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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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AUG 08 1997

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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The Arkansas-Iowa Partnership

Planting seeds
of hope
Reaping
a harvest
of faith



Members of First Church in Hot Springs pray following a weeklong mission project in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The team is one of several Arkansas Baptist groups serving in Iowa as part of the two state conventions' ongoing missions partnership.

State Department report cites Christian persecution

A congressionally mandated State Department report spotlights Christian persecution around the world and highlights U.S. efforts to promote religious freedom abroad.

The 83-page report details instances of persecution in such places as China, the Sudan, Iran and Kuwait. It also describes Saudi Arabia as a country where "freedom of religion does not exist."

Following Congress' mandate, the report's country-by-country analysis focuses largely on Christian persecution. But administration officials emphasized the government's commitment to pursuing religious liberty for people of all faiths as a basic human right.

"Religious freedom is a fundamental human right, and the United States vigorously condemns persecution against any believer and all faiths," President Clinton said.

Last year, as part of an omnibus appropriations bill, Congress ordered a report showing how the United States is working "to reduce and eliminate today's mounting persecution of Christians throughout the world."

In releasing the report, John Shattuck, assistant secretary for democracy, human rights and labor, noted that at Congress' request, the report focuses on Christians. Shattuck told reporters that Christian persecution "has received very little treatment in terms of fact-gathering in the past."

The State Department report provides an in-depth analysis of 78 nations, showing both the situations faced by Christians and actions taken by the U.S. government to foster human rights and religious liberty.

"I think it's a real landmark and it will have an impact, because it singles out Christians for the first time," said Nina Shea of Freedom House, one of the groups pushing Congress and the administration for more efforts to curb Christian persecution.

"It will send a signal within the government that this is an issue of urgency and help sensitize the foreign policy bureaucracy who have been notoriously tone deaf to the issue of religious persecution, particularly as it pertains to Christians," Shea added.

Religious liberty affirmed

The report details a broad range of activities undertaken by U.S. officials to combat religious intolerance and promote religious liberty, including last year's establishment of a 20-member Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad which includes Shea and former Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Sen Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., criticized the State Department for the delay in releasing the report originally scheduled for Jan. 15.

"I have serious concerns that officials in this administration do not want to engage in open discussion about U.S. policy toward China, and I am deeply disturbed by the timing of this report, especially in light of the House vote (on most favored nation trade status) just a few weeks ago," Hutchinson said in a written statement. "The revelation that human rights abuses continue to worsen in China while our foreign policy remains status quo is the tacit endorsement of everything from forced abortions to the sterilization of the mentally disabled."

Attempts to block MFN trade status for China were defeated in both the House of Representatives and the Senate in recent weeks. The Clinton administration favored MFN status for China, while some Christian organizations, including the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, opposed it.

WASHINGTON (ABP/BP)

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine



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Members of First Church in Hot Springs pray following a weeklong mission project in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The team is one of several Arkansas Baptist groups serving as Iowa as part of the two state conventions' missions partnership.

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Great Commission focus

Language missions ministry strives to be inclusive

Colleen Beckus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Describing Southern Baptists' annual Language Missions Day as "a Great Commission celebration," Jimmy Barrentine noted that this year's emphasis will be held Sunday, Aug. 10.

"We are not asked to be one language, one culture, one people group," said Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department. "So we are seeking to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

"It's a day of the year that Southern Baptists affirm reaching beyond the provincial to be a truly global people, with outstretched arms," he explained. "We aren't waiting for others to learn our language — we want to meet them in their language and their culture.

"Language Missions Day is also a time which we commit to change. We don't ask language groups to become like us, and adapt to our Arkansas culture," Barrentine remarked. "There is more than one culture in the kingdom. They're enriched and we're enriched."

Arkansas Baptists' commitment to taking language ministry to the people has been evidenced this year by moving language ministry specialist Jim Hausler outside the Baptist Building in Little Rock. "Even though he still has a lot of administrative duties, Jim has moved from administrator to field missionary," Barrentine said. "He can assist with starting churches and ministries with any language groups. Located in Clarksville, he can see the needs and opportunities in the state's western corridor. This is a major renewal of our commitment to language missions.

"Jim is a good strategist," Barrentine noted. "He has the personality and nature to take the back seat and give language groups the freedom to develop their own ministries — he partners with them, and helps them develop leadership."

Hausler, a longtime missionary to South America, is excited about the developing language ministries in Arkansas, especially among the fast-growing Hispanic population in the state. "We concentrate on letting people hear the good news

in their own language," Hausler emphasized. "It's important to let them worship in the way they feel comfortable.

"Hispanics are a people in movement — and are a fertile missions field," he explained. "They are moving into Arkansas and that's why we put so much emphasis on Spanish-language ministries."

Highlighting language works experiencing growth in the state, Hausler cited:

- **Summertime migrant work.** Francis Martinez, who works with Mississippi Country Association in Leachville, spends a lot of time with migrant workers. He goes out in the fields with Gatorade and ministers one on one. Hope Migrant Center, under the leadership of Paul Roeten, is being helped out by two summer missionaries, one from Puerto Rico and one from Mexico. Health clinics in the western part of the state have also been successful.

- **New works.** New Hispanic works have been started in Eudora, Green Forest and at First Church, Ratcliff. The Hispanic congregation at First Church, DeQueen, is seeking to start an Hispanic Institute to train lay leaders. First Church, Van Buren, is assisting with a Native American ministry. A Laotian work has been started in Springdale and the Vietnamese congregation at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith is planning to constitute as a church this year.

Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union also works with ethnic churches in missions education. "We assist however we can with materials and people," noted WMU associate Monica Keathley. "We help them train leaders and talk about missions.

"In addition to a recent International Women's Day, the WMU assists ethnic women through scholarships to go to a Texas training event in their own language," she added. "We also have a volunteer Hispanic consultant to go as needed to train leaders."

For information about starting or assisting language group ministries, contact Jim Hausler at 501-754-9139.



Celebrate!
Language
Missions
Day
Sunday, August 10

Become aware of ethnic and culture groups

As one of the most diverse denominations in the United States, Southern Baptists worship in 210 languages — including 98 Native American dialects — each Sunday, but Southern Baptists still have reached less than one percent of America's ethnics.

Composed of more than 500 ethnic groups and 495 Native American tribes, America's population speak 636 languages and dialects, and new people groups continue to come from other lands. While Southern Baptists witness and minister among 112 of America's ethnic groups and distribute about 200,000 Scriptures in more than 70 languages annually, there are many in America who are not being reached.

Ways of celebrating Language Missions Day vary. Look closely at

your community. What resources are available? What ministry opportunity do they represent? Consider these celebration suggestions for churches and associations:

- Plan and conduct a worship service with an ethnic congregation; enlist resource people, such as ethnic pastors and home missionaries related to language missions.

- Host a cultural fellowship. Invite ethnic congregations from your area to participate.

- Survey your community. Are there ethnics living in the area? If so, consider starting an ethnic ministry or congregation.

- Conduct a study of a specific culture group. Learn who they are and how to witness to them.

A Pastor's Heart



Emil Turner

ABCS Executive Director

Boycotts. This has been a hot topic for Southern Baptists for the past few weeks. I have received letters, I have been asked questions, and I have read many varied opinions. I am glad Baptists stand for morality, and I encourage you to boycott all expressions of immorality.

One of our staff members, Glenn Ennes, made some observations about boycotts that are worthy of thought. Many people have expressed concern about the Southern Baptist Convention resolution related to the Disney Corporation. Some have been angry because of it, and some have been angry because it has not met with universal approval. Few have noticed that Southern Baptists have been engaged in a devastatingly effective boycott for nearly 30 years.

Baptists have been boycotting their churches. The impact has been devastating. Churches which were once leaders of their communities have become social

clubs and "preaching points." Each week more than 50 percent of the Sunday School members boycott their classes. We have become weak and ineffective. We watch helplessly as an unbroken line of lost souls march into hell. Our boycott of our churches is having an eternal impact. If we had not boycotted our churches, we would never need to boycott anyone else. And, when we stop boycotting our churches, we will again have the power to lead our communities and nation.

The most tragic aspect of this boycott is that no one is upset about it. May God call us to repentance.

■ Have you read the *New American Standard Bible Updated Edition?* (Lockman Foundation, 1997). I have been a NASB user since 1970. It is true to the original languages, literal in its translation and does not add interpretation to the text. It's my favorite translation. I think the "update" is great. Smoothness and clarity is added to the NASB's literal approach. Timothy Deahl of First Church, North Little Rock, was one of the "update" editors.

Executive director's schedule:

Aug. 10 FBC, Dierks
 Aug. 17 (a.m.) Highway, NLR
 (p.m.) Grace, NLR
 Aug. 19 Executive Board Meeting
 Aug. 21-22 Worship Conference,
 Branson, MO
 Aug. 23-24 FBC, Lake Village

Center, to Wisconsin to work in the Greater Wisconsin Dells Resort Ministries, to Europe to work with Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany, were highlights. Each trip required more than 50 hours of training. Six years of Acteens has taught her so much, such as face painting, clowning, acting, Bible story telling, balloon sculpting, puppetry, mime, how to lead a conference, how to do backyard Bible clubs, etc., but the most important thing she has learned is how to witness. During the mission trip to Wisconsin, we were taught how to do street witnessing—then we did it! I can't tell you all that meant to us. The Lord is so awesome!

If you are concerned about our youth, check into Acteens. From experience, I can tell you that for our teenage girls it is the hope for their future. Youth minister, if you want strong leaders in your youth program, include Acteens (and Challengers for guys) in your youth ministry schedule. Our youth of today are our mission leaders of tomorrow. They will be the ones to carry forth the Great Commission.

Sandra Kemmer, a member of First Church, Brinkley, is WMU director for Arkansas Valley Association. She and her husband, Bob, have one child, Allison, who will be a freshman at Ouachita Baptist University this fall.

quotes

"We do not have enough strong churches to provide resources for smaller churches.... Sometimes you need brothers to come alongside."

—John Shaul, president
 Baptist Convention of Iowa

"I believe God wants our churches to baptize a million people a year by the year 2005....Let's try something we cannot do without Him."

—Bob Reccard, president
 North American Mission Board

"Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

—John Anthony, Southern Baptist representative to Jerusalem

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

Woman's Viewpoint



Sandra Kemmer

First Church, Brinkley

As a former YWA member (Young Woman's Auxiliary, renamed Acteens in 1970), an Acteens leader for 15 years and the mother of an Acteen, a veteran of many mission trips at home and abroad, I have seen my family grow spiritually, learn new skills and become bolder in their witnessing.

My daughter gained her heart for missions as a result of her involvement in mission organizations since she was a child. I am so grateful to my church for always having missions organizations as a priority of our church schedule.

Recently, our daughter made a list of her church activities for college scholarship applications. Most of her list consisted of Acteen-related projects. Acteen Activator mission trips to Hope Migrant Mission

Walk where Jesus walked

Traveling in the land of Jesus' earthly ministry is an unforgettable experience for any Christian. Visiting the traditional sites of Christ's birth, baptism, sermons, miracles, crucifixion and resurrection adds a fresh perspective to Bible study and personal spiritual growth. Opportunities to sail on the Sea of Galilee, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and walk down the Via Dolores offer vivid reminders of Christ's physical presence on earth.

Many pastors who have traveled to the Holy Land affirm that the experience has had a significant impact on their preaching ministry. Being able to visualize the settings described in Scripture and to share illustrations from those experiences can enrich sermon delivery and depth.

As ministers prepare for local church ministry with the aid of seminary training, personal Bible study and other resources, one of the most effective learning tools available is a tour of Israel. Unfortunately, hundreds of pastors have never had the opportunity to pursue that goal. Financial concerns, time constraints, diverse responsibilities and numerous other details have

Straight from the Editor



Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

kept them from making Holy Land travel a top priority.

