

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

5-11-1989

May 11, 1989

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn_85-89



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

Arkansans Named

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Arkansas Baptist

May 11, 1989



**Mother
Love**

In This Issue

Cover



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Mother Love

This Sunday, May 14, millions of Americans will honor the caring devotion of their mothers.

Editor's Page 3

Speak Up

- You'll Be Glad To Know . . . 4
- Today's Issues 4
- Kleenex and Smiles 5

Faith At Work

- Planting the Seeds 6

Local & State

- Modern Livingston 7
- Arkansas All Over 8
- 'Who Is A Servant? Me?' . . . 9
- Summer Missionaries . . . 10-11
- RAs Run, Jump, Pull! . . . 14
- Two Locations 15
- Arkansans Named 16
- Crossett Crusade 16

Nation

- Shadows 'Magnified' 17
- Court Refuses Case 17
- Deferment Asked 18
- PAC Support 19
- Heaven and Hell 20-21

Lessons For Living . 22

World

- Arkansas/Brazil Project . . . 23
- Baptist Suffer Losses 24
- Counts Dismissed 24

IT'S UPLIFTING

'Our Vision Is The World'

AMY, Mo. (BP)—The gravel road that runs by Amy Baptist Church once was the main wagon route from Mountain Home, Ark., to West Plains, Mo. Travelers could stop and shop at the Missouri community's store or mail a letter at the Amy post office.

Those days are gone. Bypassed by Highway 160, the Amy community eventually dwindled to one church—Union Chapel—and a cemetery. But about four years ago, a new white-frame church building appeared on the spot where the store used to be. The members of its congregation are demonstrating how a small, rural Baptist congregation can carry on a viable ministry to their community.

The Amy Baptist congregation is about 50 years old, said Pastor Larry Strope. But until six-and-a-half years ago, the congregation shared the facilities of Union Chapel. The two congregations met together for Sunday school and alternated pastors, with the Baptist pastor preaching twice a month.

Strope became pastor of the Amy congregation in 1982. Recognizing the limitations of using another church's facilities, the difficulties of blending Baptist doctrine with teachings of another denomination, and the potential for growth as a "full-time Baptist missionary body," he led the 23-member congregation to move out on its own.

Members met in the home of their Sun-

day school director until they could purchase property and build a new facility. The congregation has grown steadily, baptizing 79 people from 1983 through 1988, and growing to a resident membership of 115.

One of the keys to Amy's growth has been that the congregation "believes in getting outside of the four walls to minister in their community and surrounding area," explained Eva Jackson, a member of the church.

Youth and adult Sunday school teachers from the congregation share teaching duties for a Sunday school class at Pleasant Valley Manor, a West Plains, Mo., residential care facility for the elderly operated by Howell County Baptist Association through a non-profit corporation. Larry Hopkins, a welder who is Amy Church's volunteer youth minister, conducts mid-week Bible study at Pleasant Valley.

Members of the congregation also help provide singing and devotional services at two nursing homes. They help deliver meals to the homebound through the West Plains Senior Citizens' Center. The church also has a benevolence ministry that assists transients with food and gasoline and assists fire victims.

Located close to "Cloud 9" resort, Amy Church provides a place to worship for summer vacationers, many of them active Baptist families, Strope noted.

"Our vision at Amy is the world," Strope said, adding the congregation is determined to "start in our own Jerusalem" through personal evangelism and local ministry.

GOOD NEWS!

Hannah: A Praying Mother

1 Samuel 1:9 to 2:10

Hannah, Samuel's mother, was a conscientious prayer long before her son was born. In fact, Hannah's continued petitions to God revealed a significant amount of spiritual development. She began her prayerful intercessions with God on a very selfish level. Yet, she seemed to move to a point of self-giving.

Apparently, all of Hannah's thoughts of motherhood and actions as a mother were couched in the discipline of prayer. Thus, she devoted herself to what she prayed about.

Hannah recognized her child as a gift from God—Admirable parenthood and

responsible stewardship are synonymous. A child is a trust from God. Hannah had no thought of owning her son, only of treating compassionately and responsibly her gift from God.

Hannah dedicated her child to God—Of course, no parent can decide the spiritual faith or vocational commitments of a child. Each individual person, child and adult alike, has to make those choices. However, a parent can commit himself or herself to efforts aimed at leading a child to redemptive faith and spiritual service. Hannah promised God that she would raise her son so he would be oriented to serving God. She did precisely what she promised to do.

Adapted from "Proclaim," Jan.-March 1980. Copyright 1980 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For subscription information, write to Material Services Dept., 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Threats Against CP

J. EVERETT SNEED

In recent days some have threatened to suspend their support to the Cooperative Program. The most recent threats have come from so-called "moderates." A few years ago similar threats were coming from those who have been called "conservatives." No matter which side of the controversy these threats come from, they are wrong.

The Cooperative Program is the way all Southern Baptists cooperate together in missions, benevolence, and education enterprises, in an attempt to carry out the Great Commission. The Cooperative Program ideal is that Southern Baptists will be unified in purpose, plan, and prayer in obeying our Lord's commission.

In order to understand the importance of the Cooperative Program, it is necessary to review the two major methods of mission support in early America and the Cooperative Program that was established by Southern Baptists in 1925. From 1839 to 1907, there was no organized support for missions. Many in that era felt that any cooperative effort would detract from the full and final autonomy of the local church.

Eventually, the need for greater cooperation became evident. Two methods of carrying out missions and benevolent work developed. First, the associational plan was begun by the Philadelphia Association in 1755. In 1766, a permanent mission fund was established. The fund was developed through the quarterly collection by churches. The interest from the money collected was used to support "ministers travelling on the errand of the churches."

The height of the associational method of missions work was the plan adopted in 1802 by the Shaftsbury Association of Vermont. The structure they used was similar to the method adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. A committee of the association was appointed to handle mission contributions, examine candidates, recommend the time and the place of appointment and pay the salaries of the missionaries.

Another method adopted by Baptists was the society type of structure. This method became prevalent because of its simplicity and because of the urgings of the famous missionary William Carey. The method was simple because a group of individuals could meet in a home without denominational authorization, take a small offering,



and use the funds as they saw best.

By 1902 there were two methods of missions, each representing a different philosophy. The society method was used by Baptists in the North until 1907 and a similar approach is used among "Missionary Baptists" and "Independent Baptists" today. The associational method became the permanent plan of support by the Southern Baptist Convention, which was born in 1845.

The society approach to missions results in a type of direct appeal, which presents two major problems. First, churches are overwhelmed by the number of appeals that are made for special offerings. Second, a major portion of the money collected always is used up in expenses.

The question arises: Is the Cooperative Program biblical? A study of Paul's mis-

sionary activities will provide understanding for missions and evangelism in today's world. First, Paul was totally committed to the proposition that individuals without Christ were lost and eventually doomed for hell. His priority was to confront as many people as possible with the gospel and to establish as many New Testament churches as possible.

In order to do this, Paul found it necessary to have financial support for missions and evangelism. He pointed out that the Christians of Macedonia, who gave more money than they were expected, had first given themselves (2 Co. 8:5). In these early offerings, several churches were giving to assist other churches and to spread the gospel throughout the world. This method is similar to our cooperative giving today.

The Cooperative Program is an agreement between the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention to carry out the programs and activities that Southern Baptists wish to accomplish together. Each state determines the percent of Cooperative Program money that will be passed on to the SBC. Currently in Arkansas, we are moving toward a goal of dividing the money on a 50-50 basis. Although the basic principle of proportionate giving has changed little since its official beginning in 1925, it remains in a constant state of change. As needs and plan change, the Cooperative Program can adjust to meet these goals.

The Cooperative Program is missions in action. It provides the greatest opportunity the world has ever seen for carrying the gospel around the world. For this reason, every church should be involved in giving sacrificially to the Cooperative Program.

Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 88

NUMBER 16

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Mark Kelly Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc. Board of Directors: Lane Strother, Mountain Home, president; Jimmy Anderson, Leachville; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Phelan Boone, El Dorado; Harold Gateley, Fayetteville; and Don Heuer, Batesville.

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request.

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6506) is published weekly, except Easter, Independence Day, the first week of October, and Christmas, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$6.99 per year (individual), \$5.52 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.12 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. (376-4791)

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

My, what wonderful responses have been given by our Baptist people to the great opportunities in recent days! Attendance, spirit, and commitment have been evident. Two or three major indicators point toward stronger and better days.



The Billy Graham Crusade, Sept. 17-24, provides the next great state-wide opportunity. With some of our other major events behind us, Southern Baptists need to "come on strong" in helping to make this one of America's great revivals! The Billy Graham team will only be doing two crusades in North America in 1989. One in Syracuse, N.Y. the last of April, and the other will be here in Little Rock. Six of the eight crusade services in Little Rock will be broadcast throughout the nation later in the year.

What can we do? (1) You can train to be a counselor during the month of May. Four training sessions will be conducted in 14 locations. You must complete three of the four sessions in order to qualify as a counselor. (2) Become a part of Operation Andrew and begin cultivating the lost who you would like to see attend. Cultivation time is essential. They need to be in the early services of the crusade. (3) Ask your church to vote to participate. The participating churches will receive the decision cards on those making decisions in their area. They will have the glorious privilege of following up and hopefully baptizing the converts from the crusade. (4) Pray! The breaking down of the stony heart of unbelief can only be done by God through his gospel. Nothing of methods or mechanics of organization can give victory on the spiritual plain. Please be praying for the lost to be saved and for our churches to be awakened.

Event or process? Those who receive the greatest blessing from this historic meeting will be a part of the process that is taking place now. Those who come as spectators at an event will benefit least. They will only attend the meetings. I want to encourage everyone who possibly can to be a part of the process.

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

BOB PARKER

Today's Issues

Mission Alternatives

As a lad, Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas made his profession of personal faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized into the membership of the First Baptist Church in Monticello, Fla. He also was a member of the Royal Ambassadors. During World War II, he joined the United States Marine Reserve and served on active duty until he was killed in action on Iwo Jima, March 3, 1945.

