West Brook, Maine, as a special mission project.

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the
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Deadline for registration is March 1, 1992.

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Attention: Shirley Moore

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College Digest

Ouachita Baptist University

New faculty—OBU has announced the employment of new faculty members for the 1992 spring semester. Carol Watson Morgan has been retained by the university on a full-time basis assuming the position of clinical supervisor and instructor in the speech pathology area. She is a native of Arkadelphia and a graduate of UA Fayetteville.

Said Saldamonov has been named as visiting professor of environmental studies. He is a resident of the Republic of Uzbekistan, where he is director of the Engineering Ecology department of the Tashkent Automobile and Road Building Institute.

Randy Brantley, ABSC Evangelism Department associate, will serve in a part-time capacity, teaching a course in the religion department.

The drama department will use the services of Werner Trieshmann as an intern. He holds a master's degree from Boston University.

Sara Teed will be teaching on a part-time basis for one course in the business administration department. She holds a master of law degree in taxation from the University of Florida College of Law.

Dave Datley will be providing instruction in two religion and two speech courses. An Arkadelphia native, he is a graduate of OBU and holds a master of divinity degree from

Yale University.

Bill McCrary will be part-time instructor for two courses in the business administration department. He holds a master's degree from Sam Houston (Texas) State University and is a recently retired officer from the U.S. Army.

Newspaper honored—The 99-year-old *Signal* student newspaper won Medalist honors, the highest of five awards, in competition sponsored by Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Williams Baptist College

Watercolor Exhibit—The WBC Lecture/Concert Series is presenting a watercolor exhibition by Tricia Corder that will run through Feb. 23 in the Maddox Fine Arts Center Gallery. The exhibit will consist of 21 paintings, particularly large-scale landscapes. Mrs. Corder is a native of North Little Rock and a graduate of Arkansas State University. For more information, call 886-6741, ext. 157.

Enrollment High—The spring on-campus enrollment at WBC hit a 22-year high as enrollment figures reached 571, according to Jerol Swaim, academic dean. The on-campus enrollment figure is a two percent increase over last year's spring enrollment. The total spring semester enrollment is 720, including the home campus and three extension centers.

Looking Ahead

February

- 13 Time Management Conference, *Southwest Association (CLS)*
- 13 Annual Church Communities Ministries Workshop, *Little Rock Second Church (Mn)*
- 15 Smaller Sunday School Workshop, *Perryville Church (SS)*
- 16 Seminaries, Colleges & Schools (SBC)
- 16-19 Home Mission Study (SBC)
- 17 Area Conflict Management Conference, *Fayetteville Caudle Avenue Church (CLS)*
- 17-21 Large Church Consultations (DT)
- 18 Area Conflict Management Conference, *Dardenelle First Church (CLS)*
- 20 Area Conflict Management Conference, *Mena First Church (CLS)*
- 20 Lay Evangelism School/One Day Soul Winning Workshop Leader Training, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ev)*
- 20 MasterSingers/Singing Women Concert, *Jacksonville First Church (M)*
- 21-22 State Single Adult Conference, *North Little Rock Baring Cross Church (DT)*
- 22 Youth Evangelism Training Day, *Pine Bluff Immanuel Church (Ev)*
- 23 Volunteers in Missions Day (SBC)
- 24-28 OBU Christian Focus Week
- 26-28 DOM Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (Ad)*
- 27 DOM banquet at OBU (OBU)
- 28-29 Volunteer/Part-time Music Leaders Retreat, *Camp Paron (M)*

March

- 1-8 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (HMB/WMU)
- 2 ASSISTeam Training, *North Little Rock Baring Cross Church (SS)*

Abbreviations:

Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CL - Church Leadership; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; NB - National Baptists; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annually; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union



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1992 Evangelism Conference

More than 1,200 attend event focusing on family

by J. Everett Sneed

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"We are very grateful to our Lord for the dynamic moving of the Holy Spirit in our state evangelism conference," declared Clarence Shell, ABSC director of evangelism, regarding the conference that convened in the Géyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, on Jan. 27-28. "Our speakers and musicians, in messages and music, were used of the Lord as they exalted the Lord as Lord of Life. The conference excelled in the preaching of the dynamic Word of God. The conference excited our people by the moving of the Holy Spirit upon us personally. The conference enlisted a new commitment to hope for the homes, help for the churches, and the healing of our denomination. We give our Lord praise, honor and glory."