In an effort to help make such a trip attainable for Arkansas Baptist pastors, the Newsmagazine is sponsoring a Ministers' Holy Land Tour Jan. 7-16, 1998. While there are many other tour options available from a variety of sources, this tour is specifically designed for Arkansas Baptist ministers and their spouses who have never before traveled to Israel.

The 10-day tour of Jordan and Israel will feature visits to such sites as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Caesarea and numerous other locations. A special feature of the trip will be on-site Bible

studies led by Bill Steeger, chairman of Ouachita Baptist University's religion and philosophy division.

Another plus of the tour is that it is being made available to ordained ministers and their spouses at a significant price discount. The tour arrangements are being made in cooperation with DeHoney Travel, an organization with more than 30 years of experience in Holy Land travel.

Why is the Newsmagazine providing this opportunity for Arkansas Baptist ministers? We believe our investment of time and energy in this project will pay direct benefits to the tour participants as well as their local congregations. It is simply an extension of our commitment to help "inform...inspire...involve" Arkansas Baptists in life-changing ministry efforts.

Many churches may want to donate the tour costs for their pastor and his wife both as a gift to them and as an investment in their ministry. There are a limited number of seats available at the ministers' discount rate. Interested churches or individuals may contact the Newsmagazine office at 1-800-838-2272 or 501-376-4791, ext. 5153 for more information.

A tribute to missionary parents

W. Trueman Moore

Former missionary to Bangladesh

Missionary parents are the unheralded heroes and heroines of our missionary enterprise.

Although we were extremely grateful for our MPs during the 15 years we served as Southern Baptist missionaries to Bangladesh, we never realized how much our parents sacrificed until we had grown children of our own—and thought of them being overseas for up to four years at a time—and taking our grandchildren with them! We cannot imagine not getting to see any one of those kids for such a long time.

If we don't get to see our nearby grandchildren once a week and our more distant one once a month, we feel slighted. Our children were away from their grandparents most of the years of their maturing. Imagine a grandparent who sees his grandchildren only one year out of five.

Jane's father died during our first year in Bangladesh. He never got to see two of our sons, and Jane did not get to be with her father or help her mother in the last months of his life and her grief. These separations are the greatest sacrifices missionary families make.

Since I retired from the pastorate six years ago, I have been reviewing the letters we wrote to our parents while we were away. They saved them for us, and we are amazed at how much we asked of our parents and how much they did for us.

We had to have milk for the babies, checks deposited in the bank and hills paid, immunizations for typhoid and cholera and vaccinations sent to us every six months. We needed parts for the record player and maintenance items for the washing machine, etc. They sent wonderful Christmas packages with toys, clothes, cake mixes, spices, some chewing gum, candy or nuts. They

went through the contortions required by cantankerous customs officers in Bangladesh to get necessary supplies to us. They spent lots of money to pay the postage and the duty.

It was not possible to talk to our parents by phone. Although they wrote to us often, there were periods of up to a month when we had no communication because of the war or civil unrest. Jane and the kids were evacuated by U.S. Air Force planes once and all of us were evacuated with United Nations personnel during the war for independence. Of all places, they took us to Iran for safety. This put an end to our missionary service in Bangladesh.

first person

It is difficult for us to think how challenged our faith would be if we knew one of our children was in danger but we could not get any news for a month. How greatly our parents believed God for our safety and their peace!

We thought then and we think now how wonderful it was to have our parents praying for us hourly. We were out of sight but not of mind. Praise God for praying MPs.

Finally, our homecomings were heavenly. MPs saw to it that everything was ready for a joyous reunion, renewal, sharing and service. They kept the kids while we went to Gloria and Ridgecrest, World Mission Conferences, and a thousand other appointments. They made the year at home so wonderful that we felt we could face another four years on the field.

Those MPs didn't break our hearts with their broken hearts when it was time for us to return to our field of service. They committed us to the Lord of the Harvest and prayed for the abundant return from our sowing.

Surely, there will be special rewards in heaven for MPs. Come to think of it, why should we wait to honor them and praise God for their hope, faith and love? Let's honor them now!

Working together in the field

Arkansas Baptists supporting works in fertile Iowa

Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist



▲ Baptist volunteers from Texas and Alabama install trim on the new Ida Grove Baptist Chapel building. The church's ministry was aided by Oak Grove Church in Van Buren, which sent a Vacation Bible School team to the northwest Iowa town.

"It...shows that God is working in our church by sending people to us. They are sacrificing their time and expenses, but they are part of God's plan for our church to be strengthened."

— MEL
McGLOTHLEN
member of

New Hope Baptist Church in Ottumwa, Iowa, about a mission group from South McGehee Church

When John Shaull considers partnership opportunities between Arkansas and Iowa Baptists, he is often reminded of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"

Shaull, president of the Baptist Convention of Iowa (the first native Iowan to be elected) sees the missions partnership between the two states in much the same way. "We do not have enough strong churches to provide resources for smaller churches, that's why we need the partnership."

He said that when he was growing up, farmers in the area "would have a baler and maybe two hired hands, but at harvest time, the neighbors would come and help each other... Sometimes you need brothers to come alongside."

Arkansas Baptists have been working alongside brothers in Iowa since 1992, when the Arkansas Baptist State Convention entered into a three-year partnership with the then-Iowa Baptist Fellowship. During its annual meeting in 1995, the ABSC extended the partnership through 2001 with Iowa Baptists, who formed a state convention that same year.

Now into its fifth year of the partnership, many Iowa churches are reaping the fruit of past and present Arkansas partnership efforts.

Jesse Smallwood, a Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student serving as a summer pastor for Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa, said that a team from First Church in Hot Springs helped change both the congregation and the physical appearance of the church.

The team of 37 First Church members painted the interior and exterior of the church, repaired the parsonage, cleaned the facilities, held a Backyard Bible Club, sewed costumes for use in dramas and donated a photocopier and Bibles.

Danny Bryson, First Church's minister of education and outreach, noted that the group felt "like we've come to Samaria - out of our area and our comfort zone. Everybody pitched in and...it's glued us together into a team. Some hardly knew each other's names and now they are co-workers."

The First Church team included youth as well as 79-year-old volunteer Garnett Smith. Although Smith's wife, Margaret, is a former foreign missionary, he was participating in his first mission trip.

Another team member, James Felton, didn't know about the trip until he saw it in the First Church

bulletin, but he jumped at the chance to serve: He had been saved at Ridgecrest Church as a boy.

Other team members reflected on their service: "When the trip was first mentioned, I never got a firm impression I was needed," said Bev Allen. "But I committed and since then I know it was right because the Lord has blessed this week."

"The concern that I had was that this was the only evangelistic church in a three-county area and it had considered closing its doors," said John Sanders. "That laid heavy on my heart. This answers the question, 'Who really cares about people outside of Arkansas?' All of us."

"To me, this is good for us," said James Bennett. "We get to see some good occur immediately and long-term."

Six children accepted Christ through the First, Hot Springs BBC. That followed a BBC and witnessing efforts two weeks earlier by a team from Second Church in Forrest City, which resulted in 20 salvations. First Church in Heber Springs also has done extensive mission work for Ridgecrest.

Because of the efforts, said Smallwood, "this summer has changed my life. I'll never be the same. Without Arkansas, we would never have been able to do the things they've done. It renewed my faith in Southern Baptists."

At Southern Hills Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, pastor Leo Endel showed changes that 35 members of First Church in Searcy made during a June mission trip.

"They converted our old sanctuary into education space," he noted, pointing out new Sunday School rooms that Searcy members framed and outfitted with sheetrock, electrical wiring and plumbing.

"They did an outstanding job," he said. "I don't know what we would have done. They saved us at least \$7,500. They also repaired a roof at Mt. Olive (a black Southern Baptist congregation in Sioux

Planting seeds of hope, reaping a harvest of faith

City), held a Vacation Bible School at Mt. Olive and a Backyard Bible Club at Kingsley (the site of a new church start) and redid shelving and railings."

Vacation Bible Schools and BBCs combined with construction projects are among the most common mission efforts by Arkansas churches and the most needed by Iowa churches.

"What we want to see is the strengthening of churches and the starting of new churches," said Richard Lamborn, director of BCI's missions department.

Noting that 43 of Iowa's 99 counties have not been entered by a Southern Baptist work, Lamborn affirmed that "Arkansas Baptists are fitting into our plan, responding to our strategy of church growth and evangelism."

Members of South McGehee Church conducted a VBS and lay revival at New Hope Baptist Church in Ottumwa, Iowa, and reroofed a mission church in Albia.

South McGehee member Ronnie Norris, a pharmacist, preached during Sunday morning services at New Hope. He said the effort was only the second time he had preached, but he felt the need to share about "God's grace" that morning.

"During my day I see a lot of people, but not long enough to talk about God or they are in a foul humor or sick," he said. "This is a chance for me to get the Word spread."

New Hope member Mel McGlothlen said the McGehee team would "encourage us and help us get our priorities straight about the lost in our community."

"It also shows that God is working in our church by sending people to us," he said. "They are sacrificing their time and expenses, but they are part of God's plan for our church to be strengthened."

Russell Roderick, minister of youth for First Church in Hazen, led a group of a dozen youth and leaders in a mission effort that combined youth evangelism and construction with a team from Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

The "River of Love" week, held at Bethany Baptist Church of Keokuk, featured testimonies, outreach, drama, music and puppets, as well as removing dirt from a basement to prepare for construction.

"Our main purpose is to minister to youth and reach youth for Christ," said Roderick on the event's first night. "Second, we will equip their youth and, third, we will help dig their basement down to pour concrete."

Mike Lefler, a Bethany youth leader, said the effort "is special in that people are willing to take a week out of their lives for us. We're farther ahead, even spiritually, because of what the groups have done."

"This brings prayer to life for our youth," Lefler added. "For months now we've been praying to see everything come together to make prayer real."

Arkansas teens on Iowa missions

Arkansas Baptist churches send dozens of teenage volunteers to Iowa each summer to work in church planting, lead Backyard Bible Clubs and Vacation Bible Schools, conduct neighborhood surveys or construct church facilities. Many return with an excitement for missions support and represent the future of Southern Baptist mission efforts. Among the responses of many who are participating in this summer's efforts are:

"My parents were coming and I felt like I should do something, too. It's kinda sad that they (children in Stuart, Iowa) don't have a church to go to, but they listen pretty well. I hope that there is at least one kid that's trying to understand." — Ashley Lane, 15, part of a mission team from First Church in Rogers aiding church-planting efforts in Stuart, Iowa.

"I came to Keokuk because...I felt really needed as a youth. I want to see at least 30 people in Keokuk reached through our dramas and songs. I feel real good about being a part of it. When we scouted it out in April, I felt, 'This is the place.'" — Brian Taylor, 18, a member of First Church, Hazen, who was part of a youth mission team that participated in youth evangelism and construction through Bethany Baptist Church in Keokuk.

"I came two years ago and it was fun. I wanted to work in a Vacation Bible School and thought it would be neat to work with kids." — Laura Norris, 17, a member of South McGehee Church who worked at New Hope Baptist Church in Ottumwa, Iowa

"Iowa is a very beautiful state. Behind all the beauty there is a mental and spiritual need for the gospel of Christ. Churches have a hard time finding pastors and many of the people are new Christians. There are churches in Iowa that have not had a pastor in three years or more. If you are not led to go up to Iowa, you can still pray for the people and the pastors. Pray that God will lead pastors and church leaders here." — Arkansas native Dillia Williams, 15, whose father, Sunny, is pastor of Pioneer Southern Baptist Church in Denison, Iowa. He formerly served as pastor of Shell Lake Church.



Youth from First Church in Hazen lead a rally at First Baptist Church in Keokuk, Iowa, as part of a recent witnessing and construction mission trip.

Green 'missionary' entertains, teaches Bible to Iowa children

The green-skinned, fuzzy missionary gets an enthusiastic reception from Iowa children that most evangelists, pastors and Sunday School teachers only dream about. He prompts young audiences to squeal with excitement when he appears.

