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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 4

February 24, 1994



DISASTER RELIEF AT HOME



Arkansas Baptist
disaster relief units
respond to ice storm
damage in southeast
Arkansas.

Proclamation sparks controversy between Huckabee and ACLU

By Trennis Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Christian Heritage Week, set for Feb. 27 through March 5 in Arkansas, has sparked controversy between Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee and the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Huckabee signed the Christian Heritage Week proclamation earlier this month while serving as acting governor. The one-page proclamation, requested by attorney Brenda Vassaur Taylor of Altheimer, cites Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other American forefathers as "Christian statesmen of calibre and integrity who did not hesitate to express their faith."

Huckabee, a former Arkansas Baptist pastor and former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said he never anticipated the issue would cause concern.

"We are one of 14 states so far who have simply issued a proclamation acknowledging the contribution of Christians to this country," he explained. "To simply recognize that a certain segment of our society has contributed to that society and allow them the privilege of being acknowledged and heard in a completely voluntary manner is not only appropriate but it is unthinkable it would be objectionable to anyone except 'Christophobics.'"

Rita Spillenger, executive director of the ACLU in Arkansas sees it differently. While acknowledging that the proclamation does not violate the U.S. Constitution or state law, she questioned the proclamation's content and purpose. "I

think it's misleading. I think it's distortion of history for a political purpose. I think it's especially misleading when it comes from the governor's office."

Charging that the proclamation "smacks of other kinds of efforts of the religious right," Spillenger added, "Government has to be very careful when dealing with religion....There's a difference between private celebration and state action."

Huckabee countered that the ACLU's opposition to the proclamation is an "obvious, blatant form of prejudice and bigotry toward mainstream Christians."

Huckabee said he informed Gov. Jim Guy Tucker of his plans to sign the proclamation several weeks before doing so, adding that "there were no reservations expressed" by the governor.

Max Parker, Tucker's press secretary said Tucker had previously declined to issue such a proclamation. "We do not issue proclamations favoring any specific religious group," Parker added.

During the past year, however, Gov. Tucker has signed proclamations recognizing National Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day and B'nai B'rith Days as well as National Day of Prayer, National Pastoral Care Week and Religious Freedom Day.

Noting that proclamations historically have served as a "courtesy" which carry "no weight of law," Huckabee said, "I hope we would not get so paranoid that we would be afraid to welcome citizens of our state to participate and express their various interests. The best part of a free society is when the voices of many are heard and the voices of none are stifled."

Cover Story

AP/Wide World



Disaster relief 6-7

Glendon Grober, Arkansas Baptist disaster relief coordinator, and Delta Association director of missions John Hall inspect damage to the association's camp from recent ice storms which hit southeast Arkansas.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Teleconference highlights 'Experiencing God'

NASHVILLE, TN (BP/ABN)—If Baptist participants of a nationally broadcast teleconference learned one lesson Feb. 12, it is that a person cannot experience God without changing.

Christians who choose to know God completely can expect changes to occur within their lives, according to Henry Blackaby, co-author of the Southern Baptist resource, "Experiencing God," which has influenced Christians across denominational lines.

The Baptist Sunday School Board was sponsor of the seven-hour "Experiencing God" teleconference broadcast live by satellite to about 150 sites and 3,500 participants nationally.

Arkansans participated in the teleconference at nine locations around the state. Bill Bowen, who hosted the event at First Church, Mena, said that for those who previously had not been exposed to "Experiencing God" materials, "the lights went on."

"They knew there was more to their relationship with God. As a refresher to those of us who had been through the material, Blackaby really brought some things back into focus."

Even though the Mena group included only five participants, the event was well received, Bowen said. "The callers asked some questions our group was thinking." Bowen also was glad the church was able to host the event, since the satellite dish had been blown over in a tornado. "We just got it back up the day before," he noted.

James Allcock, minister of music at First Church, Hope, also was excited about

the opportunity to host the teleconference. "I served as state BTN coordinator for Maryland before coming to Arkansas. It was a joy to see telecommunications in operation — it's a good tool."

The Hope group was also small, but developed a "real bond of fellowship" during the seven-hour conference, Allcock said. "We had seven people from five churches, and we all felt it was very inspirational."

*"The lights went on.
They knew there was
more to their
relationship with
God."*

— Bill Bowen
Pastor, First Church, Mena

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana hosted 25 people from as far away as El Dorado. Staff member Gary Underwood said, "It went very well — I heard a lot of laymen and pastors wanting to get their churches involved."

The host panel included Blackaby, who now works with the Home Mission, Foreign Mission and Baptist Sunday School boards; Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president; and moderator Roy Edgemon, director of the BSSB discipleship and family development division.

Callers from California to Virginia phoned on the 1-800 number at the host

site of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville to ask specific questions or give testimonies of their experiences with God.

At one point callers jammed four phone lines causing an overload that temporarily shut down the system, according to Sam House of the BSSB's discipleship and family leadership department, who said 51 callers made it on air.

While individuals experience God in unique ways, according to Blackaby, he said all Christians should recognize seven "realities" of God's workings:

- God is always at work around you.
- God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

- God invites you to become involved with Him and His work.

- God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.

- God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

- You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

- You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

"Experiencing God" resources, including a leader's guide, video and audiocassettes, may be ordered by calling the BSSB customer service center at 1-800-458-2772.

Conference coordinators announced that a similar "Fresh Encounter" teleconference originally scheduled for April 23 has been postponed until the fall.

Registration opens for '94 SBC missions day camp

ORLANDO, FL — While parents are tending to convention business June 14-16 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., their children may be involved in action-packed activities at SBC Missions Day Camp.

Missions Day Camp is for boys and girls who will have completed grades 1-6 this year and whose parents are attending the annual meeting. It is sponsored by the Children/Royal Ambassador department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Tim Senor, day camp coordinator, said a 300-camper limit has been placed on the number of children that can attend day camp. Because of this change, early pre-registration of campers is essential.

A key feature of this year's day camp will be the opportunity for campers to attend selected portions of EPCOT Center at Walt Disney World. Campers also will use the new coed missions education products, "WorldTrek," and "Missions MatchFile," produced jointly by the Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

This year the process for Missions Day Camp registration has

changed. Pre-registration is now required. To pre-register a child, write SBC Missions Day Camp, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104 or call 901-272-2461 to receive a registration packet in the mail. Pre-registration must be received by the Brotherhood Commission no later than March 13.

Parents or guardians of children who attended the day camp in Indianapolis in 1992 or Houston in 1993 will receive registration packets automatically.

A three-day package price of \$62 per child is available. A two-day package is available for \$52 for Tuesday and Wednesday. The individual cost per child per day is \$35 for Tuesday, \$24 for Wednesday and \$17 for Thursday.

Children in the seventh grade and older are eligible to serve as counselors or assistant counselors for the day camp by contacting Tim Senor in writing at the Brotherhood Commission before March 13.

Day campers should dress comfortably and are required to wear a day camp wristband, day camp T-shirt, soft sole recreation shoes and socks. No short shorts are allowed.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

In Exodus it is recorded that God promised Moses, "There, above the cover between the two cherubims that are over the ark of the Covenant, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites" (Ex. 25:22 NIV).

We have not outlived the need for God's people to get before Him to find out the directions He has for His people. Under the new covenant, not just Moses, not just the high priest, but every true believer has the privilege of meeting God at the mercy seat. Folks who meet Him there not only "obtain mercy" but find "grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). No one would debate whether we need mercy, grace and help. It is obvious! I think there is real doubt on the part of many whether God still speaks and gives His people direction. If He does speak and we obey His direction, why is there not more evidence of the corresponding blessing He gave in the Bible when people followed His direction?

My fear is that tradition, human reason, outward circumstance, political correctness and social custom have a far greater impact upon what we as the people of God do than what He tells us to do. What it costs to hear from God and what it costs to obey what we hear is judged by many, it seems, to be too great a price to pay. The price of not hearing and obeying is even greater!

These concerns have prompted the theme, "Hearing God and Being Heard," for the annual Pastors' Retreat this year. Let's admit it, while every Christian has access to the mercy seat and the direct instruction of God, the pastor has a most urgent need to hear from God.

You can help your pastor, your church and ultimately yourself in one or more of the following ways:

- Free your pastor and encourage him to attend the retreat.

- Help him with travel costs and the \$35 fee.

- Pray for your pastor as he enters into the experience.

- Pray for Dr. Richard Owen Roberts, as he speaks four times on "What Is God Saying?"

RONNIE ROGERS

The President's Corner

The right stuff



I have three burdens as state convention president that are constantly upon my mind and heart. They are essential to advance the Kingdom of God. It takes the right stuff to penetrate Satan's kingdom.

First, the need for godly leaders. I want to model godly leadership and emphasize the importance of godly leadership in our churches, state convention and denomination. No organization can surpass its leadership. This is true for the church and denomination as well. While some in your church may surpass your commitment to godliness, the church as a whole never will.

I thank God for the many godly leaders across our state who are committed to Christ and the pursuit of truth and holiness. We must never lower the standard and become satisfied with mediocrity. The need of the hour is not timidity and mediocrity, but godliness and courage.

Second, the need for a clear voice. While I recognize I cannot speak for all Arkansas Baptists, I do want to speak, as your president, in such a way that honors our Lord Jesus Christ and is faithful to the Scripture. Our world needs a clear, unequivocal call back to biblical morality and to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior. All may not agree with the stand that you or I will take, and surely they won't, but it is imperative that all are able to understand where we stand. This is not a day for preachers

to speak in euphemisms and ambiguities. We must speak that which is right, because it is right. If we, the men of God and the church of God, do not speak loudly, clearly and courageously, no one will.

Third, the need for holy ministering churches. While there is a great need for church growth and all that it teaches us, I believe there is an even greater need to call and lead our churches to walk in the holiness of God. The lack of holiness in our churches is evident by the increasing cases of immorality and the decreasing frequency of church discipline.

While church discipline can be abused, the greatest abuse is to disaffirm its practice. Our churches must be holy before God to enable us to minister for God.

The theme of this year is "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name." I thank God for that; there will always be churches that are larger in size and more visible, but we all can faithfully minister for our Lord where He places us.

No matter where you are, the authenticity of your ministry before God is determined by one word: faithfulness. May we seek to be godly leaders, who proclaim the message of Scripture boldly and clearly; seeking to minister to people where they are, without sacrificing our walk with a holy God.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"The best part of a free society is when the voices of many are heard and the voices of none are stilled."

—Arkansas Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee

"In prayer, people become aware of where God is at work and He moves them to respond."

—Mike Fahey, Baltimore Baptist Association director of missions

Annie Armstrong: 'Where is everybody else?'

By Sarah Zimmerman

SBC Home Mission Board

BALTIMORE (BP)—If Babe Ruth could visit his hometown, he might be delighted to find the Baltimore Orioles playing at Camden Yards.

If Frances Scott Key returned to Chesapeake Bay where he was inspired to write "The Star Spangled Banner," he might be humbled by the park established in his memory.

If Annie Armstrong returned to Baltimore where she was born, baptized and buried, "she would be grateful for those who are laboring in the harvest, but she would ask, 'Where is everybody else?'" speculates Mike Fahey, director of missions for Baltimore Baptist Association.

Born in 1850, Armstrong was instrumental in the creation of Woman's Missionary Union. Southern Baptists' annual Easter offering for home missions was named in her honor in 1934. As Southern Baptists observe the 1994 Week of Prayer for Home Missions on March 6-13, this year's national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$40 million. Arkansas Baptists' statewide goal is \$1,025,000.

Armstrong was known for leading Baptists to send boxes of supplies to home missionaries on frontier fields. At that time, the "frontier field" was Indian Territory which became Oklahoma.

Now Oklahoma is a strong Southern Baptist state and Baltimore could be considered a pioneer area. Fahey, however, fights that image.

"We've developed a welfare mentality," acknowledged Fahey, a Baltimore native. "We say, 'We can't do things because we're small, we're so few, we still need help from the South.' We use that as an excuse and it's one reason we don't grow."

Armstrong was baptized at Baltimore's Seventh Baptist Church when she was 20 years old. At the time, Seventh was a community church in an upper middle-class suburb, noted Ellen Udovich, church and community ministries director for Baltimore Baptist Association and Seventh Baptist Church.

As the suburbs moved farther from downtown, Seventh's neighborhood became a white working-class community, then a black lower-class community, Udovich explained. Now it's the stereotype of an inner city. Heroin and cocaine use is widespread. Many residents struggle with mental illness. Many children are not nurtured or encouraged by their parents.

"I think Annie Armstrong would cry if



Annie Armstrong



IT'S YOUR SERVE

Minister in Christ's Name

1994 Week of Prayer
for Home Missions
March 6-13

she came back here," said Barbara George, a nurse and Mission Service Corps volunteer working in a medical clinic sponsored by Seventh.

Armstrong was not known for tears, however. Instead, history portrays her as an outspoken, strong-willed leader who challenged Southern Baptists to become involved in ministries with children, the sick, immigrants and blacks.

In that respect, Armstrong would be proud of Seventh Baptist Church. In response to its changing community, the church began an after-school craft club,

nursery school for preschoolers and clothing thrift shop.

Seventh now owns row houses across the street from the church, housing senior adults with low incomes, facilities for weekday ministries such as literacy and tutoring programs and the Good Shepherd medical clinic where more than 100 patients are treated each month.

Within a year after joining Seventh Baptist Church, Armstrong and her parents left the church to help start Eutaw Place Baptist Church, which is now Woodbrook Baptist Church. Armstrong was a member there until her death in 1938.

Church starting is still a priority in the association which has a goal of three new congregations a year, Fahey explained. His personal goal is for the association to double its 77 congregations by the year 2000.

Yet the association loses one or two congregations a year, Fahey noted. Most of the dying churches are Anglo congregations in the city of Baltimore. Typically, church members move to the suburbs, blacks move into the community, the church does not reach out to the new neighbors and the church dies.

