

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

2-25-1993

### February 25, 1993

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_90-94](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94)



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

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "February 25, 1993" (1993). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 46.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_90-94/46](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/46)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 4

February 25, 1993



## Do Something!

**Week of Prayer for Home Missions**

**March 7-14**

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**

**National Goal: \$38 Million**

**State Goal: \$1,025,000**

...which  
missions are  
Armstrong  
consequently  
...," he said.  
... gifts to the  
...ing exceeded  
...tional goal is  
...s \$1,025,000.  
...the offering sup-  
...ome missionar-  
...States, Canada,  
...Caribbean.

# Millikin resigns as president of Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE — Jimmy A. Millikin, president of Williams Baptist College since July 1991, announced his resignation to college trustees February 19. He has accepted a position as chairman of the New Testament department at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Trustee chairman Wendell Ross of Fort Smith said the trustees accepted Millikin's resignation "with deep regret," adding that his brief tenure as president "had been such a delight and things were going along harmoniously."



Millikin

Ross noted that Millikin "has peace that this is God's will for his life. We trust his decision and are happy for him. We have confidence the Lord will provide us the right president to follow in his footsteps."

Trustees elected Gerald Swaim, vice president for academic affairs, as acting president and chief executive officer. They also elected a presidential search committee which will be chaired by Ross. Other trustees on the committee include William Jessen of Hot Springs, George Schroeder of Little Rock, Frank Shell of Batesville and Sonny Simpson of Little Rock. The committee also will include a student, Grant DeProw, as well as a faculty member and a member of the administrative staff yet to be selected.

Acknowledging that "when someone suddenly resigns a position after such a

brief time, there naturally arises a lot of speculation as to the reason," Millikin explained, "My decision was simply a personal and, I trust, a spiritual one."

"My decision was not made because of any internal conflicts or problems between me and the board of the college, nor with the administrative staff, nor with the faculty and certainly not with my predecessor, Dr. Jack Nicholas....The truth is, I could not get rid of the restlessness in my spirit over the feeling that I was not fulfilling the calling for which God had gifted me."

Prior to accepting the WBC presidency, Millikin served 18 years on the faculty of Mid-America Seminary. Before that, he served eight years as a professor at Southern (Williams) Baptist College. An alumnus of Southern Baptist College, he also holds degrees from East Texas Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Concerning his return to Mid-America, Millikin noted, "When this door opened, I felt it was God's doing. As painful as it was, I had to make the decision to leave my position at WBC and return to teaching."

While he is "excited about getting back into the classroom," Millikin added that his decision to resign was "excruciatingly painful" because of his positive relationship to Arkansas Baptists, his love and vision for the college and the support of his colleagues at WBC.

"I must follow what I feel to be the calling of God in my life," Millikin emphasized. "My prayer is that God will use my brief stay, and also my decision to leave, for His glory and the good of the college and His kingdom work in Arkansas."

## Cover Story



## Do Something 3

The 1993 Week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 7-14. According to Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis, gifts to the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are "essential to reaching our nation for Christ."

## Also inside

**Perspective**  
 You'll Be Glad to Know.....4  
 The President's Corner.....4  
 Straight from the Editor.....5  
 Great Commission concerns.....5

**Arkansas Baptists**  
 Criswell visits Arkansas.....6  
 Volunteers meet diverse needs.....7  
 Arkansas All Over.....8-9  
 Biggs: a friend of children.....9  
 Children's Homes receipts.....18-21

**Nation**  
 WMU, FMB leaders disagree.....10  
 FMB initiates changes.....11  
 Bivocational ministry.....13  
 Stewardship commission cuts.....14  
 Home missionaries appointed.....16

**Lessons**.....22-23

Next issue: March 11

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

Troyale Henderson.....Editor  
 Chas Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor  
 year. These.....Operations Manager

Colleen Backus.....Production Manager  
 Diane Fowler.....Production Artist (part-time)  
 Erwin L. McDonald, Lit. D. ....Editor Emeritus

because they are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be addressed to the Editor. Only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Changes of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the meeting. Advertisements expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the magazine. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

**When inquiry**  
 tion by mail, please send SASE (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope) to: Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Fort Smith, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.  
 Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.  
 Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 92 • Number 4

BS: Greg Kirksey, Benton, president; Nelson Wilhelm, Fort Smith; Lane Strother, Thomas, Searcy; Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Lucie C. Hagins, Rogers; and Brenda Bruce, Newark.

# Arkansas Baptists make key statistical gains

Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists both registered gains in eight of 10 key reporting areas in 1992, according to statistics compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The statistics are based on churches' 1992 Uniform Church Letter reports.

On the state level, baptisms increased 5.1 percent while they declined 7.3 percent on the national level. Arkansas Baptists reported 13,009 baptisms, a gain of 627 over the previous year. Across the SBC, baptisms totaled 367,847, a drop of 28,821 from 1991.

Increases were registered on both the state and national levels in number of churches, church membership, Sunday School enrollment, music ministry enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment, total receipts and mission expenditures. Both groups showed a decrease in Woman's Missionary Union enrollment.

Discipleship Training enrollment was the one area where the SBC experienced a gain while Arkansas Baptist participation decreased. Discipleship Training enrollment went up 1.1 percent on the national level to 2,226,013 and declined 0.6 percent on the state level to 75,909.

The SBC showed a net gain of 237 churches to reach a new total of 38,458. Arkansas Baptists recorded a net gain of 12 churches, reaching a total of 1,305.

Church membership, which topped 15 million in 1991, increased by 0.8 percent in 1992 for a new total of 15,365,486. On the state level, membership increased 1.5 percent to 502,961.

Ongoing enrollment in Sunday School increased 1 percent, marking the fourth

	1992	1991	Gain/Loss	Change
Churches reporting	1,305	1,293	12	0.9%
Baptisms	13,009	12,382	627	5.1%
Church membership	502,961	496,583	7,378	1.5%
Sunday School enrollment	259,842	256,201	3,641	1.4%
Discipleship Training enrollment	75,909	76,347	-438	-0.6%
Music Ministry enrollment	58,300	55,921	2,379	4.3%
WMU enrollment	27,550	27,694	-144	-0.5%
Brotherhood enrollment	12,583	11,973	610	5.1%
Total receipts	\$153,930,655	\$145,664,080	\$8,266,575	5.7%
Mission expenditures	\$27,143,253	\$25,599,690	\$1,543,563	6.0%

consecutive gain. The new national total of 8,262,521 is a record enrollment. In Arkansas, Sunday School enrollment increased 1.4 percent, to a new total of 259,842.

Music ministry enrollment increased 4.3 percent on the state level and 0.6 percent on the national level. Arkansas Baptist music ministries gained 2,379 members for a new total of 58,300 while Southern Baptists increased 10,511 to a total of 1,886,121.

Brotherhood enrollment in Arkansas went up 5.1 percent to 12,583. In the SBC, Brotherhood enrollment increased 2.1 percent to 614,366.

WMU enrollment fell 0.8 percent on

the national level and 0.5 percent on the state level. The new totals include 27,550 WMU members in Arkansas and 1,190,908 in the SBC.

In financial categories, mission expenditures increased 6 percent in Arkansas and 2.7 percent nationally. Arkansas Baptists channeled \$27,143,253 into mission causes while the Southern Baptist total reached \$751,773,457.

Total tithes, offerings and special gifts increased 5.7 percent among Arkansas Baptists and 4.1 percent among Southern Baptists. Arkansas Baptists gave more than \$153.9 million through their churches while Southern Baptist giving reached almost \$4.9 billion.

## Annie Armstrong gifts? Discover 'what works'

SPARKMAN—There are almost as many ways to encourage a high level of giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions as there are churches. It's a matter of finding what works for a given congregation.

What works for First Church of Sparkman—a perennial leader in Annie Armstrong per capita giving for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention—is an ingrained tradition of giving bolstered by publicity and pastoral support.

"The Baptist Women set the goal for the offering and present it to the church business meeting," said Belinda Holt, Woman's Missionary Union director. From there, the women really get down to business.

"We put the offering envelopes into

the order of service along with the prayer guide on the first Sunday of the emphasis," Holt said. "Then the WMU director is given time during the worship service to focus on the theme and the goal, and encourage use of the prayer guide every day."

During the week, Baptist Women meet and use the programs provided in *Royal Service* magazine. On Wednesday night, the Home Mission Board's MissionsUSA Video Magazine segment featuring the offering is shown. And on Sunday, the WMU director again makes an appeal to the entire congregation. The pastor reinforces the message with a missions sermon.

"We have an older congregation, and they've been giving to Annie Armstrong for many years," Holt said. "And they've

always given quite a lot for a church this size."

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, knows the value of members committed to missions in congregations like First Church, Sparkman.

"Contributions from churches which give so sacrificially to home missions are essential to reaching our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal, and consequently reaching our nation for Christ," he said.

Last year was the first time gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering exceeded \$36 million. This year's national goal is \$38 million; the state goal is \$1,025,000. All money received from the offering supports the work of 5,000 home missionaries serving in the United States, Canada, American Samoa and the Caribbean.

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

"The hand of the Lord will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes" (Isa. 66:14b).

Believers are faced with considerable discouragement today. So many efforts meet with little or no success. Excitement is so scarce that it makes a person feel strange to let himself go with real enthusiasm about anything related to God. In any given setting, true followers of Christ are usually overwhelmingly outnumbered. And, as if the opposition of the world were not enough, we end up facing opposition from within the Christian community. At times we are tempted to ask, "Will evil be forever on the throne?"

Beloved! Beloved! Hear the Word of the Lord. "You will reap if you faint not." "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord." "I would not be so unrighteous as to forget your work and labor of love...." Remember, God "acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways" (Gal. 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10; Isa. 64:4-5).

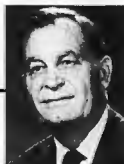
My observation is that our churches may not need to do a lot more than they are doing. They may need to be more selective in what they are doing. They need to do it with a lot more enthusiasm and excitement. They need to do it with a lot more expectancy. They need to do it with a lot more spiritual preparation. Remember, "the hand of the Lord will be made known" and He promises to "act on behalf of those who wait for him." Those two promises are reason enough to approach our work with great enthusiasm.

What I know about the world discourages me. Much of what I know about the church discourages me. All that I know about God (which is not enough) encourages me. To rise to meet the challenge of the "New Dark Ages," believers must come to know and experience God. "Experiencing God" is a great three-month study that will assist you in your pursuit of God. Call the Baptist Book Store for copies.

WILLIAM H. SUTTON

## The President's Corner

### In or Out?



One of the old Hollywood movie moguls coined the phrase "include me out." The grammar makes us smile but the reality of choosing to be in or out is an unavoidable part of Christian life.

There can be no doubt that God commands us to avoid, even to flee from, certain activities and lifestyles offered by the world. The psalmist wrote, "The deeds of faithless men I hate: they will not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me: I will have nothing to do with evil" (Psa. 101:3-4).

However, there are roll calls for God's people that should never be answered "include me out." When we consider the urgent business of foreign missions, home missions, evangelism, the awesome moral decay that threatens our families and our country, we are without excuse if we fail to take our places of service like good soldiers.

And, yet, some are saying "include me out." Some of us find comfort in complaining that our service is being

hindered by the conduct of other soldiers. That is never a problem if we wear the proper service uniform described by the Apostle Paul:

"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievance you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (Col. 3:12-14).

Don't let human frailty keep you from putting on the clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience and, above all, love. Another soldier wearing the same uniform will not shoot you. As to bullets from soldiers not wearing the uniform, God will make you bulletproof.

Buddy Sutton, a Little Rock attorney and active member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Personal Perspectives

"Any time you devote your life to expounding the Word of God, the Lord will bless you and He will bless your people."

—W.A. Criswell, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas

"I pray the day will never come that we as Southern Baptists will say we cannot walk with another Baptist or another person who believes in Jesus Christ."

—Alma Hunt, retired WMU executive director

"Every single day, I am confronted with this phrase: If not me, then who? I've got to be about God's business."

—Don Sewell, director of special projects, Foreign Mission Board

"If you're not drawn to Africa, be drawn to something. Look in your back yards, and if there's a need, know with God's strength you can meet it."