"He" is Mr. Carbuncle, the alter ego of puppeteer Whitney Dunaway, a member of First Church in Springdale who served as part of an eight-member mission team of youth and adults from First Church in Rogers in Stuart, Iowa, July 27-30. The group traveled to Stuart to aid in a church-starting effort.

Although Mr. Carbuncle is guaranteed to entertain during his performances, he also feels the need to teach the Word of God to children in Stuart "because I knew that there were kids here that

needed to learn about Jesus," he explained through Whitney, who he noted "also does my hair."

"I can entertain and hold the kids' attention," he said, "while teaching Bible verses to the kids."

Mr. Carbuncle was one of several puppets the team used to witness to children in a city park. Other activities included crafts, games, face painting, verse memorization and Bible lessons.

He stressed that the week was not all fun for him (noting that he practiced "all day Fridays" preceding the trip), but missions experience helped him. "I went to Mexico last month.

He added that while he always wears a smile while performing, he is serious about why he was in Stuart: "I hope that a lot of kids will meet Jesus."



'Live so that others will see light'

Rex Horne, Emil Turner challenge state's retired denominational workers

MIRRO GIN

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptists

Arkanas Baptist State Convention president Rex Horne and ABCS executive director Emil Turner were the featured speakers during the 11th annual meeting of the Retired Baptist Workers in Arkansas held July 24 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Horne expressed appreciation to the group for their witnessing efforts prior to retirement, as well as their continued witness for Christ. Preaching from Ephesians 3, Horne described the passage as Paul's testimony of how he saw himself and his objectives. "It is important today that we not only see ourselves but that we see others, as well as how we see our objectives," he noted.

He emphasized it is of paramount concern that as one looks at himself, he begin with humility, never forgetting that he was called to be a servant, not a sovereign. "The Lord Jesus called us to serve Him and if we are to do it effectively, we must do it with humility," Horne declared. "As Southern Baptists we believe in a called ministry and so it must ever be. It is not something we do from the human perspective but rather from a God-called perspective.

"The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that called us to salvation and to the ministry." Insisting that "there is nothing more sickening than mock humility," he added, "As we are called to ministry, we are given God's grace to preach His unsearchable riches."

Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, noted that Christians are not only to preach and share the Word of God but are to live in such a way that others will see the light of God reflected through them and desire to follow Christ as well.

The state convention president voiced concern that many churches have "a lot of flesh, a lot of 'I, my and mine' in them rather than Holy Spirit-filled Christians who are touching the lives of others.

"We must take more and more seriously who we are, what we are and what we are to do to change the world," Horne added. "God has given us freedom and boldness in speech through Christ who set us free, but in that freedom we seem to seek ways to bind back up our freedom that was settled through the grace of God when He



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Affirming that "I am in the presence of people who have had an eternal impact on the lives of others," Turner voiced appreciation for the ongoing ministry efforts of the retired workers.

Who are Arkansas Baptists?

Citing Mark 4:41 in which Jesus rebuked His disciples and they in turn asked the awesome question: "What manner of man is this?", Turner said in his 18 months as state convention executive director, he had been asking the question: "What manner of Baptists are Arkansas Baptists?"

He said he has first found Arkansas Baptists to be a biblical people who love the Bible and use it as a tool, source and comfort. "I have had other executive directors who ask me if Arkansas Baptists are conservatives, fundamentalists or moderates and my reply to them is they are biblical people, people of the Book who love it," Turner said. "I also tell them the ABCS staff are people who have an allegiance to the flawless Word of God; who hand the Word of God on to others."

Turner said his second discovery about Arkansas Baptists is they are an evangelistic people who introduce approximately 250 others to Jesus each week. He noted that 453 people already have come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior this summer at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs, an increase of 53 from 1996.

"Arkansas Baptists are people who believe in missions," he added. "Forty-one new churches, including 10 ethnic churches, were started this past year." He also noted that "Arkansas Baptists minister around the world to reach others for Christ"

by giving 41.77 percent of Arkansas Baptist Cooperative Program gifts to national and international ministry efforts.

He pointed out that Arkansas Baptists are a diverse group, including those who are young, old, traditional and innovative. "Arkansas Baptists do not have a cookie cutter faith," he declared. "They do not all think like me or their pastors and most definitely all pastors do not think like me."

Turner said he also had found Arkansas Baptists to be intense, with strong beliefs and dedicated to what they believe. "We need to remember in our intensity that we need the Lord and need each other no matter how different we are from one another," he said. "We must remember when we are contentious with one another that we fight the very ones that God sent to help us.

"The kind of person we are shines through, especially what we are on the inside shines through," Turner concluded. "Arkansas Baptists are the kind of Baptists through which God reveals something beautiful He has done despite the struggles and the years of wear.... I am glad to be a part of that kind of Baptists."

A report from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board was presented by Lonnie Willis of Little Rock, chairman of the board's endowment council and former trustee chairman. He shared information concerning efforts to establish a \$12 million endowment fund to aid pastors and others who in the early years of the Annuity Board were unable to invest adequate funds for their retirement years.

He urged the retired workers to promote church and individual involvement in the Adopt an Annuity program, noting that a Pastors' Support Group to assist with the endowment campaign is being organized by ABCS annuity department director James Walker.

'Live so that others will see light'

Rex Horne, Emil Turner challenge state's retired denominational workers

MIRRO GIN

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TRANSITIONS

Craig Jenkins began serving Aug. 3 as pastor of First Church of Marked Tree, coming there from Fort Worth, Texas, where he was a member of Wedgewood Church and chaplain of Harris Methodist Hospital. He previously was pastor of Westland Church in Fort Worth. Jenkins is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Melanie Cicero of Camden, also an OBU graduate. They have one son, Ryan.

Mickey Lyn Strahan is pastor of Bluff Avenue Church of Fort Smith. He and his wife, June, and their children, Terrence and Hanna, moved there from Malvern. Strahan is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Mid-America Seminary.

Tom Phillips is pastor of First Church of Peel. He previously served Western Grove Church and Pindell Church. Phillips and his wife, Brenda, have five children.

Gene Carson is pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church of Gassville, the church where he grew up and has been serving as a deacon. He and his wife, Marvina, have two daughters, Debra and Amy.

Charles F. "Chuck" DeVane Jr. has been called as pastor of East Side Church in Paragould. He previously served churches in Alabama and Georgia. DeVane is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Martha, have three daughters, Christie, Ashley and Emily.

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Denny Durham of Corpus Christi, Texas, has joined the staff of Mount Vernon Church in Benton as children and youth minister. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Kevin Dunn is serving as interim minister of music for First Church of Fordyce. The former band director for the Strong School District, he recently began serving as band director for Fordyce Middle School and assistant band director for Fordyce High School. Dunn, who recently served as music minister of Harmony Church of El Dorado, also has served churches in Monticello, Rison, Waldo and Junction City.

Shannon Hassell has resigned as minister of youth for Highland Heights Church in Benton. He and his wife, Cyndi, are moving to McKinney, Texas, where he will join the staff of Waddill Street Church.

ORDINATIONS

West View Church of Paragould recently Ronda Richardson to the gospel ministry July 27. Richardson is pastor of the church's mission in Reynold's Park.

Kearney Church of Redfield recently licensed Dewy Howell to the gospel ministry. He is available to serve as a supply preacher.

Gary Allen, minister of music for South Side Church of Fort Smith, was ordained to the gospel ministry June 22 at his home church, Grace Temple Church of Dallas, Texas.

Luxora church damaged by fire, arson suspected

First Church of Luxora was one of three congregations in northeast Arkansas damaged by fire the weekend of July 19-20. Authorities suspect arson in all three cases.

The members and fellowship hall area of First Church was gutted July 19, causing extensive damage, said pastor Michael Collier. Another blaze was set in a bathroom, he said, but was extinguished when a water line in the ceiling burst.

"I haven't heard the final estimate on a dollar amount of damage," Collier noted, "but it will probably be above \$50,000 to \$60,000."

"We lost all of our tables and chairs in the fellowship hall and all of our kitchen utensils, and we are trying to clean up some dishes," he explained. Other losses included "our communion sets and a piano."

In addition to the fire destruction, the congregation's two-story, 5,000-square-foot education building received extensive smoke damage.

Other losses, said Collier, were less tangible. "It caused a lot of misery and heartache."

"At first there was shock and disbelief," he observed. "We had a fire in October of 1996 that was ruled accidental, but this just makes you wonder."

"It's been hard. We rilled the first few days, but after that, I can tell it took a toll on us."

Collier said the fire has focused many church members' minds on crime in the area. "We do know we have quite a bit of crime. There's a lot of drinking and unemployment. They are asking, 'Is this what we're going to have to deal with all the time?' It may have an effect on attendance and support."

The Church of Christ in nearby Joiner, an Anglo congregation, and Princess Chapel Church in Luxora, which is predominantly black, also were burned during the weekend.

The Mississippi County Sheriff's Office has arrested a suspect in the Joiner fire, but Collier said he is "probably not" a suspect in the First Church fire and that police are following other leads.

Collier noted that the facility was insured and that the congregation plans to rebuild the damaged building.

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WE'RE REACHING UP AND OUT AT ARKANSAS STATE!!!

There's some great things awaiting you at Arkansas State! Jonesboro Southern Baptist Churches want to be one of those great things. While in college, we want you to join us as we REACH UP to Jesus in daily fellowship with Him and as we REACH OUT to others who may not have a personal relationship with the Lord. The churches in Jonesboro work very hard together to minister to students. Please allow us to serve you.

There are countless opportunities in each of our churches for Discipleship, Fellowship, Worship, Recreation, Music, Missions, and many other special events and programs.

Mark these dates on your calendar. You don't want to miss them!!!

*August 17.....**Survival '97** at the Baptist Student Union.

You can sign up in advance at the BSU. (P.O. Box 730, State University, Ar. 72467.)

*August 21.....**Church Fair** after the BSU's TNT Program.

*September 12-13. **BSU Back to School Retreat**



COME JOIN US!!!



UNIVERSITY STAFF

Front: Arliss Dickerson, Nancy Burke

Back: Jerry Muckensturm, Packy Magel, Allen Elkins

Not Pictured: Johnny Watkins, Todd Rouse, John Dresbach, and Darrell Cook

JONESBORO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES & UNIVERSITY STAFF

NETTLETON BAPTIST CHURCH

Johnny Watkins, Student Minister
Corner of E. Nettleton and Thorn...932-4960

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Todd Rouse, University Minister
Nancy Burke, Minister of Education
701 S. Main...932-3456

HIGHLAND DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Patrick "Packy" Magel, Student Minister
515 E. Highland Dr....932-2197

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Jerry Muckensturm, University Minister
John Dresbach, Associate University Minister
1010 S. Main...935-1950

WALNUT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Allen Elkins, Minister to Students
1010 Scenic...972-0220

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION

Arliss Dickerson, Director
Darrell Cook, Associate Director
Red Brick Building across from Chickasaw
932-7241

Focus on students, church

Collegiate ministry team to stress active involvement

Although the student ministry department will seem to undergo few changes in a proposed convention-wide restructuring plan, the current department director said some changes will be "significant."

David James, slated to become leader of the collegiate ministry team if messengers approve the proposed restructuring of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said that the team's personnel will remain similar while its priorities and evaluation criteria will change.

"In reality, even though it looks like there will be minimal changes, there will be some significant changes," he said. "For instance, the emphasis of our ministry, as in all of the Baptist Building, will be impact and not activity."

"Our directors will be evaluated by impact. We are not going to ask directors to do more, but to produce more and be accountable for that," he said. "The word impact will help us move from an activity-oriented and program-oriented ministry to a results and impact ministry."