Fahey encourages existing inner-city churches to start black churches. He also challenges suburban churches to "keep an eye on the city and look for meaningful partnerships" with existing inner-city congregations.

In some cases, that means responding to reversed trends. Canton Baptist Church and Neighborhood Center led by home missionary Jon Spencer was founded in 1908 to provide ministry in an area settled by Welsh immigrants.

The former industrial, blue-collar neighborhood fell into decline as the economy shifted from industry to high-tech, Spencer remarked. Now the area is changing again as a "new population of wealthy" moves into renovated homes and loft apartments fashioned from old warehouses.

"Our traditional focus on social ministry must change," Spencer commented. "We will still have those needs, but we have to recognize the differences."

Fahey said Spencer and his wife are "just the people" to respond to an upwardly mobile community.

Fahey calls the association's staff and volunteers a "good team with a great future," but he said Baltimore's hope depends on the prayers of God's people. "In prayer, people become aware of where God is at work and He moves them to respond."

Power blackouts prompt Baptist response

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas Baptist Brotherhood disaster relief units were called into action Feb. 12 as residents of southeast Arkansas suffered from power blackouts and falling tree branches in a heavy ice storm that hit the area Feb. 9-10.

The District 2 unit was dispatched from First Church, Batesville, to Dermott, a small farming community in Chicot County. Also sent to the Mississippi delta town were the state Baptist cleanup and chainsaw crew and child care unit.

Glendon Grober, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Brotherhood department, said, "This is the first time in our history that we have involved all of our units in one place."

He described the effects of the ice storm as much like those of a tornado. "What you have," he explained, "is a tremendous amount of debris. I did not see one tree that did not have limbs broken off. I've seen tornadoes do less damage."

Electrical power was out to many residents of the town. An Arkansas Power and Light spokesman called it the worst disaster in the company's history. Service was out to more than 80,000 residents of southeast Arkansas during the height of power loss.

The District 2 unit prepared and served meals at Morris-Booker Memorial Baptist College, a Regular Arkansas Baptist State Convention-sponsored college in Dermott. The college is located in a predominantly black neighborhood.

The District 2 unit is a 1956 Greyhound bus refitted last year as a sleeping unit. Grober said the District 1 feeding unit, designed as a high-output feeding unit, will be completed "in about 90 days."

Jim Sproles of First, Batesville, said the



Arkansas Baptist volunteers serve food to storm victims in Dermott.

feeding unit fed "about 3,500 meals from Sunday through lunch (Tuesday). Whatever food shows up, we cook. A Tyson truck pulled up yesterday and dumped a load of chicken, beef and pork and we commenced to deep fat fry."

Although feeding operations went well, the Baptist effort experienced problems. American Red Cross assessment officials at the feeding were upset because aid recipients had stolen some food from the feeding unit.

"It bothers me very little that someone stole some food because that is what we're here for and we are going to serve it to them anyway," said Grober.

As a result of the Red Cross concerns, Dermott city officials asked the relief unit to move, igniting political rhetoric from

both white and black community leaders.

Brotherhood relief worker John Ed Smith, a member of First, Batesville, summarized the situation, saying, "You have a railroad track running right through the middle of town."

"A question was raised from the other side of town as to why we came to this side," he continued. "We went to the side where we felt there was the most need, which is mostly black."

Rumors of a move by the feeding unit and an Air Force National Guard generator from the Morris-Booker campus prompted angry remarks from black community leader York Williams Jr., president of Morris-Booker.

He told Grober and National Guardsmen, "If the Baptist Brotherhood moves out of here, that says something about the integrity of the Baptist Brotherhood and the American Red Cross."

Williams said later that the relief teams had "done a masterful job and we have worked hand in glove from the minute I met Rick Bunch," the feeding unit leader from First, Batesville.

Because of the racial difficulties and because few whites were using the feeding facilities, Baptists began taking meals Feb. 17 for 60 people to Dermott Church, to distribute to white families.

The Arkansas Baptist cleanup and chainsaw crew stayed busy clearing debris from the yards of elderly citizens. Cleanup and chainsaw foreman Carl Robinson, a member of Bayou Meto Church in North Pulaski Association, reported the crew

Ice storm provides 'rare ministry opportunity'

As bitter cold and ice storms hit First Church, Hazen, pastor David McCord said the church experienced "a rare opportunity to minister to people in need" during the storm.

McCord said the church is a designated Red Cross shelter. During the height of the storm Feb. 10, Red Cross officials sent drivers stranded by the ice to the church to spend the night. One vehicle sent to the church was a Greyhound bus with 35 people.

"On this bus," explained McCord, "were white and black people, a Cherokee Indian family, an Eskimo, a

Jamaican and a family from Canada. We had the world covered that night."

Church members offered the travelers food, sleeping blankets and the church's educational building. By the end of the night 42 people were staying at the church and members were able to counsel some of them.

McCord voiced thanks for the bad weather. "They were ready to listen to the gospel because of a church who loved them enough to open its doors to them," he noted. "It made us aware that God could take a bad situation and use it to His glory."

cleaned seven yards during its first day of operation. "We're principally doing the yards of older people and people who can't afford to have their wood cut up," he explained.

Helping lead cleanup and relief efforts was Delta Association director of missions John Hall. He said none of the association's churches had major structural damage, but the associational camp was "severely damaged."

"Several trees and countless limbs fell on the 13 buildings and electrical lines at Wolf Creek Camp," Hall said. "There is a good bit of roof damage to four of the buildings." He said a damage assessment inspector estimated repair costs to the camp at more than \$10,000.

Because of the extent of the damage to Wolf Creek, Grobersaid state Brotherhood members are planning a weekend-long cleaning and repair project, probably in May.

Members of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist Nursing Fellowship formed the child care unit, which opened for service at Dermott Church Feb. 15.

State WMU president Marjorie Grober said the unit is prepared for 40 children from birth through five-year-olds and is designed to "care for the children while their parents are out getting food and heat."

"We take the children before breakfast and feed them three times a day," she explained. "A lot of times they are cold and wet and their parents have to do the things to provide them with a safe, warm environment. We give them the time to do that."

Glendon Grober said the feeding, cleaning and child care operations will stay in Dermott at their present locations "until the power is restored or the Red Cross asks us to go to a needier area."

Baptists in the Little Rock area collected money and supplies to send to Halley Church in Halley. Church members will distribute the supplies to residents of the town, which was still without power Feb. 17.

Members of South Highland Church, Second Church, Calvary Church and Pinnacle Church in Little Rock, Park Hill Church in North Little Rock and the Baptist Building Employees' Association collected \$200 and lighting supplies Feb. 17.

George Sims, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministries department, said the collection was initiated by Sheri Gregory, wife of Halley Church pastor Gene Gregory.

"This year is the Arkansas Baptists' emphasis of 'Perform Ministry,'" Sims said. "This is a way we can be personally involved."



Connie Grau and Mike Wheeler, members of Immanuel Church, Rogers, pour 250 servings of corn into a cambro container at a Baptist relief unit in Van Nuys, Calif.

Arkansas Baptists offer assistance to California earthquake victims

Two teams of Arkansas Baptist volunteers provided leadership and food preparation for Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in California in the wake of a January 17 earthquake which shook the Los Angeles area. The quake was the worst to hit Southern California in 20 years.

Five members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's disaster relief leadership helped organize feeding and shelter operations for California Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief units. The group, which worked from Jan. 22 through Feb. 1, included ABCS Brotherhood director Glendon Grober; Rick Bunch of First Church, Batesville; Ed Lauderdale of Quitman Church; Ronnie O'Neal of Markham Street Church, Little Rock; and Royce Sweatman of First Church, Harrison. The five worked at feeding units in Van Nuys, Northridge, Fillmore and Santa Clarita.

"These men are the bulk of our leadership who manage feeding units," explained Grober. He said they "went with the intent of supporting what was being done," but provided leadership to the California units. In addition to California units, Brotherhood feeding units were sent from Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Grober, who has worked with Baptist relief units through the West Memphis tornado and Hurricanes Bob, Hugo and

Andrew, said he went to serve as Brotherhood coordinator for all of the units with the California coordinator. "They'd never been in a disaster before," he said. "And needed the leadership help."

Sweatman, who was stationed at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Northridge, said the toughest part of the trip was that "there were no trained people. Where we normally go in with our men trained to the hilt, every day you would have a new crew come in and you had to retrain them."

"But our job is to go in and get the job done whether you have trained volunteers or not," he added.

The team took four rice cookers and braziers "that will turn out gallons of food in about 30 minutes," said Grober. The equipment is still in California, where feeding efforts are expected to continue through February. Baptists had fed more than one million meals by Feb. 14, Grober said.

Immanuel Church in Rogers sent members Paul DeWeese, Connie Grau, Alan Rounds, Jennifer Siemens and Mike Wheeler to Van Nuys Jan. 29-Feb. 3, where they helped prepare an average of 9,000 meals daily.

"We gave some hope and shined a light," said DeWeese. "We don't realize here at home how many people (the earthquake) really affected."

International Service Corps

Arkansas Baptist volunteers spend five months serving in India

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Many people view retirement as a time to relax, take up new hobbies and enjoy grandchildren. By contrast, Norman and Kay Roberts of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock sold their house, stored their possessions and volunteered to do overseas mission work.

Roberts, who retired in June as senior vice president for the Baptist Medical System, and his wife, a homemaker and active member of Woman's Missionary Union, returned recently from a five-month assignment as International Service Corps volunteers in Bangalore, India.

Roberts worked at Bangalore Baptist Hospital with Rebekah Naylor, a surgeon from Fort Worth, Texas, and the only resident Southern Baptist missionary in the Asian nation of 897 million people. The 143-bed hospital treats more than 74,000 patients a year.


Describing his assignment as a "consultant and facilitator for the management of the hospital," Roberts said his professional experience prepared him well for the assignment. "I've been working for Baptist hospitals since 1956. For 25 years I was administrator of Memorial Hospital in North Little Rock before serving the Baptist Medical System. All of my career has been with those two Baptist hospitals."

He said his workday in Bangalore "didn't change very much from a typical day at an institution here. The things I did were to assist Dr. Naylor in construction projects that were going on at that time, attend planning meetings and to do project work at the hospital."

Mrs. Roberts also said her day-to-day activities changed little. "I did what I have been doing a lot of my life: making a home for my husband and trying to make myself available, as they say in India, to 'do the needful.'" Mrs. Roberts characterizes herself as "a WMU gal that had prayed for India and other parts of the world and been interested in India as a result of friendship with Rebekah." She taught several Bible studies with single nurses and students and also traveled with a team from the hospital teaching nutrition and public health.

The Robertses were familiar with the hospital's operation; they had previously visited India and worked with Naylor in 1985 and 1987. Roberts said the hospital "met my expectations. I think my expectations were to find a hospital doing well in many ways and that wanted help to

VOLUNTEERS



IN MISSIONS DAY

2/27/94

Volunteers in Missions is a vital part of the Southern Baptist missions enterprise. Every year over 60,000 volunteers spend a week, a month, a year, or longer assisting home and foreign missionaries. High school and college students, as well as adults of all ages, serve as volunteers. The work these volunteers do cannot be done by the missionaries working alone.

Volunteers in Missions Day is set aside by Southern Baptists to recognize the involvement of laity as volunteers in mission service and to promote mission volunteerism among Southern Baptists.

improve its services and mission."

The Arkansas couple related that the decision to be missions volunteers was a long-term process. "As we were raising our children we always talked about when we retire, we might consider doing volunteer missions," Mrs. Roberts noted. "When we realized our nest was empty, we looked at our finances and thought it would be impossible."

She said they "asked the Lord to give us a sign. Rebekah wrote a letter and said she needed help with hospital administration. We applied with International Service Corps and when we received our acceptance letter, we felt it was the sign. We took Easter weekend to fast and pray and at the end of the day, we saw no reason not to go." When they put their house on the market and it sold the next day, they decided that "the Lord wanted us to go to India."

"Not all of our friends have understood

us selling our house or the kind of commitment we've made," Roberts acknowledged. "But the most meaningful thing has been the prayers of four friends at church. We couldn't have made it without them."

They said many images of the country have remained with them since their return, including:

■ Rebekah Naylor's ministry. "Rebekah has made a long-term commitment to the hospital," Roberts said. "She has been there 20 years and for 10 years has led the hospital as well as being a surgeon."

■ Other Southern Baptist missionaries in India. "Our greatest blessing came from going out and meeting both the career people and the volunteers," Mrs. Roberts said. Tight restrictions on licenses, work permits and visas have slashed the Southern Baptist missionary force from 18 in the 1980s to one. Some missionaries, such as Von and Marge Worten and Ray and Joyce Rogers work in India as itinerants, moving in and out of the country on a short-term basis.

■ Indian living conditions. "The most startling image of India is the crowds; the hordes of people. They're very crowded and spaces are very tight," Roberts said. Mrs. Roberts added that "Americans have no understanding of the terrible poverty that saturates the society."

■ The dominance of Hinduism. "As Americans we are not prepared for the totality of what that means to their family life, their laws and what they think," Mrs. Roberts noted. "I do know they need to see the light of Jesus...The light of the Lord is just not there." She said Christians make up only 2 percent of the population and there is religious persecution of Christians at work and in the family.

■ Participating in the Crossover India evangelism effort. "It has been exciting to observe this great moving of the Holy Spirit all across India," Mrs. Roberts said. "None of us will ever be the same." The Southern Baptist partnership evangelism project involved more than 70 teams of volunteers sharing Christ Nov. 3-10. More than 45,000 people attended the church meetings and were visited in their homes, with 4,033 professions of faith recorded.

Mrs. Roberts said being missions volunteers also gave them "insight into what Southern Baptists are doing around the world. The commitment Southern Baptists have to tell the world about Jesus Christ is great. The volunteers are one part of that commitment and we're happy to be part of that."