About the same time, Hugh Wamble, now professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Royal Ambassadors in Cairo, Ga. "As the crow flies," Cairo is about 50 miles north of Monticello. "Boots" Thomas' hometown. Hugh was also a combat U.S. Marine on Iwo Jima.

In Monticello, Fla., there is a monument upon which are inscribed the following words: "In recognition of Platoon Sergeant Ernest I. Thomas, USMCR, who on February 23, 1945 led his platoon to raise the first flag on Iwo Jima, the first Japanese territory taken in World War II. On March 3, eight days after the flag raising and ten days after he earned the Navy Cross for heroism in action, he was killed leading his men in combat."

Hugh Wamble was at the foot of Mt. Suribach at the time and witnessed the Stars and Stripes being raised. As a radioman, he sent the message back to the Fifth Marine Division Headquarters that the flag had been raised.

Since that flag was only 54 x 28 inches in size, a short time later a larger flag of eight feet by four feet eight inches was raised. It was during the raising of the

second flag that the most familiar and famous picture of World War II was taken by Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer. If we don't send missionaries into needy places abroad, military personnel are often sent. Through the years, there have been appeals for many Christian witnesses but sadly, relatively speaking, only a few have been sent. Centuries ago, Marco Polo was requested by Ghengis Khan to ask Christian leaders in Rome to send missionaries to what is now China, but only two or three were sent. These were only token emissaries.

The problems we are having in our own state and nation with such as drugs, gang wars, and violence have likely come about as a result of failure to answer God's call to spread the gospel everywhere, beginning at home. This is a current issue that needs to be addressed with our lives, including time and money. Recently at the Foreign Missionary Appointment Service in Little Rock, we witnessed some of what happens when tithes and offerings are channeled through such as the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists and special mission offerings. We are all proud of the two Baptist young men mentioned above and the multitude of others and the contributions they have made through military service, but isn't it better to send ambassadors for Christ!

(While in the Navy I was stationed around and on Iwo Jima from Oct., '45-Jan. 1946, thus my special interest.)

Robert A. Parker is director of the Christian Life Council.



ACADEMIC WORLD OF COSMETOLOGY, INC.

10 Months To A New Career
Financial Assistance

565-4609 Little Rock

3300 W. 65th St.

Copeland Bus Sales and Service

Quality pre-owned school buses

Many sizes, makes, models, and price ranges

St. James, Mo. 314-265-7408

A SMILE OR TWO

The only thing most of us learn from our mistakes is how to blame them on somebody else.

Pain can be relative, if they visit for more than three days.



Chaplain Mark Fite makes daily rounds at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, Ga.

CHAPLAINCY

Kleenex and Smiles

by Mark Wingfield

SBC Home Mission Board

ATHENS, Ga. (BP)—At St. Mary's Hospital, Mark Fite dispenses Kleenex and smiles as frequently as most nurses give out aspirin.

Fite, a Southern Baptist chaplain, empties several boxes of facial tissues every week. He offers the tissues to nurses, doctors and other hospital employees who come to his Athens, Ga., office to unload their problems.

After facing the daily trauma of a hospital, employees sometimes need a shoulder to cry on or someone to listen, Fite says. "They need to have a little bit of time to sit down and cry like a baby. They need a place where they can feel comfortable, not threatened, and let it all hang out—let their makeup run."

The place many employees come is the chaplain's office, a small room tucked away at the end of a long hallway near the back door of the hospital. The remote location provides confidentiality for employees who don't want their supervisors to know they are seeking counseling, Fite says.

He may counsel with an employee there or at a workstation somewhere in the hospital. "Maybe three or four minutes is all it takes sometimes," he says.

Fite, a retired Navy chaplain, has been part-time employee chaplain at St. Mary's for 11 years. He is endorsed by Southern Baptists through the denomination's Home Mission Board.

"Nursing is where the stress really piles up," he explains. "If a patient is dying, a nurse will feel responsible and wonder what more she could have done."

"And then to go from a room where someone has died and to be able to smile and serve the next patient—it's almost impossible. All of us go through the grieving process. That nurse just needs someone to listen for a while."

"I let them know that in every problem we have, God is for us."

"I do not feel like any counseling is worth the name without the religious aspect of it. But I never push religion as the magic rabbit's foot that will instantly cure all our problems."

"I don't consider that I have to make everybody a Baptist. But if I can help everyone relate to God as they see him, I'm a success."

Fite sometimes writes hospital employees a prescription on a small piece of paper. His recommended medicine is selected Scriptures that address the problems employees face.

Fite says how much business he has in his office depends on how visible he is on the nursing floors. He makes the rounds daily, starting on the top floor and walking the hallways of each of the hospital's six floors.

"People are not going to come to me if I sit in the chaplain's office," he explains. "The work place is where the mission field is. I don't really get to do mission work un-

til I get out where people have grease on their clothes."

"I think it's important even if I'm just visible on the floors. It reminds the employees that they are people God cares about. It reminds them that there's more to their work than bedpans."

"If I can help that employee, that translates directly toward good patient care. That nurse or doctor can be so disturbed over their own problems that they can come in and prescribe the wrong medication or perform the wrong care."

"If you have happy employees, in whatever job they're working at, they're going to do a better job."

Sister Antonette, who supervises St. Mary's nurses, says she has seen the difference Fite's ministry has made at the hospital: "I don't know how we ever did without him. He has salvaged so many marriages."

"Before Chaplain Fite came, I had to spend an awful lot of time dealing with employee problems. I needed someone who would meet not only their physical needs but their spiritual needs."

"He is a deeply spiritual man but very human and understanding. Our employees feel they have the assurance and availability of someone who's concerned about them."

Although St. Mary's is a Catholic hospital, Fite says he has no trouble ministering there. "This is like when I was on a Navy ship. I have the run of the ship. I'm not in the pocket of anyone," he says.

Sister Antonette agrees that the hospital does not expect Fite to compromise his own beliefs: "We're a Catholic hospital, but we respect the beliefs of all people."

"When we hired a chaplain, we didn't look at what denomination he was. We looked for the most qualified person."

After 11 years on the job, Fite is well-known throughout the hospital. He recently discovered how much employees appreciate his ministry when his 7-year-old grandson died.

At that time, recipients of his ministry began to minister to him, he says: "I have a long history with so many of these people. That's how you really grow, when you've been through deep waters together."

"Often, when I see someone in the hall whom I know is facing a problem, we don't even have to stop and talk. We're fellow travelers."



Quality
Van Sales

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

Planting the Seeds

Seminary Class Teaches Students to Share Faith

by Breeana Kent Paine
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—"I had never led anyone to the Lord before I came to New Orleans Seminary" is a classic response Charles Kelley Jr. hears every semester from at least one of his students.

As assistant professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Kelley is responsible for organizing a class every student must take to graduate, "Continued Witness Training." The seminary also requires all of its students to participate in gospel visitation and personal evangelism. "Every evangelism class requires five verbatims, because we believe you can't learn to witness" without actually doing it, said Kelley. These verbatims are dialogues of actual instances in which students share about the love of Christ.

Active, personal evangelism is a necessity "because it's the only way you really learn how to do evangelism. When you're out there toe-to-toe with the lost person, the Holy Spirit becomes your instructor, and that's the kind of classroom we want to set up," Kelley explained.

Most students say they have become more bold in telling others about their faith after taking the classes. For example, one student, Will Bradham, related a recent experience. He and his Continuing Witness Training team members came across a

rough-looking man one day, and tried to share Christ with them, but the man told them he was on his way to work and could not talk.

Bradham handed him a Christian tract with his phone number on the back. Several days later, while Bradham was in his church office, his secretary knocked on his door and told him a hungry, dirty man was waiting for him outside. The visitor was the man he had met on the street. The man admitted he had lied; he did not really have a job. He took the tract, crumpled and dirty, out of his pocket and said he had read it over 100 times. Bradham explained the plan of Christian salvation to him, and the man prayed to receive Christ into his life that day.

"Anyone who doesn't ever plant any seed won't ever see a harvest," Kelley said.

"We're trying to address our convention's problem of (a decline in) evangelism. We're trying to get pastors, music leaders and missionaries to (feel at ease) sharing the gospel. . . . We hope in the long run it will help revitalize our convention's commitment to evangelism.

"Evangelism is every Christian's responsibility; therefore it is every minister's responsibility."

In a typical semester, Continuing Witness Training teams from the seminary work with 25 churches, knock on 3,500 doors,

talk to 1,500 people and lead 100 people to faith in Christ, said Kelley, noting, "We're planting seeds I think will result one day in a revival in New Orleans."

Teams from the seminary work closely with local churches in their visitation. As a result, new Christians are linked with churches to help nurture their faith in Christ, and churches have an extended outreach ministry.

"One of the founding purposes of New Orleans Seminary (was) to evangelize the city of New Orleans. This is our way of involving every student directly in the task of evangelizing the city," Kelley said.

Some students plan to be ministers who could not give the plan of salvation or scripture references before taking his classes, he said. And every semester, at least one student will lead a person to Christ for the first time in his life.

"The value of doing this in an educational setting is it allows people to talk and reflect about their experiences," he said. Also, in a classroom situation, everyone is learning, so unsuccessful experiences are not uncommon, and students feel comfortable asking for help from the professor.

And because of the unique location of the seminary, students are exposed to the problems of urban evangelism in the process. "Once a student goes door-to-door for a semester in New Orleans, they'll not encounter a lot that will surprise them (throughout) the rest of their ministry," said Kelley.

"We, in our training process, want every student to understand the whole picture of evangelism, (and) to develop a sense of confidence about actually being able to witness. . . . Evangelism is not a mechanical process; it is the work of the Holy Spirit."

DON'T BUY AN AIR CONDITIONER FOR YOUR CHURCH OR BUSINESS!

(Lease one from Trane)

- No down payment
- Convenient monthly lease payments
- No maintenance or repair bills
- Lower utility bills with new high quality equipment
- More comfort!