ABSC executive director Emil Turner explained the team's evaluation criteria. "On the surface, it looks like the least amount of changes have occurred (in reorganizing the department). The collegiate ministry team will still be made up of state staff and Baptist Student Union personnel, but who will be evaluated in terms of students receiving Christ and students and churches involving themselves in missions endeavors."

He noted that BSU directors will "report on who they've witnessed to," adding that "we are already among national leaders in this area."

"These expectations are clearly spelled out and their structure will need to reflect these," Turner acknowledged. "It gives the team the freedom in how it approaches its work."

James noted the importance of the department remaining a separate team. "I want to salute Dr. Turner and others who put this together. In Oklahoma, the student work team was incorporated into the evangelism team and in Tennessee the student work team was incorporated into the discipleship team," James said. "He sees the significance of collegiate ministry being distinctively different and in its own team and he sees our directors and associate directors as a vital part of that team."

While James pointed out that "the change is not perceived as drastic because we are not grouping departments together," earlier staff restructuring paved the way for changes.

"We had made massive structural changes in our department," he noted. "In particular, George Sims' role moved from student missions to part-

time BSU directors, buildings and property and development. That is a radical change from his job description of five years ago. What we did five years ago helped us restructure and a lot of our team had already been reworked. That has helped us."

James emphasized that while Arkansas Baptists will receive benefits through BSU ministries, they must ask how the restructuring will affect the local church.

His answer? "We will continue to do what the local church has asked us to do: impact the collegiate campus. Our distinctives in the past have been evangelism, missions and discipleship. We will still be emphasizing those, but our impact statements redirect us a little bit."

"We have always been a church-based denominational ministry," he said. "We are not a para-church ministry. In the past, BSU has been a link to the church. It is a church-related ministry. Now our emphasis will be that we will try to be a church-focused ministry."

"We will not assume the relationship of students to the local church, but we will be giving effort and intensity to students being involved and participating."

"That doesn't mean that has not been happening," he added, "but we will be more intentional for that to happen. That has come as a strong desire of our executive director that we be church-focused and that our ministry is involving students in local churches."

"Those changes have never been made by any state convention," Turner said. "They will put Arkansas in the lead in reaching students for Christ."

The collegiate ministry team will seek to impact college students for Christ through increasing involvement in worship, discipleship and community service and by carrying out the Great Commission.



How will this affect the local church? We will continue to do what the local church has asked us to do: impact the collegiate campus.

DAVID JAMES
Team leader of proposed collegiate ministry team

Collegiate ministry team members

Working in the Baptist Building:
Team leader **David James** will give direction and supervision to function areas, lead team meetings and coordinate calendars and budgets. **Diane Parker** will oversee program areas and student missions. **George Sims** will supervise part-time workers and volunteers, buildings and property and collegiate ministry development.
Working in the field:
Full-time members: **Dickie Boyles, Jackie Burton, Darrell Cook, Ian Cosh, Arliss Dickerson, Jackie Flske, Kevin Inman, Lynn Loyd, Neal Nelson, Jeff Noble, Ben Phillips, Darrell Ray, Mark**

Robinson, Tim Smith, Teresa "Bit" Stevens, Tim Stewart.
Part-time members: **Sherry Baker, Terry Garrison, Wanda Hollerid, Todd Hunt, Winnie Kixsey, Phyllis Thomas.**
Special workers: **Mark Bridges, Brandi Byrd, Hope-Coleman, Doug Hunt, Ardy Winn.**
Volunteer workers: **Martha Blackmon, Joella Huddleston, Kathy Martin, Barry Morgan, Nancy Taylor, Bob Stewart, Marilyn Thomas.**
"Directors and associate directors are ABSC Executive Board employees. See pages 14-15 for campus assignments."



Arliss Dickerson
Arkansas State
University



Darrel Ray
Arkansas Tech
University

**Arkansas State
University**
Box 730
Jonesboro, AR 72467
☎ 870-932-7241

Arliss
Dickerson,
BSU Director
Darrell Cook,
Associate

Activities:
■ Aug. 18 – Monday lunch, "Where ya goin?,"
Todd Rouse and Packey Magel, speakers
■ Aug. 18 – Monday Bible Study, 6 p.m.
■ Aug. 21 – Thursday night concert, 7 p.m.,
featuring PIC of Nashville

**Arkansas Tech
University**
1404 N. Arkansas
Russellville, AR 72801
☎ 801-967-3217

Darrel Ray,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Aug. 17 – Sunday night fellowship, 8 p.m.,
homemade ice cream & volleyball
■ Aug. 18 – Monday night cookout & water ski
on the lake, 7 p.m.
■ Aug. 21 – Sandblast '97, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

**Garland County
Community College**
101 College Dr.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
☎ 501-767-8388

Phyllis Thomas,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Aug. 18 – Welcome munchies provided by area
churches
■ Tuesdays, Wednesdays – Bible studies
■ Thanksgiving dinner



Joella Huddleston
Gateway Technical
College



Mark Robinson
Henderson State
University

**Gateway Technical
College**
370 Reed Wade Dr.
Batesville, AR 72801
☎ 870-793-4876

Joella
Huddleston,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Aug. 18-21 – "The Great Lick Out," Don't be
a sucker, join BSU (registration week)
■ Aug. 26 – "Lunch for a Bunch," Thursday,
12 noon, free lunch in student lounge
■ Aug. 26 – "Up Lift," 3 p.m., for faculty & staff

**Henderson State
University**
713 North 12th St.
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
☎ 870-248-8592

Mark Robinson,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Tuesdays – Night Light, 9 p.m., contemporary
worship service
■ Wednesdays – Power Lunch, 12 noon
■ Mission trips, ski retreats

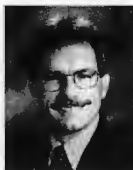
Little Rock Metro
5515 West 32nd St.
Little Rock, AR 72204
☎ 501-562-4383

Tim Smith,
BSU Director
Hope Coleman,
Doug Hunt,
Mark Bridges,
Associates

Activities:
■ Aug. 14-21 – UAMS Welcome Lunch, 12 noon
■ Aug. 20-22 – UALR Welcome Week
■ Aug. 22 – Pulaski Tech Welcome Lunch, 12 noon
■ Aug. 28 – Metro Ministry Coffeehouse at the
Bagel Factory



Tim Smith
Little Rock Metro



Ian Cosh
Ouachita Baptist
University

**Mississippi County
Community College**
P.O. Box 825
Osceola, AR 72370
☎ 870-563-6487

Barry Morgan,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Wednesdays – Student Prayer & Fellowship,
12 noon (meet in the Outback for first meeting)
■ Thursdays – Thursday Night "Alive"

**Ouachita Baptist
University**
88U Box 3783
Arkadelphia, AR 71998
☎ 870-248-5536

Ian Cosh,
BSU Director
Brandi Byrd,
Assistant

Activities:
■ Aug. 29-30 – BSU fall retreat, Camp Paron
■ Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – Noonday,
Berry Chapel
■ Feb. 16-20 – Christian Focus Week



Sherry Baker
Rich Mountain
Community College



Ben Phillips
Southern Arkansas
University

**Ozarka Technical
College**
HC 80, Box 558
Molbourne, AR 72556
☎ 870-368-7409

Robert
Stewart,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Bible study
■ Counseling for students
■ Tutoring for students

**Phillips Community
College of U of A**
56 Phillips 314 Rd.
Lexa, AR 72358
☎ 870-572-3593

Terry Garrison,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Aug. 18-19 – Registration
■ Weekly Bible study
■ Wednesdays – Noonday "Lunch Bunch"

**Rich Mountain
Community College**
1100 Bush St.
Mena, AR 71953
☎ 501-394-5012

Sherry Baker,
BSU Director

Activities:
■ Fridays – Lunch, 11 am
■ Bible studies

Southern Arkansas University
SAB Box 8275
Magnolia, AR 71753
 ☎ 870-234-2434

Ben Phillips,
 BSU Director

Activities:
 ■ Aug. 26 – Freshman Pizza Pig-Out
 ■ Aug. 27 – First Noonday, 12 noon; First Megalife, 8:15 p.m.
 ■ Sept. 5-6 – Freshman Survival Weekend

University of Arkansas
944 West Maple
Fayetteville, AR 72701
 ☎ 501-821-4370

Lynn Loyd,
 BSU Director
 Kevin Inman,
 Associate

Activities:
 ■ Aug. 22-24 – Rookie Razorback Weekend, church progressive lunch, fellowship, seminars
 ■ Aug. 28 – Impact, 8 p.m., student-led worship
 ■ Sept. 12-13 – Fall Retreat, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs

University of Arkansas, Monticello
UAM Box 3973
Monticello, AR 71656
 ☎ 870-367-5381

Jeff Noble,
 BSU Director
 Jody Smotherman,
 Associate

Activities:
 ■ Wednesdays – 88 Lunch, 12 noon, lunch and Bible study program based on Mark 8:8
 ■ Wednesday nights – Fire by Night, 8 p.m., Bible study and worship
 ■ Aug. 19 – Survival Day for freshman

University of Ark. at Pine Bluff
Box 4986, UAPS
Pine Bluff, AR 71801
 ☎ 870-535-8545

Jackie Flake,
 BSU Director

Activities:
 ■ "Gospel Hour" – Weekly noon luncheon
 ■ Weekly small-group Bible study
 ■ Mission trips-

University of Central Arkansas
UCA Box 5184
Conway, AR 72035
 ☎ 501-329-5763

Richard Boyles,
 BSU Director
 Teresa Stephens,
 Associate

Activities:
 ■ Aug. 23 – Progressive Supper, meet at BSU at 5 p.m.
 ■ Aug. 27 – First "Lunch Bunch," 12 noon
 ■ Aug. 29 – First "Celebration," 6:30 p.m., weekly worship

University of the Ozarks
C-Box 377
Clarksville, AR 72630
 ☎ 501-754-8484

Winnie Kinsey,
 BSU Director

Activities:
 ■ Aug. 22 – Welcome Party, 6 p.m., volleyball and hot dogs
 ■ Thursdays – Noondays, 11:45 a.m.
 ■ Dorm Bible Studies

Westark Community College
613 North 49th St.
Fort Smith, AR 72903
 ☎ 501-782-1219

Tim Stewart,
 BSU Director

Activities:
 ■ Aug. 21 – Westark Bash, 6 p.m., inflatable games and sno-cones provided by local churches
 ■ Aug. 25 – First day of class pizza party at the BSU, 12 noon
 ■ Aug. 27 – First Noonday, 12 noon

Williams Baptist College
P.O. Box 3456
College City, AR 72476
 ☎ 870-886-6741

Jackie Burton,
 BSU Director

Activities:
 ■ Weekly praise and worship
 ■ Aug. 27 – Welcome activity, Jamie Smith and Band in concert
 ■ Sept. 5-6 – Fall retreat

Arkansas State University, Beebe / P.O. Box 235, Beebe, AR 72012
 ☎ 501-882-6953 / Wanda Holland, BSU Director

Arkansas State University, Mountain Home / 701 4th St., Mountain Home, AR 72653
 ☎ 870-424-7138 / Nancy Taylor, BSU Director

East Arkansas Community College, Forrest City / 266 White Drive, Cherry Valley, AR 72324 / Paula Huffman, BSU Director

North Arkansas Community Technical College / 2251 Lone Oak Dairy Rd., Harrison, AR 72601 ☎ 870-741-8881 / Todd Hunt, BSU Director

Southern Arkansas Tech University / Box 4171, Camden, AR 71701
 ☎ 870-574-2368 / Neal Nelson, BSU Director

Lyon College & Mid-South Community College

Contact Student Ministries Dept, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203
 ☎ 501-376-4791, ext. 5142.