The theme of the conference, which drew more than 1,200 in attendance, was "Building God's Family—Foundations and Structure." The development of the theme emphasized a different facet in each session. The emphases were: Building the Home Family; Building God's Church Family; Building the Arkansas Baptist Family; Building the Family of Friends; and Building the Southern Baptist Convention Family.

The 16 individuals who participated in the conference included preachers and musicians. Three Arkansans gave testimonies. These were Pam Veteto, Billy Blackmon, and Glen McGriff.

On 'Building God's Family'

Notable quotes from out-of-state speakers

"The home predates the church in God's order of things and is therefore of the highest priority in the life of family and the nation. It is the basic unit of society and therefore must be protected by the standards of God's Word and the power of his Spirit. The tragic state of broken marriages, shattered homes, and helpless children in the U.S.A. is clarion call to return to the absolutes of God's Word."—*Stephen Oford, president of Encounter Ministries, Memphis, Tenn.*



Oford

"We are consistently looking for some new program to produce church growth. Programs don't work, people work. We really don't need a new program. We just need to work the ones we have. The Bible commands us to teach the Word to our children diligently. In every area of life we are responsible for teaching that which God has commanded us to teach. God is interested in redeeming families. We are to transfer from one generation to another God's teaching. How are we to evangelize God's family? The Sunday School offers the best opportunity for evangelizing families that a church possibly can have."—*Jimmy Draper, president, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.*

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



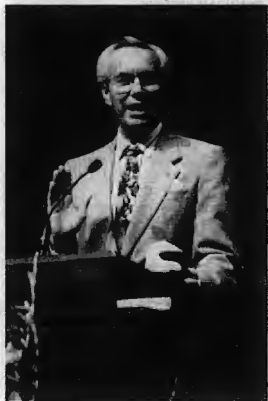
Ron Barker

"The potential to reach your community with the gospel is in the pew, not only in the pulpit. Train your people to verbalize the gospel. Go with them. Don't just send them out. Teach them by modeling how to win friends and family to the Lord."—*Ron Barker, evangelism section, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.*

"God encourages Christians to run life's race because they are surrounded by the redeemed of the ages (cloud of witnesses). The cloud that surrounds the redeemed are testators. They are declaring that they found the way up and out by faith. They

are witnessing to today's Christians to be faithful. They observe us so as to encourage us to have the home field advantage."—*Joel Gregory, pastor, First Church, Dallas, Texas*

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Wayne Bristow

"God is in the business of working through us to keep divine appointments. Our sensitivity to this can make a world of difference. The most significant encounters of Jesus with people were not written on his appointment calendar. They happened on his way to a scheduled event. He was panic proof, never resented the intrusions, and the results were changed lives. More often than not, this is what doing the work of evangelism is all about."—*Wayne Bristow, director of evangelism, Oklahoma Baptist Convention*

"We are losing too many members through the back door of dropouts and the backdoor of transferring out. Over 50 percent of our church members are nonresident or resident inactive members. Many of the rest are only marginally active. We must close the evangelistic backdoor by reaching people in ways that will prevent dropouts, by reaching inactive members, and by retaining those church members that we have. Why go to this effort?"

Because, each person is worth it. God is not willing that even one remain astray (Mt. 18:14)... Some people say, 'it is better to reach new people.' But, we do not have a choice. We must do both: reach new people and reclaim dropouts.'—Henry Webb, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Morris Chapman

"Something woefully missing in Southern Baptist life is a spirit of worship. Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:19-24) about her spirit and life, when she launched in to worship. Nothing is more real to an individual than worship. The assembling of God's people is so we can worship God. Sometimes we have late mountain top experiences in worship and then we lose it. We say, 'You can't hope to stay on the mountain top all of the time.' But, God desires genuine worship from his children regularly. When we worship we always standing on holy ground.'—Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention



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† - Evangelist/
music evangelist
* - Music evangelist

Ministers' Wives Retreat

The Arkansas Baptist Ministers Wives will hold the first statewide retreat for all staff/denominational workers' wives at Holiday Inn West in Little Rock. The retreat will begin on Friday, March 27, with a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Landram Leavell will be the special guest speaker for the retreat, which will focus on fellowship, information, and inspiration. The retreat will conclude on Saturday, March 28, with a luncheon.

Registration deadline is March 1; registrations may be sent to Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Attention: Shirley Moore, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72201. For more information call Sandy Hinkson at 501-821-3421.