Moral Issues Conference slated for March 25-26

Pastors, church leaders and adult church members interested in studying family-related morality will want to attend the State Conference on Moral Issues March 25-26 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. It is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Discipleship Training/family ministries department.

Gerald Jackson, an associate in the department, said participants will "learn what critical moral issues really are and discover specific ways churches can help meet family life needs impacted by these issues in their communities."

He added that the conference will have a threefold objective. "The conference will heighten awareness of moral issues impacting the family, set forth biblical teachings regarding these issues and present approaches and resources to enable families to address these issues."

The program will feature general sessions led by Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and Guy Greenfield, pastor and ethicist for Eastern Heights Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M.

Participants will be able to attend up to three workshops covering a wide variety of topics, including Christian and adolescent sexuality; sexual, child, spouse and elderly abuse; gambling; pornography; violence; AIDS; addictive behavior; and the media.

The cost for the conference is \$10 per person for registrations made before the conference and \$15 per person at the door. Participants are responsible for their own lodging. The conference will begin at 7 p.m. Friday and conclude at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

For more information on registration or the program, contact Jackson at the ABCS Discipleship Training/family ministries department, phone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

State Youth Convention highlights sexual purity

Arkansas Baptists' 1994 State Youth Convention will highlight sexual purity as Baptist youth meet April 1 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

The one-day event, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Discipleship Training and family ministry department, will feature the theme, "True Love Waits... A Call to Commitment" during its program. True Love Waits is a Baptist Sunday School Board program designed to promote sexual abstinence among teens.

Bill Falkner, an associate in the

Discipleship Training department, underscored the youth convention emphasis, saying, "True Love Waits is a call to commitment. During the evening session rally, Arkansas youth will show their commitment on the lawn of the Old Statehouse."

He said the site was chosen because "it is a public setting to make a public statement for the hundreds of teens making a commitment to sexual purity." The rally also will feature music, testimonies and a message.

The program will feature keynote speaker Randall O'Brien, a youth communicator, author and Baylor University professor from Waco, Texas. O'Brien has spoken at several Arkansas youth events and is the author of *Who Is Jesus*, a book for youth on the life and ministry of Christ.

Other program features will include Kyle and Susan Matthews, Christian musicians and entertainers from Nashville, Tenn.; music from Second Chance, a contemporary Christian group from Little Rock; youth testimonies; and the State Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament finals.

There is no cost for the convention. Participants must make their own lodging arrangements if staying overnight. For more information, contact Falkner at 376-4791, ext. 5160.

Acteens to 'join God's team' during Encounter

Arkansas Acteens will be able to "Join God's Team" April 8-9 as the 1994 Acteens Encounter takes on an Olympic Games theme at Ouachita Baptist University. The event, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Woman's Missionary Union department, will feature Friday evening recreation, a "seniors only" mission project, StudiAct recognition and an ACTUOR commissioning service.

WMU department associate Angela Lowe said the theme of the Acteens Encounter "will encourage believers in Christ to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends, from beginning to end." To reinforce team spirit among participants, Lowe encouraged Acteens groups to dress as a team. "You may choose to wear the same color of sweat pants, sweatshirts, T-shirts, bandannas or caps," she said.

Lowe also extended a special invitation to sixth-grade girls and their Girls in Action leaders and teenage girls whose churches do not have active Acteens programs.

The program will begin Friday at 6:30 p.m. The Friday evening session will feature selective missionary conferences for leaders and recreation for Acteens

including a pizza party, swimming, "Crazy Olympics" and games.

Saturday's program will feature a praise and prayer time and missions conferences for girls in grades six through 11 and an apartment ministry action project for high school seniors. The program will end at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Participants must make their own lodging arrangements for Friday night. A few Arkadelphia churches will be open to host participants at a cost of \$3 per person. The cost for the Encounter, which includes materials and a continental breakfast, is \$10 per person after Feb. 25. Deadline for registration is March 26.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact Angela Lowe at the state WMU department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5137.

Golden Age conference scheduled for April

Fellowship, inspiration and motivation to witness will be offered to senior adults at the Golden Age Evangelism Conference April 7-8 at the Four Runners Inn Conference Center in Eureka Springs. The conference, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, will focus on the theme, "Senior Adults Ministering to Win."

Paul McClung, an associate in the evangelism department, noted that the conference is designed to mobilize senior adults to pray and to encourage them to "witness to other seniors."

"The older adults get, the less we witness to their age group," said McClung. "If we can get seniors witnessing to others, we would reach a group that has not been reached effectively."

The conference program will include keynote speaker Robert Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Bo Mitchell of Winter Haven Fla., a journalist, sportscaster and radio station executive serving as a Home Mission Board Missions Service Corps volunteer; and the music and humor team of Dan and Barbara McBride of Jacksonville, Texas. The program will begin at 12:30 p.m. Thursday and conclude at noon Friday.

Participants are responsible for securing their own lodging for the conference. Reservations may be made by contacting Jeanette at the Four Runners Inn; phone 253-6000. Hotel rates at the Four Runners Inn range from \$34 per single to \$44 for a four-person occupancy.

The cost for the conference is \$5 per person. For more information or to register, contact McClung at the state evangelism department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5132.

China bans unregistered churches

Crackdown on religious freedom forbids "proselytizing" by foreigners

By Erich Bridges

SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—Just as the Clinton administration has begun praising China for improving its record on human rights, the Chinese government has cracked down anew on unauthorized religious activities.

Two government decrees—signed Jan. 31 by Chinese Premier Li Peng and announced Feb. 5—ban churches not registered with officially recognized religious bodies and forbid "proselytizing" by foreigners.

The first forbids the existence of "house churches" and other congregations not belonging to the government-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Association, which represents Protestants, or the Catholic Patriotic Association.

Such churches have sprouted by the thousands in recent years, despite continuing persecution in some areas.

The law also limits activities inside approved churches, including sermons or programs that might "destroy national unity, ethnic unity and social stability, damage public health or undermine the national education system."

A second decree warns that foreigners

"must not establish religious organizations, organs for managing religious affairs or centers or schools for religious activity. (They) must not recruit religious followers, appoint religious teachers or conduct any other proselytizing activities among the Chinese people."

Foreigners can preach in China only with government approval. They can bring in religious materials only for "their personal use," the decree continues, and only if such materials don't "threaten China's social and public interest."

Many Southern Baptists live and work in China. Most of them, however, teach English in universities or provide other professional skills and social services.

Policies codify repression

Neither law breaks new ground. Various government and Communist Party organs have long tried to suppress the burgeoning "house church" movement and have insisted that officially sanctioned churches reject foreign influence.

The new laws are "just one aspect of a continuing, multi-year process," said a well-informed observer in Hong Kong, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They codify and publicize things that have been under

way for awhile and probably are going to continue."

Repression campaigns against religion come and go and vary widely from place to place. But reports of church closings, arrests and beatings of believers—even deaths—have increased in the past year.

"There's been a whole series of crackdowns on house churches over the last six or eight months," said the observer. "What we've got here is just a public statement to the West and everybody else that says, 'Yes, this is what we're doing.'"

The question is: Why now?

The Clinton administration has just begun expressing qualified approval of Chinese actions to improve human rights. That comes after repeated U.S. threats to eliminate China's "Most Favored Nation" (MFN) trade status—crucial to China's continued economic growth—when it comes up for renewal in June. A host of U.S. congressmen and senators have made the same threat. Some of them have visited China, asking that Christian prisoners be released and religious freedom respected.

Despite the warnings, "the Chinese leadership has decided MFN is a done deal," said the Hong Kong observer—an opinion shared by several religious human rights groups. "Sure, they released three dissidents last week. They'll do token things, but basically they can do whatever they want to the general population."

The government remains suspicious of foreign involvement in religion, concerned about strange practices in some cult groups, and alarmed about the ongoing expansion of religious groups.

Christianity continues to grow in the countryside, in cities, among intellectuals and students, even among party members. Meanwhile, Islam and Buddhism are rebounding in western China, where restive indigenous peoples demand more independence.

China detains, releases American Christians

HONG KONG (BP)—Three American Christians were released by authorities in China Feb. 15 after being held for five days on charges of violating a new law restricting foreign religious work.

Public Security Bureau officers personally escorted American Dennis Balcombe onto a plane leaving China's Henan province that evening bound for Hong Kong, according to press reports. Balcombe is pastor of the Revival Christian Church in Hong Kong.

Two other Americans from the Hong Kong church, identified as Paul "Star" Ferguson of Texas and Daughin Chan of Oklahoma, reportedly traveled on their own to the same airport and flew back to Hong Kong.

Four other visiting Christians detained and released with them—two from Indonesia and two from Hong Kong—also left China. Seven Chinese Christians also were arrested and three reportedly remained in custody Feb. 15.

Couple with Arkansas ties appointed by FMB to South Korea

Timothy and Mari Swihart were among 45 people recently named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The Swiharts will serve in South Korea, where he will start and develop churches and both will be involved in outreach ministries.

He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Swihart. His father is pastor of East Side Church in Paragould.

Since 1990 Swihart has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Stanton, Texas. He also has served as pastor of Steep Hollow Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas and Corinth Baptist Church in Decatur, Texas. He was director of the Baptist Student Union at Brookhaven Community College in Carrollton, Texas, and minister

of education and minister of youth of two Texas churches.

Swihart earned the bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Swihart, a Kansas native, earned the bachelor of music education degree from Oklahoma Baptist University. She is a substitute teacher in Stanton and has served as a music teacher at Brazos Christian School in College Station, Texas.

The Swiharts have three children: Brett Aaron, Bryce Adam and Britany Autumn.

The family will go to Rockville, Va., in May for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

FMB trustees vote to expand volunteer opportunities

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees passed recommendations Feb. 9 to expand opportunities for volunteers to serve overseas and to expose more Southern Baptists to missions.

Meeting Feb. 7-9 in Richmond, Va., trustees also appointed 45 new missionaries and reappointed four others, bringing the total mission force to 3,958.

FMB president Jerry Rankin and Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board issued challenges for Southern Baptists to join God's plan to reach the world.

Rankin urged trustees and staff to focus on the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goals, which he said "were born in the heart of God," and refuse to focus on "trivial issues and secondary concerns."

Blackaby, a Southern Baptist leader in spiritual awakening, urged the board to "attempt the impossible" because "nothing is impossible for God."

Two FMB trustee actions that will widen exposure of Southern Baptists to missions include a decision to hold more board meetings and appointment services outside Richmond, where the board is headquartered, and a policy to expand use of volunteers overseas.

The policy on volunteers grew out of a study by a committee of trustees and staff appointed in October 1992. It reaffirms the priority of career missionaries while acknowledging the importance of volunteers to the board's overall strategy, according to trustee Bob Oxford of Colorado, chairman of the committee. It aims to increase the number of volunteers going overseas through the board and outlines principles for cooperating with Southern Baptist volunteer groups working outside board channels.

"Volunteers are a resource that can impact a lost world," Rankin said. "We need to mobilize that resource and develop the kind of strategy that incorporates volunteers — working alongside career missionaries — into all we're trying to accomplish overseas in Jesus' name."

HMB leaders affirm Masonic report

ATLANTA (BP)—Rejecting calls to review its handling of a report on Freemasonry, the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a resolution affirming actions of its president, staff and board members relating to the controversial issue.

The resolution declares in part that the executive committee "deplores any statements attacking the Christian integrity and motives of the HMB directors and staff ... and affirms the actions and statements of its president, Dr. Larry Lewis and the Home Mission Board's trustees and staff."

"This issue is not going to go away," declared Walter Carpenter, board member from Texas, who wrote and introduced the measure. "It's time to respond to these attacks on our president, our staff and our own characters."

The Home Mission Board was directed to conduct a study of Freemasonry during the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention. A lengthy paper and a brief report from the board have received wide acceptance across the SBC except from persons critical of the fraternal organization.

Board leadership has resisted calls to revisit the Masonry issue. Last month an HMB board member, Walter Collett of Maryland, sent fellow board members a three-page letter asking that the study be withdrawn from circulation and that several issues be clarified.

Collett, although not present when the resolution was considered, told Baptist Press, "I don't have any problems with the resolution. I never intended to attack the motives and integrity of the president, staff or board members."

The 20-member committee did deal with a number of additional matters, including appointment of 24 new home missionaries and 53 Southern Baptist chaplains and filling of three vacant staff positions.

Included in staff approvals during the meeting was Phillip Roberts, elected as director of the interfaith witness department. Roberts is presently a missions professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He will assume his new duties June 1.

Roberts fills the vacancy left by previous director Gary Leazer who resigned in the wake of the Masonry controversy.

Herbert Brisbane, presently associate director of black church extension, will serve as director of the office of black evangelism. Brisbane, a native of Texas, will lead development of black evangelism strategies and materials.

Another Texan, Jerry Pipes, was elected associate director of personal evangelism working primarily with youth and college students. He has served as a national missionary for the evangelism section for the past year.

BSSB addresses financial concerns

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Reports on ministry and financial performance by the Baptist Sunday School Board signal positive results in efforts to operate more efficiently and to reverse downward trends in product sales, according to the agency's president, James T. Draper Jr.

The election of Ted Warren as chief financial officer and vice president of the business services group represents another step forward in addressing financial concerns, Draper said during the trustees' Feb. 7-8 semiannual meeting.

He also cited implementation of a 1993 operational study of the board's business and finance and corporate services groups which has reduced corporate overhead expenses and is expected to realize a 1993-94 net savings of more than \$2 million.

"A similar study of the church growth group has been completed and its recommendations are being addressed," Draper said.

The 1992-93 financial report, he said, shows real sales growth of 0.2 percent, while "holding the line on expenses in many areas." Total revenue of \$208 million

was below budget by 2 percent but above last year by 2.8 percent.