Lynn Loyd
 University of Arkansas,
 Fayetteville



Jeff Noble
 University of Arkansas,
 Monticello



Jackie Flake
 University of Arkansas at
 Pine Bluff



Richard Boyles
 University of
 Central Arkansas



Winnie Kinsey
 University of the
 Ozarks



Tim Stewart
 Westark Community
 College



Jackie Burton
 Williams Baptist
 College



Paula Huffman
 East Arkansas
 Community College

Ouachita promotes international flavor

Jeff Noot

Ouachita Baptist University

In recent years, Ouachita Baptist University's community has been the world. With a curriculum and an international studies program that bring the world to a student's doorstep, and with a commitment to fulfill the Great Commission, Ouachita has found its niche as an international university under the lordship of Jesus Christ. But through the years of growth, Ouachitonians have never forgotten their roots.

The fact that Ouachita students were helping transport the elderly from a heavily damaged nursing home moments after the March 1 tornado is a reflection of the kind of students who make Ouachita their college home. The fact that students were organized in help teams and have continued to assist in the cleanup and rebuilding in the weeks and months since the tornado struck reflects Ouachita's commitment to its community.

The Center for the Family and Community, established last fall at Ouachita thanks to a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, has taken a leading role in



Arkadelphia's effort to recover from the devastating tornado. Between "Into the Streets" days, in which hundreds of students, faculty and staff took on major clean-up jobs, and ongoing teams sent to assist churches, families and businesses, the center has been a focal point for much of the city's recovery efforts.

"The center was designed to teach our students the value of public service

and to give academic and non-academic assistance to the community," explained Ouachita president Ben Elrod. "The fact that the center was here when the tornado hit gave us a head start in organizing to provide continuous help over the months of recovery."

Elrod and Ian Cosh, director of the Center for the Family and Community, see the center as an integral part of Ouachita's mission. Beyond the immediate need of recovery from the tornado, the center will assist Clark County with educational programs and camps, professional and personal training sessions and research projects.

"The Center for the Family and Community at Ouachita is dedicated to serve humankind through the educational experience," Cosh noted. "Ouachita's faculty, staff and students are committed to provide leadership that will result in the strengthening of the family and community."

Strong alumni support

Alumni support of Ouachita has never been stronger. Thirty-two percent of all OBU alumni made a financial contribution to the institution during the 1996-97 academic year. That figure is a record, up from 24 percent the previous year.

Another record total was recorded in gifts and grants, with \$12 million for the year, including Cooperative Program support from Arkansas Baptist churches. Market value for endowment exceeded \$25 million in 1996-97, up by more than \$20 million in the past decade.

The "Window of Opportunity" campaign is experiencing continued success as it moves near the base goal of \$28.5 million and toward the challenge goal of \$40 million for the three-year capital campaign. OBU trustee Johnny Heflin, president and chief executive officer of Termitx, Inc., is the national chairman of the campaign.

The number of religion majors at Ouachita reached 231 during the past academic year, almost four times as many as a decade ago. Students may major in biblical studies or ministry with emphases available in theology, language, pastoral ministry, Christian education, youth, family life, Christian counseling and missions/

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Pastor

Terré Jasper
University Students

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Sunday School 9:30 AM

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Worship 8:30 & 10:45 A.M.

cross cultural studies. Minor studies include ministry, biblical studies, Christian counseling and missions.

Many students majoring in other fields plan to be active in church ministry positions. A survey of all students last fall showed 445 students who indicated a strong interest in serving either full-time, or part-time in ministry work.

Ouachita students have no trouble finding examples of those who give their lives to Christian service. In addition to the example provided by faculty, many of whom serve as pastors and music ministers in local churches, Ouachita is home to more than one-third of all children of Southern Baptist missionaries attending college in the United States. The total of 82 MKs is the highest number ever at Ouachita, up from 25 a decade ago.

OBU's commitment to worldwide evangelism and ministries is a tradition that continues to grow stronger. More than 250 alumni are currently or were formerly under appointment with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Through the Baptist Student Union, students participate in a wide variety of ministries. In addition to missions trips, ongoing ministries include work with the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, Backyard Bible Clubs, Prison Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, World Hunger Ministry and Dorm Bible Studies.

Among new opportunities available for OBU students:

■ Ouachita will offer religion courses this fall at locations in southwest, northwest and central Arkansas as part of a new Associate of Arts degree program and for interested non-degree seeking students. The night courses will be offered in cooperation with Baptist associations and will be expanded to new locations in the spring.

■ The Harvey Jones Science Center was dedicated on May 17. The \$8 million project houses the June Waggoner Center for Family and Consumer Sciences and the departments of math and computer science, biology, chemistry and physics. Bernice Jones cut the ribbon dedicating the four-story facility, named in honor of her late husband.

■ OBU's international emphasis is highlighted by a new flag court and fountain at the former site of J.R. Grant Hall. The American, Arkansas and Christian flags are on permanent display. Six other flag poles display on a rotating basis the flags of nations from which Ouachita has students and/or an international studies program.

■ The continued development of the Katie Speer Pavilion and Gardens on the bank of the Ouachita River has provided a

beautiful setting for student gatherings or for quiet solitude. The newest additions include a footbridge, extended walking trails and extensive landscaping.

■ The Tigers and Lady Tigers begin competition in 1997-98 as members of the Lone Star Conference of NCAA, Division II. The men's tennis team is expected to challenge for the Division II national championship after finishing fifth in the NALA last year. Three tennis players were

named All-American and three were named Academic All-American. The men's swimming and diving team finished fourth in the NALA last year, and the women's team finished tenth overall. Fifteen swimmers and divers were named All-American and one was a national champion of his event. Tennis coach Craig Ward and swimming coach Jim Dann were both named national coach of the year in the NALA for their respective sports.

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Williams anticipates ongoing growth

Brett Cooper

Williams Baptist College

David Midkiff senses excitement. "There is an air of optimism and excited expectation all over campus," he noted. Midkiff, a second generation Williams Baptist College professor, has observed the ebb and flow of Williams nearly all his life. But he has never seen this level of anticipation.

Midkiff's comments seem to capture the mood these days at Williams. The college just graduated its largest class ever. Beautification efforts around the campus have had a big impact. And WBC has seen unprecedented interest from college prospects in the past year.

"To say the least, this is a fun time to be a part of life at Williams," acknowledged WBC president Jerol Swaim. "With the improvements we continue to see around campus, the quality and number of students we are attracting and the general sense of excitement among students, faculty and staff, we are eager to begin this new year."

The 1997-98 school year at Williams begins with New Student Orientation Aug. 23-24. Registration is set for Aug. 25, with classes starting Aug. 26.

"God has been faithful to Williams Baptist College all through its history. That has been a blessing to see," Swaim said. "Now, we see that the Lord is doing a great work through Williams. There are so many great things going on that can only be explained by God's providence. We have prayed for something like this for a long time."

New and returning students will see some big changes this fall at Williams, particularly at the residence halls. Southerland Hall, the women's dormitory, has undergone extensive renovation during the summer months. New carpeting, new furniture and expanded closets have been added to every room. Bathrooms in Southerland have also been remodeled, with new flooring and tile.

Recreation has been the focus of summer improvements at Wilson Hall, the men's dorm. A weight room has been built downstairs for the men. Behind the residence hall, students will be able to hone their golfing skills on a new putting green.

On the east end of campus, work has begun on two new athletic fields. Soccer and softball fields are being built to accommodate the men's soccer and women's fast-pitch softball teams. Both programs are being added at Williams this year, bringing the number of varsity sports at the college to nine.



The baseball Eagles will also see vast improvements at Shell Field next spring. The field is being reconstructed and new turf planted. The college is installing new bleachers and a new batting cage.

"Campus improvements have become a major priority for us," Swaim explained. "We want all aspects of the campus to be functional and helpful for our students, but we also want the appearance to accurately represent this fine institution. As we say, we want to 'look the part' of a high-quality, liberal arts college."

These changes, along with a number of landscaping improvements, have helped fuel the excitement around campus. Also contributing to the mood is a big increase in the number of high school seniors visiting and applying for admission to Williams.

Those prospects have sensed the excitement, too, according to admissions director Angela Filppo. "Just as an example, we had a young lady from Walnut Ridge at pre-registration recently," Filppo noted. "She had planned to commute to Williams, but once she saw the dorms and sensed the atmosphere here, she wanted to live on campus."

Changes aid recruiting

The admissions director said word of the college is spreading, which has been a big help in recruiting. She also pointed out that getting prospective students on campus has been a key selling point for Williams. "When they come to our preview days, WOW Wednesday and WOW Weekend, they get excited about the campus," she said. "They like the way they are treated by the students and faculty. It's a neat atmosphere."

Midkiff and Filppo, who are Williams graduates themselves, say the students at Williams these days mark a new era for the school. They see a strong student commitment to the college and an upswing in school spirit.

Midkiff noted the contrast of Williams now compared to his student days, when it was a junior college. "Then, the students came here for their basics and moved on to another college to finish out their degree," he explained. "Now, students come to Williams to get all that Williams has to offer. They look to WBC to prepare them for life. Williams has come into its own."

Filppo sees students who share the current excitement at Williams. "They are excited about the dorms. They are excited about the numbers of new students. They can see that they are part of the success with these new students," she noted.

Filppo said new students are attracted by the current mood at Williams, but they are also drawn to the college's traditional strong suits. She noted that the Christian atmosphere of the campus and the personal attention students get in the classroom seem to be what most prospects are seeking.

President Swaim is determined that those factors will remain the same, even as Williams steps boldly toward the future. "This college is moving forward. We have great days and exciting changes ahead," Swaim emphasized. "However, we are committed that Williams will maintain every bit of the warmth, charm and Christian commitment that have always marked its personality. Those are what make it Williams, and they will continue to characterize this campus."

BSU president seeks God's priorities

Hard work, personal discipleship define student BSU leader

Russell H. Dillard

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

If people are defined by their priorities, then the president of Arkansas Baptist Student Union is defined by the priority she gives to God, her own personal discipleship and her work in and out of class.

"I hate lazy people. They drive me crazy," said Shannon Lawrence, a North Little Rock native and senior at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

"I work very hard," she emphasized. "It's funny—this week I worked every day and two customers have asked me would I work for them. They see how hard I work."

When she talks about work, she has plenty to say. At school, she splits time between a work-study job in Henderson's library and at a local fast-food restaurant. On the weekends, she travels home to work as a restaurant hostess.

David James, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's student ministry department, noticed her work ethic the first time he saw her. "The first time I met her, I was on my way to a volleyball tournament and I was eating a sausage biscuit at Hardee's.

"Shannon was working there, trying to make money so she could stay in school," he recalled. "When I went over to the volleyball tournament, it wasn't very long until Shannon showed up over there and worked to sell food for summer missions during the volleyball tournament. I was so intrigued that she was willing to pay the price to accomplish what God has for her."

But Shannon's work doesn't end with out-of-school employment. The communications major shares her work time with involvement in Henderson's BSU, Confederation of Black Students and classes.

that "takes up a lot of my time," she said. She serves as vice president of the Henderson BSU executive council and as missions chairman and is a former nursing home committee chairman. She also leads a choir that travels to churches many weekends to perform.

She said that maintaining her priorities is important "because, for a long time, God was not a priority until two years ago. Then I went on my first summer missions experience and that changed me. Wow—it changed me."

That assignment took her to New Orleans in the summer of 1995, where she served as a tutor for Carver Baptist Center, an inner-city social ministry center and church that provides care and food for needy families, underprivileged children and the homeless. "I helped with reading, writing and math and then led Bible study classes and music," she explained.

But she didn't stop with one summer missions venture. She enlisted again in 1996 and 1997 to return to Carver. "The second time was for the kids," she noted. "They just love you. You may have to fuss at them and tell them to sit down, but they love you."

"In the summer of 1995, they asked, 'Are you going to come back, Miss Shannon? Are you going to come back?'" she recalled. "When they kept asking, I said, 'Yeah, I'll come back.'"