Pinkston new BSU director at SAU

Robert A. Pinkston became the new Baptist Student Union director at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Jan. 1, 1992. Previously he was serving as BSU director for Tarrant County Junior College and was completing his master of divinity work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Robert and his wife, the former Sharon Smith,



Pinkston

graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 1987. The Pinkstons have a son, Zachary Allan, who was born on Nov. 22, 1991. Robert served as outreach coordinator at OBU from 1987-89.

Pinkston is a MK; his parents are Ed and Greta Pinkston, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, Africa.

Robert's goals include involving more students in BSU, discipling and evangelizing a large group of students.

In an effort to meet these goals, currently BSU Bible studies are being conducted in the hall of each dormitory. The activity which draws the largest group of students, approximately 75, is a free Wednesday/luncheon Bible study.

"Tuesday Night Live," a worship and Bible study activity involves a good number of students. Several recreational activities, such as ping pong, take place in the BSU building. These allow Pinkston to develop

relationships with the students.

A New Orleans mission trip is planned by the BSU during the spring break. The goal is to involve 20 students.

Pinkston observed that approximately 75 students currently are being touched by BSU. About 25 of these are committed Christian young people. Pinkston hopes to involve more students in BSU in the future.

ARKANSAS

CP receipts up 3.84 percent

1991 Cooperative Program receipts from Arkansas Baptist churches increase 3.84 percent over 1990 receipts. Arkansas Baptist churches have been faithful in their mission support through the Cooperative Program in spite of problems in the

economy. State convention leaders have expressed deep gratitude for this faithfulness and encourage churches to celebrate God's goodness for blessing our people and churches with a mission spirit.

Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$14,039,560. This amount was only \$21,439 short of the 1991 budget. In other words, 99.85 percent of the Cooperative Program budget was received in the state office.

Of the total receipts, \$4,654,212 was sent to the Southern Baptist Convention to be distributed to Southern Baptist mission causes in the United States and around the world. The remainder was distributed to Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes including Ouachita Baptist University, Williams Baptist College, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Arkansas Baptist Foundation, *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, and the Executive Board programs.

The Arkansas Baptist's

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Close to home

by Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA — Supporting missions is a subject that is close to home for Arkansas Southern Baptists.

Of the 4,922 home missionaries across the nation in 1990, 77 worked in Arkansas. They are examples of cooperative efforts between state conventions and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Many people assume that home missionaries, like foreign missionaries, are supported entirely by the mission board. In reality, only 119 home missionaries receive all of their support from the HMB.

In 1959, the Southern Baptist Convention instructed the Home Mission Board to develop a "single uniform mission program" to prevent duplication of ministries by state conventions and the HMB.

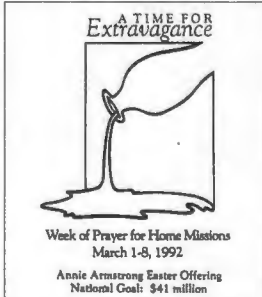
The result is the cooperative agreement, a written document negotiated annually between the HMB and all 37 state conventions and four fellowships.

"The cooperative agreement is the bedrock instrument that provides effective coordination and utilization of the gifts Southern Baptists provide for missions," says Jack Meredith, HMB planning and budgeting coordinator.

Among other things, cooperative agreements outline the financial support for missionaries in each state. In 1992, home missions in Arkansas will be sup-

ported 60 percent by the state convention and 40 percent by the Home Mission Board.

In states where Southern Baptist work is not as strong as it is in Arkansas, the Home Mission Board provides a greater percentage of support. For example, in New York



the ratio of support is 6 percent from the state convention and 94 percent from the Home Mission Board.

Additionally, the Home Mission Board provides training conferences, some travel expenses and fringe benefits such as medical insurance for home missionaries

in some states.

The nature of the cooperative agreements allows the HMB to implement a convention-wide program of missions. Meredith says. It assures that national priorities are given consideration as well as state needs.

State leaders are responsible for initiating the home missions process. State convention leaders identify places where mission work is needed and recruit people to fill that role. The Home Mission Board becomes involved in training and supervising the missionary.

Home missionaries serve in one of four categories: appointed, approved, Mission Service Corps and state administrative personnel.

In 1990, Arkansas had 20 appointed missionaries who are usually long-term or career missionaries. The state had 24 approved missionaries who serve for a limited amount of time.

Mission Service Corps is a national program for volunteers who serve one year or more. People who serve at least two years are included in the missionary count. In 1990, Arkansas had 16 Mission Service Corps missionaries and two people on the state convention staff who served as home missionaries.