The year-end results "were not a surprise," he said, reminding trustees he had estimated three to five years to achieve financial and product goals.

For the first quarter of 1993-94, Jerry Rhync, director of the business and finance department, said revenue was 8.1 percent above the same period for the previous year, but 5.4 percent below budget.

Warren, the board's new chief financial officer, is an executive with 25 years' experience in the oil industry. Warren was president of Grace Drilling Company, 1990-93. When the company was sold in September 1993, Warren elected to resign. Earlier, he was executive vice president of Texas Oil and Gas Production Co. of Dallas, 1988-90, and president and chief operating officer of FWA Drilling Co. of Wichita Falls, Texas, 1981-88.

Warren, 46, a native of Missouri, is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Rolla and Harvard Business School. He is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Park Cities Baptist Church of Dallas.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Church news

East Side Church in Osceola held a **Lay Renewal Weekend** Jan. 28-30 that resulted in nine professions of faith and one addition by letter. Tom Doty is pastor.

South Pine Wood Church is the new name for Lighthouse Church in Pine Bluff. The name was adopted by the congregation to better reflect their location and area of ministry. Bill Lewis, retired director of missions for Harmony Association, is interim pastor.

Lake City First Church ordained Charles Bowers, Ernest Frame and Ronnie Smith to the deacon ministry Jan. 23.

Marked Tree First Church has launched plans for three new avenues of ministry. They will include providing facilities to the American Red Cross for training classes; the showing of a film series to aid families and friends of cancer patients; and assisting

the local ministerial alliance with a community needs assessment.

Rogers First Church emphasized home and family commitments in both of its Feb. 13 morning worship services. The observance included renewal of wedding vows by participating couples with pastor Ben Rowell officiating. Church youth also signed commitment cards as a part of the "True Love Waits" campaign.

Staff changes

Frank Shell has accepted the call to serve as director of missions for North Central Association in Clinton, effective June 1. He currently is teaching at Yellowstone Baptist College in Laramie, Wyo. Shell has served as a pastor in Arkansas, including churches at Sage, White Oak, Walnut Ridge and Clinton. In addition, he taught and coached baseball at Williams Baptist College (then Southern Baptist College),

and was a pastor and interim director of missions in Montana. He is a graduate of Central Arkansas College, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has completed advanced studies at Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn.; the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss., and North Texas State University, Denton. He is married to the former Carolyn Southerland. They have four married children, Jay, Sarah, Joe and Susan, and four grandchildren.

James Browne has resigned as pastor of Trinity Church in Blytheville to move to Texas.

Stephen Lee Abbott will begin serving Feb. 27 as pastor of First Church in Sloom Springs, coming from Bosqueville Church in Waco, Texas. He also has served as pastor of Abbott Church in Abbott, Texas, and has held interim and intern staff positions with other Texas churches. Abbott earned the bachelor of arts degree

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March 25-26 • Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock

Friday, 7 - 9:15 p.m.

General Session

Identifying and highlighting moral issues impacting families in today's society.

Presenter: Dr. Richard Land, executive director, Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

General Session

Presenting a biblical and ethical base for local churches to address moral issues in their community.

Presenter: Dr. Guy Greenfield, pastor & ethicist, Eastern Heights Baptist Church, Albuquerque, NM



Workshops

Participants can choose to attend three of the workshops, one Friday evening and two Saturday morning.

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• Media & Moral Issues • Pornography • Sexual Abuse •
Spouse Abuse • Violence



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from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; and the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jeannie, have three sons: Jonathan Lee, David Russell and Matthew Stephen.

Scott R. Jackson began serving Feb. 1 as pastor of Richwood Church, Arkadelphia. He previously was youth pastor for Calvary Church in Little Rock. Jackson serves as a board member for Outdoor Discipleship Ministries, a wilderness camping ministry. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he currently is enrolled in the doctor of ministry program of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Mona Renee, have two children, Joshua Scott and Lauren Renee.

Jess Whitley is serving as interim pastor of Redfield First Southern Church. He previously was interim pastor of Yorktown First Church.

Coy Camp of Redfield is serving as interim pastor of Claud Road Church, Pine Bluff. He previously was pastor of Yorktown First Church.

Ed Gillham is serving as interim pastor of Riverside Church, Maumelle. He previously served as youth director of Landmark Church in Clarksville and as minister to young singles at First Church, Vilonia.

Bobby Tingle is pastor of First Southern Church in Central City, coming there from Broadway Baptist Church in Oak Grove,

Mo. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Tingle and his wife, Cynthia, have two sons, Brandon and Joshua.

Ken Jerome has joined the staff of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock as associate pastor, coming there from Grapevine, Texas, where he was a chaplain for Charter Hospital. In addition, he has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Jerome is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Debbie, are parents of three married children: Kevyn, Brent and Elis, and Diem, a student at OBU.

Jerry W. Mixon has resigned as pastor of First Church, Hot Springs. He also has served as a member of the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board. He and his wife, Vickie, and their children, LaNay and Jeffrey, have moved to Lucedale, Miss., where he will serve as pastor of Rocky Creek Baptist Church.

Ellis Jones is serving as pastor of First Church of Mountain Pine, coming there from Happy Hill Church in Alvarado, Texas. He also was pastor of churches in Mississippi for 17 years, as well as serving other Arkansas churches. Jones attended Williams Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have two teenage children at home, Stephen and Danelle, and they have two married daughters: Angela Parker

of Hot Springs and Terri Bland of Florence, Ala., and seven grandchildren.

Obituaries

Grace Sankey Conway, a member of First Church in Springdale, died Jan. 24. She was a benefactor to the Tommy Jones Crisis Center, where memorials may be made. Survivors include her stepmother, Florence Sankey; two sisters; and a brother.

George Leecil Fletcher of Callon died Feb. 4 in El Dorado. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served First Church of Fouke; Bronway Heights Church (now Fellowship Church), Texarkana; First Church of Plainview; and Galilee Church, El Dorado. He also was interim pastor of Lapile Church, Strong. Fletcher was a member of Marrable Church of El Dorado and had been a resident of Union County for 60 years. Survivors include his wife, Hazel Hill Fletcher; two sons, Tandle Ellis Fletcher of Pierre Part, La., and George Nathan Fletcher of Grapevine, Texas; one daughter, Brenda Kay DeKalb of Euless, Texas; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

T.J. Harris of Melbourne died Jan. 15 at age 74. He was a longtime member and deacon of First Church, Melbourne. Survivors include his wife, Theo Harris; a daughter, Margaret Green of Arkadelphia; and one grandchild.

Franklin D. Hendrix of Trumann died Feb. 1 at age 59. He was a member of First Church in Trumann and was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served as pastor of Pleasant Valley and Freer churches. Survivors are his wife, Patsy J. Hendrix; a son, Phillip D. Hendrix of Trumann; and two brothers.

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Southside, Alma, addresses community needs

Southside Mission in Alma changed its name and ministry scope in a constitution service Feb. 6 with members of the church and First Church, Alma.

Bob Shelton, pastor of First Church, Alma—Southside's sponsoring church—summarized the change for Southside pastor Tom Steward: "Now my role changes and, Tommy, yours changes. This mission has demonstrated to the mother church you can stand on your own financially and doctrinally."

Southside weathered many changes since it started its ministry in Alma, the "Spinach Capital of the World," near Fort Smith. It began as a vision of former First Church pastor Billy Kimbrough, who "saw a need for a blue-collar mission" in 1987.

"We never reached anyone on this side of town," recalled Kimbrough. "When I used to visit, the people over here would say, 'We can't dress like those people at First Church.'"

First Church began the mission with three families meeting in a mobile building. "The original seven people started meeting in a trailer in John Wayne Harris' cow pasture," said Steward, one of the original members. "Sometimes we had to shut down services because the cows would surround the trailer and start mooing."

Noise wasn't the only problem the mission faced. "Our biggest problem was that the community has a lack of any spiritual upbringing," Steward said. "It's like we dropped a mission into a place that never heard the gospel. They're honest and friendly, but when they tell you they aren't saved and not planning on being



Pastor Bob Shelton (at pulpit) and deacons and wives from First Church, Alma, voiced their support to Tom Steward (right), pastor of Southside Church, Alma, during Southside's Feb. 6 constituting service.

saved, they mean it."

The new start also faced the prospect of raising funds. Help came from First Church, Clear Creek Association and Arkansas Baptists helped through the Cooperative Program.

Jack Ramsey, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's missions department, said the Home Mission Board and state convention "worked cooperatively" to help the new work. He said the convention loaned one of its 15 mobile chapels to the mission.

Steward, a former meat processor, was on staff at First Church when he volunteered to serve as Southside's pastor.

He said he is well-suited to be pastor of the church. "I'm a lot like these people: not real refined."

"There are not too many pastors who team rope, elk hunt or are butchers," he explained. "The Lord puts the personality to the place of service."

Steward said the church has an informal, "relaxed" atmosphere. "We wanted the mission to reflect the community, not the community's idea of what a church should be."

Kimbrough, pastor of Wear Baptist Church in Moulton, Ala., preached through tears as he said, "I cried when I walked through here and saw what the Lord has done."

He told the crowd the new church was a "mission on a mission" brought about through a need, commitment and love. "As long as you love one another, you'll do okay," he affirmed.

The church bought two acres near the neighborhood it reaches. It erected a permanent sanctuary and educational building in 1991 and the note has been paid on the new structure.

Ramsey said the new church's future "looks very good. The people feel comfortable serving here and the church fits into the community. That's how churches should be."

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Clubs, Clowns!

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Join fellow pastors & staff on this
13 day Baptist Family

Convention/Vacation Trip



June 6-18, 1994 in Orlando
via chartered greyhound bus
\$59.00* per person a day!

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(For Groups of 12 or more)

Just \$30 Each includes Lodging, Meals, Taxes and
BEST (\$12.50) Ticket! Call 501/253-8418!

WORLD MISSIONS

Prayer thrust

■ Pray for the Polish people as Arkansas Baptists help provide for translating and printing of the "Experiencing God" workbook.

■ The 1994 State Acteens Activator Team will serve in Keokuk, Iowa, July 30 through August 6. The Activator will conduct Backyard Bible Clubs, craft classes, community college outreach and puppet and clowning ministries. Pray for the seven Acteens and four leaders as they complete their training. Pray for Bob and Amy Little, home missionaries, as they make lodging arrangements and field assignments. Pray for Bethany Baptist Chapel members as they reach out to the unchurched. Pray that the Keokuk community will have an openness to the Lord and be receptive to the gospel.

■ Pray for three other Activator teams as they prepare to serve during the summer: Crossroads Baptist Acteens serving in Dixonville, First Baptist Acteens of Benton serving in the Midwest and First Baptist Acteens of Brinkley serving in Hope.

■ The National Acteens Convention (NAC) will be June 21-24 in Birmingham, Ala. Pray for financial funding to enable Arkansas Acteens to attend. Pray for the National Woman's Missionary Union staff and program personnel as they prepare for this life-changing convention.

■ Doyne and Betty Plummer are in Wiesbaden, Germany, as on-site coordinator of the TTEOTE Arkansas/European Baptist Convention Partnership. The European Baptist Convention (EBC) churches are eager to become prayer

partners with Arkansas churches. Several project requests are already in process and more are on the way.

Churches interested in a prayer partnership with an EBC church may contact partnership coordinator Glendon Grober at 376-4791, ext. 5158.

MK birthdays

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in March are:

■ March 7: Lantz Smith, OBU Box 4040, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Guatemala.

■ March 15: Gilbert Corey, OBU Box 4356, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Chile.

■ March 18: Andrea Leagans, OBU Box 4215, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; sophomore from Colombia.

■ March 25: Pam Dial, WBC Box 3663, College City, AR 72476; senior from Uruguay.

■ March 27: Jason Greenwich, OBU Box 3817, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Brazil.

Correction

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* incorrectly identified the pastor of First Church, Wilson, in a Feb. 10 article about Mississippi County Association's recent Lay Renewal/Church Growth Pilot Project. Vaughn Blue is pastor of First, Wilson, and Tom Doty is pastor of East Side Church, Osceola.

1994 High School Baptist Young Men/Challenger Congress

March 18-19, 1994

Events for Boys in 7th - 9th grade

Basketball tournament

Swim meet

Hot Shot tournament

Speak Out competition

Events for Boys in 10th - 12th grade

Basketball tournament

All Star selection for mission trip

Hot Shot tournament

Speak Out competition

Location: Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock

Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock

Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

YMCA, North Little Rock

For more information, call the Brotherhood Department, 376-4791, ext. 5158.



Heartland of America Christian Women's Conference

☞ March 3, 4, 5 ☞

First Baptist Church, 7th & King
Portageville, MO 63873

"Fashioned in His Image"

General Session Speakers:
Diane Strack, Marthe Beasley,
Pat Baker and Joyce Smith



Registration fee: \$25 per person



For Information Call:

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* This year the average Christian will spend approximately
2,500 hours at work and 200 hours at church.

Mother Teresa decries abortion as Clinton listens

WASHINGTON (BP)—With President Clinton sitting nearby, Mother Teresa decried the practice of abortion, calling it the "denial of receiving Jesus," at the annual National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 3.

Mother Teresa, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for her ministry to the sick and needy in Calcutta, India, said in her keynote speech the "greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because Jesus said, 'If you receive a little child, you receive me.'

So every abortion is the denial of receiving Jesus, the neglect of receiving Jesus.

"And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

Abortion "just leads to more abortion," she said. "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love one another but to use any violence to get what they want."

She challenged listeners to follow the

sacrificial example of Jesus in loving others, beginning with family members.

Speaking after Mother Teresa, the president praised her for her "moving words" and "lifetime of commitment" but told the audience, "We will always have our differences; we will never know the whole truth."