"They tell us that if you ever make a



“For a long time, God was not a priority....Then I went on my first summer missions experience and that changed me.”
SHANNON LAWRENCE
 State Baptist Student Union president

Her dedication to priorities, she said, means she has to be organized, but "there's not enough time for everything. When I use my planner for time management, it's part of me to follow it and, if I do plan my day, I have to go by it."

"I'm very organized, because if I'm not, I'll be messing up everything. If I don't set a time for it, it won't get done."

It is her involvement in BSU, though,

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 Department Director
 Jere D. Mitchell
 Pastor

Sunday Bible Study
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 Morning Worship
 10:50 AM
 Evening Worship
 6:00 PM

promise to a child, you need to keep it," Shannon related. "Because if you break it, you never know what can happen. I prayed about it and God laid it on my heart to go again."

She found the 1996 missions project "the toughest" as she served as one of 108 Arkansas BSU students ministering across the nation and in five foreign countries. "The first summer I didn't know what a missionary was when I went, so it really was not hard to me. But last summer, the thing that got me is that I knew the kids. I knew their potential."

If she didn't know what a missionary was during her first missions experience, she had become one by the end of the second summer. "It's someone trying to lead their life according to God's will and His Word and taking His message of Christ and faith out of the church and into the world."

Shannon's commitment to her priorities has not been without its costs. Following a long-term dating relationship and engagement, "I broke my engagement off because I didn't think we were on the same level spiritually and we just had different views on things. I've been praying for him long and hard."

"When I broke up with my fiancé, I was

really trying to do Matthew 6:33," she confirmed. "I really wanted to seek God first and seek His face....Anybody can play church, but I want somebody who is real and has a relationship with God."

Shannon, who considers herself an overcomer, has had more to overcome than a broken relationship, acknowledging that she grew up "in a country ghetto."

"It's a ghetto, but with chickens," she laughed. Like many low-income areas in the state's Mississippi Delta region, her neighborhood was a collection of small, aged, wood-frame houses.

She also has had to overcome sour feelings over her father, who left the family when she was young. "Even though he was in town when I was a child...he didn't want to be a part of my life."

Dependence on God

Her home situation increased her dependence on God. "God is what you call Him, and I realized that I call Him Father. He is my father. Instead of being sad because I didn't have a father in my home, I'm glad that He is my father and I'm glad to have His guidance."

"I also had to overcome some things at school, like going to the BSU," she said. "I was the only black for a while and I had to

deal with that." Noting that many of her friends asked, "Why are you over here with them white people?" Shannon added, "I know that's going to be a challenge when I go back."

"I was intrigued that she was willing to be a part of our program even though we are a predominantly white organization," James noted. "She is willing to bridge that gap, taking flak, at times from both directions, not necessarily from BSU, but from the white world and the African-American world. She is a gracious person who wants us to learn how to be unified in the Lord but is not trying to destroy things to make that happen."

Attending BSU, she pointed out, "has opened many opportunities for me in leadership. They've been very open and friendly with me."

"It could have been very easy for them when I walked in the door to ask, 'What are you doing here?'" she commented. "Instead, they welcomed me and said, 'Get some more of your friends to come.'"

Noting that Henderson BSU director Mark Robinson "is like a big brother," she added, "We have the same vision about BSU. We want more minorities to come. We are serving the same God. A lot of my friends are National Baptists and I tell them, 'This is for you, too.'"

Emphasizing that she doesn't worry about her future, Shannon said, "My favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:11 and I always look to that because it's hard to realize that God already has my life planned out. I know whatever it is, I want it to be for the glory of God."

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Classes at Boyce Bible School in Little Rock will begin Aug. 22 at Baptist Health Nurses' Training Center in Little Rock, said director Burton Perry. He added that new and returning students may begin attending classes with no registration deadline. Boyce, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will offer classes on Friday nights and Saturdays in "Interpreting the Gospel of Luke," "Personal Evangelism" and "Ministry of Christian Leadership." All credits apply toward an associate of arts degree. The cost is \$50 per semester hour for Southern Baptist students, with a half-price offer extended to spouses of students. No-cost housing on Friday nights also is available for students. For more information or to pre-register, contact Burton Perry at ext. 5249. Returning students in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Little Rock extension program also may begin attending classes Aug. 25. Classes will be offered in administration, history, church staff, education, basic Old Testament and preaching. Contact Perry for more information.

A volunteer/part-time training conference for music leaders, accompanists and choir members will be held at Williams Baptist College Sept. 6. Directors will work with Bob Magee of Williams in directing a lab choir or observe teaching sessions. Accompanist sessions will feature separate piano and organ sessions. In the morning, participating choir members may choose to attend music fundamentals or voice classes and will serve as a lab choir for directors in the afternoon. The cost for the conference, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, is \$4 per person and includes lunch. Contact Glenn Ennes at ext. 5121.

The Senior Adult Music Festival, to be held Oct. 2 at First Church in Hot Springs, will feature "a great day of music, food, fun and fellowship," according to Glenn Ennes, an associate in the ABSC church music ministries department. Participants will have the opportunity to sing in choirs, ensembles or solos, string bands, kitchen bands or handbells. Guest Director Jim Hawkins of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, will lead participants in a mass choir from selections in the September-November 1997 issue of *Senior Musician* magazine. The event also will feature special music classes, a talent show, a cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs riverboat and programs for non-musicians. The program will begin at 10 a.m. and dismiss at 3:30 p.m. Registration, at a cost of \$7 per person, must be postmarked by Sept. 8. Contact Ennes at ext. 5121.

TRAINING UPDATE

Charles Petty will be the featured speaker at the "A Funny Look at Life" workshop Sept. 12-13 at the Oasis Renewal Center in Little Rock. Petty, president of Family Success Unlimited, is a native of England and graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He will speak on family issues, including "What's a Nice Person Like You Doing in a Family Like Ours?", "Roaring Fires, Flickering Flames, Dying Embers or Cold Ashes" and "Ambush at the Generation Gap." Petty has served as associate director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, executive director of Christian life and public affairs for the North Carolina State Baptist Convention and on the governor's staff of North Carolina. The cost for the weekend is \$50. To register, contact the Oasis Renewal Center at 501-225-6890.

For more information about ABSC-related events and activities, call toll-free in state at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791.

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Paula Huffman began serving Aug. 1 as part-time Baptist Student Union director for East Arkansas Community College in



Forrest City. A native of nearby Cherry Valley, Huffman is youth minister at Cherry Valley Church.

"I hope to be reaching students for Christ and building fellowship," she remarked.

"She is building on a strong BSU tradition," noted George Sims,

associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's student ministries department. "Historically, East Arkansas has been one of our strongest community college ministries.

"One of the good things about Paula is her youth ministry background," Sims added. "Her experience and contacts will carry over, especially as some of her youth go on to college at East Arkansas."

Huffman has attended Arkansas State University. She and her husband, John, are the parents of three children.

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"Touch the World and Impact Eternity"

New NAMB president commits to 'impossible' baptism goal

Martin King

SBC North American Mission Board

Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goal of baptizing half a million people a year by A.D. 2000 is impossible, said Bob Reccord, new president of the North American Mission Board.

"We cannot meet this goal in these final three years of Bold Mission Thrust. We've already shown that it's an impossible task for us," Reccord told NAMB staff and missionaries at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center during North American Missions Week.

"But it is not impossible for God," Reccord said of the Southern Baptist Convention goal adopted in 1976.

"I believe God wants us to set goals that are beyond ourselves and then trust Him. Let's focus Southern Baptist resources on this goal, call His people to prayer and see what God can do."

Convention baptisms declined nearly 4 percent last year to 380,000, Reccord said. "In the past 15 years, we have seen an increase in the number of SBC churches that don't baptize anyone....We simply must reach more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

The new missions leader also set a target for the number of baptisms in the new millennium. "I believe God wants our churches to baptize a million people a

year by the year 2005," Reccord said. "People will say, 'That's impossible.' Good, because if it makes sense to us, it's probably not of God. Let's try something we cannot do without Him."

Reccord told Baptist Press he already has consulted with NAMB's trustee executive committee and received strong affirmation of the baptism goals which he said will require concerted prayer support.

'A real call to prayer'

"We must have a prayer emphasis for this task — not a canned program or empty slogan, but a real call to prayer by every Southern Baptist."

Reccord also provided an outline for the structure and focus of the new agency which coordinates Southern Baptist mission work in the United States and Canada.

"According to Matthew 28:18-20, we as Christians have one master calling and that is to make disciples," Reccord explained. "To assist our churches in that calling, the Southern Baptist Convention has charged our agency with two major tasks: evangelism and church planting. We have three major delivery systems to

do that: missionaries, ministry and media.

"And," Reccord added, "we have set four major targets for those efforts: impacting major cities, growing ethnic congregations, evangelizing students and mobilizing volunteers for missions." Reccord noted that delineating the four target emphases will not exclude or replace current efforts or areas of work. "I believe there will be resources to do all we are doing, in addition to these strategically critical areas."

Emphasizing the primary role of the local church, Reccord said, "The key focus of our polity is the local church. The local church is the cutting edge of everything we do. It's not the denominational structure, but the local church that God has placed at the center of everything He is doing. The SBC and its agencies exist for one reason, and that is to assist the local church.

"Cookie-cutter programs don't work for everybody," Reccord emphasized. "NAMB can help identify some principles that seem to work, but we're going to have to fit strategies with the places and people we're trying to reach."

Reccord said many people may be expecting him to lay out a detailed plan for the agency's first 18 months, but confessed, "I don't know exactly what or how we're going to do these things. But I do know we're going to start by listening to God."

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Louisiana approves covenant marriage law

C. Lacy Thompson

Louisiana Baptist Message.

It was not always easy to get a divorce in the United States — and Louisiana legislators have approved a first-of-its-kind measure to help couples return to that time.

A bill approved by the state legislature sets Louisiana up as the first state in the nation to establish an optional "covenant" marriage license that makes divorce more difficult. Gov. Mike Foster signed the bill July 15, to take effect Aug. 15 — and religious leaders have hailed it as a way to help stem the epidemic tide of divorce.

Statistics indicate the need for such creative action, they say. From 1970 to 1990, the number of divorces in the United States jumped by 34 percent as so-called "no-fault" laws went into effect across the nation.

As recent studies have begun to show some of the harsh effects of divorce on both adults and children, religious leaders especially have rallied to the cause of making divorce tougher to obtain. In some states, the approach has been to attack "no-fault" laws directly, seeking to repeal or tighten them. Those efforts have failed.

In Louisiana, however, the approach was not to attack "no-fault" laws but to allow couples a more binding choice for marriage.

"We're trying to slow down the hemorrhaging of the American family through

the no-fault divorce system," explained Tony Perkins, the Republican state representative from Baton Rouge who proposed the covenant marriage measure.

"We've created a culture of divorce by making it easy," Perkins said. "The taboo associated with divorce is no longer there. Instead of the last resort, it's now first. Instead of working through their problems, people tend to bail out of a marriage."

The bill passed the Louisiana House of Representatives by a 98-0 vote and the Senate by a vote of 37-1.

Marital counseling affirmed

For couples who choose the optional covenant marriage license, bailing out would not be so easy. A covenant marriage license still would allow for divorce in cases of wrongdoing — but it would make it harder to obtain a divorce when there is no proof of wrongdoing. A couple would have to live separately for up to two years before obtaining a divorce in some cases.

The idea is to give the couple time to work on the marriage. By opting for a covenant marriage license — and the bill provides for already-married couples to make a decision to do so as well — a couple commits to take "all reasonable efforts to preserve our marriage, including marital counseling" if difficulties arise.

Under the covenant marriage, conditions for divorce, in addition to the two-year separation, would include adultery; imprisonment for a felony; abandoning

the home for at least one year; or physically or sexually abusing a spouse or child.

Early reaction has been positive. "I'll welcome anything that will strengthen marriage at the front end," Episcopal bishop James Brown of the Diocese of Louisiana said. "So many people today marry with no real commitment to make it work."