—Peggy Say, outreach director, Friends in the West human rights organization

# Do something -- volunteer!

"Volunteer" is a good Baptist word. Few Baptist business meetings go by without inviting members to volunteer for something. It may be to help chaperone the youth lock-in, mow the church lawn or drive Aunt Susie to a doctor's appointment. Whatever the need, someone generally raises a hand and agrees to take on one more responsibility. Volunteering is one of the things Baptists do best.

A typical dictionary definition of volunteer is "one who enters into or offers himself for a service of his own free will." I particularly like the part about one's "own free will." Volunteerism is about giving and the key to generous, joyful giving is doing it voluntarily, without coercion, out of one's own free will. One of the fringe benefits is that volunteers consistently testify they gain as much or more from the experience as those they are seeking to help.

Where would our churches be without volunteerism? We invite people to voluntarily come down the aisle of the church and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Our deacons, ushers, Sunday School teachers and committee members provide ministry on a voluntary basis. Our choirs are filled with volunteers. Every worship service, meeting, fellowship and ministry project we undertake, we do

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

with the able assistance of enthusiastic volunteers.

Perhaps the one area of church ministry we most closely associate with volunteerism is volunteer mission projects. Thousands of Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists throughout the nation participate in volunteer mission projects each year, both on the local church level and beyond. Mission projects may range from a Saturday afternoon outreach effort in a nearby community to a two-week overseas project as part of the Guatemala-Arkansas Partnership.

Construction teams, disaster relief teams or youth groups doing Backyard Bible Clubs and door-to-door surveys are among the countless ways Arkansas Bap-

tists are involved in volunteer missions. Current opportunities include involvement in a partnership with Iowa Baptists who are seeking to strengthen Southern Baptist ministry in their state.

The theme for the 1993 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is "Do Something!" Promotional materials for the annual emphasis focus on praying, giving and going. "Do Something!" is just another way to say "volunteer." As Arkansas Baptists pray for home missions during the March 7-14 week of prayer and give to help meet the state convention's \$1,025,000 Annie Armstrong goal, it also is essential to become personally involved in the "going" aspect of volunteer missions.

In addition to next month's emphasis on home missions, Feb. 28 is Volunteers in Missions Day, an annual opportunity for churches to recognize the efforts of volunteers at home and around the world.

Why should Arkansas Baptists be active volunteers in helping spread the gospel of Christ? Remember the words of our Lord who said, "Go ye therefore...." He also reminded us in Matthew 25:40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." In other words: "Do Something—Volunteer."

## How committed are we to the Great Commission?

By Larry L. Lewis

President, 5BC Home Mission Board

If the world is going to be reached with the message of God's love and grace, His people are going to have to do the work.

Few question why Southern Baptists send missionaries, start churches and sponsor evangelism efforts. God requires it. It's just that simple. A more important question is: How committed are we about fulfilling the Great Commission?

In 1976, we gave ourselves a goal to share the gospel with every human on the earth by the year 2000. For 16 years, Bold Mission Thrust has provided our denomination with a yardstick for our commitment to missions worldwide and at home.

Part of the Home Mission Board's goal in Bold Mission Thrust is to help Southern Baptists have 50,000 New Testament congregations in America by 2000 that will share the good news through ministry and witness.

To accomplish that, we need to aver-

age 1,500 church starts annually during the '90s; hence the 15,000 Campaign.

But is starting churches really important? Three statistics prove the 15,000 Campaign is important to our denominational and spiritual goals.

■ More than 20 percent of our population live in apartments and multihousing complexes. Of those families, 98 percent don't attend church. If you are looking for proof that America is a mission field, look no further.

■ In America, 325 counties have no Southern Baptist church. Of these, 137 have more than 20,000 residents.

■ In 1960, there were 5,581 people for each Southern Baptist church. By last year, that figure had grown to 6,587 people for each Southern Baptist church.

It would be presumptuous to suggest that only Southern Baptists can present the gospel. But the tragic increases in crime, greed and abuse should convince us that millions of Americans remain untouched by the transforming grace of God.

Church starting and the 15,000 Campaign are also important because new churches mean new energy. They usually grow faster and are more evangelistic than older churches.

What can you do to support the 15,000 Campaign? First, pray. If God is not a part of this endeavor, it will come to naught. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Second, encourage your church and association to get involved in starting new churches. The Home Mission Board has many resources to help with this.

Third, consider your personal commitment to helping start and grow churches in your community. For virtually no cost, an individual with a burden for the unchurched can start a home fellowship with the possibility of becoming a church.

With the help of God and you, Southern Baptists can achieve 50,000 congregations by the year 2000. More importantly, however, we will have more beacons pointing our country to Christ.

## Criswell offer insights to Arkansas pastors

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"If I had my life to live over again, I would change the order of my priorities," declared W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas. "All through the years of my life, my priorities were first God, second the church, third my family. If I had my life to live over again, I'd make it God, I'd make it my family and then I'd make it my church. I think I made a mistake in that."

That perspective was among dozens of insights Criswell shared with approximately 35 central Arkansas pastors during a recent conference at First Church, Little Rock. The February 8 meeting was coordinated by Frank Gantz, pastor of West Rock Church and hosted by First Church pastor Bill Elliff.

Sharing candidly about "the things I have learned in the 65 years I have been a pastor," Criswell addressed topics ranging from television to premillennialism. The 83-year-old minister, who also is chancellor of Criswell College, was accompanied by Criswell College president Richard Melick, who shared promotional information about the college.

Describing Criswell as a "living legend," Melick said the Little Rock meeting was the first of several such gatherings across the nation. He said Criswell's presence and perspectives were being shared as "a gift from the college to American Christianity."

Discussing practical aspects of the pastorate, Criswell remarked, "In my humble persuasion, the study, the library of the pastor ought to be at his home. When you get up in the morning, go to the study and stay there; every morning keep that sacred for you and for God."

Encouraging pastors to study each morning, work for the church each afternoon and be available for meetings each evening, Criswell said, "When you stand up in the pulpit the following Sunday, they'll know what you have been doing—studying God's Word, listening to the voice of the Lord and preparing that message."

Discussing preaching styles, church priorities and premillennialism, Criswell repeatedly contrasted himself with George W. Truett, his predecessor at First Church, Dallas. Criswell, who has served at Dallas 48 years, followed Truett, who served there 46 years.

"It is a wonderful thing if a preacher will always preach through the books of



Dallas pastor W.A. Criswell shares personal perspectives gained from his 65 years as a minister.

the Bible," Criswell suggested. "My great predecessor in Dallas, Dr. George W. Truett, was a topical preacher. I don't think Dr. Truett ever preached any other kind of a sermon than a topical sermon."

Criswell said he began preaching expository sermons early in his ministry "and have been doing that ever since. I started at Genesis 1:1 and for 18 years, I preached through the Bible." Since that time, he said, he has always been preaching through a book of the Bible.

Crediting much of the Dallas church's growth over the years to his focus on expository preaching, Criswell added, "Any time you devote your life to expounding the Word of God, the Lord will bless you and He will bless your people."

Concerning local church priorities, Criswell said Truett's idea of a church "was a place to preach and that was it. It was a pulpit."

By contrast, Criswell continued, "My idea of a church has been in an altogether different category. It is that a church ought to encompass the entire life of the family—mind, soul and body."

Criswell said he accomplished that primarily through an emphasis on Sunday School which eventually grew to more than 8,000 people in attendance.

Criswell said worship services "ought to magnify the preaching of the gospel." Referring again to his predecessor, he noted, "That's what Truett did—he magnified the preaching."

Emphasizing the importance of pointing toward an invitation as an opportunity to respond to God, Criswell added, "Dare to change the approach. Don't be married

to any kind of method or procedure of any day that is past."

As an example, he noted, "When I began preaching 65 years ago, revival was the entire life of the church....Everybody came to the revivals, infidels and all, and most of us got religion." In recent years, however, "the church will just sit down and wait for the revival meeting to be over."

"Instead of fighting a program that will not succeed, what I need to do is change the approach and that's what I have done," Criswell said. "I don't even propose to have a revival in the church in Dallas. It doesn't work so we do it some other way." In order to get these people to God, we make every service a revival service 52 Sundays a year."

Criswell said he became "convicted and convinced of the truth" of premillennialism, due in part to Revelation 1:19 which he described as the outline of Revelation.

"The Bible is a book of confusion if you are not a premillennialist," Criswell declared. "To me and anyone who accepts premillennial interpretation, the Bible is a plain and simple outline."

Among other topics he addressed were:

■ Radio and television: "You will never be able to send out enough missionaries to preach to the whole world. It is neither feasible nor possible....Yet the Book says this gospel shall be preached to the whole world, then shall the end come. My answer to that prophecy is the invention of radio and television. That's God's way of the gospel being preached to the whole world."

■ Missions support: "The Cooperative Program was born in my lifetime. It is surely one of the finest instruments God has ever given our people. But if you want to support a missionary in Brazil, wonderful; designate it....Don't hesitate to encourage people to designate in the church."

■ Deacons: "God ordained the preacher to be the head of the church. Any time you have a deacon-led church, you have a weak and weakening congregation....I love the deacons but God never intended the deacons to lead the church."

■ Counseling: "World without end do preachers fall into tragedy in counseling. Women will love to tell you the intimacies of their lives. Don't ever allow it....Ninety-nine percent of all the problems anyone ever faces can be solved if you will get right with God. That will solve it."

# Missions volunteers help meet diverse needs

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

Volunteers have many faces — from high school youth groups on a summer mission trip to retirees committing a year or more of their lives to a specific mission assignment. "We couldn't pay career people to do the work volunteers do — the money is simply not available," said Pete Petty, who directs volunteer missions for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's missions department.

"In 1991, there were 70,000 volunteers participating through the Home Mission Board's short- and long-term mission projects. That's \$95 million worth of time," Petty continued. "And that's just what is reported. We need to continue to find volunteers and opportunities to use them."

Sunday, February 28, is Southern Baptists' annual Volunteers in Missions Day, offering local churches an opportunity to highlight the importance of volunteerism and to recognize those who are involved in volunteer mission projects.

"A lot of times we think of volunteerism as something that is done one state over or 10 states over. But often there are opportunities within the same county — a director of missions who has no staff, or working at one of the migrant mission centers at Bartholomew or Hope," Petty noted. He said one of those centers — the Hope Migrant Mission Center — has drawn on a volunteer base of more than 400 people and was kept open by volunteers and a summer missionary between directors.

US-2 missionary Maria Scott in Bureka Springs is dependent on volunteers to do resort missions. "The groups that come have to compete with the Passion Play, have music to rival the music shows; even puppet shows have to be very sharp," Petty said. "Maria couldn't do what she does without volunteers."

One of the biggest problems, Petty commented, "is knowing where the needs are. Local associations and churches need to 'look out' for where the needs are. I have groups call that want to come to the 'Natural State' and do missions — say, paint a church — but we don't know where the needs are."

One need recently identified has been formalized into the Mississippi River Ministry; Arkansas volunteer coordinators will be John and DeDe Ragsdale of El Dorado. The couple has been involved in many volunteer projects, not only in Arkansas but in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico as well. "In my observation, there are so many needs and so few people who

## VOLUNTEERS



IN MISSIONS DAY

2/28/93

want to help," Ragsdale said. "There are people who don't come from well-rounded families, don't have a good education, or haven't learned to love the people around them. We need to give them a visible Christian example."

Another area where volunteers have played an all-important role is the Guatemala/Arkansas Partnership, which has utilized more than 1,400 volunteers during its four-year link-up. Layman Jay Pratt of Little Rock, who recently returned from his second mission trip to Guatemala, explained that "each person who goes comes back with a story to tell." In his own experience, he helped build a tiny mission on the first trip that, by the time he returned, had a two-bedroom apartment

added to it for the pastor and his family. "It was a fabulous experience," Pratt related. "To meet the people, who are hard-working with an immense spirit of hope, and just be a small part of what's going on there, was just fantastic."

The newest partnership is here in the United States with fellow Baptists in Iowa. There are already many missions opportunities, according to Jimmy Barrentine, ABSO missions department director, who is heading up the partnership. There are needs for "preacher-types" for extended pulpit supply, interim and to conduct revivals. Other staff member, such as ministers of music, can help with similar projects.

"There are quite a few construction projects," Barrentine said. "Iowa is a prosperous state, and some of our Baptist facilities really need some work to be attractive."

Student ministries, new work starts and leadership training are other important parts of the link-up where lay volunteers can make a crucial difference. "There are 54 counties in Iowa with no Southern Baptist churches, and many with no evangelical work," Barrentine explained. People interested in going to Iowa as part of a mission project should contact their local director of missions, he pointed out, since all Iowa associations have been linked with an Arkansas association.