In his six-minute speech, President Clinton called on the participants to reaffirm freedom of religion, not "freedom from religion"; to be humble, honest and fair; to discard bitterness, to forgive and to focus on others.

Classifieds

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

For Sale — 1973 MCI - MC8, 44 passenger bus. Detroit diesel, auto. trans. Good condition, priced at \$37,500. FBC Heber Springs, AR. Day phone 501-362-8131, evening phone 501-362-5320.

For Sale — Mobile unit classrooms, 24' x 52' w/3 ton ch/va. Call 745-2360.

For Sale — 1983 Ford mini-bus; seats 25; 83,000 miles - rear air; \$6,800 OBO. (501) 246-0673.

Principal needed — Casas Adobes Baptist Church announces search for a principal/minister for our day school of grades K-8. Our school is 23 years old with 320 children. Call Pat Thompson at 602-297-7238 or write 2131 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741-2699 for additional information. Starting date will be July 1, 1994.

United States/Canada — Motorcoach Tours. Carl's Travel Club, P.O. Box 852, North Little Rock, AR 72115.

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

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

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1993 Contributions from Churches and Missions

(Thanksgiving Offering, Mother's Day Offering, Church Budget, Birthday, Sponsorship, etc.)

If an error is found in this report, please notify:

Johnny G. Biggs, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Thank You, Arkansas Baptists!

ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST ASSN

Arkline First Baptist Church	\$ 415.50
Bakers Creek Baptist Church	23.00
Bluffton Baptist Church	86.00
Bluffton Baptist Church	76.00
Centerville Baptist Church	825.00
Crow Mountain Baptist Church	236.04
Danville First Baptist Church	339.00
Dardanelle First Baptist Church	254.00
Delaware Baptist Church	626.00
Dover Baptist Church	282.31
East Point Baptist Church	148.00
Fair Park Baptist Church	12.00
Grace Memorial Baptist Church	58.00
Havana Baptist Church	166.63
Hector First Baptist Church	93.62
Kelley Heights Baptist Church	251.87
Knocsville First Baptist Church	919.87
London First Baptist Church	140.00
Marland Baptist Church	126.00
New Hope Baptist Church	165.00
Ola First Baptist Church	172.90
Plainview First Baptist Church	624.56
Pleasant View Baptist Church	189.16
Pottsville Baptist Church	288.00
Rover Baptist Church	654.30
Russellville First Baptist Church	5,453.33
Russellville Second Baptist Church	328.15
Wrenthon First Baptist Church	36.00
Total	\$ 18,640.63

ASHLEY COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN

Assembly Chapel Baptist Church	\$ 75.00
Carinth Baptist Church	216.41
Crosssett First Baptist Church	876.00
Crosssett Second Baptist Church	28.00
Falmouth Baptist Church	28.00
Fountain Hill First Baptist Church	342.00
Gardner Baptist Church	377.81
Harburg First Baptist Church	3,378.90
Jarvis Chapel Baptist Church	380.50
Magnolia Baptist Church	197.00
Meredian Baptist Church	452.54
Mount Zion Baptist Church	144.00
Mr. Olive Baptist Church	778.00
Mr. Pleasant Baptist Church	847.15
North Crosssett First Baptist Church	52.00
Pleasant Lane Baptist Church	286.39
South Main Baptist Mission	69.00
Total	\$ 8,219.00

ARKANSAS VALLEY BAPTIST ASSN

Bethel Baptist Church	\$ 36.00
Brinkley First Baptist Church	315.12
Broadway Baptist Church	87.00
Clarendon First Baptist Church	720.00
Elaine Baptist Church	850.00
Friendship Baptist Church	1,812.00
Helena First Baptist Church	800.00
Hughes First Baptist Church	1,087.00
Inness Baptist Church	1,081.00
Lea Brook First Baptist Church	223.24
Leva Baptist Church	319.63
Lorraine First Baptist Church	1,081.00
Marvell First Baptist Church	586.53
Marroe Baptist Church	396.00
Moro Baptist Church	625.00
Pelty Chapel Baptist Church	173.00
Turner Baptist Church	820.50
West Helena Baptist Church	548.50
West Helena Second Baptist Church	509.39
Total	\$ 10,078.40

BARTHOLOMEW BAPTIST ASSN

Bartolomew Baptist Church	\$ 870.65
Carinth Baptist Church	164.00
Eagle Lake Baptist Church	1,289.87
Ebenezer Baptist Church	149.12
Enon Baptist Church	193.67
Friendship Baptist Church	378.00
Hermitage Baptist Church	335.18
Inness Baptist Church	3,380.00
Monticello First Baptist Church	378.00
Monticello Second Baptist Church	1,072.00
North Side Baptist Church	145.00
Old Union Baptist Church	225.00
Prairie Grove Baptist Church	180.00
Saline Baptist Church	351.68

BARREN BAPTIST CHURCH

Barren Baptist Church	\$ 315.00
West Side Baptist Church	675.05
Wilson Baptist Church	104.76
Total	\$ 9,187.15

BIG CREEK BAPTIST ASSN

County Line Baptist Church	\$ 163.17
Elizabeth Baptist Church	188.00
Enterprise Baptist Church	36.00
Kenneth Springs Baptist Church	1,379.83
Mr. Zion Baptist Church	58.00
North Baptist Church	84.35
Spring River Baptist Church	113.82
Union Hill Baptist Church	31.31
Viola Baptist Church	734.30
Total	\$ 2,807.87

BLUCK RIVER BAPTIST ASSN

Beagon Baptist Church	\$ 37.00
Black Rock First Baptist Church	71.00
Calvary Baptist Church	897.64
Carroll Station Baptist Church	134.36
Crossroads Baptist Church	30.00
Diaz Baptist Church	291.88
Grubbs First Baptist Church	251.13
Heale First Baptist Church	778.95
Jabodon First Baptist Church	1,706.82
Jeanette Baptist Church	63.00
Jacksopert Baptist Church	7,955.20
Murphy's Corner Baptist Church	146.00
New Hope #1 Baptist Church	75.00
New Hope #2 Baptist Church	312.48
Newport First Baptist Church	94.83
Old Main Baptist Church	193.00
Pitts Baptist Church	45.71
Riverton First Baptist Church	42.00
Selwyn Baptist Church	409.12
Spring Lake Baptist Church	394.63
Swifton Baptist Church	361.50
Toddman Baptist Church	145.00
Walnut Ridge First Baptist Church	494.51
White Oak Baptist Church	490.00
Total	\$ 15,801.62

BUCKNER BAPTIST ASSN

Abbott Baptist Church	\$ 50.00
Bates Baptist Church	81.00
Calvary Baptist Church	68.93
Cauthron Baptist Church	150.00
Cedar Creek Baptist Church	282.16
Days Baptist Church	150.00
Fellowship Baptist Church	566.00
Hardford First Baptist Church	1,379.82
New Creek Baptist Church	145.00
Men Baptist Church	290.00
Monkington First Baptist Church	637.30
James Park Baptist Church	193.00
Manfield First Baptist Church	457.00
New Providence Baptist Church	250.00
Park Baptist Church	75.00
Pleasant Grove #1 Baptist Church	873.00
Pleasant Grove #2 Baptist Church	98.50
Rock Creek Baptist Church	80.00
Temple Baptist Church	686.00
Unity Baptist Church	383.00
Waldron First Baptist Church	8,427.70
West Hartford Baptist Church	8,256.95
Winfield Baptist Church	11,373.22

BUCKVILLE BAPTIST ASSN

Rock Springs Baptist Church	\$ 616.00
Total	\$ 484.35

CADDO RIVER BAPTIST ASSN

Big Park Baptist Church	\$ 254.75
Black Springs Baptist Church	400.00
Caddo Gap Baptist Church	180.00
Concord Baptist Church	50.00
Blenswood First Baptist Church	813.58
Loke Douchette Baptist Church	585.90
Little Hope Baptist Church	1,016.00
Murphy Baptist Church	50.00

CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Clayton Baptist Church	\$ 185.37
Oden First Baptist Church	45.64
Pencil Bluff First Baptist Church	494.00
Ruffell Baptist Church	181.37
Total	\$ 4,246.11

CAREY BAPTIST ASSN

Searden First Baptist Church	\$ 1,806.70
Calvary Baptist Church	115.00
Eagle Mill Baptist Church	825.00
Fairfax Baptist Church	156.00
Grace Baptist Church	76.00
Hepton First Baptist Church	180.00
Harney Baptist Church	150.00
Holly Grove Baptist Church	456.91
Manning Baptist Church	249.49
New Hope Baptist Church	59.33
Shuchette Baptist Church	820.00
Sheshery Baptist Church	180.00
Shroy Grove Baptist Church	429.00
South Side Baptist Church	737.95
Sparkman First Baptist Church	3,150.00
Thorton First Baptist Church	111.50
Tinney First Baptist Church	100.00
Tulip Memorial Baptist Church	280.00
Total	\$ 8,173.72

CALVARY BAPTIST ASSN

Antioch Baptist Church	\$ 393.00
Augusta First Baptist Church	625.00
Beebe First Baptist Church	1,816.00
Bethan Baptist Church	150.00
Calvary Baptist Church	258.63
Central Baptist Church	984.00
Clinton First Baptist Church	140.00
Croby Baptist Church	164.00
Denmark Baptist Church	39.00
El Paso First Baptist Church	48.00
God Hope Baptist Church	146.00
Grace Baptist Church	724.00
Grace Chapel Baptist Church	100.00
Gregory Baptist Church	100.00
Griffithville First Baptist Church	875.00
Higginbotham Baptist Church	1,117.00
Hunter First Baptist Church	48.92
Judsonia First Baptist Church	1,020.00
Kennett First Baptist Church	1,117.00
Liberty Baptist Church	180.00
McCrory First Baptist Church	78.00
McFee First Baptist Church	332.00
Midway Baptist Church	152.98
Pangburn First Baptist Church	313.13
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	252.00
Rock Point Baptist Church	714.00
Rock Bud Baptist Church	251.00
Royal Hill Baptist Church	50.00
Reese First Baptist Church	4,000.95
Temple Baptist Church	136.00
Temple Baptist Church	45.00
Tulpeo First Baptist Church	180.00
Union Valley Baptist Church	197.00
Valley Baptist Church	164.00
West Point Baptist Church	401.84
Total	\$ 15,786.37

CAROLINE BAPTIST ASSN

Austin Station Baptist Church	\$ 91.00
Blince First Baptist Church	187.00
Clarendon Baptist Church	84.00
Brownsville Baptist Church	113.00
Calvary Baptist Church	1,800.00
Cable Second Baptist Church	80.00
Calvary Baptist Church	35.76
Caney Creek Baptist Church	442.49
Carlisle First Baptist Church	424.00
Chesholter Baptist Church	1,494.63
Coy Baptist Church	816.00
De Witt Baptist Church	279.00
Oss Arc First Baptist Church	186.00
Havell Bluff First Baptist Church	1,316.00
England First Baptist Church	816.00
Dezha First Baptist Church	150.00
Inness Baptist Church	150.00
Leona Baptist Church	378.00
Mr. Carmel Baptist Church	80.00
North Hope Baptist Church	154.00
New Hope Baptist Church	804.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church	618.60

Old Austin Baptist Church - 132.75
 Saberson Baptist Church - 25.00
 South Bend Baptist Church - 322.81
 Talbot Baptist Church - 187.97
 Ward First Baptist Church - 79.00
 Watterson Baptist Church - 463.88

Central First B. Baptist Church 580.00
 Charleston First Baptist Church 1,164.00
 Crestview Baptist Chapel 115.15
 Crestview Baptist Church 279.00
 Excelsior Baptist Church 480.00
 Faith Baptist Church 244.99
 Fort Smith Baptist Church 6,823.23
 Glendale Baptist Church 164.63
 Grand Avenue Baptist Church 673.00
 Greenwood Baptist Church 214.59
 Hackett First Baptist Church 176.71
 Hansen Heights Baptist Church 1,255.49
 Independence Baptist Church 279.00

Parway Baptist Church 50.00
 Portland Baptist Church 478.20
 Union Baptist Church 79.00
 South Methodist Baptist Church 100.00
 Temple Baptist Church 311.00
 Tiller First Baptist Church 237.68
 Wagon Baptist Church 225.00

CENTENNIAL BAPTIST ASSN

Abbeford First Baptist Church 6,246.00
 Allora First Baptist Church 9
 Dublin First Baptist Church 1,533.43
 East Side Baptist Church 356.63
 Faith Baptist Church 15.33
 Gillett First Baptist Church 184.44
 Hegler Baptist Church 189.00
 North Main Baptist Church 48.61
 Ryeall Baptist Church 861.92
 South Side Baptist Church 68.00
 St. Stephens Baptist Church 254.73
 Stuttgart First Baptist Church 3,493.09
 Tichner Baptist Church 79.00

9 12,016.71
 \$ 812.97
 \$ 2,977.63
 \$ 812.97
 \$ 375.00
 1,688.00
 2,400.00
 145.00
 488.00
 256.00
 138.00
 217.00
 24.64
 1,464.30
 449.00
 753.27
 94.00
 118.73
 75.93
 477.33
 256.00
 333.00
 106.00
 288.00
 200.00
 57.00
 158.00
 1,809.48
 181.00
 147.10
 87.00
 215.00
 289.00
 140.00
 8.00
 385.00
 238.00
 537.33
 468.98

FRAKLINER COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN

0 0120
 9 \$ 828.00
 9 \$ 1,035.00
 385.00
 243.00
 893.57
 179.78
 319.00
 77.00
 475.00
 98.00
 89.00
 159.86
 798.33
 63.42
 58.00
 398.00
 24.00
 1,638.95
 2,049.53
 148.00
 504.83
 \$ 10,816.98