For your closest participating Trane dealer, call Don Pipkins at: The Trane Company, 501-661-1950



ELMER'S

1802 Jacksonville Highway
North Little Rock

Open Monday-Saturday, 9 to 9

Visa MasterCard Discover

Suits 2 for \$100
Poly Wool Slacks \$24.95
G. Henry Slacks 2 for \$25
Hubbard Slacks 2 for \$30

Tony Lama Piece Snake \$169.95

Wide Selection of Women's
Dress & Casual Wear

Dresses Starting at \$29.85
30% Off Ladies' 900 Series Jeans

945-1444

Classifieds

For Sale—50 oak pews with cushions. Call 676-5136 (8:30-4:30). 5/25

Bus—1971 05 Silver Eagle Bus, 46 passenger w/restrroom. Excellent mechanical condition, recent engine overhaul. Call 405-375-4014 & ask for Greg or Theo. 5/11

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unobtainable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

Modern Livingston

Doug and Evelyn Knapp have retired from the Kyla District of Tanzania, where they have served since 1964 as agricultural missionaries with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The farm they operated, to demonstrate modern agricultural methods, was located in southwest Tanzania, at the foot of the mountains named after the famous missionary-explorer, David Livingston.

Knapp, like Livingston, was bivocational. He left the south Florida Extension Service where he had served several years as a county agent, to enter Southern Baptist mission work. He served as a missionary church planter, as well as an agriculturist, teaching the Africans not only about the Christian message of eternal salvation, but also how to raise their standard of living from tribal poverty to a standard comparable to that of the modern world.

The Knapps first had to live in the town of Tukuyu some 40 miles from the 100 acre mission farm, since no suitable quarters were available in the Kyla region. In 1976, Doug and Evelyn decided to take the machine shed building and convert it into living quarters so they could live in the midst of the people they were ministering. An Arkansas rice farmer, Bob Fuller of Brinkley, gave them enough metal roofing to cover the machine shed home. It was soon discovered that the tropical sun on the aluminum roof made living in the new quarters unbearable.

They returned to an African custom of installing a thick thatched roof over the metal, bringing the heat level down to at least normal tropical conditions.

During the time Doug, Evelyn, and their three children were at Kyla, they witnessed the most phenomenal growth of their work imaginable. Doug, a deacon-preacher, baptized 58,144 converts. Likely no other mission in Africa, maybe in the world, saw such unusual growth in only one mission station manned by a man and his wife.

The Knapps "discipled" their converts before and after baptism. They brought them to the farm by trucks for several weeks after professions were made and spent an entire day instructing the people in the "ways of the Lord and his church." They also provided lunch for the new disciples.

In October 1976, three Arkansans, Raymond Atwood, then pastor of Hamburg First Church, and Dr. H. E. Williams, presi-



Missionary Doug Knapp baptized new converts in the Songwe River.

dent emeritus of Southern Baptist College of Walnut Ridge, along with Orville Jenkins, a Southern Baptist missionary assigned to the Kenya Baptist Mission, assisted in the first crusade which was conducted in the 22 churches within 20 miles of the farm which the Knapps had led in organizing. During two weeks, over 750 professions were witnessed during the revivals conducted mostly under trees.

Since the 1976 crusade, the Knapps have led in securing the ministry of scores of American pastors for annual revivals. Atwood returned to Kyla three other years, accompanied by other ministers he

solicited for the effort. In one effort, the Atwood group witnessed over 4,000 professions. The 22 churches in the Kyla District in 1976 have now grown to almost 100 with more than 40,000 members. Where are the others of the 58,144 converts? It should be remembered that the average life span in the Kyla District is about 34 years. Sometimes as many as one-third of a church membership will die in one year. It is an endless task to win the people of Kyla District before the "grim reaper" beats us with the death call.—H.E. Williams, president emeritus, Southern Baptist College



A Special Offer From Wendy's

99¢ Single





Present coupon when ordering.
Not valid with any other offer or discount.
Good at all Central Arkansas Wendy's.

Expiration Date:
August 15, 1989

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People



Pitts

Perry

Harrison

K. Alvin Pitts, who is retiring as pastor of Gethsemane Church in North Little Rock following more than 10 years of service, was named pastor emeritus in the April 30 evening service. In addition, the congregation presented him two plaques and a love offering. Pitts, who has actively served as a Southern Baptist minister for 46 years, is residing at 5628 Applewood, North Little Rock, AR 72118; telephone 501-753-8996.

Gerald Perry began serving April 1 as pastor of First Church in Strong. He moved there from Norphlet, where he had served as pastor of First Church for more than six years.

Lane Mason Harrison has joined the staff of First Church in Strong as youth director. He is completing his first year of study at Ouachita Baptist University.

Rex Holt completed five years of service April 29 as pastor of Central Church in Jonesboro.

Mark Fawcett will begin serving June 4 as minister of music and youth at First

Church in DeWitt. He and his wife, Mitzi, will move there from Green Forest, where he has been serving on the staff of First Church.

Jimmy Mason, a member of Central Church in Bald Knob, made a commitment to the preaching ministry April 23.

Tim Johnson has resigned as youth director for Emmanuel Church in Conway.

Harold Sadler, pastor of Harmony Church, North Little Rock, observed 40 years of service as a Southern Baptist minister March 26.

Christopher Perry has resigned as minister of youth and music at Fisher Street Church in Jonesboro to join the staff of First Church in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Dan Eubanks has resigned as youth director at Second Church in El Dorado to serve as youth director for Olivet Church in Wichita, Kans.

Ron Young has resigned as family life minister at First Church in Brinkley to serve as pastor of Indianhead Lake Church in North Little Rock.

Jean Stracener recently celebrated six years of service as secretary of First Church in Osceola.

Roy A. Fowler completed five years of service May 1 as pastor of First Church in Mountain Home.

Luther Branscum is serving as pastor of Angora Church, Leslie.

Tom Shaw is serving as pastor of First Church in Clinton.

Zeke Lancaster has resigned as pastor of Bigelow Church.

Ronnie Bateman is serving as pastor of Sweet Home Mission, Perryville.

Bobby Floyd began serving April 16 as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Harrisburg, coming there from Woodsprings Church in Jonesboro.

Nellie Ledbetter Gordon of Roland died April 29 at age 79. Survivors are a daughter, Gail Eason of Roland; a brother, two sisters; and four grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Nalls Memorial Church in Little Rock, where she was an active member.

J.B. Huffmaster has resigned as pastor of Southside Church in Prescott.

Briefly

Pleasant Hill Church in Harrisburg will observe homecoming June 4 with services that will feature special music by the Maxwells.

Harrison First Church held a Lay Evangelism School April 30-May 4. Paul McClung, associate in the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was leader.

Little Rock Second Church is holding a Mother/Daughter banquet May 11. The program will feature Carolyn Long and her daughter, Payton, of Fort Smith. Long is a special assignment reporter for KATV, Channel 7 in Little Rock.

Reynolds Memorial Church in Little Rock will celebrate its 75th anniversary May 21. Special services will include Sunday School, a morning worship service, a noon luncheon, and an afternoon program, featuring special music and guest speakers. Former members and friends will be special guests. Wayne Edwards is pastor.

Nimrod Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary May 21 with Sunday school, morning worship, a fellowship dinner, and special music. Former members and friends will be guests.

Indian Springs Church at Bryant ordained Jim Gibbs, Phil Harris, Roger Petty, and Tommy Young to the deacon ministry April 23. Pastor Benny Grant moderated the service. The church also observed Baby Day April 23 when 35 preschool children and their parents were recognized in the morning worship service. Sallie Sullivan serves as director of the preschool department. Judy Elley is associate director, and Lee Ann Bennett is outreach director.

Batesville Calvary Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 7-11. Theme for the celebration, which will include a fall revival, is "50 Down—Eternity to Go." Former members and former staff members will be special guests.

Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock youth sponsored an appreciation banquet for senior adults of the church May 6. The Crystal Hill Puppeteers provided entertainment.



Inn Towne

Little Rock's Newest
Hotel Welcomes You!

\$44 single \$48 double

- Group Rates Available
- Restaurant & Pool
- Meeting Facilities

600 Interstate 30
Little Rock, AR 72202

501-375-2100 1-800-528-1234



ACTEENS ENCOUNTER

'Who Is a Servant? Me?'

"Who Is A Servant? Me?" was the question asked by 485 Acteens as they arrived at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock April 28 to participate in a statewide Acteens Encounter. However, at close of the April 29 session, they joined hands in commitment to become God's servants in their local church, state, nation, and world.

Commitments included a group of Acteens from Danville beginning plans to serve as Activators in the Arkansas-Guatemala link-up in 1991.

The willingness to serve as God's servants followed challenges from foreign missionaries and Barbara Joiner, an Acteens leader from First Church of Columbiana, Ala. Joiner told of how for 20 years she and her Acteens members had played the servant role in a local migrant mission camp. She brought tears to the eyes of many present as she stated that this annual endeavor was the direct result of her willingness to humble herself and assist the migrants in digging potatoes.

A puppet conference led by Lynn Sawyer sent girls scrambling to participate in learning the use of puppets and was among those planned to equip Acteens for their servanthood roles.

Other Encounter highlights included an awards presentation to Acteen panelists and a Student Recognition Service in which Marjorie Grober, newly elected president of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, assisted Angela Lowe, state Acteens director.



Text and photos / Mille Gill

1989 BSU Summer Missionaries



GUATEMALA TEAM (Top photo)—Rex Knight, ATU; Barry Stafford, U of A; Holly Nobles, ASU; Lori Broadway, ASU; Alisa Cole, ATU; Caren Jennings, UCA; Suzy Taylor, ASU; Dianne Conaway, ASU.

SHARE TEAM (Middle photo)—Michelle Shatley, ASU; Hatley Hambrice, U of A; Jennifer Thurber, ATU; Charles Thomasson, OBU; Kelly Campbell, ASU.

OUT-OF-STATE (Left photo)—Alan Carnaban, ATU, Philippines; Brice Early, SBC, Alaska; Thomas Young, ATU, Illinois; Robert Lackey, SBC, California; Michael Ball, ATU, Missouri; Teresa Sanders, SAU, Illinois; John Frady, OBU, Virginia; John Harriman, U of A, Illinois; Susan Sbell, OBU, Illinois.

Not pictured: Dani Rbynes, ATU, Canada; Angela Scott, ASU, Virginia; Joyce Wells, ATU, Alaska; Joan Curry, OBU, Massachusetts; Dana Elkins, SBC, Massachusetts.