Information on other volunteer opportunities can be obtained by calling the state missions department at 376-4791, ext. 5249, or by calling the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

## Hands-on volunteerism: Nailbenders

Nailbenders for Jesus put their volunteer talents to work on a regular basis. Construction teams are constantly at work under the leadership of Frank Allen, statewide volunteer coordinator for Nailbenders. Ever dedicated, Allen spent his 80th birthday in January at work on a construction site in Quitman.

"We build what we call 'mission churches' — that is, churches that couldn't be built unless we supplied that labor," Allen explained. "We're old retirees — retired Baptist men who love the Lord, and this is how we express it."

Begun in 1988, the group has built close to 50 churches and has job assignments slated through the fall of 1994. The group's only requirement is that the church provide hot meals for lunch

each day they are on the construction site.

More volunteers are always needed for the church construction projects. In March, the group will work on New Hope Church in Little Rock. In April, they will be working at Friendship Church in Sherwood and Bold Pilgrim Church in McGehee. In May, they will be working on Parkers Chapel and Northwest Church, both in El Dorado.

In June, Pleasant Grove Church in Annieville will be the group's focus, and in July, Allen has plans to work on Friendship Church in Batesville. Fall plans include Sugar Loaf Church in Heber Springs, Luxora Church and White Oak Church in Walnut Ridge.

For more information on Nailbenders, contact Allen at 966-4982.



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Staff changes

**Bobby Shows** recently resigned as minister of activities and senior adults at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock following 14 years of service. He will join the Missouri Baptist Convention executive board staff.

Shows has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Royal Ambassador and High School Baptist Young Men committees.

In Missouri, he will join the Disciple Development Division on the missions education and ministry team, focusing on the areas of senior adults, Royal Ambassadors, High School Baptist Young Men, recreation and camping.

**Rick Isbell** joined the staff of Markham Street Church in Little Rock Feb. 14 as associate pastor of worship and music. He came there from LaPorte, Texas, where he had been serving on the staff of Fairmont Park Church. A native of Tennessee, he is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Isbell and his wife, Kim, have a son, Chad.

**Doayne Robertson** will begin serving again in March as pastor of First Church in Melbourne. He will return to this position from Peru where he has been serving as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary.

**Mike Hooks** joined the staff of First Church of Prescott Feb. 7 as minister of music and youth. A native of El Dorado, he is a graduate of Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Sandy, and their daughter, Nalcy, moved to Prescott from Azle, Texas.

**Rick Hyde** will begin serving March 1 as pastor of Third Church in Malvern. He will go there from Murfreesboro where he has just completed 10 years of service as pastor of First Church. Hyde and his wife, Kay, have two children, Carrie and Jonathan.

**Dennis Scudder** will join the staff of East Side Church in Paragould March 1 as minister of education, outreach and senior adults. Scudder, an Arkansas native, will return to the state from Ormond Beach, Fla., where he has been serving on the staff of First Church as minister of education and outreach. Prior to moving to

Florida, he had served in church staff positions in both Arkansas and Texas.

**Allen Thrasher** is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Midland. He also is a graduate student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

**James Whitlock** resigned Jan. 31 as pastor of Cabin Creek Church, Lamar. He will be available for pulpit supplies and to serve as an interim pastor. Whitlock may be contacted at P.O. Box 315, Lamar, AR 72846; phone 501-754-2586.

**Larry Wood** is serving as pastor of East Tip Church of Lafayette, Ind., where he had been serving for two months as interim pastor. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served as a pastor of Arkansas churches and also worked as a high school teacher and athletic coach. Wood and his wife, Betty, and their daughter, Sarah, moved to Indiana from Little Rock. Their son, Jason, is away at college.

**Ryan Bowman** has resigned as college minister at Second Church of Conway to serve as minister of youth for Baptist Fellowship Church in Conway.

**J.C. Myers** has resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Conway. He is residing in North Little Rock and may be contacted at 501-753-1125.

**Craig Chambers** recently resigned as pastor of Harlan Park Church, Conway, to serve as pastor of Hickory Flat Church in Hickory Flat, Miss.

**Carl Deal** is serving as part-time music director of Helena Church. He also serves as a faculty member of the Helena/West Helena School District. Deal and his wife, LaRhona, have a daughter, Heather.

**Debbie Greene** has joined the staff of Central Church in North Little Rock as permanent part-time director of preschool and children's ministry. She and her husband, Matthew, are members of the church.



**Sherwood First Church** broke ground Jan. 31 for a 22,570-square-foot education building that will cost approximately \$950,000. To be completed in two phases, it will provide space for one children's department and 10 youth/adult departments. Participants in the groundbreaking were (left to right) Cecil Fuller, Discipleship Training director; David Perry, Sunday School director; Dennis Smith, minister of education; Jimmy Jennings, chairman of the Growth Challenge committee; and Scott Hinton, pastor.

## Obituary

**Edna Bernice Brewer** of DeQueen died Jan. 30 at age 68. She was the wife of Harold Brewer, currently serving as interim pastor of Wickles Church and a former pastor of First Church of Bebe and Kern Heights Church of DeQueen. Mrs. Brewer

was a member of Kern Heights Church. Other survivors are a son, Dwight Brewer of Houston, Texas; one daughter, Beverly Jean Brewer of Denver, Colo.; two sisters; and three grandchildren.

## Church news

**Mount Carmel Church** of Cabot held a "Real Life" evangelistic crusade Jan. 24-27 with William Blackburn of Fort Smith serving as evangelist. Jerry Miller, minister of music, coordinated special music. A special service at "Living Touching," one of the church's benevolent ministries, resulted in four professions of faith and two decisions for assurance. Services at the church resulted in 41 professions of faith, four additions by letter and 16 decisions for assurance. Mitch Tapson is pastor.

**Open Door Church** of Rogers recently launched a new work in the Avoca area. Worship services have been held in the Avoca firehouse with approximately 40 in attendance. Plans are under way to purchase property for placement of a mobile chapel.

**Plainview Church** has completed renovation of the education building and fellowship hall, adding 1,000 square feet for classrooms and enlarging the kitchen. The church also recently purchased additional property for parking and future growth.

**Mount Ida First Church** held a revival Jan. 31-Feb. 3 that resulted in 68 professions of faith, 17 rededications and one commitment to full-time Christian vocation. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was evangelist. Joe Bagwell is pastor.

**Park Hill Church** in North Little Rock will have an 11 a.m. recognition service and host a 3 to 5 p.m. reception March 14 in the Gold Room to honor Betty Harp. She is retiring from the church staff, following 37 years of service. Currently serving as administrative assistant, she has held other staff positions and has been a leader in the Laubach Literacy program. In addition, she currently is serving as chairman of the constitution and bylaws committee for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

**Garland County Association's** senior adult organization is providing teddy bears for both the Hot Springs Police Department and the Garland County Sheriff's Department. The bears are being given to children involved in accidents, troubled domestic situations, where parents are under arrest or where children have suffered abuse. Funds for this ongoing ministry are being provided by senior adults from each of the association's 20 churches.

## Biggs: a faithful friend of children for 25 years

By Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

"The still soft voice of God is sometimes hard to hear and follow but I am thankful I heard His voice at the age of 19," declared Johnny Biggs Feb. 1 when he was recognized by staff members for 25 years of service with Arkansas Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

In response to God's call to ministry, Biggs received a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., and a master's degree in social work from Louisiana State University School of Social Welfare, Baton Rouge, La. Prior to coming to Arkansas, he served as a child welfare caseworker with the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare in Lafayette, La., and as a social worker with the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Augusta, Ga.

"I am thankful that I once again heard the still small voice of God in 1968 and answered His call to Arkansas," Biggs noted. "However, when I answered the call to my first denominational service, I never dreamed or envisioned the growth that would occur in the programs of Arkansas Baptist Children's Home.

"When I joined the staff as director of the Little Rock area office it was the first off-campus program of the Children's Home," Biggs recalled. "Today we are ministering statewide with the Children's Home, five emergency receiving homes, five area offices, a group home for boys in Jonesboro, the Boys Ranch in Harrison, five satellite offices and the Promise House in El Dorado."

Biggs, who became the agency's executive director in June 1971, attributed its growth to the cooperative working relationship with churches and associations. "Because they are providing us with office space, we are able to provide the staff and budget for Christian counseling in areas where there is limited counseling," he said.

The agency will again grow in 1993 with the opening of the Tommy Jones Memorial Emergency Receiving Home in West Fork under sponsorship of Washington-Madison Association and a satellite office in Ozark Association. A needs assessment for an emer-

gency receiving home also is under way in Tri-County Association. Biggs said the agency is still unable to respond to all of the requests it receives for children and their families. However, if it were not for our strong board of trustees, a very capable staff and the support of Arkansas Baptist churches and individuals we would not have been able to broaden our ministry this far, he added.

He expressed a desire for a broadened awareness of the Promise House which is Arkansas Baptists' alternative to abortion, sharing how a teenager with a scheduled abortion recently had been told about the Promise House by a Baptist high school teacher. "We need more abortions canceled like this," Biggs emphasized. Since its September 1991 opening the Promise House has provided an alternative to abortion for 10 girls, there have been five babies delivered and three adoptions arranged plus one pending.

Biggs' 25-year pilgrimage has not only seen the agency's ministries expand across the state but the staff has grown from 16 to 68, the budget has increased from \$211,868 to more than \$2 million in 1993 and the number of children ministered to has increased from 77 in 1968 to 638 in 1992.

### Growing needs of children

Concerning the growing needs of children, Biggs noted, "Protective service in 1968 dealt with children who were truant from the school district or were not adequately fed or clothed. The protective service we now provide is trying to save the lives of children who are in danger of death."

Describing a "trail of miracles" in which God has provided the resources, the staff and the opportunities to meet the needs of children and their families, Biggs reflected, "We have broadened our base to become an arm of the church reaching out."

While heading the agency, Biggs also has served as president of Southern Baptist Child Care Executives and of the Southwestern Association of Executives of Homes for Children.

Biggs and his wife, Joyce, are active members of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, serving as co-teachers of a fourth grade Sunday School class.

## WMU, FMB leaders disagree over cooperation with other groups

By Erich Bridges

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Leaders of the Woman's Missionary Union and Foreign Mission Board—sister agencies for more than a century—strongly disagreed Feb. 8 over recent changes in WMU policy.

During a tense two-hour session, FMB trustees questioned WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien and other WMU leaders. The questions focused on the WMU executive board's vote to assist mission groups other than the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards.

WMU leaders believe they are responding to a changing society and a changing Southern Baptist scene, where churches and individuals are exploring a variety of choices in mission participation.

They said they have no intention of backing down on what they have done in the past—supporting Southern Baptist missions and helping raise millions of dollars annually for the two denominational mission boards. But they said, at the same time, they want to help all Southern Baptists do missions.

Foreign Mission Board trustees, in contrast, feel the WMU is abandoning the long-cherished unity of Southern Baptist Convention-sponsored mission efforts to aid groups like the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Much of the FMB trustees' concern focused on the WMU's decision to provide prayer support and resources for additional Southern Baptist mission groups—presumably including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The fellowship is not specifically mentioned in WMU's approved recommendations.

That move, said trustee Bill Blanchard, a Tennessee pastor, is "a radical departure from our past cooperative efforts" in supporting only "Southern Baptist Convention-sanctioned" mission work.

Blanchard repeatedly asked if WMU's study committee had attempted to poll or inform local WMU leaders about the "sweeping decisions" it was contemplating and if the decisions really represented grassroots opinion.

WMU is by nature a grassroots organization, O'Brien responded. Its executive board is made up of state WMU leaders who come to meetings with the "freshness of the local church." Advance surveys, letters and requests for prayer also were distributed widely, the WMU leaders said, and listening sessions were held.

"It's hard to say" how closely the final

decisions mirror every local WMU, O'Brien said as Blanchard pressed the question. "But (the new policy) is different only in that our denomination is different."

The Southern Baptist Convention once rallied around the Home and Foreign Mission boards alone, she explained. But many churches now send their own missionaries and volunteers across the nation and the world, and numerous groups within the denomination sponsor mission prayer efforts and projects.