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Across the Country

Committee will continue to study Foundation fund conflict

NASHVILLE—A special study committee looking into the dispute over the \$390,000 capital needs fund held by the Southern Baptist Foundation, claimed by both the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the SBC Christian Life Commission, met for four hours Jan. 24 and determined it needs more study. The funds have been held for nearly four decades by the foundation but when the SBC recently severed relationships with the BJCPA a dispute erupted between the C&C and the BJCPA over ownership of the funds.

Theologian Dale Moody dies of heart attack

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Dale Moody, noted Southern Baptist theologian and professor, died Jan. 22 from a heart attack. Moody, who would have turned 77 on Jan. 27, was a faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., from 1948-84. He suffered the fatal attack in a Louisville hospital less than an hour before he was scheduled to undergo a heart bypass operation.

Winnings to leave Minnesota-Wisconsin work

ROCHESTER, Minn.—Otha Wunningham has announced his retirement as executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention, effective April 1, 1993. Wunningham, 60, has led the convention since July 1975. His wife, Louise, also has announced her resignation as editor of *The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist*, effective July 1, 1992.

Nevada committee recommends Meacham as exec

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—David Meacham, director of missions for the Las Vegas area Southern Nevada Baptist Association, has been recommended as executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention. The convention's executive director search committee unanimously selected Meacham, 46, in a Jan. 14 meeting as its nominee to succeed Ernest B. Myers, who has announced his retirement March 15.

Sherman accepts post with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

DALLAS—Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, announced to his church Jan. 26 that he has agreed to become the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Sherman, 64, told his congregation he was resigning as pastor effective Feb. 29. He is expected to be officially installed during the annual CBF Convocation April 30-May 2 in Fort Worth.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Drummond to retire in June

by Herb Hollinger
Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Lewis A. Drummond announced his retirement, effective June 30, following a four-hour, closed meeting of the seminary trustees' executive committee at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus Jan. 30.

Drummond, 65, made his announcement after the closed session but trustees refused to disclose terms of his retirement package until the full 30-member trustee board, in a regular meeting, votes on it Mar. 10-11. The announcement came amid concern about a worsening financial condition and the placing of the school on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools last December.

But both Drummond and trustee chairman Roger Ellsworth, a Benton, Ill., pastor, denied there was discord among trustees leading to the retirement.

Drummond refused to divulge any retirement plans but Beeson School of Divinity at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., has indicated interest in Drummond teaching at the school.

In his prepared statement, given to the press following the special called executive committee meeting, Drummond acknowledged the seminary "has experienced difficult days and quite climactic change during these past four years (during his presidency)."

The search for a new president began immediately for the 12-member executive committee, which will serve as the presidential search committee.

Ellsworth said he would offer no speculation but, privately, several trustees said Paige Patterson likely would be the leading candidate. Patterson is president of Criswell College in Dallas.

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Cooperative Program concerns

Summit dialogue finds consensus

NASHVILLE (BP)—A summit meeting of Southern Baptist leadership concerning the denomination's unified giving plan found "enthusiastic support for and commitment to" the Cooperative Program, says the chairman of the meeting.

Two dozen past and present denominational leaders at state convention and SBC levels were invited to the Jan. 20-21 meeting in Nashville by David E. Hankins, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. Hankins appointed the special study group in response to action and concerns of the Executive Committee in September. Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Director Don Moore was among those attending the summit.

The agenda was reported to include a review of the history of the Cooperative Program, an analysis of the nature of it as it is now being interpreted and development of proposals for the future enhancement of the CP.

CP has big upturn in January

The SBC Cooperative Program recorded a huge 20.99 percent increase for the month of January 1992 compared to that month a year ago, according to Harold C.

Bennett, Executive Committee President/Treasurer.

However, the increase was due, in part, to the 1991 January omission of one of the larger state convention CP checks. SBC business office records indicate. The SBC business office did receive a check from that state convention in January 1992, which basically accounted for the entire increase. Records for 1991 indicate that check was received too late to be counted in the January totals.

Total for January 1992 was \$12,492,681 compared to \$10,325,464 for the comparable month in 1991.

The SBC budget year-to-date, October through January, also revealed an increase: \$45,965,591 compared to the previous year-to-date of \$44,640,953, or an increase of 2.97 percent.

Agencies share decrease in proposed SBC budget

NASHVILLE—Following a Southern Baptist Convention policy of setting a budget on a previous year's receipts, all SBC agencies and institutions will share equally a slight decrease in the proposed 1992-93 Cooperative Program allocation budget.