Brown said he is considering requiring all people married in an Episcopal church in his diocese to obtain a covenant marriage license. He also said he plans to meet with the bishop of the western diocese in Louisiana to see if they can draft a policy to apply to the entire state.

A Roman Catholic spokesman indicated Louisiana bishops also plan to work out a policy. "Why would couples marrying in the Catholic Church not want to get a covenant license?" asked Thomas Rodi, chancellor of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Jon Walker, editor of the Baptist Sunday School Board's *Home Life* magazine, noted, "Certainly anything that reduces the divorce rate is a positive move, and I applaud the Louisiana legislature for its interest in keeping marriages together."

Emphasizing that "all marriages are a covenant regardless of whether or not the participants choose to view them that way," Walker added, "Reducing the divorce rate in this country will only be achieved when we return to a high view of marriage — which is a promise of lifelong commitment between two people."

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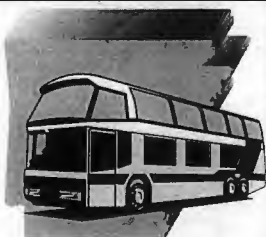
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European floods strike Baptist churches, families

Martha Skافتon

SBC International Mission Board

Baptist families have been among those evacuated and whose homes have been destroyed or damaged in the worst floods to hit central Europe in the past century. Baptists in those areas also report damage to church buildings, equipment and furniture.

The European Baptist Federation has sent immediate financial aid to Poland as a beginning response to damage assessments now under way in flooded areas. EBF is centralizing information about the flood, resulting from weeks of rain, and is coordinating the continental aid response.

The Baptist Union of Poland reports the flooding has affected 13 provinces of the southwestern and southern regions of Poland, with about 50 cities and 300 villages covered by water. Many of the communities were destroyed, others were covered by mud and contaminated water. Fifty people died, and about 33,000 victims had to be evacuated. Damage figures are estimated to be between \$500 million to \$1 billion. Church buildings in the cities of Wroclaw and Tamow have been damaged.

Pastor Daniel Trusiewicz reported that the facilities of Wroclaw First Baptist Church were unaffected by the floods, but the building of Second Baptist Church in the city was flooded, with floors, heating system, carpets and furniture damaged or destroyed.

Five families from the two congregations were known to have been evacuated from their homes because of the floods. Some children have been sent to dry regions of the country because of the threat of epidemics breaking out.

Wroclaw's water system has been knocked out, so only enough water is coming through the pipes for sanitary uses. Drinking water and food are being

distributed. Members of the Wroclaw Baptist churches are helping to take water and food to the needy and homebound, according to Trusiewicz. He and other church members have been making visits and are on call for spiritual support.

"At the church meeting last Sunday, we encouraged those who were able to help others," he said. "People are mobilized, visiting each other, praying together."

Thousands of homes destroyed

In the Czech Republic, many lives have been disrupted by the floods; a reported 40 people have died and thousands of homes destroyed. Petr Cervinsky, general secretary of the Baptist Union in the Czech Republic, reported there are about 10 Baptist churches in the areas affected by the floods, but none of the buildings have sustained major damage.

In the area of Zlin, a reported 13 people from local Baptist groups were evacuated. The pastor of the Baptist church in Broumov and his family had to move to another apartment when their flat was flooded. Residents of the area of Sumperk

report their cellars and vegetable gardens are under up to one meter of heavy silt.

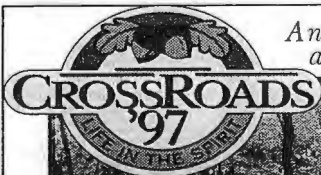
Dobraslav Stehlik, president of the Brotherly Union of Baptists in the Czech Republic, went into the Moravian and Bohemian regions of the country, among the hardest-hit in flooding. He took with him donations from Baptists in the Czech Republic to help churches or families affected by the floods. All the churches in the republic have collected money.

A building of the Baptist school in Olomouc has been opened to accommodate Christians needing temporary shelter from the floods. Cervinsky said he plans to make another trip into the affected areas to survey the situation and further determine how Baptists can help.

Josef Kulacik, general secretary of the Brotherly Union of Baptists in Slovakia, cited reports of one church located about 100 kilometers from Bratislava that suffered flood damage. Slovak Baptists have already taken up a collection to help aid affected congregations in the Czech Republic, Kulacik said.

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WORLD

Terrorist bombs hit near Baptist ministry center in Jerusalem

Twin suicide bombs that exploded July 30 in a crowded Jerusalem market were located "just about a five-minute walk from the Baptist House Center," according to John Anthony, a Southern Baptist representative serving in Jerusalem.

Anthony, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church located at the Baptist center, noted that "we were having a meeting in the sanctuary" when participants "heard the loud blasts go off of the two suicide bombers." The terrorist attack, which occurred at the Mahene Yehuda market, killed 15 people, including the two bombers. The explosives were packed with nails and screws to increase their destructive impact.

Anthony reported that 172 people were wounded in the attack, including Petra Heldt, director of the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Jerusalem, who was hospitalized with burns on her face and arms. He said 82 people were hospitalized, including 18 who were listed in critical condition.

The deadly blasts apparently were designed to disrupt peace negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. A leaflet claiming to be from the militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombings, according to media reports.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Cabinet immediately responded by voting to suspend peace talks, which had been scheduled to resume last week.

Anthony and his wife, Connie, have served as Southern Baptist representatives to Israel since 1973. The Anthonys, who are natives of Arkansas, have three children: Allison, who will graduate this month from the University of Texas; Tyler, a junior at Ouachita Baptist University; and Mark, a 10th grader at Anglican International School in Jerusalem.

Noting that his family has had close brushes with other terrorist attacks in 1975 and 1980, Anthony said they often shop at the Mahene Yehuda market. He described the congested shopping area as "a disaster waiting to happen."

Anthony said members of Jerusalem Baptist Church "prayed for the victims during our regular prayer meeting." He encouraged Southern Baptists to "continue to pray for the safety of your Baptist representatives in this land. Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

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WORLD

Yelstin vetoes proposed law restricting religious liberty

Russian President Boris Yelstin has vetoed a law that would have placed sharp curbs on evangelicals, Catholics and other minority religious groups in Russia.

Yelstin said the law, which was passed overwhelmingly by the Russian Duma and supported by the Russian Orthodox Church, violated Russia's constitution.

Religious and human rights groups had anxiously anticipated Yelstin's decision on whether to sign or veto the measure. President Clinton, U.S. lawmakers and Pope John Paul II were among outsiders urging Yelstin to use his veto power to protect religious liberty in Russia.

In addition, the U.S. Senate recently attached a rider to a foreign-aid bill that would have withheld \$200 million earmarked for Russia if Yelstin had signed the measure.

If Russian lawmakers vote to override Yelstin's veto, the next step would be challenging the law in constitutional court on grounds that it conflicts with the Russian constitution passed in 1993.

The constitution affirms the right of foreign missionaries to operate and guarantees the right to profess any or no religion and the freedom to spread religious beliefs. It forbids propaganda claiming one religion is superior to another.

The proposed new law gives pre-eminence to Russian Orthodoxy and names Judaism, Buddhism and Islam as favored

faiths. It would take away legal rights of religious groups not registered in the communist Soviet Union before 1982 and would allow missionaries only at the request of recognized groups.

Urging members of parliament to support his veto, Yelstin emphasized that "many provisions of the law infringe on constitutional rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, establish inequality between different confessions, and violate Russia's international obligations."

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, welcomed Yelstin's veto.

"I have on various occasions been a request of Mr. Yelstin and his government," D'Amato noted. "However, to give him credit, he has consistently stood up for religious freedom for all believers in his country. His stand this time was especially courageous when we consider that the bill was passed overwhelmingly by both houses of the Russian parliament."

Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, said Yelstin "clearly understands the far-reaching damage to the advancement and well-being of his people which would result if this bill were to become law."

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns noted that "no one has done more for freedom of religion and speech and press in Russia than Boris Yelstin." WASHINGTON (ABP/PP)

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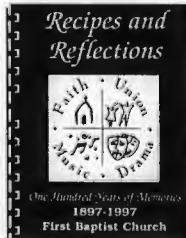
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IMB targets youth as mission volunteers

Marty Croll

SBC International Mission Board

A former youth pastor of an international church overseas will help capture the energy of high school youth and college students in Southern Baptist International Mission Board volunteer work.

As a consultant for the Volunteers in Missions department, J. Bron Holcomb will seek to involve more high schoolers and college students in international missions and also will organize recruiting efforts for volunteers in sports and medical projects throughout the world.

The newly created position, which took effect July 1, represents a continuing attempt of the IMB to broaden its base of support and involve more people outside traditional channels of participation in Southern Baptist life.

Although college students have participated in general volunteer mission projects in the past, the board has never targeted them for that work. Efforts to involve students have centered instead on assigning them longer and more specific jobs as summer and semester missionaries.

The growth of that program has exploded, quadrupling in number since 1990. About 525 students were assigned

to serve in nearly 50 nations this year. They came from Baptist campus ministry and church-based collegiate groups.

Participation by high schoolers in International Mission Board projects also has grown — multiplying more than threefold during the past year. In the first seven months of this year, 624 high school students filled of volunteer requests from missionaries. Many were supplied by groups outside the IMB.

Until now, other organizations outside the International Mission Board have targeted and harnessed much of the power of those Southern Baptist youth unaware of — or unqualified for — participation through the IMB. Holcomb, 29, said he hopes the board's new effort will swing open the doors to thousands of Southern Baptist youth and students and produce loyal supporters for the future.

"Youth can be very effective ministers if they're given a specific project or responsibility," Holcomb noted. "If they're trained for drama, for instance, and then learn how to share their faith after a drama presentation, they can do amazing things."

Holcomb, a graduate of Clemson University in South Carolina, worked with Awstar Ministries of Tulsa, Okla., in 1994-95 as international project director. His work involved planning a summer mission project, recruiting high school and college students and training the teams. He worked closely with Southern Baptist IMB missionaries. Awstar has provided youth for projects through the board.

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Family Bible

By faith

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

Basic passage:

Hebrews 11:1-40

Focal passage:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6, 30-40

Central truth:

Christians must live by faith
to please God.

Chapter 11 speaks plainly as the requirement and definition of faith. Verse 1 gives us a paradox of faith as it describes faith as substantial evidence for things hoped for and unseen. How can it be that at the same time something is both substantial and yet hoped for? How can we have evidence for things not seen?

The only way that we can experience the reality of faith is by its application to our lives. Eighteen of the verses in this passage begin with, "By faith...." Examples of the faith of the elders, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab and others illustrate many ways that faith becomes substantial for those who apply it to their life situations.

Abel's faith through his sacrifice resulted in his message being heard even after his death. Enoch was delivered and did not see death. Noah was warned of the flood and was able to save his household. Abraham received the inheritance. Sarah bore a child when she was past the age of child

bearing. Moses avoided death as an infant and led the children of Israel to freedom. Even the harlot Rahab avoided death with the unbelievers.

All of these, and many others, have seen the reality of God because of their faith. Verse 6 says it is impossible to please God without faith. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

In our day, some assert that faith is useless. They say that God is only reliable if proven in a "scientific" manner. This passage clearly discounts their stance by stating that faith is a prerequisite to seeing. Without faith, you will never understand the ways of God.

Verses 13-16 discuss the fact that those persons all died not having received the promises. God's promises can be realized both during and after our life in this world. However, whether concerning the things of this world or the world to come, faith in God's reliability is the only way to experience it on a personal level.

Life and Work. Precious in His sight

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

Basic passage:

Acts 10:1-11:18

Focal passage:

Acts 11:4-18

Central truth:

The gospel message is for everyone. Christians are called to break down every barrier which would prohibit them from sharing the love of Christ.