Phyllis Malcom, an FMB trustee from Georgia, asked what she would teach her young Girls in Action mission group if WMU changes. If WMU no longer supports SBC causes only, they won't know "what their roots are," Malcom said.

"God showed me we don't need to be concerned about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," she continued. "We need to be concerned about the words coming down from you.... Ladies, I love you, but I'm afraid of your words."

Several other trustees echoed her anxiety, despite assurances from the WMU leaders that support for SBC missions would not change.

The anxiety was detailed by Missouri trustee Mike Goodwin, who said he sensed "almost a disdain" among WMU leaders for the current, conservative stance of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Because the FMB isn't in agreement with CBF "we can't walk together," he said. "I'm not assured—and I'd certainly have to be more deeply assured than what I've heard today—that we can in deed and

in truth come to a kind of understanding in which there can be a sense of trust."

A chorus of "amens" followed Goodwin's words. Trustee Phyllis Randall of Virginia then quoted retired WMU executive director Alma Hunt, who once wrote in a history of the WMU that the organization "has no program of her own. Our program is that of the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board."

Alma Hunt, sitting near the back of the board chapel, rose to respond.

"When I wrote that, I believed it with all my heart," Hunt said. "Today is a different day. But I do not believe that God intends for us not to be able to walk together. I think under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Christian people the world around can walk together."

"I've had some of the richest experiences of my life with Christians who are not Baptist but who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," Hunt said. "I pray the day will never come that we as Southern Baptists will say we cannot walk with another Baptist or another person who believes in Jesus Christ." A number in the room applauded.

After the dialogue, the WMU leaders voiced disappointment at the tense atmosphere.

"I think it was significant that there was not a kind word for WMU" after a century of WMU support for the Foreign Mission Board, O'Brien said. "Rather, we were treated with suspicion. I think it would be safe to say it was unfriendly."

Where do the two agencies go from here? "It's up to (the Foreign Mission Board trustees)," O'Brien answered. "We're committed to do what we've done in the past. And we're hopeful they'll want to continue the partnership."

### Draper urges cautious reaction to WMU

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist leaders should be "very careful how we react" to the recent Woman's Missionary Union decision to broaden its work beyond Southern Baptist Convention entities, James T. Draper Jr. is advising fellow SBC leaders.

Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, confirmed in a Feb. 17 interview with Baptist Press that he voiced his caution to the InterAgency Council of chief executives of the SBC's 19 entities and in a Jan. 21 letter to Don Kammerdiener, interim president of the Foreign Mission Board.

"I believe we have to take everything in context at this time and be very careful how we react. It is my judgment that we need to wait and see how

things are really fleshed out in the implementation of what they have said before judgment is passed," Draper said. "I hope that none of our agencies or institutions will have a knee-jerk reaction to this situation. My own attitude is going to be one of wait and see what they actually do. Should they make a decision to disassociate in some way with the Southern Baptist Convention and embrace other groups more specifically, then we may have further decisions to make."

Draper continued in the letter to FMB leaders, "I guess what I am saying is that we need to look at the whole thing in context and allow time to see what develops before we take action that would precipitate a crisis."

# FMB trustees initiate changes in Europe

## Arkansas native John Floyd elected European area director

By Robert O'Brien

SBF Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BF)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees projected a new direction for mission work in Europe, debated how to communicate a dialogue with Woman's Missionary Union to missionaries overseas, and shelved a proposal to study whether the mission board should move.

Meeting Feb. 8-10 in Richmond, they also heard reports of increased evangelism and church growth overseas — even in remote Mongolia — and appointed 27 missionaries and reappointed one.

Arkansas native John Floyd, a former missionary and current vice president at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., was elected unanimously to become area director for Europe, effective March 1. He succeeds Keith Parker, who took early retirement last year in protest of board actions.

Floyd, who grew up in Lockesburg, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. He received the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and the doctor of theology degree from Mid-America. He served as a missionary to the Philippines in 1965-76. He and his wife, the former Helen Ruth Nutt of Mineral Springs, have two grown children.

Trustees voted to realign mission work in European countries into two administrative areas — Western Europe and Eastern Europe. Floyd will administer the whole area until the realignment takes place and another area director is elected to lead one of the areas.

Trustee chairman John Jackson said he was pleased at the decision to create a new area, which came out of a recommendation from Sam James, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. "Most of us have looked forward to this for some time, and we hoped staff would study it," Jackson said.

James, who earlier favored keeping Europe as one administrative area, said travel in the area changed his mind — as long as both areas stay under the unifying supervision of the same regional office.

He warned trustees that not all European Baptists and missionaries will like the new alignment. Many fear that "dividing" Europe will create problems in an area finally free from division by the Iron Curtain.

The Feb. 8 dialogue with Woman's

Missionary Union leaders continued to be the focus of intense discussion at the trustees' plenary session two days later.

Trustees approved a motion from their communications committee to send a videotape of the entire two-hour session to the approximately 125 regional organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries overseas so the missionaries could judge the dialogue for themselves. They also will send a transcript of it to each missionary.

***"The fact that we care deeply means that we must discuss intensely. I hope this dialogue (with WMU) will continue."***

— Don Kammerdiener  
FMB interim president

The decision to send the videotapes and transcripts came despite questions raised by Jackson and interim FMB president Don Kammerdiener about the wisdom of the action. They asked that the matter be referred to them for discussion. But a motion to that effect lost by a one-vote margin. A later motion to reconsider also failed.

Kammerdiener expressed concern about how the tape, which does not communicate the entire trustee meeting, would affect missionary morale. "What questions would they have?" he asked. "How would they be answered? Would it create more concerns or less concerns?"

Trustees also instructed the board's communications office not to send any background news stories to accompany the tape, which communications staffers said would have "contextualized" the events leading up to the dialogue.

Trustees objected to the interpretations the staff might include in the background articles. "The communications office has no authority to mail out context," said Missouri trustee Paul Brooks. "We didn't vote to send context."

Trustee John Simms of Virginia, a member of the communications committee, said the committee recommended sending the videotape because it felt a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article reporting on the dialogue already was in the hands of missionaries. "The committee thought

they should see for themselves what happened," Simms said.

Angered over the tone and content of the *Times-Dispatch* article, trustees approved a motion by trustee Bob Clements of Texas that the Richmond daily newspaper "send us a responsible reporter to cover our meetings."

They also approved an amendment to the videotape motion, proposed by trustee Paul Pressler of Texas, that it also be sent to the editor of the *Times-Dispatch* so he could evaluate the fairness of the coverage.

The article characterized the dialogue as "angry" and said trustees had "summoned" WMU officers to explain themselves.

Reporter Ed Briggs, the author of the article, told Baptist Press he believes he gave a fair report in the space he had available.

"It was the way the meeting came across during the dialogue and in events leading up to it," Briggs said. "WMU leaders were seated at a table and the trustees were peppering them with questions trying to get them to justify their actions."

"In a nutshell, it's the way we saw it," Briggs said. "Anyone who looks at that tape will see it basically as I reported it."

In his president's report, Kammerdiener drew "amens" and applause from trustees as he thanked WMU for the spiritual and financial nurture it has provided to missions and gave his interpretation of the tone of the Feb. 8 dialogue.

"You were invited here," he told WMU leaders in attendance. "You were not summoned. As you graciously invited us to come to your meeting (in January), we invited you. You're always welcome here. This is your home."

Reflecting on the dialogue, Kammerdiener said: "We engaged in serious, intense dialogue about issues that are of great concern to us. If we didn't feel things deeply — if we didn't have deep concerns for the future of our relationships and the work of this agency and WMU — we would overlook things and not get below the surface. But the fact that we care deeply means that we must discuss intensely. I hope this dialogue will continue."

In other action, trustees learned they will receive a recommendation in April that they elect Faye Pearson, a 24-year veteran of foreign missions, to become area director for East Asia. Since 1988, Pearson has been associate to the area director for East Asia for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

## Ouachita event features proposed bill of rights for war-torn Bosnia

ARKADELPHIA—Ejub Ganich, one of seven members of Bosnia's presidential council, called for U.S. intervention during a recent press conference held at Ouachita Baptist University. Ganich spoke at a Ouachita symposium titled, "Documents of Bosnian Freedom," in which three American professors and two Bosnian nationalists presented a proposed new bill of rights for the war-torn nation.

Ganich, whose position in the Bosnian government is equivalent to an American vice president, said the United States could save his nation by enforcing a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia, lifting the current arms embargo and by using American air power to force the Serbians to stop fighting. He said the use of American ground troops would not be necessary.

### 'Do something specific'

"We are being attacked at the same time that our hands are tied so that we cannot defend ourselves," Ganich said. "The U.N. has never implemented their resolutions. We would like America to do something specific."

The proposed bill of rights was the focus of the symposium. Before a crowd of approximately 750 students, faculty and area residents, Ganich was joined in discussion by two fellow Bosnians who have settled in the United States and three American professors who helped write

the bill of rights. Hal Bass, chairman of the department of political science at Ouachita moderated.

Cornell Fleisher, a historian from Washington University in St. Louis, began the discussion by describing the historical background of the present conflict. He said the ethnic groups in the area have a history of peaceful co-existence. "These are not ancient conflicts. These are not insoluble conflicts," he remarked. "What we are witnessing is the product of a more recent set of circumstances."

Huso Zivaj, a Bosnian engineer who now lives in Florida, described the conditions he had seen on a recent trip to Bosnia. He said 150,000 civilian deaths had resulted from Serbian aggression.

Robert Meriwether, professor of education, history and political science at Hendrix College, described the historical importance of a bill of rights and traced the origin of the proposed Bosnian document to the U.S. and Arkansas constitutions.

Edib Korkut, a Bosnian medical doctor who now practices medicine in Maine, said the keys to peaceful co-existence in the region are democracy and human rights. "Bosnia can only exist as a multinational, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society with democracy, freedom and human rights for everyone," Korkut emphasized.

## YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVALS



### AREA

March 1	Elmdale, Springdale
March 7	Central, N.L.R.
March 14	Central, Jonesboro
March 19	FBC, Warren
April 5	Beech St., Texarkana

### STATE

May 1, 1993  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Second Baptist, Conway



**Mass Choir Director:**  
Dr. Ed Lyon, OBU

See your Minister of Music for categories, rules and details.



Sponsored by  
Church Music Department, ABS

## GEYER SPRINGS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

# REBUILDERS

## DIVORCE RECOVERY MINISTRY

Thirteen sessions designed to help you "rebuild" after separation from a spouse due to death or divorce. Sessions meet each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and are led by Dr. Glen McGriff (BS, MA, D.Min.).

Begins Feb. 24

To register or ask information contact:  
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church/ 565-3474  
5615 Geyer Springs Rd., Little Rock, AR 72209  
Paul R. Sanders, Pastor



Dr. McGriff

### LOOKING FOR A CONFERENCE CENTER?

Widemere Baptist Assembly in Central Missouri offers a complete conference facility located on Lake of the Ozarks. Accommodations for up to 750. Many dates and options are available, including this summer. Call: 314-346-2205, ext. 112 for more details.



## Bivocational churches lead in baptisms

By David Winfrey  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Although smaller and less affluent than other Southern Baptist churches, congregations with bivocational pastors have a higher rate of baptisms and hold their own in other key statistics, according to a report by the Home Mission Board.

"It's encouraging for those bivocational pastors, particularly in new work areas, that the church doesn't necessarily have to suffer because they're working another job," said Steve Whitten, author of the report and associate director of the HMB program research department.

More than 25 percent of all Southern Baptist churches have a bivocational pastor, but some question whether their work is valued as much as their fully funded counterparts. Church-starting leaders say this report proves the effectiveness of pastors who work a secular job to support their ministry.

The study, based on 1991 Uniform Church Letter reports, found congregations with bivocational pastors have 4.1

baptisms for every 100 resident members. Churches with non-bivocational pastors have a baptism rate of 3.8.

"Because the pastor is bivocational, there may be broader lay involvement in doing evangelism," Whitten said.

The study also found bivocational churches compare favorably to non-bivocational churches in other categories, including the percentage of budget going to missions and the percentage of resident members attending Sunday School.

### Arkansas statistics

At least 9,470 Southern Baptist churches have bivocational pastors, including more than 400 Arkansas Baptist churches, according to the study. While that is 30 percent of churches reporting to have pastors, those churches have only 12 percent of the resident members.

Charles Chaney, HMB extension vice president, said he believes comparisons of equal-size churches would show bivocational churches are just as effective as non-bivocational. Bivocational pastors were instrumental in the growth of the convention, said Chaney.