RESORT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (Top left photo)—Rebecca Moore, OBU; Jill Pyatt, ATU; Tracy Nall, AC; Ashley Jones, SBC; Denise Dickson, SBC; Kathy Lewis, WCC; Michelle Holt, ASU; Jay Sparks, SBC; Lori Brantly, ASU; Alyssa Talbert, U of A; Lon Vining, OBU; Don Niemann, UCA.

EMERGENCY SHELTERS/CHILDRENS HOME (Top right photo)—Amanda Davis, UCA; Ann Eakens, SAU; Angie Binkley, ASU; Michelle Greer, OBU.

NEW ORLEANS (Middle photo)—Mary Jane Lee, OBU; Carrie Lybrand, U of A; Jay Langston, U of A; Leigh Ann Woodford, OBU; Vince Rains, U of A; Gary Jackson, SBC; Lisa Welch, SAU; Becky Fincher, OBU.



HOME MISSION BOARD (Left photo)—Kevin Inman, ASU; Bill Moore, ASU; Robert Williams, SBC; Calvin Smith, SBC; Vernon Horneman, OBU; Dana Wallace, U of A; Karen Whitten, U of A; Kathy Emmerling, OBU; Melinda Cummings, SBC; Carol Durbam, WCC; Richard May, UAM; Dena Sartain, ATU; Annette Kemp, SBC; Angie Anderson, SBC; Audra Brock, WCC; Renia Robinette, SBC; Jenni Issacs, UALR; Laurie Burch, ATU; Ginger Brand, ASU.

NOT PICTURED—Joan Curry, OBU; Toby Bunch, SBC; Danny King, WCC; Vanessa Wilkerson, SBC; Jackie Garrett, ASU; Beebe; Kimberly Weser, HSU; Luis Morales, U of O; Scott Douglas, ATU; Ambrose Nyanguo, OBU; Tim Cain, U of A; Annette Casey, U of O; David George, U of A; Larry Thacker, U of A; Bill Knox, U of A; Lisa Wisdom, SBC; Kevin Issom, ATU; Daria Richardson, OBU.

ABN photos / Millie Gill

Specializing in Church Construction

BESCO

Construction Management Co.

640 Prospect Building
1501 North University
Little Rock, AR 72207

501-664-2259

Bruce E. Schlesier



ETRO
BUILDERS, INC.

3405 Bay Oaks Drive

P.O. Box 959

North Little Rock, AR 72115

Phone 758-2845

Don Collie

Tom Cooper

Building on a history
of excellence
and continuing to
grow in meeting your
electrical needs.

Call Larry or Donna Crenshaw



Harvill-Byrd
Electric Co., Inc.

1619 Rebsamen Park Road
Little Rock, AR 72202
(501) 663-8345



J&H Custom
Furniture, Inc.

Pews • Cushions • Chancel Furniture

Call for
more information:

501-439-2224

P.O. Box 196, Pindall, AR 72669

CALL US FOR YOUR CH

Adams Po

Residential, Comm

"No job too lar

Exterminating

- Rats • Mice • Roaches
- Termites • Ticks • Fleas
- Beetles • Fungus

Free inspections and estimates

Contracts include preventive treatments

Vehicles dispatched by radio

Arkansas Family Owned

455-1065

Little Rock

337-1472

Malvern

ASC

Arkansas Sound
Corporation

See our advertisement
in this issue!

P.O. Box 5986

North Little Rock, AR 72119

501-753-5674

Arkansas Baptist

*Serving the
information needs
of Arkansas Baptists
for 87 years.*

For advertising information,
call Nick Nichols at 376-4791

ARCH BUILDING NEEDS

st Control

ial, & Institutional

or too small!"

Locations in

Little Rock North Little Rock
Benton Malvern Hot Springs
Lonoke Searcy Beebe
Conway Jonesboro
Sheridan West Memphis

Check your local listings for other locations

nd Operated Since 1957

623-3811

Hot Springs

778-7270

Benton

LARRY BONE
& ASSOCIATES

Professional Fund-Raising Consultants

1601 N. Shackleford
Suite 178-5
Little Rock, AR 72211
501-227-7720



ARKMO
Lumber and
Supply Co.

400 East 11th Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

375-1246

Robert D. Little
President

ALBERT GEORGE MFG. CO.

721 Poplar St., North Little Rock, Ark.
Phone 501-375-2921

Custom Manufacturers of

- Pew Cushions
- Kneeler Cushions
- Upholstered Seats and Backs
- Pulpit Chair Cushions
- Draperies • Fabrics
- Pulpit Furniture • Pews
- Steeples
- Baptisries



For Prices And Information, Write:
P.O. Box 5700, NLR, AR 72119

e.c.a.

energy consultants
of Arkansas, inc.

*Saving you money through
energy automated controls*

9800 JFK Blvd.
North Little Rock, AR 72116
501-834-0052

PEST CONTROL
By 
A D A M S

Little Rock 455-1065
N. Little Rock 945-0843
Searcy 268-8624

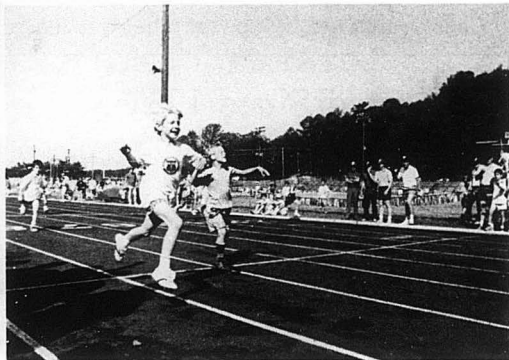
Serving Arkansas for more than 30 years

DYSON
INSURANCE

*An Independent Agency
Specializing
In Church Insurance*

5307 JFK Blvd./P.O. Box 6251
North Little Rock, AR 72116
501-758-8340

LOCAL & STATE



RAs Run, Jump, and Pull!

The competitive spirits of 1,000 Royal Ambassadors and 300 counselors sparked enthusiasm for the RA Congress held April 28-29 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Attendance for this annual event was the largest ever recorded, showing a 30 percent increase. First through 12th graders participated in campcraft, track and field events, and

speaking contests. Competition was particularly strong when 700 cars, constructed by boys, were raced. Glendon Grober, state Brotherhood director and organizer of the event, said, "This year's Congress was super great!"

ABN photos / Mark Kelly

One Church, Two Locations

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church is taking a dramatic and unusual step to multiply its opportunities for outreach. The southwest Little Rock congregation will open a second ministry location.

The new site, located on a 25-acre parcel on Interstate 30 across from the Jacuzzi plant, will allow the congregation to reach an additional 800 persons for Bible study and worship each Sunday morning. Through its existing facilities, Geyer Springs currently involves more than 2,000 persons in Bible study each Sunday.

The decision to open a second location was the result of a two-year study conducted by Geyer Springs' long range planning committee, according to Paul Sanders, who has pastored the church for 23 years.

The congregation has experienced steady and at times dramatic growth since the mid-1950s, when they called their first pastor, Jerre Hassell. During Sanders' ministry, Sunday School attendance has increased from 300 to more than 2,000 and the congregation continues to strain its facilities, the despite construction of a new sanctuary and adult education building.

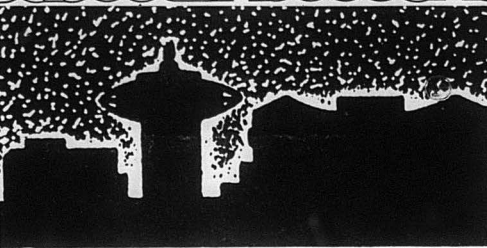
Since the cost of additional expansion was prohibitive, due to the problem of acquiring surrounding residential property, the long range planning committee decided to recommend adding a second location in the nearby growth corridor along the interstate. By opening a new ministry center, the committee reasoned it could relieve strain on the original facility and open new opportunities for outreach at the highly-visible, easily-accessible second site.

Sunday, April 30, more than 1,500 members of the Geyer Springs Church gathered at the Statehouse Convention Center for a banquet which capped a \$2.6 million "Together We Build" campaign. The theme of the effort has been "Find Us Faithful," and proceeds will fund the construction of a 40,000 square foot worship and education facility.

According to Gearl Spicer, minister of education/administration for Geyer Springs First Church, the church will implement an alternating schedule of worship services and Bible study in order to allow existing staff to serve at both locations on Sunday mornings. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening programs will be held at the main site. One hundred families will be enlisted as workers in the launch of the new location.

The congregation expects to occupy the new building sometime next year in conjunction with the celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Attention



S · B · C 1 · 9 · 8 · 9

Las Vegas

**SBC NewScene presents
LIVE Coverage of the
Southern Baptist Convention
from the
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nevada
June 13-15**

Tune to Baptist Telecommunication Network for gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 1989 annual meeting.



127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37234
(615) 251-2283

Proudly Serving Southern Baptists for Five Years

THINK ABOUT IT!

Transportation Tangle: The baby in the carriage will want to climb out. The baby in the backpack will want to walk. The child on foot will want to be carried. The child on a trike will want to ride a two-wheeler. The teenager on the 10-speed bike will want your car. The teenager with your car will want a sports car.

—Bruce Lansky

Arkansans Named

Eleven Arkansans are listed among nominations and appointments recently released by the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations and SBC President Jerry Vines.

The committee nominates trustees to serve on the 24 entities related to the Southern Baptist Convention, including the Executive Committee, boards, commissions, seminaries, standing committees, and affiliated organizations. In order for nominees to serve on the trustee boards, they must be elected by messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Arkansans nominated to serve as trustees were:

— Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church in

Fort Smith, who will replace Wilson Deese of Little Rock on the board of trustees at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Deese was ineligible for renomination.

— David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association in Heber Springs, who will fill an unexpired term on the board of Southern Seminary. Miller fills a position vacated by Mark Coppenger, former pastor of First Church in El Dorado, who left the state to become executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. The term will expire in 1992.

— Jim McDaniel, pastor of First Church in Brinkley, who will replace D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, on the board of the Education Commission in Nashville, Tenn. Nicholas was ineligible for renomination.

— Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church in Springdale, who will replace Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association in Fort Smith as a trustee for the Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. Morgan was ineligible for renomination.

— Don Dunavut, pastor of the Wynne Church, who will fill an unexpired term on the Baptist Sunday School Board. Dunavut fills a position vacated by Gerald Taylor, former pastor of Trinity Church in El Dorado, who left the state to serve as a

foreign missionary to Senegal. The term will expire in 1990.

— Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton County Association in Rogers, was renominated for a second term as a trustee of the Christian Life Commission. Atchison has been serving as vice-chairman of that board.

SBC President Jerry Vines announced his appointments to four key committees to serve during the Las Vegas annual meeting.

Arkansans nominated to serve on those committees were:

— Delton Beall, pastor of First Church in Forrest City, who will serve on the Committee on Committees. That committee's key responsibility is to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, which in turn nominates trustees to serve as trustees of the 24 entities affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

— Harve McClellan, a retired sales engineer and member of Immanuel Church in Rogers, who also will serve on the Committee on Committees.

— Ron Mayes, pastor of First Church in Beebe, who will serve on the Credentials Committee.

— Clayton Spriggs, associate pastor of First Church in Fort Smith, who will serve on the Tellers Committee. Spriggs was chairman of the Tellers Committee at the 1988 annual meeting.

— Mark Coppenger, former pastor of First Church in El Dorado and now executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, who will serve as chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Crossett Crusade

A Crossett city-wide crusade will begin Sunday evening, May 21 at 7 p.m. and will continue each night through Thursday evening, May 25 at the City Auditorium.

Curtis Coleman of Little Rock will be evangelist and Mike and Faye Speck of Tulsa, Okla., will serve as crusade music directors. The 60-voice choir will represent area churches.

China Chorale Tour Planned

A world mission chorale tour to China has been scheduled July 5-19 by Amos Baker of Little Rock and will feature the ladies' handbell choir from First Church of Osceola under direction of John Dresbach.

The itinerary includes visits to Beijing, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

For further information, contact Amos Baker, 57 Flintwood in Little Rock, AR 72207; telephone 501-225-1054.

Indonesian Church Seeks Pastor

The Kebayoran Baptist Church of Jakarta, Indonesia, is seeking pastoral candidates interested in serving an English-speaking congregation abroad. The congregation is made up of Americans, Australians, British, and other expatriates living in Jakarta. Average attendance is about 120 in Sunday School and 200 in worship service.

Interested persons should contact Gene Woodward, c/o P. T. Stanvac, P.O. Box 464, Jakarta, Indonesia.

RAPHA To Host Luncheon at SBC Pastors Conference

Pastors and Spouses are cordially invited to a Complimentary Luncheon during the SBC Pastors Conference, Monday, June 12, 1989, 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Ballroom "B", Las Vegas Hilton.

Hear Dr. Adrian Rogers, Guest Speaker.

All who attend will receive a FREE copy of The Search for Significance by Robert McGee, Founder and President of RAPHA.



Dr. Adrian Rogers

RSVP by June 1 — (817) 267-3531

Luncheon compliments of RAPHA

Shadows 'Magnified'

by Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—"Where's Janice?"

As pastor, Larry Stevens could hardly lie when asked that question about his wife. "In the hospital," he replied.

Naturally the next question was, "For what?"

That began a litany of questions for which the pastor of Noble Avenue Baptist Church in Guthrie, Okla., had few answers. Thankfully, church members "didn't push for details," he said. "They just asked, 'What can we do?'"

"What can we do?" is an obvious question when someone is diagnosed with a physical ailment. But when the diagnosis is a mental illness, even church members are not always so eager to help.

The Stevenses agreed to share their experience to help others understand that "from time to time, we all need some help."

Mrs. Stevens began seeing a Christian psychologist in September 1986 as an outpatient. By the end of the month, she was an inpatient. She spent six weeks in the hospital, then was dismissed to continue outpatient treatment. From January to June 1987, she was in Rochester, Minn., for specialized treatment. Now she continues outpatient treatment.

Professionals have long names for what she experienced. Stevens said his wife simply was working through things that happened in her childhood. She said she is just "learning to deal with life on life's terms."

"This has made the biggest difference in my life," she said. "Some people are afraid it's a sign of weakness or lack of faith. It's strengthened our faith."

Mrs. Stevens was admitted to the hospital on a Friday night. On Saturday night, her husband and their two children attended a Sunday school social. That's when the questions began.

Of answering those questions, Stevens recalled: "I tried to say, 'It's not your fault.' It wasn't the church's fault or our family's fault or God's fault. There was just a lot of not knowing."

Perhaps one reason church members responded so well was that Stevens handled the situation openly from the start. "I tested my preaching," he admitted. "I had preached before that it's wrong to ignore your problems or not deal with them. And it was easier to admit what was happening than make up excuses."

In retrospect, he can identify reactions by church members that helped make the best of the situation.

"Prayer was real important part of their ministry," he said, noting that in almost every spoken prayer in a church service, people would intercede on behalf of his family. "It was just so powerful to hear our name in prayer," he said.

Mrs. Stevens also felt the power of intercessory prayer. She said the time she felt closest to her church family was when she was in Minnesota. She received cards and letters from church members. She knew that if they took time to write, they surely took time to pray. And there were times when the strength to make it through the

day did not come from herself.

The church also helped its pastor realize other things in life needed attention. "They didn't let me become obsessed with this," he said. "One thing I didn't need was their pity. I had enough of that on my own."

At the time, he was working on a doctor of ministry degree. The work required him to be in Tulsa, Okla.

Other students in the doctorate program became a strong support group. As he shared what was happening, "I had a real sense that I'm not in this alone. They were my fellow strugglers," he remembered.

While Mrs. Stevens was hospitalized, he learned what it is like to be a single parent. "Single parenting is . . ." he said as he rolled back his eyes and shook his head to finish the sentence. "But the church let me make changes in my routine to pick up the kids from school and to spend more time with them. I wanted this to be as easy for our kids as possible."

One of their fears was what other people might tell their son and daughter about their mother. Would other children taunt their children with cruel jokes? Would other parents tell their children not to associate with the Stevens' children? Those fears were laid to rest though, as "the kids just heard acceptance and love," Stevens said.

Among the most important of the church's reactions was allowing Stevens to feel his emotions. "When I hurt, they let me hurt," he said. "Some people might have been afraid this would tarnish the image of the church. But this says Noble Avenue is doing what the church is all about."

Perhaps the hardest time for Mrs. Stevens was returning to Guthrie after being in Minnesota.

"When she came back, the church's attitude was, 'Welcome back, we missed you,'" he said. "It was much more difficult for her than for the church."

"The church allowed me to ease back into church attendance," she said. "Because of their response when I did come back, I could tell they were genuine."

She remembers that one of the first church activities she attended upon her return was a softball game. She thought people might shy away from her, but she was pleasantly surprised.

Although the last few years have been difficult for the Stevenses—and the struggle is not completely over—he said: "I wouldn't trade where Janice is today for where she was two and a-half years ago. Then everything appeared to be OK, but she was a master at swallowing her past. Now she is honest. She's struggling but she's growing."

Court Refuses Clergy Case

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a dispute that has been described as the nation's first clergy malpractice suit.

The high court's decision, which was announced in a one-line order April 3, leaves standing a unanimous ruling by the California Supreme Court that individuals who are not licensed as counselors or therapists cannot be held legally liable for failing to provide proper advice or for failing to refer their advisees to licensed therapists.

Walter and Maria Nally sued Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., because their son, Kenneth, committed

suicide in 1979 after receiving counseling from members of the church's staff. The Nallys charged the staff members with malpractice for failing to urge their son to seek psychiatric help or to inform them he was contemplating a second suicide attempt.

The couple contended the church did not properly train its counselors and that the counselors who talked with their son discouraged him from seeking further medical help.

The decision by the California Supreme Court overturned two appeals court rulings that the case should go to trial because a reasonable juror could find that the counselors acted in a way that encouraged Nally to take his life.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

Deferment Asked

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Jerry Vines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has asked the SBC Executive Committee to "defer its recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission" at the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., told Baptist Press he requested the action in order to keep the focus of the annual meeting "on presenting Christ in Las Vegas."

The creation of the new Religious Liberty Commission, to represent Southern Baptist First Amendment and religious liberty concerns in Washington, was recommended by the Executive Committee at its February 1989 meeting. In order for the new commission to be created, it must be approved by majority vote by messengers to two subsequent annual meetings.

During the February meeting, Executive Committee members, by a 42-27 secret ballot vote, approved a recommendation from a seven-member study committee appointed to propose "an alternative to accomplish the program and funding" of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, composed of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada, including the SBC.

The action specifies the SBC would continue its relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee through the new commission.

The BJC has been involved in controversy in the SBC for several years. The seven-member study committee which recommended creation of the new commission is the third study committee to look into the relationship between the BJC and the SBC in recent years. In addition, the BJC has survived several attempts to withdraw funding.

A part of the Executive Committee recommendation includes dissolving the 18-member Public Affairs Committee, the standing committee through which the SBC relates to the BJCPA. Under recent actions, the role of the PAC has been expanded, but actions of the group also have resulted in controversy over its role and direction.

The action to create a new commission, in addition to drawing a divided vote on the Executive Committee, set off protests. The leaders of both Southern Baptist mission boards—R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, and Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board—have made statements opposing

the creation of the new commission, noting fears the new agency would siphon money from missions.

In his statement, Vines said: "As president of the Southern Baptist Convention, I am requesting the Executive Committee to defer its recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission. The primary thrust of my presidency has been an emphasis on personal witnessing. This is the focus of my own ministry and also the heart of our work as Southern Baptists. 'I have been most pleased with the affirmative response this emphasis has received from all sections of Southern Baptist life.

"The upcoming convention session in Las Vegas is intended to be a major effort to share the gospel with the people of Las Vegas. As I understand it, this was the motivating factor in the selection of Las Vegas for the 1989 convention site. All of the preliminary planning has revolved around making our witness as positive and united as possible."

Vines said the matter has "been of great concern to me in recent weeks," and added that after much prayer, he decided to write Charles Sullivan, chairman of the Executive Committee and pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, Tenn.