The program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee needed only about two hours of deliberation Jan. 23 in Nashville to propose a \$140,200,395

1992-93 CP budget. The proposed budget, which must be approved by the Executive Committee in its Feb. 17-19 meeting and then submitted to the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis in June, follows a policy of budgeting based on receipts of the last fiscal year of record (1990-91).

Faced with a \$509,887 shortage from the present year (1991-92) budget total of \$140,710,282, the 27-member subcommittee decided the reduction in the 1992-93 budget — 0.362 percent — would be shared equally by all SBC agencies and institutions.

In years past, increasing receipts had allowed SBC budgets to increase each year which often caused lengthy discussions and debates about how to allocate the increase. But this year, with the decrease, the subcommittee made its decision in what one observer said was record time and with near total consensus.

According to the budget plan, 50 percent of the Cooperative Program receipt above the basic budget will be allocated to the agencies for program advance and 50 percent for approved capital needs.

Receiving some attention by subcommittee members was information showing how much each agency and institution received from non-Cooperative Program sources. The report indicated state conventions and alternate funding sources channeled about \$3.5 million, primarily to the two mission boards, the six seminaries and the Radio and Television Commission.

However, those concerns did not appear to influence the final decision.

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Convention Uniform*Heaven's enduring song*

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes

Basic passage: Rev. 15:2-4; 19:4-8

Focal passage: Rev. 15:2-4; 19:4-8

Central truth: Heaven's enduring song celebrates God's victory over all who opposed him and the freedom won by Jesus for his people.

Both the song of Moses and of the Lamb are songs of victory and freedom. They combine the leader of the first exodus out of Egyptian bondage (Moses) with the leader of the new exodus from sin's bondage (Jesus). Moses' victory over the Egyptian pharaoh is a foreshadowing of God's victory over "the beast" of the book of Revelation. And just as Israel sang a song of victory at the Red Sea following her deliverance from the power of Egypt, so those who have been delivered from earth's tribulations and the power of demonic forces sing by a heavenly sea of glass (Re. 15).

It is through the blood of the Lamb (the poured-out life) that we have this deliverance. Just as the Israelites were delivered from Egypt by the blood of the slain Passover lamb, so God's people are delivered from the dominion of this present world and the powers of darkness by the sacrificial death of God's dearly beloved Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The plagues of the book of Revelation remind us of those which fell upon Egypt. In fact, the plagues of Revelation 16 actually parallel those that God sent upon Egypt. This reminds us that the great disasters of human history should be seen as warnings of the final, total calamity which will one day overtake those who close their ears to God's call of love.

In Revelation 15 and 19 we see God's people happy and rejoicing, freed from all that enslaves and terrifies. Again and again we find heaven described as a place of song, but it is not a place of dutiful people performing a ritual of song. Rather, it is a spontaneous singing.

The Old Testament sometimes refers to Israel as the bride of God (e.g. Je. 2:2); here in Revelation 19, the bride of the Lamb is the church, first seen rejoicing over Babylon's fall (Re. 18) and then prepared as a bride for the marriage of the Lamb (Re. 19). Every age has its "Babylon" which personifies all of the greed, luxury, and pleasure which entices people away from God.

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Life and Work*Mercy, not ritual*

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

Basic passage: Matthew 12:1-8, 10-13

Focal passage: Matthew 12:7-8

Central truth: Human need should always take priority over religious ritual.

Our basic passage contains two confrontations between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning the Sabbath: (1) the discussion about picking and eating grain (12:1-8); and (2) the healing of the man with a withered hand (12:10-13). In both instances, the religious leaders accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath laws. When Jesus answered their charges (12:7-8) he asserted that the Sabbath was made for man, not vice versa. What did Jesus mean when he said these words? We can learn three things from this passage to help us live as God would have us to live.

First, genuine need knows no law. When Jesus answered the Pharisees, He reminded them of the time when King David's men ate the consecrated bread which only the priests could eat. They did this because human need takes precedence over religious regulations. The Pharisees were, no doubt, familiar with this episode, but they had not grasped its spiritual significance.

Second, every rule has its exception. Jesus further pointed out the Pharisees' blindness when he reminded them that the priests themselves had to "work" on the Sabbath. Every activity they did in making sacrifices on the Sabbath constituted work. No regulation is ever absolute.

Third, to show mercy is always right. The Pharisees did not have a proper understanding of Hosea 6:6 and Jesus told them so (12:7). The purpose of God's moral law is mercy, not ritual or burnt offerings. No matter what good works or correct judgments we make if we do what we do without love, then all is lost.