After World War II, however, the Southern Baptist Convention challenged many churches to sponsor their pastor full-time, resulting in the growth of many congregations and the convention as a whole, Chaney said. "Somehow in the process, we began to disparage a pastor who made his living while he pastored."

Today, bivocational pastors are "absolutely crucial" to the Home Mission Board's church-starting strategy, he said.

New work areas for Southern Baptists are especially dependent on bivocational pastors and volunteers, said Allen Baldwin, church starter strategist with the Frontier Baptist Association in western New York.

Twelve of that association's 32 churches and missions are bivocational, he said. The association hopes to start 17 churches in the next five years, a goal he said would be impossible without bivocationalists.

Many western rural areas also require bivocational pastors who must teach or work on a ranch to gain acceptance among the local residents, Chaney said. "Otherwise, they'll just see them as someone who is paid from outside and has come in to proselyte them."

# 1993 ANNUAL STATEWIDE PASTORS' RETREAT MARCH 8-9, CAMP PARON

(Lunch Monday through Dinner Tuesday Evening)  
"STAYING FRESH IN THE MINISTRY"

### Special Features

- Four Bible Studies - Al Fasol, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
"Having a Fresh Word from God"
- Sing and Celebrate - John Dresbach, Central, Jonesboro
- Recovering a Zeal or Zest for the Pastorate - H.D. McCarty, pastor, University Baptist, Fayetteville
- What I Would Do If I Had It To Do Over - John Holston, retired pastor, North Little Rock
- Family - My Responsibility, My Joy - Prince E. (Ed) Claybrook, pastor, Hope
- Mediating Church Conflict - L.B. Jordan

Reservation information will be in the mail to all pastors.

**PLEASE PUT THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

Sponsored by: Executive Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention  
Don Moore, Executive Director

## Stewardship Commission cuts staff, salaries

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's Stewardship Commission will reduce its professional staff by three positions and cut salaries of other professional staff by 5 percent, A.R. Fagan, commission president, reported Feb. 10.

Fagan, in a news release, noted the commission also cut two positions last year after retirements. The reductions will leave it with 11 professional staff members, compared to 16 at the outset of 1992.

Fagan did not name the three staff members who would be terminated no later than Jan. 1. The salary cuts, he said, are effective immediately.

Additionally, the Stewardship Commis-

sion used some \$250,000 in reserve funds each of the past two years to meet its budget. In financial information presented to the SBC Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee in January, commission reserves for the 1992-93 budget year stand at \$847,555, compared to \$1.1 million in 1991-92 and a projected \$647,109 for 1993-94.

"Economic conditions the last few years have led us to believe that we should take the lead in downsizing our organization as a matter of good stewardship," Fagan said.

He added, "Our commitment is to continue to provide the very best quality of materials for churches in promoting stewardship and the Cooperative Program."

## Rally urges young men to embrace servanthood

GATLINBURG, TN (BP)—High School Baptist Young Men were urged during a national rally to be "grateful" in their current circumstances as a first step in preparing for genuine Christian servanthood.

"You're never going to be a good servant until you are first grateful for the position you find yourself in," said Don Sewell, director of special projects in the denominational relations office of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "Secondly, you must understand God's forgiveness of all of your sins."

The theme of the sixth annual rally, which drew more than 500 young men and their leaders from 16 states Feb. 5-7, was "If Not You, Then Who?"

"Every single day, I am confronted with

this phrase: If not me, then who? I've got to be about God's business just like you do," Sewell said.

The two-day rally featured foreign and home missions speakers, conferences with topics ranging from career choices to dating and a hands-on missions project. The Brotherhood Commission's High School Baptist Young Men program seeks to develop support for and involvement in Southern Baptist missions as well as build Christian character among the 26,000 young men participating throughout the convention.

## Arkansas Baptist State Convention



## 2nd Annual MINISTERS' WIVES RETREAT

April 23-24, 1993

AmeriSuite Hotel  
10920 Financial Center Pkwy.  
Little Rock

Cost: (includes conference fee,  
lodging, continental breakfast  
and lunch on Saturday)

2 per room: \$46

3 per room: \$34

4 per room: \$29

Small group share times Fellowship

Inspiration Special speakers

Registration deadline: April 1

When registering, include:

church and association

roommate preference

Mail registration to: Dan Jordan,

P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

Include full payment with registration.



SAWEL For \$29

See THE GREAT PASSION PLAY & Stay At  
KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT

FOR GROUPS (12 or more) in Eureka Springs, Ark.

Lodging (now with more showers), \$10.50 Tickets, and

meals ALL INCLUDED! Call 501/253-8418 today!



Quality  
VAN Sales

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

## ISRAEL - EGYPT - GREECE

May 28 - June 11

Travel with Dr. Dean Dickens  
and R. Gayle Bone.

Optional Greek Isles Cruise.

Box 3770, Dallas, TX 75208

Phone: 214-942-8601

### Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples
- Kinkiglas® Windows
- Baptistries
- Baptistry Heaters
- Lighted Wall Crosses

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-527-1000  
P.O. Box 1346  
Henderson, TX 75053-0340

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

## HIGH SCHOOL BAPTIST YOUNG MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT/CONGRESS

MARCH 19-20

BASKETBALL • HOT SHOT COMPETITION • SPEAK OUT

★ Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock

★ Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

★ Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock

For more information: Brotherhood Department • 501-376-4791, ext. 5158



## Albert George Mfg. Co.

Quality Custom  
Manufacturers of:



- Pulpit Furniture
- Pews • Pew Cushions
- Upholstered Seats & Backs

717 North Cypress, N. Little Rock  
Write: P.O. Box 5700, N.L.R., AR 72119

**501-375-2921**

## BSSB trustees approve budget adjustment

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Baptist Sunday School Board trustees authorized adjustments in the 1992-93 budget to allow the administration to "invest in tomorrow" during their Feb. 8-10 semiannual meeting.

Trustees approved reducing the funds provided from the operations budget from \$5.3 million to \$1.1 million. That budget encompasses net revenue and other income remaining after all product and operational expenses and contributions for Southern Baptist Convention support have been deducted.

In requesting the change, president James T. Draper said it would help to accommodate expenses incurred in implementing a restructuring which includes creation of strategic business units and decentralization of marketing and numerous business support functions.

Draper said the board could have lived within the budget proposed before its reorganization which began in 1992.

"However, doing so would virtually eliminate options for proposing new ventures that are needed now and looking at new ways of improving our products, our

services, our distribution and everything we do. We are asking for the privilege of investing in tomorrow," he said.

In a related area, trustees learned both revenue and expenses were below budget for the first quarter of 1992-93. Funds provided from operations for the quarter were \$404,000. The board had budgeted a loss of \$1.5 million; funds provided from operations for the same quarter last year totaled \$557,000.

### Financial report highlight

Sales of Lifeway products, a new publishing imprint, were the brightest spot of the financial report with sales of \$689,000, 14.8 percent above budget and 128.9 percent above 1991-92.

Operational areas with sales above last year included book stores, Broadman Press, Holman Bible publishers, conference centers and Genevox music. Convention Press and Church Information System had sales above budget but below last year.

Sales of church literature totaled \$18,963,000, 3.7 percent below budget and 5.6 percent below last year.

Draper said contacts with customers

about the decline in church literature sales indicate primary causes are changes in buying patterns such as buying for attendance rather than enrollment and the economy.

"Competition is a factor, but we believe that right now it's not a major factor compared to these other areas," he said.

E.V. King, vice president for finance and administration, said the board continues a trend of recent years of living within its budget, primarily by under-spending expenses rather than by experiencing real growth.

Trustees also approved funds to relocate or remodel 10 Baptist Book Stores in the 63-store chain this year.

In response to an address by Draper outlining concerns about board operations and highlighting solutions in process, trustees adopted a motion "commending Dr. Jimmy Draper, the senior executive team and employees of the Sunday School Board for the courageous decision to honestly assess the condition of the Sunday School Board and to plot a course of action to lead us into the 21st century to be competitive in the evangelical marketplace."

## SILVER DOLLAR CITY Young Christians' Weekends

March 26-28 and April 2-4



Enjoy Keith Craft and "The Witness."



A Roller Coaster Like No Other!



Lights, Action, Music! David Meece & Jillian.



6 Ways To Help Today's Teens.



Morning Worship At The Grand Palace.

Come be a part of all the Christian learning, music, witness and fun during Silver Dollar City's Young Christians' Weekends. The Christian get-togethers begin Friday evening with Keith Craft and the musical, "The Witness." We continue all-day Saturday with two electrifying Youth Rallies featuring singer David Meece and speaker Jillian. Add to all this, six Workshops to expand their spiritual universe, Christian music performances

by the dozens, then an inspiring Sunday morning worship service at The Grand Palace in Branson.

New For '93! A roller coaster like no other—Thunderation! You'll dip and dive around curves, through dark tunnels then up and over steep climbs and drops!

Call today for substantial savings on pre-paid advance tickets. Park rides and attractions operate Saturday only, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FAMILIES ARE WELCOME AT ALL YOUNG CHRISTIANS' WEEKENDS.

# Call or Write Today...1-800-282-2489 ext. 2

Silver Dollar City 1993 Season Passes can be used for admission to this pre-season event with advance reservations. Please note: All other benefits on the 1993 Season Pass do not go into affect until April 10.



## Sharps appointed to mission service

Charles Sharp, executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, and his wife, Peggie, have been appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The former Arkansans will serve in Garden City, Kan., where he will serve as director of missions for Western Kansas Association which includes 28 churches and missions in 29 counties. Mrs. Sharp will work in family and church service. Sharp said he resigned as executive direc-

tor in Colorado in order to work more with people and less with paper.

Sharp is a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia and East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. Mrs. Sharp, a native of Clarendon, is a former student at Ouachita Baptist University. She has taught kindergarten and preschool, and has been a Headstart volunteer coordinator and a preschool ministry director.



Charles and Peggie Sharp

### Classifieds

**Israel, Egypt, Greece** — May 28 through June 11. Travel with Dr. Dean Dickens and R. Gayle Bone. Optional Greek Isles Cruise. Box 3770, Dallas, TX 75208. Phone 214-942-8601.

**Help Wanted** — Bi-vocational youth minister, Roland Hills Baptist Church, P.O. Box 418, Roland, OK 74954. 918-427-6851.

**The 1991 Baptist Hymnal** — 12-499, \$8.05 each, 500+ \$7.65 each. Shipping and imprinting extra. We discount undated Convention Press materials. Heartland Discount Christian Books. Free catalog 1-800-968-7884.

**Wanted** — Part-time Minister of Music. Must have training and/or experience in choral directing. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 4500 North Hills Blvd., North Little Rock, AR 72118.

AUTHORIZED  
**Konica**  
COPIERS • FAX



Ralph Croy and Associates Inc.  
701 W. Capitol, Little Rock • 378-0109  
**CRDY** 1640 E. Grand Ave., Hot Springs • 623-7292  
1022 W. 6th, Pine Bluff • 534-8811

**Interested in being a part of something really worthwhile?**

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children is looking for a dedicated Christian couple with not more than two children to live and work in a cottage setting with eight children. **Salary and benefits.**

**Contact: Royce Aston**  
P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655  
**Phone: 387-5358**

## BUILDING & MAINTAINING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AT CHURCH

### TUESDAY, MARCH 16

#### Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

**DAYTIME SESSION** *"Preaching that Heals"*  
for pastors and DOMs

**TIME** 9:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. (Lunch served at church. Pay at conference. \$5.00 or less per person.)

**EVENING SESSION** *"Biblical Principles of Conflict Management"*  
open to all the leaders/members

**TIME** 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

PULASKI ASSOCIATION  
1522 WEST 10TH, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72202

### THURSDAY, MARCH 18

#### Central Baptist Church, North Little Rock

**DAYTIME SESSION** *"Preaching that Heals"*  
for pastors and DOMs

**TIME** 9:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. (Lunch served at church. Pay at conference. \$5.00 or less per person.)

**EVENING SESSION** *"Biblical Principles of Conflict Management"*  
open to all the leaders/members

**TIME** 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

NORTH PULASKI ASSOCIATION  
251 INDIAN BAY DR., SHERWOOD, AR 72120



**LEADER** **Dr. Jim Royston,**  
pastor, author, BSSB consultant

# Peggy Say turns attention to needy children

By Mark Wingfield  
Kentucky Western Recorder

LEBANON, KY (BP)—Injustice can be found in Lebanon, Ky., as surely as in Beirut, Lebanon, according to Peggy Say.