Our country's Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal." God's Word states in Genesis 1:26-27 that we were all made, male and female, in His own image. Regardless of race, creed, religion, socio-economic situation, gender or education, we all were created as equals and in the image of God Almighty.

The equality which we possess in the sight of God makes every man, woman, boy and girl potential recipients of the gift of eternal life found in Christ Jesus, for the "Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (1 Pet. 3:9). When the Lord said "whosoever," He surely included me, as expressed in John 3:16. Romans 10:13 tells us "for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The unalienable rights guaranteed by our Declaration of Independence pale in comparison to the right we have to become children of God, available to all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).

God revealed Himself and His will to Cornelius

and to Peter through separate visions. The convergence of these two visions gave mankind God's vision for lost humanity, culminating in the inception of worldwide evangelization. The early followers of Jesus felt the gospel was expressly reserved for those who adhered to Judaism. The concept of not calling anything impure that God has made clean related not so specifically to food as in Peter's vision (see Lev. 11), but most importantly to the issue of people of other races. God needed Peter to see for himself, and also lead others to see, that salvation is available to all men.

The manner in which the Spirit of God fell upon the people at Cornelius' house was like that at Pentecost. This experience gave validity to Peter's realization and claim that the gospel was indeed intended for those people (Acts 11:15-18). "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all..." (Rom. 10:12). Our challenge is to break down every barrier which prevents us from sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others.

Explore the Bible We can be sure of our salvation

By James Swendenburg,
Member, Trinity Church, Benton

Basic passage:

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

Focal passage:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Central truth:

There is believable evidence that Jesus arose from the dead.

Obviously Paul was proclaiming the resurrection as the core of the gospel. He seems to be helping some believe in the resurrection. Some were saying that there is no resurrection of the dead (v. 12). He assumed the Corinthians were not all agreed when they asked, "With what body will they be raised?" (v. 35). Paul even noted the absurdity of the wrong purpose of the baptism for the dead that was practiced (v. 29).

It may be that the Greek, who held the immortality of the soul, but who had not fully accepted the resurrection of the body, created the heresy. For salvation, believing in the resurrection is as important as accepting the purpose of the cross.

Verses 13-19 describe the futility of being a Christian if there is no resurrection. In this paragraph Paul again uses the perfect tense six times to state that Christ has been raised and remains raised. If one knows that Christ has arisen, how can one say there is no resurrection? Without His resurrection, our eternal life is robbed of its

hope (read 1 Cor. 15:12-19).

However, there is a great crescendo of hope. "But now Christ has been raised out from among the dead, a first fruit of all those who have fallen asleep" (v. 20, Kenneth Wuest Expanded Translation). You may enjoy reading an expanded translation or a modern version of the New Testament.

Christ's resurrection is called the "first fruit of the harvest" (v. 20, Lev. 23:10-14). The first fruit of the harvest was a promise of more harvest to come. The resurrection of Christ is His pledge and assurance of our own resurrection (Rom. 8:23).

Since the resurrection of Christ assures us of our own personal resurrection, it begins at the moment of our spiritual birth through personal faith in Christ. It is complete in our own personal resurrection. Among the great freedoms that we celebrate is our freedom from the fear of death. There need be no apprehension about meeting Christ through death because Jesus arose from the grave.

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Family Bible

The disciplined race of faith

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

Basic passage:

Hebrews 12:1-11

Focal passage:

Hebrews 12:1-11

Central truth:

Christians are encouraged to run the race of faith as those who have gone before us.

This passage is an extension of the previous lesson in chapter 11. The great cloud of witnesses in verse 1 is referring to our faithful fore-runners listed in chapter 11. Because of the faith of these witnesses, we should find encouragement to lay aside the weights and sin which beset us. There are a couple of ways that this cloud of witnesses can be viewed. First, as a cloud of witnesses by whom "we are surrounded." This gives us the idea that those who preceded us in faith surround us for the purpose of encouraging us by their faith. The second idea is that we can look to these witnesses to be encouraged to faithfulness. In one example the witnesses may be looking to us and in the other we look to them.

The purpose of this encouragement is that we may run the race which is set before us. As a part of running any race successfully, one must be disciplined. Often discipline requires pain. I have a good friend who is an occupational therapist. She tells me that when she performs therapy on a

patient, it is often painful. The muscles must be forced to stretch in order to strengthen. It is much the same with spiritual discipline. Verses 3-11 speak of God's discipline of His children. God disciplines us because He loves us. Chastening, rebuking and scourging from God are in order that we may be received by God as children who have successfully run the race of faith.

Verse 9 speaks of how much more we should accept and respect the correction of God than the correction of our earthly fathers whom we respect. Verses 10-11 describe the temporary nature of God's chastening. It is only for a few days and afterwards it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Verse 2 reminds us that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. He endured the cross for our sake. Because of this, there is authority resounding in verses 10-11. Although the discipline of God is not joyful for the present, it is for our profit that we may be personal partakers in His holiness.

The Lord God Almighty is our loving heavenly Father, but He is also our righteous judge. He is compassionate toward His children, but His love is not complete without a strong arm of discipline. The ways He has related to the wickedness of man and how man has, in turn, related to Him, is chronicled in this lesson's scriptures:

■ **Ultimate Judgment Coupled with Grace** — Gen. 6:5-13. The widespread evil of man was more than God could withstand. He determined it was necessary for Him to destroy His creation as He sat in judgment upon the wicked and perverse land. However, His grace was extended to a man called Noah, a man of integrity whom God spared to become the nucleus of a new generation of people.

■ **The Desire to Flee** — Psalm 55:4-11. The psalmist finds himself within the midst of malice, abuse, strife and violence. His fears and anguish are so great He cries out for the Lord's divine intervention. Although running from our problems is not the best answer, he longs for wings like a dove in order to escape the calamity of his society.

Paul uses a seed as his object lesson to respond to persons debating the question, "How are the dead raised and with what body do they come?" Our resurrection bodies will have both continuity and differences in relationship to our present bodies.

Nature illustrates this. There is continuity between what is planted and what germinates, grows and is harvested. First the seed must die and from it comes new life. Death precedes life. When the seed is planted, something much more and different comes from it. In this way a body in resurrection becomes another kind of body. The new body will be the body God wills (v. 38). The new body is the handiwork of God.

Paul sets forth four antitheses to show the differences between the body that dies and the body that will be resurrected: (1) The body that dies is perishable, subject to decay, but the resurrected body will be free from corruption and able to experience the life given by God. (2) The body that is buried is one characterized by dishonor,

■ **Redemption for Nineveh** — Jonah 3:3-10. The city of Nineveh was pagan, abounding in corruption, and God sat in judgment upon its people. Jonah brought a pointed, powerful and productive message to them calling for repentance. The net results saw this vast city spared from the wrath of God as they turned from their wicked ways, believed in God, and fasted in a spirit of humility.

■ **Turn from Evil and Do Good** — 1 Peter 3:9-12. Peter urges us not to repay evil with evil, but with blessing. We are encouraged to turn the other cheek, pray for those who are our enemies, be at peace with all men, and avenge not ourselves.

This great nation of ours is at a spiritual crossroads. The moral fiber of our country is gradually disintegrating, and we face the sovereign judgment of the Lord. Fortunately, just as the city of Nineveh and the family of Noah found redemption in the face of adversity, we too can enjoy the compassion, grace and forgiveness of the Lord. The key is to submit to God's II Chronicles 7:14 call — "If my people...."

wretchedness, but the resurrected body will be marked by glory or splendor (Phil. 3:20-21). (3) The body that dies is marked by weakness and is the victim of death (Rom. 9:27). The resurrected body is characterized by power or strength because it will be given by God's creative power (vv. 49-50). (4) The body that dies is a physical body which is appropriate to live during earthly life. In the resurrection the spiritual body will be one appropriate at Christ's coming (vv. 45, 49, 51).

In the closing statement about the believer's resurrection, it is called a mystery and a victory. It is a mystery in the sense of being a revealed truth that otherwise could not be understood. It is a victory in that Christ conquered death (vv. 55-56) and gives us the victory Himself (v. 57).

We are encouraged to keep on standing firm in faith. Let nothing move you. We are encouraged to keep on giving ourselves to the Lord's work without reservation. We know our faithful labor has God's promise of eternal reward.

Life and Work

Wrath and redemption

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

Basic passage:

I Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

Focal passage:

I Timothy 6:6-10

Central truth:

We are to be good stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to us for His Kingdom's glory.

Explore the Bible

The believer's resurrection

By James Swedenburg,
member, Trinity Church, Benton

Basic passage:

I Corinthians 15:35-57

Focal passage:

I Corinthians 15:35-38, 50-57

Central truth:

Christ has provided eternal life for the believer.

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National magazine survey divided over Disney boycott

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Nearly half of readers responding to a poll by USA Weekend magazine favor the Southern Baptist Convention's recent vote to boycott Disney. According to magazine officials, more than 100,000 readers participated in the unsentific sampling, with 49.5 percent affirming the boycott and 50.5 percent opposing it.

Noting that the votes produced "the magazine's highest reader response in 1997," USA Weekend said the survey included toll-free phone calls, Internet responses and postcards.

In related developments, Concerned Women for America, a 500,000-member organization led by Beverly LaHaye, and King for America, a new organization led by Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, have joined the boycott. Other groups including Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council and D. James Kennedy's Coral Ridge Ministries normally do not participate in boycotts but are considering an exception after Disney executive vice president John Cooke canceled his attendance at a meeting set up to allow pro-family leaders to air their grievances with Disney.

Pastor convicted for sheltering homeless

FULLERTON, CA (ABP)—A California minister best known as a leader in the Southern Baptist Convention's Disney boycott was found guilty July 28 of violating city zoning codes for feeding and sheltering the homeless at his church.

A jury convicted both pastor Wiley Drake and First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., on four of five misdemeanor counts related to "conducting activities within a commercial zone that are not inside a permanently constructed building." The charges relate to the church's Here's Hope Social Ministry Center, which gives food to hundreds of people each month and allows dozens of homeless to sleep at the church instead of in cars or dumpsters.

Drake said he would appeal the decision and maintain his ministry. "I'm going to keep feeding people, clothing people, helping people and telling them about Jesus," he said. "We're going to continue...to meet human needs."

Each conviction carries a \$1,000 fine and/or six months in jail. Sentencing is Aug. 22. The assistant city prosecutor handling the case said he will ask for probation for Drake and a cease-and-desist court order to the church.

Pastors denied seminary teaching posts over ties to CBF

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—Two Southern Baptist pastors have been disqualified as adjunct instructors for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary because of connections with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Former Arkansas pastor Jon Stubblefield, now pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., said he was approached in January about teaching Greek in the seminary's Shreveport extension center. Later, he was told the course was being canceled for financial reasons. When he offered to teach the course for free, he said, he was informed he was disqualified because he spoke at a state Fellowship meeting. Stubblefield's church also allows members to channel funds to CBF.

In a letter to Stubblefield, seminary president Chuck Kelley wrote that the seminary "cannot in good conscience use Cooperative Program funds for teachers who are actively and publicly supporting the CBF." Stubblefield said it is ironic that churches can support non-Southern Baptist causes without being penalized but cannot support another group of Southern Baptists.

A similar incident happened to Phillip Wise, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dothan, Ala., who said he was asked to teach a two-term course for the seminary in an Alabama center. Near the end of the first term, Wise said he was told he would not be used in the second term because of his "connection" to CBF.

Former Supreme Court Justice William Brennan dies at 91

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Former Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr., a major force in shaping U.S. Constitutional law for more than a third of a century, died July 24, following a long illness. He was 91.

Brennan helped mold the high court's views in support of individual liberties. He authored three major church-state decisions, including his 1963 decision in *Sherbert v. Verner* that government needs a "compelling reason to justify restrictions on religious liberty. The court largely abandoned the "compelling interest" test in 1990 and this year struck down a law enacted by Congress to restore it.