We are quick to assert that we would never act like the Pharisees. It is easy to pass judgment on such insensitive ones. But who are we kidding? Are we not as blind as the Pharisees when we see someone in need and just because they don't dress as we dress, or meet up to our expectations, we pass judgment instead of showing mercy to them? I am thankful we serve a God who shows mercy and gives second chances. Let's do the same for others.

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Bible Book*AIDS in the church*

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Hosea 4:1-2; 6:10; 5:13-6:6

Focal passage: Hosea 4:1-2, 6; 6:1

Central truth: The integrity crisis in the church has brought reproach and destruction upon our land.

Americans are justifiably concerned over the deadly plague of AIDS that is infecting Americans by the thousands. Only God knows the devastating consequences this disease will bring upon our land. But Hosea is concerned over another AIDS—call it the Auto Integrity Deficiency Syndrome. It's what Warren Wiersbe has called "The Integrity Crisis In The Church." This moral and spiritual malady is far more serious than any physical plague and is tearing at the heart of the body of Christ.

Hosea confronted God's people with their sin. "The Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land," he charged. Three things were missing: truth, mercy, and knowledge of God (Ho 4:1). Into this spiritual vacuum flowed the evils of swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery. They were breaking every restraint the Word of God put upon them. Innocent blood was being shed in ever increasing amounts (4:2).

Do we not find the same evidences of poison in the blood stream of America today? Violence in the schools has reached epidemic proportions. Fistfights have turned to gunfights. Many lockers are used for guns and drugs rather than sweaters and notebooks. Domestic violence kills more children today than all the common childhood diseases combined. Hosea put his finger on the problem. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Ho. 4:6a). They had forgotten the law of their God and because of that God said, "I also will forget your children" (Ho 4:6b). Who suffers most from our present integrity crisis? The children. The war on children is escalating on every hand. Abortion, abuse, drugs, pornography, Satanism and the occult, alcoholism, and sexual immorality single out and victimize one primary group—our children. God's Word is clear. If fathers will turn their hearts toward their children then the hearts of the children will turn to their fathers. If this doesn't happen then the earth will be smitten with a curse (Mt. 4:6).

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Lesson
Date:
March 1

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Preaching repentance

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 1:1-15

Focal passage: Mark 1:3

Central truth: Repentance is necessary for salvation.

Jesus said that there was never one born of woman who was greater than John the Baptist. What makes a man great? The world answers: to be born into a famous or wealthy family, to earn a great deal of money, to acquire academic degrees, hold a major office, etc. John was of common parentage, with little formal education or wealth. He forsook what little social and economic status he had to live in the wilderness. His greatness was not of this world, but due to the fact he was mighty in God's Spirit.

John's message was simple: Repent! It was his message to the villager and the suburbanite, the farmer and the factory worker. Individuals are by nature, sinners, and we are born into sin. God's message for us remains simple: Repent!

John shouted the message as a trumpet blast. His desire was to clear the road of all obstructions for the coming of the Messiah. The world of John's day had a form of godliness, but denied the power of God. The Pharisees followed the letter of the law, but violated its intent. The Sadducees were caught up in rites and ceremonies, but denied the resurrection. Both groups were involved in the crucifixion of Jesus.

Our own society has a form of godliness: we talk of the value of human and religious culture; but we, too, deny its power: our literature is written to arouse sensual desires and to sell rather than to meet needs; our music is addressed to lustful appetites rather than to glorify God. God's message remains simple: Repent!

Repentance involves the acknowledgment of sin, sorrowing over sin, and changing from the wrong way (being the boss of one's own life) to the right way (making Jesus our Lord). It is basically changing directions.

The way to salvation is by repentance of our sin and trusting our life to Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith have been described as two sides of the same coin. As we come under conviction of sin, we look to Jesus Christ to forgive us our sin by yielding our life to him.

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Life and Work

Paying the price

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

Basic passage: Matthew 8:19-22; 10:32-34, 37; 16:21, 24-25

Focal passage: Matthew 16:24-25

Central truth: Christians should be willing to give their very lives in service to Christ.

The passages in today's lesson provide some of the most powerful words of Scripture. Each one deals with some aspect of discipleship. The heart of the matter is this: If we desire to follow Jesus, what will it cost? What does he expect of us as his followers? Sometimes questions are best answered by other questions. Test your commitment by the following questions from today's passages.