Say, sister of former hostage Terry Anderson, spoke recently at Lebanon Baptist Church's WinterFest program. Anderson was abducted in 1985 in Beirut, where he was working for Associated Press.

Say, who became perhaps the best-known crusader for the hostages, was a member of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky., during much of Anderson's captivity. She and her husband, David, recently moved from Cadiz to Cookeville, Tenn.

Since Anderson's release in 1991, Say has found a new cause to champion — the plight of underprivileged children in Africa and Eastern Europe. She now works as outreach director for the human rights organization Friends in the West.

The same Christian convictions that forced her to plead her brother's case compel her to speak out for the children of the world, Say explained.

"I'm a Christian person, a moral person," she said. "My brother was being

chained to a wall. What else could I do? Say, "Sorry, kiddo, I'm not a diplomat or a politician?"

In the same way, "I cannot turn my back on the children of Africa," she said. "Being a Christian and having seen these children, I cannot turn my back."

Say urged those in her audience to find a similar conviction about fighting against the injustices of the world, whether it be hostages, needy children or something else.

### 'Be drawn to something'

"If you're not drawn to Africa, be drawn to something," she pleaded. "Look in your back yards, and if there's a need, know with God's strength you can meet it."

God's strength is what sustained her through the nearly seven years of Anderson's captivity, Say noted. "I don't think most people realize what a strong part faith played in what I did for Terry."

During those years, she met with United States Presidents Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and George Bush, as well as Mother Theresa, Pope John Paul II and Yasser Arafat.

Someday her grandchildren may appreciate the fact that she met so many powerful people, Say noted, but she still finds no joy in the memories because of the circumstances. "I don't have enough distance" from the trauma, she explained.

The year 1986 was particularly bad, "like stepping into a nightmare that had no end," Say recalled. During that year of Anderson's captivity, the Andersons' father and brother died, as did one of Say's grandsons.

"I remember thinking, 'What has happened to my family?' she recalled.

But still she never doubted God working in the midst of those trials, Say said.

"I was scared to death every day," she confessed. "I was scared to get on the plane, to go to the Mideast, to meet the president."

Despite those fears, she found access to some of the most influential world leaders and felt like she got their attention. "I never believed it was what I said to them that moved them," she said. Instead, what moved them was the words God put in her mouth, she continued. "When I didn't believe in myself, God believed in me. I never overcame my fear."

## 'Weekend of Choice'

For Prospective Students of Southwestern Seminary



### Friday, March 26th

- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Check-in
- 6:30 p.m.: Welcome Banquet hosted by Dr. Dilday

### Saturday, March 27th

- 8:30-9:15 a.m.: Breakfast
- 9:30-11:30 a.m.: Meet Professors
- 1:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Campus Tours
- 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Lunch Encounter (Question and Answer time)
- 2:30-5:30 p.m.: Bus Tour of Fort Worth

If you think God may be calling you into Christian ministry, this is your chance to experience Southwestern Seminary first-hand. Hosted by President Russell H. Dilday, 'A Weekend of Choice' will give you special opportunities to meet professors and to learn more about Southwestern.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary • Fort Worth, Texas • (817) 923-1921, ext. 2640

# Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries

## 1992 Contributions for Churches and Missions

(Thanksgiving Offering, Mother's Day Offering, Church Budget, Birthday, Sponsorship, Capital/Endowment Campaign contributions, etc.)

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

Johnny G. Biggs, P.O. Box 85E, Little Rock, AR 72203

Thank You, Arkansas Baptists!

<b>ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST</b>		<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Monticello Second Baptist Church</b>	471.00	<b>Mt. Olived Baptist Church</b>	5.00
			<b>Old Union Baptist Church</b>	890.00	<b>Mt. Ida First Baptist Church</b>	994.87
			<b>Orlando First Baptist Church</b>	245.00	<b>Moran First Baptist Church</b>	450.19
			<b>Saline Baptist Church</b>	373.00	<b>Oden First Baptist Church</b>	185.30
			<b>Southside Baptist Church</b>	15.25	<b>Pencil Bluff First Baptist Church</b>	397.35
			<b>Union Mt. Baptist Church</b>	1,580.00	<b>Refuge Baptist Church</b>	119.34
			<b>Moran First Baptist Church</b>	315.00		
			<b>West Side Baptist Church</b>	616.83		
						<b>\$ 4,976.69</b>
			<b>\$ 10,150.59</b>		<b>CALVARY BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>
			<b>BIG CREEK BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>		
			<b>Elizabeth Baptist Church</b>	\$ 175.00	<b>Antioch Baptist Church</b>	\$ 310.00
			<b>Enterprise Baptist Church</b>	30.00	<b>Augusta First Baptist Church</b>	825.00
			<b>Fiera Baptist Church</b>	30.00	<b>Bebe First Baptist Church</b>	2,650.84
			<b>Northwest Baptist Church</b>	1,285.87	<b>Bethany Baptist Church</b>	116.00
			<b>Mt. Zion Baptist Church</b>	183.00	<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Beary</b>	333.64
			<b>Badgley Baptist Church</b>	225.96	<b>Central Baptist Church</b>	737.30
			<b>Vale Baptist Church</b>	885.73	<b>Cotton Plant First Baptist Church</b>	387.35
					<b>Cherry Baptist Church</b>	131.84
			<b>\$ 2,504.98</b>		<b>Denmark Baptist Church</b>	165.00
					<b>Good Hope Baptist Church</b>	368.00
			<b>BLACK RIVER BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Grace Baptist Church</b>	178.00
			<b>Alcira Baptist Church</b>	\$ 73.00	<b>Grace Baptist Mission</b>	174.00
			<b>Aagan Baptist Church</b>	91.23	<b>Gregory Baptist Church</b>	111.00
			<b>Banks Baptist Church</b>	25.00	<b>Griffithville First Baptist Church</b>	411.00
			<b>Black Rock First Baptist Church</b>	340.00	<b>Hunter First Baptist Church</b>	153.15
			<b>Calvary Baptist Church</b>	360.79	<b>Judsons First Baptist Church</b>	385.82
			<b>Capwell Station Baptist Church</b>	105.00	<b>Karet First Baptist Church</b>	1,843.00
			<b>Cherry Baptist Church</b>	317.00	<b>Liberty Baptist Church</b>	131.00
			<b>Grubbs First Baptist Church</b>	353.35	<b>McNary First Baptist Church</b>	150.00
			<b>Hoax First Baptist Church</b>	1,099.36	<b>Midway Baptist Church</b>	78.32
			<b>Isaboud First Baptist Church</b>	1,500.25	<b>Mt. Hebron Baptist Church</b>	35.00
			<b>Jacksonport Baptist Church</b>	2,127.00	<b>North First Baptist Church</b>	133.00
			<b>Murphy's Corner Baptist Church</b>	125.00	<b>Pleasant Grove Baptist Church</b>	114.98
			<b>New Hope #1 Baptist Church</b>	100.00	<b>Rocky Point Baptist Church</b>	468.00
			<b>Newport First Baptist Church</b>	216.44	<b>Rocky Point Baptist Church</b>	275.00
			<b>Plitt Baptist Church</b>	92.76	<b>Seely First Baptist Church</b>	3,709.73
			<b>Reverend First Baptist Church</b>	1,944.44	<b>Siden Baptist Church</b>	100.40
			<b>Sedwick Baptist Church</b>	75.00	<b>Teague Baptist Church</b>	189.00
			<b>Smithville Baptist Church</b>	33.00	<b>Trinity Baptist Church</b>	525.48
			<b>Spring Lake Baptist Church</b>	571.81	<b>Tupelo First Baptist Church</b>	398.00
			<b>Swiftan Baptist Church</b>	34.10	<b>Union Valley Baptist Church</b>	231.71
			<b>Tuckerman First Baptist Church</b>	349.00	<b>Vale Baptist Church</b>	428.00
			<b>Walnut Ridge Baptist Church</b>	1,150.00	<b>West Point Baptist Church</b>	100.00
			<b>White Oak Baptist Church</b>	500.00		
						<b>\$ 16,823.14</b>
			<b>\$ 14,687.84</b>		<b>CAREY BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>
			<b>BUCKER BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>		
			<b>Abbott Baptist Church</b>	\$ 50.00	<b>Bearden First Baptist Church</b>	\$ 1,535.00
			<b>Bates Baptist Church</b>	225.00	<b>Bethesda Baptist Church</b>	650.00
			<b>Bolox Baptist Church</b>	125.00	<b>Calvary Baptist Church</b>	228.83
			<b>Calvary Baptist Church</b>	3.50	<b>Eagle Mills Baptist Church</b>	175.00
			<b>Cauthran Baptist Church</b>	150.00	<b>Eden Baptist Church</b>	96.00
			<b>Cedar Creek Baptist Church</b>	83.00	<b>Forcyne First Baptist Church</b>	100.00
			<b>Cherry Baptist Church</b>	880.00	<b>Haddon First Baptist Church</b>	570.00
			<b>Fellowship Baptist Church</b>	395.00	<b>Hershey Baptist Church</b>	890.00
			<b>Friendship Baptist Church</b>	185.00	<b>Holly Springs Baptist Church</b>	850.00
			<b>Hartford First Baptist Church</b>	1,978.79	<b>Manning Baptist Church</b>	250.00
			<b>Hay Creek Baptist Church</b>	3.50	<b>New Hope Baptist Church</b>	143.84
			<b>Man Baptist Church</b>	100.00	<b>Quachita Baptist Church</b>	858.33
			<b>Huntington First Baptist Church</b>	76.21	<b>Prosperity Baptist Church</b>	100.00
			<b>Jacks Park Baptist Church</b>	650.00	<b>Shed Grove Baptist Church</b>	287.00
			<b>Lang Ridge Baptist Church</b>	580.00	<b>South Side Baptist Church</b>	285.31
			<b>Mansfield First Baptist Church</b>	577.70	<b>Sparkman First Baptist Church</b>	2,009.25
			<b>New Providence Baptist Church</b>	250.00	<b>St. Paul Baptist Church</b>	1,000.00
			<b>Parks Baptist Church</b>	504.00	<b>Tinsain First Baptist Church</b>	100.00
			<b>Pleasant Grove #2 Baptist Church</b>	873.00	<b>Tulip Memorial Baptist Church</b>	800.00
			<b>Pleasant Grove #3 Baptist Church</b>	110.60		
			<b>Rock Creek Baptist Church</b>	80.00		<b>\$ 7,613.22</b>
			<b>Southside Baptist Church</b>	119.60		<b>Gifts</b>
			<b>Unity Baptist Church</b>	474.00	<b>CAROLINE BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>
			<b>Unity Baptist Church</b>	855.76	<b>Austin Station Baptist Church</b>	\$ 119.50
			<b>Maldron First Baptist Church</b>	2,309.11	<b>Baugh Chapel Baptist Church</b>	843.30
			<b>New Providence Baptist Church</b>	250.00	<b>Biscoe First Baptist Church</b>	345.00
			<b>Minfield Baptist Church</b>	275.49	<b>Briarwood Baptist Church</b>	1,200.00
					<b>Cebot First Baptist Church</b>	1,250.00
			<b>\$ 13,385.69</b>		<b>Cebot Second Baptist Church</b>	43.00
					<b>Calvary Baptist Church</b>	56.63
			<b>BUCKVILLE BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Ceney Creek Baptist Church</b>	309.63
			<b>Rock Springs Baptist Church</b>	\$ 20.00	<b>Carlisle First Baptist Church</b>	547.00
					<b>Cochran Baptist Church</b>	1,000.00
			<b>CROOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSN</b>	<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Coy Baptist Church</b>	447.00
			<b>Asity Second Baptist Church</b>	\$ 88.00	<b>Cress Roads Baptist Church</b>	400.00
			<b>Big Park Baptist Church</b>	100.00	<b>Deer Creek Baptist Church</b>	300.00
			<b>Big Spring Baptist Church</b>	100.00	<b>Della Bluff First Baptist Church</b>	114.25
			<b>Glennwood First Baptist Church</b>	1,016.94	<b>England First Baptist Church</b>	2,110.00
			<b>Little Hope Baptist Church</b>	800.00	<b>Gaston First Baptist Church</b>	1,142.00
					<b>Isaiah Baptist Church</b>	100.00
					<b>Kea Baptist Church</b>	93.00
					<b>Lenox Baptist Church</b>	477.00
					<b>Mt. Carmel Baptist Church</b>	1,236.82
					<b>Mountain Springs Baptist Church</b>	383.05
					<b>New Hope Baptist Church</b>	429.61
					<b>Oak Grove Baptist Church</b>	144.50
					<b>Roberson Baptist Church</b>	114.00
					<b>South Bend Baptist Church</b>	170.25
					<b>Steel Bridge Baptist Church</b>	84.90