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSN

Balboa Baptist Church 0
 Barcelona Road Baptist Church 1,688.00
 Benton First Baptist Church 2,400.00
 Calvary Baptist Church 145.00
 Calvary Baptist Church 488.00
 Central Baptist Church 256.00
 Congo Road Baptist Mission 138.00
 Glendon Baptist Church 217.00
 Greenell Hill Baptist Church 24.64
 Highland Heights Baptist Church 1,464.30
 Hot Springs First Baptist Church 449.00
 Hot Springs Second Baptist Church 753.27
 Lake Hamilton Baptist Church 94.00
 Lakeshore Heights Baptist Church 118.73
 Lonsdale Baptist Church 75.93
 Magnet Cove Baptist Church 477.33
 Malvern First Baptist Church 256.00
 Malvern Third Baptist Church 333.00
 Meadowview Baptist Church 106.00
 Memorial Baptist Church 288.00
 New Life Baptist Church 200.00
 North Main Baptist Church 57.00
 Old Union Baptist Church 158.00
 Oesensville Baptist Church 1,809.48
 Piney Baptist Church 181.00
 Pleasant Hill Baptist Church 147.10
 Ridgecrest Baptist Church 87.00
 Riverside Baptist Church 215.00
 Royal Baptist Church 289.00
 Salee Baptist Church 140.00
 Social Hill First Baptist Church 8.00
 Tessa Baptist Church 385.00
 Trinity Baptist Church 238.00
 Trinity Baptist Church 537.33
 Walnut Valley Baptist Church 468.98

CONWAY-PERRY BAPTIST ASSN

0 0120
 \$ 176.25
 52.00
 178.35
 116.17
 77.31
 144.44
 379.57
 21.00
 587.84
 181.00
 153.00
 639.79

BARLAND COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN

0120
 \$ 1,174.78
 325.00
 54.56
 880.55
 1,159.88
 318.29
 597.26
 318.00
 363.00
 980.55
 27.00
 99.20
 53.00
 58.00
 175.00
 857.34
 55.00
 \$ 4,977.88

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST ASSN

0 0120
 9 \$ 1,865.18
 50.00
 899.53
 147.10
 1,825.35
 629.74
 475.00
 1,051.48
 629.74
 475.00
 1,051.48
 380.00
 114.00
 784.00
 182.00
 1,372.10
 466.33
 748.33
 75.53
 685.27
 5.00
 551.00
 262.92
 45.00
 311.62
 149.53
 180.00
 319.46
 100.00
 886.78
 18.00
 96.28
 441.83
 820.00

CURRENT-GAINS BAPTIST ASSN

0 0120
 9 \$ 158.16
 807.98
 59.00
 743.30
 944.87
 741.00
 58.00
 885.80
 23.90
 286.51
 634.55
 116.00
 295.84
 377.84
 32.52
 204.59
 73.82
 376.38
 74.58
 1,722.45
 134.00
 359.88
 1,196.14
 488.00
 \$ 9,749.39

GREENE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN

0120
 \$ 34.75
 888.17
 1,000.00
 24,489.47
 1,352.00
 1,638.33
 489.47
 138.61
 150.00
 38.23
 86.00
 100.00
 30.00
 38.80
 961.88
 369.00
 758.71
 58.88
 595.00
 595.00
 150.00
 308.00
 398.00
 1,764.99
 535.44
 \$ 32,412.12

CONCOLD BAPTIST ASSN

0 0120
 9 \$ 482.92
 181.13
 39.00
 1,820.00
 441.00
 20.00
 156.00

DELTA BAPTIST ASSN

0 0120
 9 \$ 448.00
 198.73
 845.00
 228.19
 100.00
 1,072.00
 2,882.78
 25.00
 113.00
 573.14
 483.00
 392.00
 76.58
 288.00
 356.00
 214.86

HARNOY BAPTIST ASSN

0120
 \$ 492.41
 427.68
 93.61
 58.00
 418.00
 286.00
 291.11
 233.00
 635.00
 1,080.91
 1,080.00
 1,086.00
 653.63
 984.00
 984.00
 148.00
 118.18

Linwood Baptist Church	311.51	Sugar Loaf Baptist Church	256.00	BellaVista Baptist Church	410.00
Mathews Memorial Baptist Church	625.44	West Side Baptist Church	814.00	Bethel Baptist Church	412.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church	50.00	Woodrow Baptist Church	732.00	Blue Eye Baptist Church	271.07
Pine Bluff First Baptist Church	879.00			Boxley Baptist Church	1853.00
Pine Bluff Second Baptist Church	879.00		0 6,677.92	Burlington Baptist Church	245.00
Pius Bayou Baptist Church	309.00	LITTLE RIVER BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢	Castellville Baptist Church	495.00
Rosen Baptist Church	1,143.00	Abraham First Baptist Church	0 496.25	Dear Baptist Church	75.00
Shannon Road Baptist Church	315.54	Ben Leonard First Baptist Church	164.51	Diocese City First Baptist Church	38.27
Shepherd Hill Baptist Church	164.82	Brometown Baptist Church	297.00	Eagle Light Baptist Church	2,100.00
South Side Baptist Church	1,100.00	Central Baptist Church	615.27	Elgin Baptist Church	1,648.43
Star City First Baptist Church	610.01	Coliseum Baptist Church	129.30	Elwood Baptist Church	127.00
Walpole Spgs. Baptist Church	634.00	Crass Roads First Baptist Church	17.73	Essence Baptist Church	273.00
Watson Chapel Baptist Church	717.00	Dixie First Baptist Church	61.00	Everett Baptist Church	218.44
White Hall First Baptist Church	717.00	Foreman First Baptist Church	180.89	Freeman Baptist Church	59.00
	0 25,092.50	Hicks First Baptist Church	350.00	Freeman Heights Baptist Church	150.70
INDEPENDENCE BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢	Kern Heights Baptist Church	635.00	Gallop Baptist Church	32.00
Arbanne Baptist Church	0 1,094.00	Lebanon Baptist Church	125.44	Grandview First Baptist Church	723.00
Battelle First Baptist Church	340.00	Lockesburg First Baptist Church	846.10	Green Forest First Baptist Church	200.00
Calvary Baptist Church	791.00	Long Oak Baptist Church	100.18	Green Springs Baptist Church	273.85
Calvary Baptist Church	64.00	Marshall Baptist Church	119.00	Harrison First Baptist Church	1,448.00
Central Baptist Church	50.00	Murfreesboro First Baptist Church	412.00	Hopewell Baptist Church	664.00
Debra First Baptist Church	26.25	Nashville First Baptist Church	204.00	Jasper Baptist Church	969.53
Eastside Baptist Church	4,711.61	Oak Grove Baptist Church	93.81	Lead Hill First Baptist Church	150.70
Essene Baptist Church	197.14	Ogden Baptist Church	650.05	Marble Falls Baptist Church	517.42
Fellowship Baptist Church	282.59	Rock Hill Baptist Church	490.00	New Hope Baptist Church	37.10
Fernal Baptist Church	133.67	State Line Baptist Church	25.00	Osage Baptist Church	56.32
Fossilville Baptist Church	262.59	Washington Baptist Church	684.00	Oregon Baptist Church	421.60
Galena Baptist Church	164.00	Wilson First Baptist Church	349.12	Parthenon Baptist Church	480.25
Mountain View First Baptist Church	1,053.00		0 6,730.49	Prentiss Baptist Church	8.00
N Zion Baptist Church	290.00	MISSISSIPPI CO. BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢	Rock Springs Baptist Church	184.72
Newton Southern Baptist Church	61.00	Abraham Baptist Church	0 293.50	Rudd Baptist Church	144.87
Northside Baptist Church	191.99	Bethany Baptist Church	195.50	Shelby Baptist Church	150.00
Ogden First Baptist Church	150.00	Blackwater Baptist Church	2,78.21	Trinity Baptist Church	60.18
Rehabert Baptist Church	375.42	Blytheville First Baptist Church	2,78.21	Union Baptist Church	83.00
Ross Baptist Church	511.51	Brinkley Chapel Baptist Church	87.00	Valley Springs First Baptist Church	3,484.24
Russell Hill Baptist Church	295.74	Brown Chapel Baptist Church	150.00	Western Grove Baptist Church	211.40
Salado Baptist Church	620.00	Calvary Baptist Church	254.00	Woodland Heights Baptist Church	742.78
Sulphur Rock Baptist Church	173.78	Calvary Baptist Church	271.34	Zion Light Baptist Mission	809.45
West Baptist Church	1,846.25	Central Baptist Church	83.00		
White River Baptist Church	37.00	Cedar Lake Baptist Church	120.90		0 21,116.60
	0 13,849.70	State Ridge Baptist Church	14.17	NORTH CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢
LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢	Starks Baptist Church	66.15	Angers Baptist Church	0 50.00
Caledonia Baptist Church	0 200.00	East Side Baptist Church	85.00	Bay Branch Baptist Church	823.00
Calion Baptist Church	495.63	Essance Baptist Church	52.00	Botkinburg Baptist Church	3.47
Canden First Baptist Church	628.00	Etowah Baptist Church	25.00	Clinton First Baptist Church	1,025.50
Childers Baptist Church	197.18	Geneal Baptist Church	200.00	Cornhill Baptist Church	273.24
Cindale Baptist Church	1,050.00	Leachville First Baptist Church	351.00	Fairfield Bay Baptist Church	940.40
East Nolin Baptist Church	288.00	Leachville Second Baptist Church	1,452.74	Ferona Baptist Church	350.00
Ebenezer Baptist Church	497.50	Lewis First Baptist Church	1,000.00	Friendship Baptist Church	273.24
El Dorado First Baptist Church	16,365.00	Manila First Baptist Church	312.00	Isaiah Baptist Church	874.77
El Dorado Second Baptist Church	85.00	Marys Chapel Baptist Church	54.24	Leslie First Baptist Church	1,250.96
Elliot Baptist Church	413.48	New Liberty Baptist Church	21.00	Livingston Baptist Church	250.00
Fairview Road Baptist Church	132.00	North Liberty Baptist Church	50.00	Marshall First Baptist Church	573.27
Felton Baptist Church	250.00	Notene Baptist Church	50.00	New Hopewell Baptist Church	80.00
Galilee Baptist Church	370.38	North Ten Star Mission	27.00	One Day Baptist Church	273.24
Gaze Baptist Church	93.00	Number Nine Baptist Church	740.76	Pine Baptist Church	50.00
Georgetown Baptist Church	200.00	Osceola First Baptist Church	216.00	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	1,071.64
Hillside Baptist Church	357.00	Hedges Baptist Church	100.00	Rockwell Baptist Church	250.00
Hutbig First Baptist Church	760.48	Rose Baptist Church	25.00	Scotland Baptist Church	670.43
Isaiah Baptist Church	840.00	Marcell Baptist Church	200.00	Shady Grove Baptist Church	650.73
Joyce City Baptist Church	2,400.00	West Side Baptist Church	390.50	Shirley Baptist Church	200.00
Junction City First Baptist Church	304.00	Wilson First Baptist Church	200.00	Skylard Southern Baptist Church	140.13
Kennel Baptist Church	354.14	Woodland Corner Baptist Church	40.83	Sugar Loaf Mission	100.00
Leslie Baptist Church	310.00	Yarbo Baptist Church	975.00		
Lewson Baptist Church	665.75		0 11,894.34	NORTH OKLAHOMA BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢
Liberty Baptist Church	408.00	MT ZION BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢	Abey Baptist Church	0 150.00
Louann Baptist Church	64.82	Aloup Baptist Church	0 100.00	Baring Cross Baptist Church	497.00
Maple Avenue Baptist Church	240.00	Bay First Baptist Church	0 00.00	Bayou Mabo Baptist Church	1,250.50
Marshall Hill Baptist Church	681.85	Bathpage Baptist Church	157.00	Berree Baptist Church	2,000.00
Midway Baptist Church	180.00	Black Oak Baptist Church	100.00	Bethany Baptist Church	465.84
New London Baptist Church	618.00	Bono First Baptist Church	416.91	Bethel Baptist Church	1,463.77
Northpark First Baptist Church	775.00	Brookland Baptist Church	110.00	Calvary Baptist Church	1,463.77
Northside Baptist Church	873.50	Buffalo Baptist Church	110.00	Chapel Hill Baptist Church	28.42
Parvulus Baptist Church	175.97	Caraway Baptist Church	1,285.34	Forty Seventh St. Baptist Church	285.00
Philadelphian Baptist Church	309.25	Cash First Baptist Church	2,721.00	Friendship Baptist Church	250.00
Reeder First Baptist Church	255.00	Central Baptist Church	2,000.00	Gravel Ridge Baptist Church	410.00
Sales Baptist Church	350.00	Childers Baptist Church	200.00	Graves Memorial Baptist Church	441.00
Seachover First Baptist Church	931.00	Dixie Baptist Church	30.00	Highland Baptist Church	2,650.00
Shelby First Baptist Church	265.00	Egypt Baptist Church	110.00	Jacksonville First Baptist Church	1,690.00
Strong First Baptist Church	430.00	Highland Drive Baptist Church	140.12	Jacksonville Second Baptist Church	200.00
Temple Baptist Church	134.00	Jonesboro First Baptist Church	2,700.00	Levy Baptist Church	904.11
Three Creeks Baptist Church	354.14	Kennett First Baptist Church	180.00	Marshall Road Baptist Church	381.93
Trinity Baptist Church	117.50	Marshall Baptist Church	32.37	Marshall Baptist Church	280.00
Union Baptist Church	490.40	Mc Piggah Baptist Church	420.44	Morrison Chapel Baptist Church	280.00
Urbany Baptist Church	200.00	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	420.44	N Little Rock First Baptist Church	470.94
Victory Baptist Church	540.00	New Hope Baptist Church	140.50	Osborne Baptist Church	600.00
Village Baptist Church	265.00	Nettalian Baptist Church	496.63	Park Hill Baptist Church	1,000.00
West Side Baptist Church	265.00	New Antech Baptist Church	501.00	Pike Avenue Baptist Church	133.23
	0 37,190.53	New Hope Baptist Church	140.50	Romney Baptist Church	414.42
LITTLE RED RIVER BAPTIST ASSN	0 01¢	North Main Baptist Church	371.99	Sherrard First Baptist Church	200.00
Bramsville Baptist Church	0 40.00	Philadelphia Baptist Church	662.01	Stanfill Baptist Church	450.00
Concord First Baptist Church	148.62	Providence Baptist Church	180.00	Sylvan Baptist Church	450.00
Harris Chapel Baptist Church	478.00	Ross' Chapel Baptist Church	55.00	Victory Baptist Church	1,100.00
Heber Springs First Baptist Church	2,506.19	Strawford Baptist Church	300.13	Zion Hill Baptist Church	8,122.59
Long Oak Baptist Church	692.00	Union Baptist Church	120.00		
Mt Zion Baptist Church	58.54	Walnut Street Baptist Church	386.00		
New Bethel Baptist Church	74.00	Westside Baptist Church	50.00		
Pleasant Baptist Church	380.00	Woodsprings Baptist Church	25.00		
Pleasant Baptist Church	9.06				
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	237.60		0 12,834.34	NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSN.	0 01¢
Road Oak Baptist Church	48.50			Bella Vista Baptist Church	0 6,055.10
Outspan Baptist Church	137.50			Bethelville First Baptist Church	125.00
South Side Baptist Church	488.50			Calvary Baptist Church	3.00
				Conerton First Baptist Church	121.46
				Deaconsville First Baptist Church	121.46
				Essance Baptist Church	117.01
				Faith Baptist Church	672.84