The letter, he said, included the request to defer discussion of the RLC, and added: "Whatever the merits of the recommendation to begin the Religious Liberty Commission, the focus in Las Vegas must be on missions and evangelism.

"Our Home Mission Board has carefully developed a strategy to get the gospel to every person in Las Vegas. Therefore, rather than devoting our thoughts, prayers and energies to this matter, I am suggesting that we devote them fully to the task of presenting Christ in Las Vegas."

In an interview, Vines declined to discuss the controversial nature of the proposal, noting only that he wants to defer the action in order to make the annual meeting "as positive and united as possible. I would like to see all Southern Baptists join hands in Las Vegas in a positive, united witnessing effort."

Under leadership of the Home Mission Board, the Nevada statewide evangelism emphasis includes simultaneous revivals, scripture distribution and sponsorship of 25 church-type missions. In Las Vegas, some 2,000 will participate in revivals, a door-to-door canvass of the city and scripture distribution.

The president noted other items of business facing the convention—such as

the election of officers, adopting a budget and doing other business—"will not take away from the focus. They are normal convention business; this (the RLC) is a different matter, in my view."

Vines said he had no recommendations for how the Executive Committee should defer the action, and is "leaving that up to Charles (Sullivan). I just believe we should defer it."

Sullivan told Baptist Press he will "honor our president's request in the sense that I will present it to the Executive Committee. I believe it is coming from him in good spirit and the desire to make the emphasis of the convention missions and evangelism. I also believe he is trying to emphasize peace rather than the divisive issues that are before us."

Sullivan, however, said he would not predict the response of the 76 member committee. "It may well be that they will vote to defer it," he said, but noted "hours and hours of study have gone into the formation of the commission."

"There is such a polarity of feelings about the Baptist Joint Committee, the Public Affairs Committee and the Religious Liberty Commission that... divisiveness could come," Sullivan said.

"My personal feeling is that the Religious Liberty Commission is a means whereby we can solve the major problems we face with the Baptist Joint Committee by having a relationship with them on a reduced scale and dissolving the Public Affairs Committee while having our own primary voice for religious liberty and religious freedom," he said.

CD Rates* for the Serious Investor

91 Day	6 Month	1 Year
9.60%	9.75%	9.85%

*The annual rates of return are effective as of 4/23/89. All CDs shown are insured up to \$100,000 per depositor per institution by the Federal Insurance Deposit Corporation (FDIC) or Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC). Rates and availabilities are subject to change. There may be a substantial penalty for early withdrawal.

**SHEARSON
LEHMAN
HUTTON**
An American Express company



Call: Bill Whisnant
221-6335
1-800-445-9504

Two Financial Centre, Suite 101
10825 Financial Centre Pkwy.
Little Rock, AR 72211

MINDS OVER MONEY
SHEARSON LEHMAN HUTTON INC. • FOSTER & MARSHALL INC.
• THE ROBINSON-HUMPHREYS COMPANY, INC.

Member SIPC © 1988 Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

PAC Support

Endorses Proposed Religious Liberty Commission

by Jack Brymer
Florida Baptist Witness

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee has thrown its support behind the proposed establishment of a Religious Liberty Commission but has recommended a limit on funding for the new agency.

During an April 20-21 meeting in Washington, the PAC adopted two resolutions dealing with the Religious Liberty Commission and included mention of the proposed agency in the committee's annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

In February, the SBC Executive Committee approved the creation of a Religious Liberty Commission after a seven-member study committee recommended establishing the new entity as "an alternative to accomplish the program and funding" of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The action, however, specified the convention "would continue its relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs through the Religious Liberty Commission."

In order to create a new entity, messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings would be required to approve the action by majority votes. Thus, messengers to both the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., and the 1990 annual meeting

in New Orleans must give their assent for the Religious Liberty Commission to become a reality.

In one Religious Liberty Commission-related resolution, PAC members recorded their support for the establishment of the new entity.

The resolution, which was authored by Thomas E. Pratt Jr., a pastor from Brighton, Colo., cited Southern Baptists' need for a religious liberty office that would be representative of and directly accountable to the convention. The resolution also was critical of the level of financial support given to the Baptist Joint Committee by its eight other member denominations.

In the resolution, the PAC criticized actions of the Baptist Joint Committee and its executive director, James M. Dunn. According to the resolution, the Baptist Joint Committee failed to "alert Southern Baptists to the grave threats to religious liberty posed by the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988" and to "support the Armstrong amendment to the D.C. funding bill, which sought to protect the rights of religious institutions to refrain from financial support of immoral practices, contrary to their religious beliefs."

It also cited Dunn for engaging in "personal attacks" upon Southern Baptist leaders and trustees.

In addition, the resolution criticized the agency for posing "a significant threat to the (SBC) Cooperative Program (unified budget) by encouraging individuals, churches, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Alliance to send funds directly to the BJCPA." It also alleged "substantial ties" between the Baptist Joint Committee and the Alliance.

A related resolution recommended that SBC funding for the Religious Liberty Commission not exceed the "current combined budget allocations for both entities (the PAC and the Baptist Joint Committee) for at least the next four years."

PAC members said they hoped the resolution would dispel the idea that funds for the new agency would be taken from mission dollars. Pratt, who said he had heard and read estimates that placed the Religious Liberty Commission's first-year operating expenses at \$400,000 to \$750,000, argued publicity about the new agency had "cast us in the worst possible light."

The proposed 1989-90 SBC budget call for \$391,796 to go to the Baptist Joint Committee and \$23,704 to the PAC.

In its annual report to the SBC, the PAC concluded by noting continued "unresolv-

ed differences regarding institutional and financial ties, as well as disagreements on issues" between itself and the BJC.

"This ill serves our convention at the very time we need to be restoring our nation to biblical principles," the report states. "The Public Affairs Committee, however, feels the proposed establishment of a Religious Liberty Commission—solely accountable to the Southern Baptist Convention—will provide the overdue solution to the current impasse."

In a related matter, Norris Sydnor, a pastor from Mitchellville, Md., introduced a request that current PAC members not be barred from serving on the Religious Liberty Commission, if it is established. No action was taken on the request.

In another action, the PAC voted to ask the 1989 SBC Resolutions Committee to consider a resolution by Albert Lee Smith, an insurance executive from Birmingham, Ala. Smith's resolution would ask Congress to repeal the Civil Rights Restoration Act and all legislation that "treats acts of immorality as 'civil rights.'"

The PAC also considered a resolution by Robbie Hughes, a homemaker from Jackson, Miss., addressing child-care legislation. The resolution was withdrawn after Richard Land, PAC member and executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, explained that child care generally comes under the Christian Life Commission's program assignment and that the PAC is empowered to speak only on those church-state issues upon which the Baptist Joint Committee cannot agree or does not support. Land pointed out the Baptist Joint Committee has advocated the position set forth in the resolution on institutional child care passed by the 1988 SBC.

A member of the PAC, Les Csorba III of Lorton, Va., announced his resignation during the meeting. Csorba explained his new position as deputy to the special assistant to President Bush for public liaison necessitated his resignation.

Csorba did arrange a White House briefing for PAC members during which his supervisor, Doug Wead, said Southern Baptists, due to their numbers and strength, deserve more representation. Wead said part of his job as special assistant to the president for public liaison is to see that Southern Baptists get their share of tax monies back to them.

PAC members also heard an address by Lynn Buzzard, law professor at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. The professor/lawyer/preacher said much of the conflict between church and state is a result of the growth of both institutions. But, he said, secularism and perceptions about the moral crisis in the nation are much more critical issues.


Hampton Inn

Little Rock • South

• COMPLIMENTARY

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

featuring waffles, a variety of toast & cereal, juice, coffee, tea and a selection of other breakfast items

- NO CHARGE FOR 3RD & 4TH PERSONS
- FREE LOCAL PHONE CALLS
- SPECIAL RATE WITH THIS AD

Let us host your next family reunion, wedding reception, or small party

For reservations call:
(501)562-6667

or
1-800-HAMPTON

Heaven and Hell

Seminary Professors Examine Afterlife Doctrines

by **Trennis Henderson**

Missouri Word and Way

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—It's been a long time since you heard a fire-and-dbrimestone sermon. The same goes for the pearly gates and the streets of gold.

Emphasis on heaven and hell has declined because mainstream Protestant ministers "simply don't believe in the afterlife themselves, either the biblical view or any view," said Douglas Stuart, an evangelical theologian at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass.

Stuart was among several theologians quoted in the March 27 issue of *Newsweek* magazine on the subjects of heaven and hell.

While a recent *Newsweek* poll found that 94 percent of Americans believe God exists and 77 percent believe in a heaven, the article added, "Today, hell is theology's Holy Word, a subject too trite for serious scholarship."

While such statements may accurately reflect the views held in some religious circles today, several Southern Baptist theologians note Baptists as a whole continue to affirm the realities of heaven and hell.

Pollster George Gallup Jr., who conducted the *Newsweek* poll, told *Word & Way*, Missouri Baptists' weekly religious journal, the *Newsweek* article overrated the case concerning ministers' rejection of a belief in heaven and hell. Noting that the poll's results among evangelical Christians provided an entirely different perspective, he said affirmation of heaven and hell among evangelical pastors is even more widespread than among church members.

Questioning people who claim that a belief in heaven and hell violates one's intellectual integrity, Larry McSwain, theology school dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., insisted: "You can't have intellectual integrity and not believe in heaven and hell. The evidence for hell is so overpowering when one examines the inhumanity to human beings which has been perpetrated in this century alone. The idea of an overwhelming sin without punishment is intellectually absurd.

"Likewise, if there be no afterlife and no promise of heaven, to quote Scripture, 'our faith is in vain.'

"Neither heaven nor hell can be proven scientifically, but both are logically required, given the nature of human ex-

perience."

William Tolar, McSwain's counterpart at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, pointed out, "If a questionnaire were sent out to Baptist pastors and Baptist people, I think they would affirm overwhelmingly the reality of both heaven and hell."

Tolar, who teaches biblical background courses at Southwestern, emphasized that intellectual integrity among Christians "includes a serious regard for the text of the New Testament." Noting that teachings about both heaven and hell are "imbedded in the biblical text and cannot be taken out of the text," he added, "Both of those doctrines have to be taken very seriously."