Jacksonville Second Baptist Church	415.00
Lovv Baptist Church	1,000.00
Marshall Road Baptist Church	930.07
Mauville Baptist Church	271.00
American Chapel Baptist Church	1,700.00
Little Rock First Baptist Church	730.37
Dakwood Baptist Church	712.25
Park Hill Baptist Church	2,311.00
Pike Avenue Baptist Church	181.25
Resound Baptist Church	25.00
Ruysen First Baptist Church	181.50
Sherwood First Baptist Church	1,754.42
Stanfill Baptist Church	200.00
Stroman Hill Baptist Church	1,356.00
Victory Baptist Church	189.03
Zion Hill Baptist Church	1,927.19

CHURCHES BAPTIST ASSN	
Bethel Baptist Church	6 76.00
Beard Camp Baptist Church	6 630.42
Calvary Baptist Church	176.00
Chapel Hill Baptist Church	686.50
Cherry Hill Baptist Church	164.00
Concord Baptist Church	181.82
East First Baptist Church	351.29
Dallas Avenue Baptist Church	1,100.65
DeQueen First Baptist Church	1,487.50
Gilman Baptist Church	333.58
Grenville Baptist Church	183.38
Hatfield First Baptist Church	293.27
Hobson Baptist Church	384.00
Hona First Baptist Church	2,073.89
New Hope Baptist Church	85.00
Palmetto Baptist Church	899.24
Two Mile Baptist Church	59.00
Vanderwoert First Baptist Church	311.63
Wichita First Baptist Church	152.50
Yacoma Baptist Church	37.50

DULAKEE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN	
Alexander First Baptist Church	6 194.95
Archway Baptist Church	6 626.00
Barnes Memorial Baptist Church	339.57
Brighton Road Baptist Church	292.42
Brownwood First Baptist Church	118.00
First Southern Baptist Church	1,045.43
Fulford Baptist Church	341.00
Chicot Road Baptist Church	137.66
Crossroad Baptist Church	25.00
Crestview Hill Baptist Church	350.00
East End Baptist Church	631.43
Forest Tower Baptist Church	415.87
Forest Springs Baptist Church	55.00
Greater Grace Baptist Church	55.00
Green Memorial Baptist Church	10.00
Hobson Baptist Church	3,745.78
Isaiah Baptist Church	25.00
Indian Springs Baptist Church	280.22
Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church	371.00
Lancaster Road Baptist Church	26.49
Life Line Baptist Church	236.00
Little Rock First Baptist Church	2,368.30
Little Rock Second Baptist Church	46.00
Marion Street Baptist Church	306.00
Marionville Baptist Church	697.00
Natural Steps Baptist Church	115.00
Northside Baptist Church	437.00
Olivet Baptist Church	632.00
Other Creek Baptist Church	215.00
Parsons Place Baptist Church	67.00
Pine Grove Baptist Church	61.87
Pinnacle Baptist Church	45.00
Pulaski Heights Baptist Church	150.00
Samson Memorial Baptist Church	150.00
Roland Baptist Church	118.00
Roseland First Baptist Church	138.43
South Highland Baptist Church	181.00
Sunset Lane Baptist Church	404.00
Vanoy Ridge Isaiah Baptist Church	191.00
West Rock Baptist Church	282.23
West Side Baptist Church	671.87
Woodland Baptist Church	185.00
Woodson Baptist Church	695.31

RED RIVER BAPTIST ASSN	
Ancher Baptist Church	6 22.00
Ansine Baptist Church	367.85
Arkadelphia First Baptist Church	1,000.00
Arkadelphia Second Baptist Church	714.00
Beach Street Baptist Church	730.18
Beame First Baptist Church	98.00
Bethel Baptist Church	103.00
Bethlehem Baptist Church	50.00
Bethlehem First Baptist Chapel	1,000.00
Cade Valley Baptist Church	252.00
Center Point Baptist Church	160.00
Chickasaw First Baptist Church	150.00
Eastway Baptist Church	200.00
East Wrenn Springs Baptist Church	50.00
East First Baptist Church	186.75
Harvey Hill Baptist Church	376.77
Lakewood Baptist Church	348.00
Malvern First Baptist Church	348.00

Mt. Olive Baptist Church	207.25
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	56.00
Olive Baptist Church	25.00
Park Hill Baptist Church	500.00
Prescott First Baptist Church	442.00
Richwood Baptist Church	160.00
Shady Grove Baptist Church	100.00
Shiloh Baptist Church	613.00
Sycamore Baptist Church	900.00
Third Street Baptist Church	187.00
Unity Baptist Church	750.00

ROCKY-BAYOU BAPTIST ASSN	
Belview Baptist Church	6 1,633.34
Besswell Baptist Church	66.00
Calico First Baptist Church	161.00
Charkeville Village Baptist Church	902.42
Dolph Baptist Church	718.01
Evening Star First Baptist Church	130.00
Finley Creek Baptist Church	97.56
Franklin Baptist Church	129.00
Handy First Baptist Church	387.71
Horseshoe Bend First Baptist	342.91
Hobbsboro First Baptist Church	432.00
Hidway Baptist Church	158.37
Mt. Pleasant No. Baptist Church	100.00
Nylon Baptist Church	387.54
Northside Baptist Church	202.65
Oxford Baptist Church	63.00
Sage Baptist Church	158.70
Selma First Baptist Church	156.20
Simsley Baptist Church	305.38
Union Hill Baptist Church	89.81
Zion Hill Baptist Church	638.15

SOUTHWEST ARK. BAPTIST ASSN	
Anderson Baptist Church	81.37
Arabella Heights Baptist Church	144.00
Beech Street First Baptist Church	312.00
Calvary Baptist Church	208.70
Calico Baptist Church	645.43
Central Baptist Church	1,773.00
Connorsville Baptist Church	400.00
Faith Baptist Church	50.01
Fellowship Baptist Church	5.99
Genoa First Baptist Church	58.00
Glenn Baptist Church	100.00
Good First Baptist Church	242.27
Hope First Baptist Church	2,381.00
Immanuel Baptist Church	250.00
Macedonia #1 Baptist Church	58.00
Macedonia at Doddridge Bapt-Church	738.00
Macedonia Baptist Church	1,000.00
Meador Baptist Church	296.00
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	70.00
Pinney Baptist Church	33.00
Pinson Park Baptist Church	67.30
Pinegap Baptist Church	103.00
Rocky Hill Baptist Church	193.00
Shiloh Memorial Baptist Church	178.00
South Teakrane Baptist Church	13.42
Springhill Baptist Church	258.00
Stamps First Baptist Church	453.00
Sylvester Baptist Church	189.00
Tennessee Baptist Church	78.00
Trinity Baptist Church	1,194.33
Westside Baptist Church	782.27

TAL-COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN	
Antioch Baptist Church	6 104.00
Barnes Chapel Baptist Church	199.00
Beech Street Baptist Church	117.00
Calvary Baptist Church	787.75
Cherry Valley Baptist Church	689.19
Colt Baptist Church	200.00
Crawfordsville First Baptist	138.05
Earle Baptist Church	634.00
Eastway Baptist Church	495.50
Fair Oaks Baptist Church	233.70
Fishersville Baptist Church	387.63
Forest City Baptist Church	670.50
Forest City Second Baptist Church	264.00
Gladden Baptist Church	158.00
Good Hope Church	346.00
Isaiah Baptist Church	195.33
Jeanes Revival Baptist Church	100.00
Lakeshore Baptist Church	70.00
Madison First Baptist Church	83.10
Marion Baptist Church	911.00
Midway Baptist Church	170.74
Harlan Baptist Church	588.10
Palmetto First Baptist Church	170.00
Parvish Baptist Church	104.43
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	949.00
Tillson Baptist Church	117.00
Turrell Baptist Church	862.75
Union Ave Baptist Church	184.00
Vanderbilt Avenue Baptist Church	184.00
West Memphis First Baptist Church	200.00
West Memphis Second Baptist Church	288.00
Whitney Baptist Church	1,186.10
Widener Baptist Church	85.00
Wynne Baptist Church	2,345.00

TRINITY BAPTIST ASSN	
Anderson Tully Baptist Church	6 251.24
Black Oak Baptist Church	95.11
Calvary Baptist Church, Lepanto	106.16
Calvary Baptist Church, Harrisburg	184.00
Central Baptist Church	1,492.44
Cornerer Chapel Baptist Church	500.50
Eastside Baptist Church	184.00
Fisher First Baptist Church	27.28
Harrisburg First Baptist Church	285.25
Lepanto Baptist Church	280.24
Lepanto First Baptist Church	280.00
Maple Grove Baptist Church	54.92
Marked Tree First Baptist Church	1,596.47
McCormick Baptist Church	285.00
Neal's Chapel Baptist Church	176.28
Newton Baptist Church	256.98
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	275.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	151.48
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	172.00
Providence Baptist Church	138.30
Red Oak Baptist Church	741.14
Riverside Baptist Church	736.47
Shiloh Baptist Church	295.33
Trinity Baptist Church	156.75
Tyuseno First Baptist Church	200.00
Tyrone First Baptist Church	319.73
Valley View Baptist Church	90.00
West Memphis Baptist Church	210.00
West Ridge Baptist Church	75.00

WASH-HADISON BAPTIST ASSN	
Berry Street Baptist Church	6 181.20
Black Oak Baptist Church	250.00
Brush Creek Baptist Church	495.71
Calvary Baptist Church	1,370.40
College Avenue Baptist Church	500.00
Eldorado Baptist Church	1,428.09
Farrington First Baptist Church	125.50
Fayetteville First Baptist Church	181.00
Goshen 1st Southern Baptist Church	232.00
Greenland First Baptist Church	115.00
Hindsville Baptist Church	100.00
Huntsville First Baptist Church	25.00
Isaiah Baptist Church	63.25
Johnson Baptist Church	208.25
Liberty Baptist Church	361.26
Lincoln First Baptist Church	105.00
Littleton Rd. Baptist Church	142.00
Orairie Grove First Baptist Church	1,323.00
Providence Baptist Church	281.00
Ridgeville Baptist Church	25.00
Sang Avenue Baptist Church	78.00
Silent Grove Baptist Church	131.00
Southside Baptist Church	250.00
Spring Valley Baptist Church	262.65
Springdale First Baptist Church	680.30
Bulphur City Baptist Church	747.00
University Baptist Church	1,624.38
West Park First Baptist Church	241.00
Western Hills Baptist Church	200.00
Wynlow First Baptist Church	96.58

WHITE RIVER BAPTIST ASSN	
Antioch Baptist Church	6 283.52
Armore Baptist Church	181.00
Big Flat Baptist Mission	35.00
Brynn Baptist Church	28.00
Byrd Street First Baptist Church	527.43
Cotter First Baptist Church	448.28
East Oakland Baptist Church	61.00
Eastside Baptist Church	288.25
Filippin First Baptist Church	1,954.93
Genesee Baptist Mission	200.00
Greenwood Baptist Church	591.00
Henderson First Baptist Church	693.00
Hill Top Baptist Church	150.00
Hopewell Baptist Church	17.01
Lone Rock Baptist Church	178.00
Lowmy Baptist Church	135.00
Lynchburg Baptist Church	498.50
Maintain Hope First Baptist Church	2,743.25
New Hope Baptist Church	127.87
Paul First Baptist Church	7.56
Plymouth Rest Baptist Church	312.18
Plym Baptist Church	181.64
Red Valley Baptist Church	6.99
Wagon Baptist Church	16.00
Yonah Baptist Church	158.20
Tosawh Baptist Church	174.62
Valleyville First Baptist Church	941.50

OTHER CHURCHES	
Agape Baptist Fellowship	6 620.98
All Souls Church	150.00
Clarksville First Baptist Church	1,057.00
Piney Point Baptist Church	180.00
Reform Baptist Church	650.00
Round Mountain Community Church	325.00
Shiloh Baptist Temple	742.00
Trinity Baptist Fellowship	19.41
Zion Baptist Church	19.41
TOTAL 199,589.77	

## Convention Uniform

### The Two are One

By David Laird, pastor, Trinity Church, Malvern

Basic passage: John 1:1-18

Focal passage: John 1:1-4, 12, 18

Central truth: The unexplainable unity of Jesus the Son and God the Father.