Garfield First Baptist Church	326.40
Gateway First Baptist Church	7,254.00
Brawley First Baptist Church	75.00
Sue Springs Baptist Church	37.48
Harvard Avenue Baptist Church	200.00
Highfield First Baptist Church	339.82
Minasie First Baptist Church	244.33
Isaiah Baptist Church	353.54
Lakeside Baptist Church	99.53
Levee Baptist Church	258.79
Lowell Baptist Church	150.00
Masson Valley Baptist Church	87.00
Monte Ne Baptist Church	128.00
Mountain Springs Baptist Church	35.00
Open Way Baptist Church	274.00
Park Street Baptist Church	78.00
Pear Ridge First Baptist Church	268.20
Pine Hill First Baptist Church	125.00
Peppers First Baptist Church	815.00
Reger First Baptist Church	1,374.70
Silcox Springs First Baptist Church	73.00
Salphur Spring First Baptist Church	608.00
Sunny Side Baptist Church	177.21
Trinity Baptist Church	206.90
Twelve Corners Baptist Church	

\$ 13,309.94

QUONCHITA BAPTIST ASSN

Bethel Baptist Church	0 Ft
Board Ceap Baptist Church	51.00
Calvary Baptist Church	189.00
Chapel Hill Baptist Church	758.30
Cherry Hill Baptist Church	100.00
Concord Baptist Church	172.13
Cove First Baptist Church	85.80
Dallas Avenue Baptist Church	1,335.00
De Gouy First Baptist Church	2,000.00
Gililias Baptist Church	183.00
Graham Baptist Church	89.71
Hamfield Baptist Church	774.80
Hatton Baptist Church	535.73
Hena First Baptist Church	1,567.47
Howe Baptist Church	125.00
Salce Baptist Church	57.54
Vandervoort First Baptist Church	293.20
Wardlaw First Baptist Church	125.00
Yacena Baptist Church	285.20

\$ 8,586.73

PULASKI COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN

Alexander First Baptist Church	0 Ft
Archview Baptist Church	752.91
Barnett Memorial Baptist Church	581.10
Bingham Road Baptist Church	502.00
Brookview First Baptist Church	25.00
First Southern Baptist Church	945.40
Calvary Baptist Church	2,157.37
Crossroad Baptist Church	25.00
Crestal Hill Baptist Church	229.00
East End Baptist Church	577.25
Forest Tower Baptist Church	531.85
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church	1,150.00
Henson Memorial Baptist Church	121.25
Isaiah Baptist Church	6,939.80
Indian Springs Baptist Church	35.00
Jackson Baptist Church	653.00
Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church	205.00
Lancaster Road Baptist Church	165.00
Lite Line Baptist Church	987.73
Little Rock Second Baptist Church	1,790.43
Maritime Baptist Church	115.00
Natural Steps Baptist Church	4,980.40
North Point Baptist Church	183.54
Live Baptist Church	18.00
Otter Creek Baptist Church	35.00
Parkway Place Baptist Church	621.00
Pine Grove Baptist Church	244.71
Plainview Baptist Church	90.00
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	341.57
Polk Heights Baptist Church	197.00
Rolland Baptist Church	144.80
Rosedale Baptist Church	963.50
Shannon Hill First Baptist Church	81.00
Shardien Baptist Church	1,117.00
South Highland Baptist Church	384.50
Trinity Baptist Church	161.11
Trinity Street Baptist Church	418.00
View Ridge Isaiah Baptist Church	85.00
West Side Baptist Church	245.00
Woodlawn Baptist Church	182.00
Woodson Baptist Church	696.41

\$ 31,626.30

Anchor Baptist Church	0 Ft
Antioch Baptist Church	272.90
Arnold Baptist Church	95.00
Arnold Second Baptist Church	493.00
Beech Street Baptist Church	71.00
DeVine First Baptist Church	135.49
Bethlehem Baptist Church	125.00
Birchard First Baptist Church	125.00
Caddo Valley Baptist Church	244.00
Center Point Baptist Church	200.00
Church First Baptist Church	180.00
Dalark Baptist Mission	30.00
DeWay Baptist Church	810.00
East Ashlin Springs Baptist Church	190.00
East First Baptist Church	233.56
Harony Hill Baptist Church	52.00

Levee Baptist Church	473.31
St. Elizabeth Baptist Church	317.00
St. Zion Baptist Church	49.00
Park Hill Baptist Church	825.10
Prentiss Baptist Church	2,000.00
Richards Baptist Church	405.00
Shady Grove Baptist Church	100.00
Shiloh Baptist Church	1,187.80
Southside Baptist Church	55.90
Third Street Baptist Church	145.00
Unity Baptist Church	1,823.00

ROCKY-BAYOU BAPTIST ASSN

Ash Flat Baptist Church	0 Ft
Belview Baptist Church	85.00
Bethel Baptist Church	2,612.10
Calico Rock First Baptist Church	58.00
Cherokee Village Baptist Church	536.31
Colony Baptist Church	639.00
Evening Shade First Baptist Church	1,177.20
Finley Creek Baptist Church	15.33
Franklin Baptist Church	147.07
Hardy First Baptist Church	255.87
Hershowe Bend First Baptist Church	453.39
Isaiah Baptist Church	443.37
Melbourne First Baptist Church	9.00
Midway Baptist Church	497.00
Mr. Pleasant St. Baptist Church	68.98
Norton Baptist Church	75.00
Sage Baptist Church	332.21
Salem First Baptist Church	174.25
Stoney Baptist Church	428.90
Sylarons First Baptist Church	145.75
Zion Hill Baptist Church	25.00

\$ 8,633.48

Anderson Baptist Church	0 Ft
Arabella Heights Baptist Church	78.73
Beech Street First Baptist Church	109.55
Bredley Baptist Church	684.00
Calvary Baptist Church	238.00
Canfield Baptist Church	294.74
Central Baptist Church	2,845.41
Cornertons Baptist Church	154.00
Faith Baptist Church	48.72
Fellowship Baptist Church	134.80
Fouke First Baptist Church	387.00
Garland Baptist Church	48.00
Gene First Baptist Church	199.43
Highland Hills Baptist Church	137.00
Hope First Baptist Church	1,505.00
Levee Baptist Church	1,215.00
Macedonia #1 Baptist Church	100.00
Macedonia #2 Dodderidge Bapt. Church	258.00
McNeal Second Baptist Church	25.00
Memorial Baptist Church	23.00
Mr. Zion Baptist Church	373.90
Rocky Point Baptist Church	150.00
Pinkston Park Baptist Church	5.59
Piggah Baptist Church	112.03
Rocky Point Baptist Church	100.00
Shiloh Memorial Baptist Church	398.00
Springhill Baptist Church	1,264.20
Stamps First Baptist Church	200.00
Sylvester Baptist Church	174.10
Tennessee Baptist Church	1,284.24
Trinity Baptist Church	832.90

SOUTHWEST ARK. BAPTIST ASSN

Antioch Baptist Church	0 Ft
Barton Chapel Baptist Church	182.00
Beckham Baptist Church	137.00
Calvary Baptist Church	605.20
Cherry Valley Baptist Church	780.00
City Baptist Church	682.00
Crawfordville First Baptist Church	54.98
Earle Baptist Church	2,242.35
East Baptist Church	68.00
Essauan Baptist Church	490.00
Fair Oaks Baptist Church	131.30
Fitzgerald Baptist Church	645.93
Forest City First Baptist Church	1,016.00
Forest City Second Baptist Church	684.37
Gladden Baptist Church	275.00
Good Hope Baptist Church	216.00
Goodwin Baptist Church	183.75
Harris Baptist Chapel	417.78
Hydrick Baptist Church	18.00
Ingram Boulevard Baptist Church	109.07
Lakeshore Baptist Church	145.60
Madison First Baptist Church	824.09
Marion Baptist Church	860.00
Midway Baptist Church	145.00
New Life Baptist Church	78.00
Palentine First Baptist Church	126.00
Perkin First Baptist Church	126.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	125.49
Tilton Baptist Church	1,675.00
Turrell First Baptist Church	295.24
Union One Baptist Church	173.11
West Memphis First Baptist Church	1,046.03
West Memphis Second Baptist Church	189.00
Wheatley Baptist Church	180.00
Wynne Baptist Church	1,764.00

\$ 19,278.93

Anderson Tully Baptist Church	0 Ft
Black Oak Baptist Church	1,665.49
Calvary Baptist Church	456.64
Calvary Baptist Church	78.53
Calvary Baptist Church	239.00
Calvary Baptist Church	1,149.50
Corners Chapel Baptist Church	37.91
Eastside Baptist Church	828.94
Faith Baptist Church	185.00
Fellowship Baptist Church	85.94
Fisher First Baptist Church	18.31
Hamfield Baptist Church	255.00
Harrisburg First Baptist Church	745.83
Lepanto Baptist Church	1,679.00
Monte Ne Baptist Church	389.00
Maple Grove Baptist Church	359.00
Married Tree First Baptist Church	413.00
McCormick Baptist Church	1,328.54
Neal's Chapel Baptist Church	825.00
Neiswander Baptist Church	850.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	285.00
Shelby Valley Baptist Church	791.37
Providence Baptist Church	379.03
Rod Oak Baptist Church	255.87
Riversale Baptist Church	24.48
Shiloh Baptist Church	396.37
Trinity Baptist Church	35.33
Trueman First Baptist Church	192.00
Tryonville First Baptist Church	336.00
Valley View Baptist Church	228.00
Waldenburg Baptist Church	60.37
Wainer First Baptist Church	160.00

BERRY-HINDSON BAPTIST ASSN.

Brush Creek Baptist Church	0 Ft
Black Oak Baptist Church	279.94
Black Oak Baptist Church	98.00
Brush Creek Baptist Church	678.20
Calvary Baptist Church	1,328.54
Edelade Baptist Church	743.00
Farrington First Baptist Church	111.73
Forest City Baptist Church	1,360.00
Friendship Baptist Church	500.00
Geahan St. Southern Baptist Church	2.00
Greenland First Baptist Church	1,000.00
Hindsville Baptist Church	231.20
Huntville First Baptist Church	178.00
Johnson Baptist Church	200.00
Liberty Baptist Church	446.64
Lincoln First Baptist Church	125.00
Northeast Baptist Church Mission	268.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church	30.00
Old Missouri Rd. Baptist Church	48.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	1,332.21
Providence Baptist Church	145.00
Sage Avenue Baptist Church	639.80
Spring Valley Baptist Church	255.00
Silent Rose Baptist Church	38.00
Sonora Baptist Church	328.64
Southside Baptist Church	138.30
Spring Valley Baptist Church	419.46
Springdale First Baptist Church	1,644.25
Stophur City Baptist Church	73.00
University Baptist Church	812.93
West Fork First Baptist Church	33.00
Western Hills Baptist Church	30.46

\$ 13,517.68

WHITE RIVER BAPTIST ASSN

Antioch Baptist Church	0 Ft
Ark First Baptist Mission	237.99
Bruno Drive First Baptist Church	48.00
Butt Shoals First Baptist Church	617.11
Callier First Baptist Church	474.00
East Oakland Baptist Church	69.00
Eastside Baptist Church	48.25
Flippin First Baptist Church	1,631.65
Geasdale Baptist Mission	251.24
Geasville Baptist Church	742.49
Henderson First Baptist Church	411.44
Hill Top Baptist Church	166.00
Hopeville Baptist Church	234.00
Lone Rock Baptist Church	100.00
Nidney Baptist Church	490.00
Mountain Home Baptist Church	100.00
Mountain Home First Baptist Church	4,638.50
New Hope Baptist Church	38.19
Reel First Baptist Church	84.85
Plignias Rest Baptist Church	187.00
Pyatt Baptist Church	335.03
Ree Valley Baptist Church	28.00
Seashawk Baptist Church	810.94
Whiteville Baptist Church	893.50
Whiteville First Baptist Church	864.00

\$ 12,828.47

OTHER CHURCHES

Rags' Baptist Fellowship	0 Ft
Clarksville First Baptist Church	247.40
Community Fellowship Church	897.00
Higginson First Baptist Church	300.00
Round Mountain Community Church	775.00
Shiloh Baptist Church	280.00
Trinity Baptist Fellowship	77.00

\$ 2,846.40

1583,000.00

Convention Uniform

Salvation to believers

By Norman L. Lewis, DOM,
Black River Association

Basic passage: Romans 1:1-17

Focal passage: Romans 1:16

Central truth: People who reject God are separated from Him and need the gospel.