Am I willing to follow Jesus even if it means doing without some of the comforts of life? Jesus wanted the would-be disciple to know that following him would mean doing without some things (8:19-20). Some people are quick to commit and quick to quit the task when they are called upon to sacrifice.

Will I follow Jesus even if it means leaving the past behind? When the hesitant disciple asked for permission to bury his father, Jesus called him to total commitment (8:21-22). Too many times, we let too many things distract us from service to Christ.

Am I willing to tell others of my faith in Christ? In Scripture, there are no secret disciples. Jesus said that if we would confess him before men, then he would confess us before the Father (10:32-34). Our faith is to be personal, but never private.

Am I willing to do my part in God's kingdom? This is what cross bearing is all about (16:21, 24). We often misinterpret "bearing the cross" as enduring a tragedy. But in this context, Jesus is calling us to carry our load and to take our responsibility seriously in doing his work. To carry the cross of Christ means that you know that God has called you to serve him, and that you do not expect anyone else to do what God expects you to do.

Am I willing to give my life in service to God? Here the great paradox of faith appears to gain life, one must first die (16:25). This truth appears throughout God's Word. To be the greatest in God's kingdom, one must be the servant of all. To be first, one must be last.

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Bible Book

Whirlwinds and tornadoes

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Hosea 7:8-12; 8:1-8; 10:9-12

Focal passage: Hosea 8:1-7; 10:12

Central truth: God's principle of sowing and reaping must be understood by every believer.

As a boy working in the cotton fields I would often see small whirlwinds spinning their way across the field. I would stop a moment and watch. They were small and quite harmless. Years later I awakened one Sunday morning to the death and destruction a violent tornado had brought to our city. What a difference between a small whirlwind and a giant tornado.

Amos warns the rebellious house of Israel: if you sow the wind you will reap the whirlwind (the word signifies a great violent wind). They had sown rebellion so they would reap destruction. They had set up political leaders who were ungodly. They would reap national collapse. They had sown idolatry. They would reap judgment.

Amos likens judgment to an eagle (Ho. 8:1) and a whirlwind. "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk; the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up" (Ho. 8:7). Both metaphors picture swift and violent destruction.

When God's people begin to compromise Biblical convictions the consequence is chaos. Israel refused to stand alone and dare to be different from the world (Ho. 7:8). Because of compromising with the world, spiritual and political decay had set in.

Hosea's first son was "Jezreel" meaning "God sows." That name was prophetic of the awful reaping that would occur as a result of Israel's sinful sowing.

The lesson to us today is clear: (1) Be certain as you sow. "God is not mocked. Whatever we sow we will reap." God's principle of sowing and reaping is sure and certain. (2) Be careful how you sow. If we sow to the flesh we reap corruption. If we sow to the spirit we reap life everlasting. (3) Be confident as you sow. "Sow for yourselves righteousness: reap in mercy. Break up your fallow ground for it is time to seek the Lord till he come and rain righteousness on you" (Ho. 10:12).

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ROMANIA

**Missionaries
resign in protest**

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP)—Charles and Kathie Thomas, Southern Baptist missionaries for 17 years, have resigned from service in Romania to express their opposition to what they term "a hostile takeover" of the Foreign Mission Board.

"The first fruit of this takeover was the defunding of Ruschlikon," the Thomases wrote in their resignation letter dated Jan. 11. They referred to the vote by Foreign Mission Board trustees last October to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Thomas, 42, better known by his nickname, "T," is from Atlanta, Ga. Thomas, 43, was born in Cynthiana, Ky., and grew up in South Carolina. They said they would be off the mission field by May 1.

"First, we are saddened and grieved by the power struggle within the Southern Baptist Convention which has resulted in a 'hostile takeover' of the Foreign Mission Board," the couple wrote.

"Our resignation is foremost a protest against what we consider to be a distinctively unChristian strategy through which the conservative element of the Southern Baptist Convention is rapidly transforming much of what we have known as the Southern Baptist expression of the evangelical faith into something which is self-centered, self-serving and un-Christlike."

In their resignation letter, the Thomases noted the Romanian Baptist Union "has chosen to support the conservative movement" within the SBC and the mission board.

CHINA

**Urgent call for
personnel**

HONG KONG (BP)—Southern Baptists' priority to meet opportunities in newly opened Soviet and Eastern European states may have taken the spotlight off work in China, steering volunteers away from growing opportunities there.

Hong Kong-based officials with

Cooperative Services International are issuing an urgent plea for more workers in China. The Southern Baptist humanitarian aid organization asks Southern Baptists not to lose sight of CSI's China efforts in their rush to help Eastern Europeans behind the now-crumbled Iron Curtain.