Vernon Davis, dean of the faculty at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., agreed that the doctrines of heaven and hell are "clearly grounded in Scripture and in the history of the church as a whole, and especially within our Baptist heritage." While "the teaching concerning the two destinies is found in all the classic doctrine statements," he affirmed that Southern Baptists may place more emphasis on those beliefs than most mainline denominations.

Despite the strong biblical emphasis on

the realities of both heaven and hell, the professors agreed that many people find the doctrine of hell particularly difficult to accept.

Davis noted the reality of heaven is easier for many people to believe because "they simply want to believe in heaven." By contrast, he added, "there are many reasons for them to resist a belief in hell.

"They do not like to think about the implications of this for friends and loved ones who are not believers.

"They simply do not want to take as seriously as the New Testament does the reality of individuals' responsibility for their use of their freedom in this life."

Tolar explained that another reason some people reject a belief in hell is because of their concept of God as love. "They tend to define and isolate God as love as if love excluded justice," he said. "But the Bible teaches that God is just, as sure as it teaches that he is love. The Bible teaches that God's love is a just love that would not preclude such a place as hell."

Each of the Southern Baptist theologians voiced similar views about the definitions of heaven and hell.

They agreed the greatest horror of hell is eternal separation from God, while the

Brotherhood Pilots New Approach

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A new training approach for Royal Ambassador counselors, directors and committeemen called RA University has been developed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"RA University is the most extensive Royal Ambassador leadership training program we've ever provided," said Karl Bozeman, national director for Lad and Crusader RAs. "This may very well set the pattern for future Royal Ambassador national training programs. By using a

college campus setting, we have been able to reduce the cost factor significantly."

More than 300 RA leaders have preregistered for the RA University training conference, promising to make the four day event the largest national training event in RA history, Brotherhood officials said.

"We are pleased with the response that we have already received," said Brotherhood Commission President James Smith. "This is a method of training that helps equip a new generation of adults to better involve men and boys in missions."

Scheduled for May 25-28 at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., RA

University will fill a training gap by providing extended classroom sessions at a centrally located national training facility, Brotherhood leaders said.

Participants will choose from a variety of courses and instructors and have opportunities to apply new skills in practice laboratories. In addition to RA program study, a worker's forum will discuss successful counseling techniques.

"It's the kind of counselor training that has been needed for a long time," said David Langford, director of North Carolina Baptist Men. "Counselors have been asking for this kind of in-depth training."

greatest blessing of heaven is spending eternity in God's presence.

Quoting the Apostle Paul's assertion that "to live is Christ and to die is gain," Robert Culpepper noted, that "heaven is where Christ is."

Culpepper, professor of theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said the most significant aspect of heaven for him is the opportunity "to be with the Lord." Conversely, he described hell as alienation, separation and punishment.

Davis emphasized: "Heaven is the state of believers in the presence of God after death. Hell is the destiny of persons apart from Christ; a place of separation and punishment."

"The basic truth about heaven is that it is where salvation is fulfilled and where Christ is present clearly with his people. The primary thing about hell is that it is the experience of existence apart from God or any redemptive influence."

Focusing on the range of interpretations among Southern Baptists, Tolar explained: "Many Baptists, both pastors and people, would see the golden streets and pearly gates as more symbolic and figurative, whereas you would find another spectrum of Southern Baptists espousing literalism where there would have to be real gold and real pearls."

"The same is true of hell. I know fire

may simply symbolize torment, while others would insist it is a literal fire that you literally feel."

Noting the difference between popular thought and theological examination, Davis added: "A person in the pew might really be convinced that if you don't believe in literal streets of gold, you don't believe in heaven as the Bible teaches it, whereas in a seminary setting, you try to go behind any of the descriptions and symbols to see what the theological reality is. The idea of beauty and the experience of the continuing presence of Christ—these would be seen as the basic theological concepts of heaven."

"The difference is not whether it's affirmed one place and denied the other. It's a matter of the attempt to understand it as opposed to simply celebrate it."

"The majority of Southern Baptists would tend to fall along a fairly traditional interpretation of the reality of heaven as the promise of eternal life with the Father beyond this life," McSwain said.

Concerning hell, he added, "There would probably be more diversity of opinion on the nature of hell, but the majority of Southern Baptists would see hell as a place of punishment, with separation from the presence of God in the world to come, in an eternal, everlasting sense."

Each of the professors voiced concern about a decreasing emphasis on the doc-

trines of heaven and hell in many churches.

One reason for the decline may be due to an increased focus on helping congregations deal with day-to-day concerns, Tolar said. Noting that many church members "need help to survive a given week," he said the bulk of many ministers' sermons seek "to help people cope and live with the weekly pressures."

While doctrinal sermons comprise only one of several types of needed sermons, Tolar emphasized, "a pronounced and prolonged neglect of the biblical doctrines" will have a negative impact on local congregations. Culpepper remarked that another reason for a decreased emphasis on heaven and hell is simply that "many people are too immersed in the affairs of this life to give much concern to the affairs of the other life."

Acknowledging "more emphasis upon the present experience of salvation in Christ," Culpepper added, "We probably do not put as much emphasis on the negative aspect, that is to try to scare people out of hell, as we have in former days."

Tolar affirmed, "My reason for believing in heaven and hell is because of biblical revelation and my view of Scripture and its inspiration."

Regardless of one's interpretations of the scriptural accounts of heaven and hell, McSwain insisted: "One ultimately has to make a leap of faith.... Once the faith response has been made, it's difficult to be a person of faith and deny these realities.... I can't prove that there's a heaven; I can't prove that there's a hell, but I can affirm both."

"If you looked at all the pews across Southern Baptist life, I think you would find very high levels of commitment to belief in heaven and hell," he related.

Describing those beliefs, he added, "I don't think human language can improve on the Bible's description of heaven nor could human language improve on the horrors of living apart from God as one finds in the Bible's description of hell."

Mississippi Elects Causey

Jackson, Miss. (BP)—William W. 'Bill' Causey, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson, was elected executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board April 21.

The unanimous choice of the board's executive committee which served as search committee, Causey was elected during the board meeting by acclamation.

Causey, who will be 58 in May, has been pastor of Parkway Church since 1963. Prior to that, he was pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, in Meridian, Miss.

Budget Even With Last Year's Pace

NASHVILLE (BP)—Halfway through its fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's combined ministry budget remains even with last year's pace.

The SBC Cooperative Program received \$68,067,886 through March, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee. That amount is 0.01 percent—or \$4,982—more than receipts for the first six months of the 1987-88 fiscal year.

March receipts were \$9,397,031, a 16.1 percent drop from March 1988, Bennett said.

"I am deeply concerned about our giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program," he said. "This is Southern Baptists' main channel of support of our mission ministries. Cooperative Program support is crucial to advance, both at home and abroad."

The current overall Cooperative Program goal is \$145.6 million. The "basic operating budget"—funds distributed to 18 convention organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary, educational and

church-starting ministries worldwide—is \$137.61 million.

If the second half of the Cooperative Program budget year matches the first, receipts will fall almost \$9.5 million—or 6.5 percent—below the overall goal. Those same receipts would be almost \$1.5 million—or 1.07 percent—below the basic operating goal.

However, receipts for the second half of the fiscal year have been lower than first-half receipts for each of the past three years.

To reach the \$145.6 million overall goal, the Cooperative Program must average more than \$12.9 million in monthly receipts for the balance of the year. To reach its \$137.61 million basic goal, it must average almost \$11.6 million per month. Only three months have topped \$12.9 million in Cooperative Program history; only eight months have topped \$11.6 million.

"I am asking the churches and all of us to pray about this," Bennett said. "As always, the only course to follow is to pray and place our total trust in God."

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Equipped for Service

by Michael D. Johnson, First Church, Pine Bluff

Basic passage: Ephesians 4:1-16

Focal passage: Ephesians 4:11-13

Central truth: Every Christian has a God-given gift to be used in ministry.

"You don't retire from being a Christian." The person who spoke these words reflects a good understanding of our passage for study today. How many times have you heard someone say: "Get another person for this job, I've done it for x years" or "Not me, I couldn't do that", or "I really don't have anything to offer." The fact is, God has given every Christian at least one gift which, when used, will further the work and ministry of the church (v. 7). The task of the individual Christian is to discover what that gift might be and then use it.

When all Christians utilize their gifts, then the body of Christ is built up, which is the theme of our focal passage in verses 11-13. The nature of these gifts are unique. They are the kinds of gifts that only Christ can give.

The use of our gifts are to contribute to the furthering of the purpose of his church. These gifts are listed in verse 11; other gifts mentioned by Paul can be found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30, and Romans 12:6-8.

In the Ephesians listing, we find gifts which are related to the proclamation of the gospel. Apostles are those who bear witness to the resurrection. The prophet's task is to deliver a message from the Lord to his people (not necessarily regarding future events). Evangelists call people to make a decision for Christ. Pastors and teachers shepherd and instruct the believers.

The overriding concern in the use of these gifts is to "equip the saints" (v. 12), which is Paul's way of referring to all believers. The saints are to be prepared for the work of the ministry. When these ministries are carried out through the church, then the Lord is able to carry out his ministry in the world.

There is no earthly retirement plan for the Christian. Christian ministry is not an option. The tragedy we see is in the vast numbers of saints in our own churches who fail to utilize their gifts for the nurture and ministry of the bride of Christ—his church. How will you use that which has been equipped for service?

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

Life and Work

Clear Communication

by L.B. Jordan, DOM, Red River Baptist Association, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Joshua 22:10,16, 27-29,34

Focal passage: Joshua 22:16,27-29

Central truth: Many times conflicts, problems or wars can be eliminated simply by clear communications.

As Joshua prepared the people of Israel for the crossing of the Jordan River and the conquest of Canaan, there was a reminder that the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had been allotted land on the east side of the Jordan. All the people of these groups were to stay in the land, except for the soldiers. The fighting men were to continue with Joshua until the whole land was secured. For five long years these men faithfully fulfilled their obligation (J.s. 1:12-16).