In verse 1, Paul identifies himself as a servant of Jesus Christ, a remarkable self-designation for one who formerly sought to destroy the church of God (Gal. 1:13-14). Then the great encounter took place where God revealed His Son to Saul and commissioned him to preach the gospel among the Gentiles (Gal. 1:15-16).

We find the gospel of God (vv. 2-6) presented in two ways. First, Paul points out that God had promised it "beforehand" through His prophets in the holy Scriptures and secondly, that this gospel centers in the Son of God. With respect to His fleshly existence, His incarnation, He was descended from David but He was Son of God in power, according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. He sought to bring men of all nations to obedient faith in Christ including the Romans among the Gentiles who already belong to Christ.

In verses 8-15, we see Paul's prayer and concern for the Romans. We hear his words of thanksgiving for them and his intense desire to visit them, that he might strengthen them through the importation of some spiritual gift. But he quickly added that together they would experience strengthening through the sharing of their common faith. The obligation that Paul felt could be fulfilled only as he preached the gospel to as many as possible.

The running back takes the football on a hand-off and goes 70 yards, breaking tackle after tackle and scores a touchdown. His proud father yells, "That's my son!" Paul yells out the same in verse 16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, that's my Christ, the one who died for me and that sacrifice is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who has faith." As Paul, we, the redeemed, could change the world if we would boldly proclaim the gospel.

In verse 17, we find God's righteousness revealed. He who through faith is righteous shall live. In Paul's understanding of the gospel, right standing with God, faith and life all belong together.

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Life and Work

Forgive my brother?

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

Basic passage: Luke 17:1-10

Focal passage: Luke 17:3-4

Central truth: Forgiveness is fundamental to faith.

Jesus had been speaking first to the Pharisees and then to His disciples, each lesson growing out of the preceding one. Largely the theme had been a contrast between the attitude of the Pharisees and the attitude of God, or of His people. In today's passage, we will focus on the power to forgive.

To forgive means to cease to feel resentment against another on account of a wrong committed. The Christian should be aware that an unforgiving spirit (vv. 3-4) is one of the greatest stumbling blocks placed in the path of these "little ones" (v.21) or immature Christians. Some Christians who meticulously refrain from committing sins of the flesh are great offenders in committing the spiritual sin of unforgiveness.

God's judgment is promised to those who refuse to express forgiveness even though they desire it for themselves. Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:21-35 is a vivid illustration of one's unwillingness to forgive. That unwillingness acts as a barrier to accepting God's forgiveness of our own sin as well as forgiving others.

So Jesus said, "Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him" (v. 3). If the brother repents, the Christian is to forgive him. This does not mean that one Christian, even a priest, can absolve him of his sins. Ultimately this can be done only by God in Christ. But in his own heart the Christian can and should forgive him, and not hold the wrong against him.

Furthermore, if seven times in one day he sins "against you," and repents each time, you are to forgive him seven times! (v. 4). The rabbis taught forgiveness up to three times. Jesus said in Matthew 18:22, "not seven times, but seventy times seven." Jesus' point here is unlimited forgiveness. We are to forgive as God in Christ forgives us. In other words forgive until you can desire the well being of the one who has sinned against you.

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Bible Book

Controversy about Jesus

By Rex Pilcher, associate pastor,
Parkway Place Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 7:1-52

Focal passage: John 7:14-29

Central truth: Jesus displayed He is the Messiah by His life.

Jesus highlights two principles concerning Christians' actions and teaching. To be used in God's sight we must realize the truth of these principles.

First, we must teach and speak the words of the Lord rather than our own. We must leave our own agendas and be consumed with His. The Jews who heard Jesus were so unaccustomed to hearing a man speak from the Lord they couldn't believe He wasn't a self-promoter. Jesus was learned and educated, but not in the ways of man. Jesus wasn't seeking His own glory, but God's. Whose glory do you seek in leading your class?

Second, learning comes through obedience. In verse 17 Jesus levels the playing field by saying His kind of learning doesn't come just to intelligent people. It is a by-product of obeying God. Our pulpits and seminary and college classrooms are used of God when those who speak are obedient. A degree is of secondary importance in the economy of God.

Jesus healed on the Sabbath and that became grounds for their desire to arrest and kill Him. In verses 21-24 Jesus gives the right perspective on the true intent of the sabbath. If it is permissible to circumcise on the sabbath, why not heal a lifelong cripple? Or greater yet, circumcise a man's heart? The Jews were caught up with appearances, as Jesus said in verse 24, and had lost the heart for true ministry.

This should give pause for reflection as to why we do what we do for the Lord. Are we carrying out the intent of God's command or perpetuating an appearance? Is our attendance, service, teaching and giving done with the correct motive or are we seeking men's glory and fulfilling the letter of the law? These are questions that are applicable in light of the present lesson.

The multitude's reaction in verses 25-26 showed their indecision in responding to Jesus. Because He taught with boldness, the crowds wondered if the leaders were not now sanctioning His teaching. The hesitancy to act by the leaders put doubts in the minds of the followers. Jesus' words in this section show both patience and love considering the inane arguments and statements put forth by questioners.

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Convention Uniform

The heart of the gospel

By Norman L. Lewis, DOM,
Black River Association

Basic passage: Romans 3:21-4:25

Focal passage: Romans 3:24

Central truth: Faith in Christ is the means by which all people can be made right with God.

In Romans 1:17, Paul presented the concept of God's righteousness. After dealing with humanity's separation from God because of sin (vv. 1:18-3:20) he tells us that justification is possible because of Christ's death on the cross. We are justified by faith in Christ. Those who had existed in the sphere of God's wrath could now find salvation in the sphere of His righteousness. To be justified before God is for Him to declare us righteous.

Verse 23 tells us that we have all sinned and missed the mark, the glory of God. Sinfulness involves falling short of a goal more than falling from a past perfection. Justified and grace is the language of the law court, while redemption is derived from the slave market. When God justifies us we are acquitted of our sins and accepted by Him by His grace. We are set free, redeemed through Christ Jesus (v. 24).

Through Christ's blood we are cleansed of our sins and receive God's forgiveness. We did not earn it by works or by the law, but by faith through God's grace. Our only boasting is that we accepted Him as our sacrifice for our sins (vv. 25-28).

Paul chose Abraham as an example of justification by faith. No good work, not even circumcision, was involved in Abraham's righteousness before God. His use of language from the labor market establishes that salvation comes as a gift in response to our faith, not as a payment for good works (4:1-5). Still sinners, ungodly, Christ died for us, demonstrating His great love for us (vv. 6-9).

Abraham was made right with God before circumcision on the basis of his faith (Gen. 15:6). His circumcision (Gen. 17:17-27) had nothing to do with bringing about his justification; rather it was a sign of what already had been given by God in response to Abraham's faith. The law Paul speaks of was the law of Moses, therefore, keeping the law could not have influenced God's promise to Abraham. If righteousness comes by law-keeping, faith is unnecessary. The law's function is to awaken us to the consciousness of sin in our lives.

Life and Work

God changes lives

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

Basic passage: Luke 19:1-10

Focal passage: Luke 19:10

Central truth: God pursues a continuing love relationship with each of us that is real and personal.

Who was Zacchaeus? Why was Zacchaeus trying to see Jesus? How had he heard about Jesus? Was he curious or just empty? The story of Zacchaeus is another example of how God pursues each of us for fellowship with Him.

Zacchaeus was a rich "chief publican." Jericho was an important tax collection point, not only because of many passing caravans but because of many products which were sold in the area. Evidently Zacchaeus was a tax commissioner over other publicans.

When Jesus arrived at the sycamore tree and saw Zacchaeus in it, He said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately; for today I must stay at your house" (v. 5). Jesus implied by using the words "I must" that it was a moral and spiritual necessity for Him to go to his home. Of all the houses in Jericho, He chose the home of this chief publican, a sinner in the crowd's eyes.

Jesus often accepted invitations, but this is the only recorded instance where Jesus offered Himself as a guest. He had a purpose in doing so. Can you imagine Zacchaeus' surprise? He quickly descended from the tree and "received him joyfully" (v. 6) in his home.

The crowd was indignant. There were probably several in the crowd who had been robbed by this chief publican through high taxes. Why would Jesus grace the home of this known "sinner"?

Inside, a different scene was transpiring. Zacchaeus stood face to face with Jesus and believed. He immediately revealed that he was a changed man. Jesus affirmed that fact when He said, "Today, salvation has come to this house" (v. 9).

Zacchaeus discovered that Jesus knew him, wanted him and needed him for fellowship with Him. Jesus knows each of us, wants us and needs us for fellowship with Him.

Bible Book

True light and freedom

By Rex Pilcher, associate pastor,
Parkway Place Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 7:53-8:59

Basic passage: John 8:31-38, 56-58

Central truth: Jesus can free you from bondage to sin.

As Jesus spoke to the crowds, some put their faith in Him resulting in salvation. And Jesus explained that through trusting in Him and His words one can find freedom from sin and life in God's Spirit.

Some who heard Him believed Him only partially. Possibly some of the hierarchy believed His claims, but were held back by presuppositions of what the Messiah should be. They made intellectual assent to what He said but did not have a heart's commitment to Him. Jesus pressed on, saying they could know if they had truly believed in Him; their lives would follow His words.

Jesus told the Jews the one who obeys Him is free from sin. Their response is ludicrous. They think He refers to physical bondage and deny they've been enslaved. But in reviewing Jewish history, one finds they were enslaved by the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks and Romans. For them to claim never being enslaved shows how sin deludes the mind.

Jesus pointed out the nature of their bondage in v. 34: bondage to sin. This bondage makes them slaves whose standing is tenuous. The master can dispose of the slave for any reason, but being a son is quite different. A son is always a son. Thus we come to the wonder of what Christ has done for anyone who would believe (v. 36).

Though Jesus recognized their lineage as being from Abraham on a human level, He said they were not able to respond to Him in faith and obedience because their spiritual lineage is from the devil. This is why people in our day act as they do in opposing the work of Christ. They are simply acting out of who they are and whose they are.

In verse 56 Jesus states that the one they claim as father was glad to see Him. The Jews want to know how this is possible. So Jesus comes right out and says it—before Abraham was I Am. The Jews realized He was claiming to be the God of the Old Testament. If He had simply meant He was around before Abraham, He would have said I was. But Jesus here claimed eternal existence.

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NEWS DIGEST

Mongolian Baptist congregation gains legal recognition

ULAN BATOR, MONGOLIA (BP)—The young Baptist church in Ulan Bator received legal recognition from the Mongolian government Feb. 1—the first such action in Mongolia's modern history.

The government reportedly denied legal registration applications from as many as 10 other church bodies before granting the Baptist request. Christian groups of any kind have existed for only a few years in the formerly hard-line communist nation bordering China and Russia.

The church began as a small Bible study in the living room of Gary Harthcock, 74, and his wife, Evelyn. The Southern Baptist couple from Florida, went to the isolated Asian nation in 1992 to teach English. The church will be formally constituted this week in a public service expected to be broadcast on national television.

2,000 attend funeral of slain Christian leader in Iran

TEHRAN, IRAN (BP)—More than 2,000 people from across Iran braved bitterly cold weather at the Christian Cemetery Feb. 3 to attend the funeral of Haik Hovsepian-Mehr, superintendent of the Assemblies of God churches in Iran.

Hovsepian-Mehr, 49, reportedly was found dead Jan. 20 on a street in a suburb of Tehran, Iran's capital. He had disappeared Jan. 19 on the way to meet visitors at the airport. His family learned of his death Jan. 30.

Assemblies of God workers in the Middle East have speculated the slaying was a "contract killing" carried out because of Hovsepian-Mehr's efforts to secure the release of Mehdi Dibaj. Dibaj is an Assemblies of God evangelist who was imprisoned nine years for converting to Christianity, then sentenced to death in December.

Iranian Christians mounted an intensive international publicity campaign for Dibaj's release and the U.S. government issued a statement in his behalf. Dibaj was freed from prison Jan. 16.

U.S. Senate approves two school prayer amendments

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Senate has adopted its second school prayer amendment in a week, and school officials may face more confusion than ever if the measures become law. The Senate approved Feb. 8 by voice vote an amendment stipulating school boards cannot lose federal funds if they adopt constitutional provisions related to school prayer.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he offered the amendment to neutralize some of the impact of one offered by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. The Helms prayer amendment was attached to the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (S. 1150)—the Clinton administration's proposal that would provide more than \$420 million in education funds.

The legal impact of Helms' amendment, if it becomes law, is uncertain, since it would not expand opportunities for school prayer beyond what is already permitted by federal court interpretations of the Constitution.

Southern Seminary discontinues exhibits at Fellowship

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary no longer will set up exhibits or sponsor alumni gatherings at meetings of groups it believes compete with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new policy will terminate the school's presence at state and national meetings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, seminary administrators confirmed. The policy was approved by the seminary's trustee executive committee Feb. 1 in Louisville. The decision follows a motion to that effect presented at the 1993 SBC.

In other business, the trustee executive committee voted to move forward with architectural work on the third and final phase of the school's campus center. The seminary has more than half of the projected \$4.1 million needed for the effort.

Graham carries message from Clinton to North Korea

WASHINGTON (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham delivered a personal letter from President Bill Clinton to North Korean President Kim Il Sung during an early-February visit to North Korea.

The two-sentence letter concerned North Korea's refusal to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities—a growing international crisis. Military and intelligence groups suspect North Korea already may have one or more nuclear weapons.

U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Graham brought back a response, which was to be given directly to Clinton.