Response to CSI's China work threatens to hit a three-year low. Chinese universities have asked CSI to provide 123 teachers for the 1992-93 school year. But so far, just three people have agreed to teach in China this fall. The agency is looking for experienced primary, junior and senior high school or university English teachers.

People interested in CSI's summer teaching program should immediately contact Bill Peacock or Anita Mahoney in CSI's Richmond, Va., office, telephone (804) 353-0151.

CSI offers slots for long-term personnel, too. People interested in working in China as International Service Corps volunteers — six months to three years — may contact Glenn Prescott, ISC associate director, or Pat Parrish, CSI administrative assistant, at (804) 254-9418. CSI also has career openings for people who want to stay longer than 3 years.

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Prayer is 'foundational'

by David Willard
The Commission, FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Make prayer the exclusive strategy for the first year of "Green Alert." A missionary reportedly made that recommendation at the first meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Green Alert strategy team last October.

One can imagine subsequent discussion: "Just prayer? Nothing else? Surely we should attempt to do something else."

In retrospect, the group adopted additional goals in its effort to help Soviet Baptists take advantage of unprecedented openness in republics formerly composing the Soviet Union — the board's first official Green Alert.

But prayer, as witnessed by the New Year's Eve International day of prayer and the subsequent year-long Green Alert prayer effort, remained foundational.

Although missionaries always have relied on the intercession of Southern Baptists, it seems prayer has received increased emphasis in recent years. Some missions administrators trace it to 1980 when R. Keith Parks, as new president of the Foreign Mission Board, set intercessory prayer as the highest priority for foreign missions. Shortly thereafter an intercessory prayer office was created, called the international prayer strategy office since 1987. On an individual basis, missionaries increasingly are scrambling to extend their own private networks of prayer support.

Indeed, prayer, as suggested by the Green Alert team's action, is recognized as the one missions strategy upon which all other strategies depend.

"Prayer is the only strategy that reaches into all 252 countries of the world," says Minette Drumwright, director of the prayer office. It also represents the source of the FMB's greatest power: access to divine intervention.

The mechanism by which prayer works is not known but Southern Baptists, by faith, affirm its power. "Prayer releases God's power into lives and situations," Drumwright says. "I believe that this is God's plan for doing his work."

She cites two primary principles of intercessory prayer:

—"It needs to be specific" — the more specific the request, the more focused the response.

—"It needs to be united" — the power of prayer is greater when many are interceding with the same request.

Mobilizing Southern Baptists and overseas Baptists in deeper prayer involvement with foreign missions and world

evangelization is the purpose of the board's prayer office. Currently, specific requests for prayer submitted by missionaries on the field are circulated through the newsletter "Global PrayerGram" to more than 25,000 individuals each month. Another 12,000 to 13,000 Southern Baptist calls each month are made to the board's PrayerLine, 1-800-395-PRAY, a figure that climbed as high as 21,000 during the Persian Gulf War.

In addition, since the fall of 1987 more than 2,000 assignments connecting individual Southern Baptist churches with unreached countries or people groups have been made through the prayer office. Fifteen state Baptist conventions currently are aligned in prayer partnerships with a people group or country.

Testimonies from missionaries about the effectiveness of these prayer endeavors arrive routinely. These include praise for helping them make cross-cultural adjustments, for family health, for finding responsive communities, for church sites, for local leaders, for effectiveness in witness and ministry and for hindering the power of Satan directed against church communities.

Although such answers to prayer warrant celebration, Drumwright reminds that two-thirds of the world's people still do not know Jesus, one-fourth of the world's people have not heard the gospel.

Incremental goals addressing that challenge were suggested by Parks last August. Among the 10 points the board president said would help Southern Baptists do their part in reaching the world for Christ by the year 2000, two specifically related to prayer:

— Challenge every Baptist association to "pray forth" at least two additional missionaries plus enough funding for support and operational expenses by 1995.

— Call on every Southern Baptist to develop regular prayer for missionaries and world evangelization and at least 12,000 churches praying for a specific unreached people group.

New programs are being considered by the prayer office to help achieve these goals. Expansion of the number of Southern Baptists taking advantage of existing programs also will be stressed.

"I think the interest in prayer is rising, judging from the calls we receive," said Terri Willis, prayer office associate director. "I don't know why, perhaps because so much more is being said about prayer now. Also, I think people are very excited about what's going on in their world and they are excited about having a big part in some of the changes."