When the land was subdued, Joshua called together those soldiers belonging to the tribes whose land was east of the Jordan to commend them, called on them to be faithful to God and sent them home. They were rich with bounty from their battles and heady from the praise of their great leader Joshua. They also carried with them a secret plan, a dream, growing out of a secret fear.

Their fear was that because the Jordan River divided their inheritance from that of the rest of Israel, that a time might come when the larger group would disclaim them. They feared they might not be seen as part of God's chosen people.

Their dream was that of a great altar which they would construct on the west bank, in Canaan, as a reminder to all the tribes that those on the east bank were God's covenant people, too! Some hot-heads in Israel didn't properly interpret their altar. They viewed this monument to unity as one of divisivity, perhaps even of idolatry.

The Israelite army, still fresh from battle, descended on the east bank tribes, ready to do them in. However, cooler heads prevailed, and an investigative committee, with Phineas as chairman, was sent to fetch an explanation. Thank the Lord, they didn't shoot first and ask questions later!

They communicated. There was listening, hearing, and explanation. Bonds were strengthened. The nation was unified. God was honored.

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

Bible Book

Final Instructions

by Dianne Swaim, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 20:18-22,28-30; 21:8-12

Focal passage: Acts 20:18-22,28-30

Central truth: Before walking into the final trap of the Jews, Paul leaves words of wisdom for his followers and for us.

My Uncle Parker looked up at Aunt Marie and asked, "Honey, am I going to die tonight?" And she, with painful honesty, knowing that cancer had taken its final toll on his body, answered, "Yes, honey, we think you are." "Then bring the kids because I love something I want to say." And for the next three hours he seemed to rise out of his near-coma state and lovingly say goodbye to his family. He told them how he loved them, what he had tried to teach them, and what he now expected of them in the future. Though it was painful for his family, it was a time they would never forget.

Paul has been warned that nothing good awaited him in Jerusalem. He acknowledged that he "knows not the things that shall befall me there" (Ac. 20:22b). Therefore, it is time to offer his final farewells to the elders from Ephesus. He first reminds them of the things he has tried to teach them and of the adverse conditions under which he ministered to them. Paul was not lifting himself up as a martyr, but was simply encouraging them.

In verse 20, we note that Paul had taught them publicly and from house to house. Obviously, Paul operated from the gift of evangelism. He preached from the pulpit and practiced "door-to-door witnessing!"

The meat of Paul's message, however, comes in verses 28-30. Notice the order in which Paul admonishes them: first, take heed unto yourselves. Unless we walk in the Spirit and defy Satan's attacks, we will be ultimately of no use to the flock. A great responsibility lies on the shoulders of elders, pastors, and teachers. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Lk. 12:48b).

Secondly, Paul commands that they take heed to the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers. One of Paul's strongest virtues was the he always cared about and followed up on the churches that he had started. He was forever concerned that they grow in the Spirit.

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

Arkadelphia/Brazil Project

While many Arkansas Baptist churches are gearing up for three years of partnership mission projects in Guatemala, two Arkadelphia congregations are continuing their love affair with Equatorial Brazil.

This June, a team from Arkadelphia's First and Second churches will make their third joint mission trip to Brazil.

Led by Bill Dixon, dean of students at Ouachita Baptist University, the team will work for 10 days in Brasilia Legal, a village of 4,000 on the Tapajos River, a tributary of the Amazon. There they will erect a church building, conduct evangelistic services and Vacation Bible Schools, provide medical and dental services, and dispense eye glasses. During their stay, they will sleep in hammocks or on the deck of a boat anchored in the river.

The 16 team members from First and Second churches will be joined by a husband and wife medical team from Rogers and Richard Walker, a former missionary to Brazil who is now a pastor in Florida.

In two previous mission trips, the two churches have built two church buildings, two parsonages, handed out 5,500 Portuguese Bibles and witnessed 94 professions of faith. Medical personnel treated 1,800 patients, extracted 1,500 teeth, and fitted 750 pairs of eyeglasses. The villages in which the teams work usually have no medical, dental, or optometric services.

Arkansas Baptists concluded their formal partnership with Baptists in Brazil in 1987.



Snookie Dixon, minister of education at First Church, Arkadelphia, is surrounded by children attending vacation Bible school in Paracari, located in the Amazon Basin of Brazil.

In their 1988 annual meeting, Arkansas Baptists voted to begin a three-year partnership with Baptists in Guatemala.

Missionaries Return to Work

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP)—Two missionary couples who had planned to work in Zaire are instead learning the Kirundi language and preparing to reopen Southern Baptist work in the east African nation of Burundi.

The newly arrived missionaries are Jeff and Mary Polglases and Dennis and Margaret McCall. The Polglases are from Tucson, Ariz., and Dallas, respectively. The McCalls are from Vicksburg, Miss., and Louisville, Ky.

The Polglases were living in Uvira, Zaire, when problems with their residence permits surfaced. They were reassigned to Burundi. The McCalls, who were studying language in France and bound for Zaire, instead transferred to join the Polglases in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital.

Southern Baptist missionaries left Burundi in 1986 because of government restrictions. Burundi Baptist leaders, however, continued to attend international workshops and conferences with other African Baptists and missionaries.

A change in government has allowed Southern Baptists to re-enter the country.

Burundi's majority Hutu and minority Tutsi peoples both speak Kirundi. Many Burundians also speak French. Last year underlying tension between the Tutsis and Hutus broke into open violence. Missionaries hope to work with both groups.

(FMB) photo / Patsy Elstman



Dentists In Togo

Arkansas dentist W.D. Harris (right) and assistant Peggy Hudgens do dental work on a patient while Southern Baptist Missionary Larry Murphy looks on during a bush clinic in Togo. Harris, two other dentists and nine others from First Church in Springdale worked with missionaries and Togolese Baptists for two weeks in the Tabligbo and Sokode areas of the west African nation. Four village chiefs donated land on which to build Baptist churches. The dentists saw 965 people and extracted 1,480 teeth.

Subscriber Services

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

Every Resident Family Plan gives churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$5.52 per year for each subscription.

A Group Plan (formerly called the Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church.

Are you moving?

Please give us two weeks advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address below and send to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$6.12 per year.

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$6.99 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

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

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

WORLD

Baptist Suffer Losses

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Two people closely related to Lebanon's Baptist community died and windows at Beirut Baptist School were shattered during heavy artillery fire in Beirut in recent weeks.

An employee of Beirut Baptist School in predominantly Muslim West Beirut lost her sister soon after fighting erupted in mid-March, reported Jim Ragland, a 33-year Southern Baptist missionary to Lebanon who now lives in Cyprus. The employee's sister was killed by an artillery shell fragment.

In early April, a man who had worshipped regularly at Mouseitbeh Baptist Church in West Beirut was killed when an artillery shell ripped into his home in predominantly Christian East Beirut.

On April 16, an artillery shell hit the playground between Beirut Baptist School and Mouseitbeh Church. No one was injured, but windows throughout the compound were shattered. Ragland estimated the repair bill will reach \$10,000.

"It's about the fifth or sixth time this has happened," he said. The last time windows were blown out was in 1984.

The fighting has kept the school closed for about a month, Ragland said. The school that Ragland founded now has 988 students and about 50 teachers.

A few days earlier, a canning factory partly owned by a member of Ras Beirut Baptist Church in East Beirut was destroyed. An artillery shell struck a large fuel tank at the site and set off a fire that burned out of control for several days and finally triggered an explosion heard up to 15 miles away.

A bomb shelter below the basement of the Baptist Center in East Beirut has housed more than 100 people for several weeks, Ragland added. Among those taking refuge are families of employees of Baptist media, publications and correspondence ministries based at the center, as well as neighbors in the vicinity.

The two deaths are among more than 225 reported to date during the latest outbreak of violence between so-called Christian and Muslim forces. Lebanon's civil war dates back to 1975 and has claimed more than 125,000 lives.

"Baptists and their friends are hurting," said Ragland, who along with other Southern Baptist missionaries was forced to leave Beirut when the U.S. government ended passport privileges for Americans in Lebanon in early 1987.

Ragland and his wife, Leola, were active in the Mouseitbeh congregation, and Ragland counted the dead man who attend-

ed that church and his wife as "very wonderful friends." Mouseitbeh is one of 16 Baptist churches in Lebanon.

Also in early April, a husband and wife who are members of Sid el Boucherieh Baptist Church in East Beirut were injured. They had ventured from a shelter to their home during a lull in the fighting when the home was hit by an artillery shell.

"The husband may lose a leg and possibly an eye from the explosion," Ragland said in a telephone interview. The wife sustained minor injuries.

The last Baptist killed in the fighting was a young man struck by a shell fragment in 1984, Ragland said. In 1982, a Baptist husband and wife and a couple of other family members were killed in indiscriminate shooting in a rural village.

Counts Dismissed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A judge had dismissed several claims in two lawsuits filed against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last year by a former missionary.

In orders entered April 3 following a March 20 hearing, Richmond (Va.) Circuit Court Judge Randall G. Johnson dismissed the claims of intentional infliction of emotional harm, conspiracy, and outrage filed against the mission board in suits by Diana Wade and her four children.

The dismissed claims accounted for some \$100 million of the \$141 million sought by Mrs. Wade in the two suits. Judge Johnson retained other allegations of breach of contract and negligence in the suits for further hearings. He also dismissed claims for negligent infliction of emotional harm, but granted Mrs. Wade and her children 21 days to amend these claims if they can. Subsequent hearing dates have not been set.

The two suits claim a representative of the mission board was told that Mrs. Wade's former husband G. Thomas Wade Jr., had sexually abused the couple's oldest daughter but did not report it to Mrs. Wade or to police. The suits say that the board's representative asked Wade to get counseling, but the missionary refused, promising the abuse would not continue. Later, the suits allege, sexual abuse of two younger daughters and a son occurred.

The Wade's were missionaries in Kenya and Botswana from 1976 until 1984. The board requested Mrs. Wade's resignation after her husband voluntarily submitted his resignation in August 1985. The resignations were effective Jan. 31, 1986. The couple now is divorced.

017557 COMP 2230
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST #400
NASHVILLE TN 37203