No other passage so fully states the essential unity of Jesus Christ, and God the Father. This is accomplished by John through drawing together two absolutes of God's character and stating the only conclusion possible.

The first absolute is this: He is the agent of creation. Verses 1-3 clearly teach that Christ was the active agent in creation. The book of Genesis states, "In the beginning God created..." and in this gospel John pens, "In the beginning was the Word..." and he goes on to identify the Word, whom we know to be Jesus, as God by writing, "and the Word was God." That He is the agent of creation is seen in the words of this evangelist, "All things were made by Him and without Him was not any thing made that was made." Since we know that God is the creator and we know that Jesus and God are one then Jesus is the agent of creation.

The second absolute is this: He is the agent of life. This life should be understood as both physical and spiritual. He is the one who is responsible for the physical life by virtue of creation. He is also responsible for our eternal life. This life is written about in v. 4 where John states that in Jesus is life and goes on to identify the source of that life as Jesus, for he writes, "and the life was the Light of men."

In v. 12 the Bible tells us that it is through the act of receiving Jesus into our lives by faith that we appropriate this spiritual life for we find written, "to them that believe on His name."

The only conclusion that can be drawn from John's writings about Jesus is: He is one with God. However, that we may know that they are One yet distinct from each, John writes his account of the incarnation in v. 14. In Jesus, John says, "we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father." We see the person of God in the form of Jesus, the Son of God. Unless we think that in seeing Jesus we see God as He appears in His fullness, John reminds us in v. 18 that "no man hath seen God at any time."

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

## Life and Work

### Purpose in the pits

By Bruce Tippit, pastor, Flanna Hills Church, Fort Smith

Basic passage: Genesis 37:3-28;

50:19-20

Focal passage: Genesis 37:1-11,

12-24, 25-36; 50:19-20

Central truth: The purposes of God may begin in the "pits" but they are designed to accomplish God's best.

When I think of the little book *All I Ever Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, I can't help but think of the power of the story of Joseph. This story is one nearly every preschool child has heard. Yet, its message is one that confronts us with one of the most haunting of life's questions, "Does God really have a purpose for all the suffering I face in life?" The purposes of God may begin in the "pits" but they accomplish God's best.

The stage is set for our story in verses 1-11. Here we see Jacob, the aging father playing favorites with his son Joseph. They are living in Canaan which is the promised land. Yet God will use Joseph to prepare His people to occupy that land. Joseph is so pure of heart that he can't tolerate the sins of his brothers. So while Joseph dreams of greatness, his brothers have planted the seeds of jealousy in their hearts.

The seeds of jealousy, no doubt increased by Joseph's "richly ornamented robe" (v. 3 NIV), grew to a plot to kill their brother (vv. 12-24). Joseph is sent by his father to check on his brothers. The plan is to kill him but Reuben offers a less terminal solution—put him in a pit! It may have been in the pit that Joseph would rest in the fact that nothing could happen to him that God did not will and that what God had for him to do He would equip him to do. While it seems that the caravan to Egypt (Gen. 37:25-26) would be the end of Joseph, the brothers would finally learn a valuable lesson (Gen. 50:19-20): God works good in spite of the evil of men!

There are four significant applications for our lives found in this story. The first is that God has a purpose for our lives and purposes in our lives. A second thing is that God's purpose for us may have its beginning with what seems to us as negative. Joseph could have rejected the purpose in the pit and missed God's will for his life. That's a third idea: to miss God's purpose for our life is to fall in life. Finally, we can see that the purposes for our lives are only discovered by surrendering to God's authority.

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

## Bible Book

### Depending on God

By Bill H. Lewis, DOM, Harmony Association

Basic passage: Psalms 75:6-7

Focal passage: Psalms 67, 75, 107

Central truth: We cannot expect to be successful in that which we choose, but only in that which God chooses.

Psalms 67 is a prayer. It is not a "give-me" type prayer, but a "take-me" type. It is a prayer that causes all the saints to just stop and praise God for all He has already done for us. God's blessings will come (67:6-7) as we recognize and praise God for who He is and what He is. Sometime really analyze your prayers. You will probably discover that most of them consist of new requests rather than thanking God for that which He has already done. If one compliments the hostess and tells her what a good cake that was, she is apt to say, "Have another piece." It is our business to fit into God's plan for us.

In Psalms 75 comes the acknowledgment that it is God who is in complete charge of our lives. Psalms 75:6-7 says, "Promotion cometh not from the east... west... south... God is the Judge: he putteth down one and setteth up another." It is our business to fit into whatever God's plan is for our lives.

Psalms 107 is filled with our affirmation of our dependence on God. The dependent "redeemed" will want to "say so" (107:2). How do we "say so"? It is more an expression of the heart and actions than of the lips. It is seen in our actions and reactions. When we tell someone about Jesus, we are "saying so." When we permit the mind of Christ to be in us in all that we do or say, we are "saying so." A dedicated, dependent, redeemed child of God cannot help but "say so."

The dependence is further seen in Psalms 107:6, 13, 14, 19 and 28, as five times the redeemed are heard as they "cry out to God." Each time we see God as He "delivers them out of their distresses." How glorious it is to know that our dependence on God results in ultimate victory.

I like the way I heard a man express it recently. He was one who really depended on God. He stated, "Anytime I am down, I just go out, and get up." The child of God will do well to realize that he will never find himself in a difficult situation out of which God cannot deliver.

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. Used by permission.

## Convention Uniform

### *You must be born again*

By David Laird, pastor, Trinity Church, Malvern

Basic passage: John 3:1-21

Focal passage: John 3:1-7

Central truth: In order to be saved a person must be born again.

The term "born again" is used by many people these days to describe various experiences in life. However, it is obvious by the way these people use the term that they have absolutely no idea of what it actually means. The passage under study tells us what it means to be born again.

Very simply stated the term means "a change in life." This is the meaning Jesus had in mind as He talked with Nicodemus. Of course, the "change in life" is not a superficial change. The change is one that goes deeper than simply changing from a bad person to a good person. As Jesus talked with Nicodemus it is evident that the "change" is so dramatic it can be described in at least two ways.

1. It is a radical change. Though v. 2 is written as a statement, Nicodemus is disguising the question of life. Through all the flattery, which I believe was sincere on the part of Nicodemus, he is asking, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus, detecting the question in his statement, point blank tells him in v. 3, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." The way to heaven is through a change in life that is so radical in nature that it can only be described as being born again.

2. It is a change from above. When Nicodemus heard this, he took Jesus literally and was puzzled by the answer. Instead of thinking that Christ was playing games with him, he inquires further as to what Christ meant. The reason for Nicodemus asking further explanation tells us that he was under conviction by the Spirit of God and needed the peace that faith in Christ could bring. Though being found in the company of Jesus at his own initiative could have been personally disastrous for him, he had to know how to be saved. Jesus went on to explain that to be born again means to be born from above. In vs. 5-6 Jesus tells Nicodemus that to be born from above means to be born of the Spirit of God. This change could only be brought about in the life of Nicodemus as in ours and that is by faith in Jesus.

## Life and Work

### *Success: divine definition*

By Bruce Tippit, pastor, Flanna Hills Church, Fort Smith

Basic passage: Genesis 39:1-23

Focal passage: Genesis 39:7-21

Central truth: Success is continuing to become what God wants me to be and continuing to obey what God wants me to do.

Success is such a powerful word in our culture. It is something for which people, even believers, will willingly sell their soul to possess. In looking at Joseph's story, however, we will see that success is to become what God wants me to be and to obey what God wants me to do.

Joseph rises to the top in his service to Potiphar (39:1-6). His potential for success was outwardly minimal but God was the source for his success (vv. 2-4, 21, 23). He gained his success by God's grace and blessing. It was not gained by status, but by achievements that God ordained. The Lord was "with Joseph" and that presence made all the difference.

Success is never without threats. Potiphar's wife was the newest threat to Joseph's life (39:7-18). She tried desperately to seduce him. She began with a desire that became a demand. The demand led to persistent harassment. Her final ploy was an all-out ambush. When the ambush failed and her seduction was rejected, she resorted to vicious slander.

The price Joseph paid for his faithfulness to God's principles was suffering (39:19-23). Joseph suffered in silence in the prison for a time. Then because of God's ever-present blessing, he became successful again.

This marvelous account shows us what success is and what it is not. No one need be a failure in life when they learn what the true meaning of success is. Let's remind ourselves what it is not: It is not material satisfaction, selfishness, living without problems, total self confidence nor pleasing everyone.

Success is, though, continuing to be the person God wants me to be and continuing to obey what God wants me to do. Anything more and you will struggle with failure all your life. To be what He wants me to be demands a relationship with Jesus Christ and to obey what He wants me to do requires constant growth toward Christ-likeness.

You can be a success! Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me." His formula is ours: become and obey.

## Bible Book

### *When tempted to be wicked*

By Bill H. Lewis, DOM, Harmony Association

Basic passage: Psalms 1, 73, 111

Focal passage: Psalms 73:17-26

Central truth: Contrast wickedness from righteousness by focusing on God.

Psalms 1 is a classic regression of the person who turns from the laws of God. (1) He walks with the ungodly. He is not merely straying with them, he is going their way. (2) He begins to be a stumbling block (stand in the way) of the sinner. (3) He then becomes one who even scorns the righteous. Psalms 1:2-6 are statements used to contrast the delights, meditations, serenity and stability of the righteous.

In Psalms 73, the Psalmist is mystified over the prosperity of the wicked. He is mistakenly focused on the wicked, period. He states that he had "just about had it" (73:2) until he set his eyes upon God and His eternal purpose. "Until I went into the sanctuary of God, then understand I their end" (73:17). Before this, he was actually envious of the wicked (73:3). He looks at their apparent success (73:4-16). As his eyes are turned to God (73:17-18) he comes to the ultimate satisfactory conclusion, "God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (73:26).

Now we see the Psalmist as he begins to praise the Lord for his care. He recounts it throughout Psalm 111. He concludes in 111:10 how good it is to have a holy awe of God and do what He commands. At the beginning of each day I pray that God will "order my path." In this all-comprehensive prayer, I commit the day to God for whatever He chooses. Recently while traveling back from Little Rock, my alternator went out. Within five minutes a state policeman "flip-flopped" and came to my rescue. He called the wrecker and within a few minutes I was on my way. I just praised the Lord for His guidance and protection. God always stands by His own. The wicked do not enjoy these privileges.

As you look back over your life, has God ever forsaken you? There are the valley experiences, but without the valley there could be no mountains. The child of God need never be envious of the wicked. Any good time he is having is only temporary. Anytime we find ourselves in the valley, remember we are just heading for the mountain. The Psalmist says, "Yea, though I walk 'through' the valley."



## 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 \$6.36 per year for each

Plan (formerly called the

CAR-RT SORT  
017577 COMP  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

\*\*CR39  
2230

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.  
P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, AR 72203

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. Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$8.85 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.

## NEWS DIGEST

### HMB's Interfaith Witness completes Freemasonry study

ATLANTA (BP)—A study of Freemasonry by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department received its first review Feb. 8 by the administrative committee of the HMB board of directors.

The department was directed to conduct the study by a motion passed at the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

Although contents of the study will not be released until all members of the board have an opportunity to review it, reactions were positive. Ron Phillips, chairman of the board and a pastor from Hixson, Tenn., described the study as "thorough and scholarly," predicting "a majority of our Southern Baptist family will receive it well."

### Bill introduced to outlaw abortion clinic blockades

WASHINGTON (BP)—Pro-choice members of Congress, acting three weeks after an unfavorable Supreme Court ruling, have introduced legislation making the blockading of an abortion clinic entrance a federal offense.

Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Rep. Connie Morella, R-Md., introduced the Freedom of Access to Reproductive Services Act. The bill is H.R. 796 in the House of Representatives. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass, has indicated he will introduce similar legislation, but no companion bill yet has been offered in the Senate.

Although such legislation has been introduced in the past without serious congressional consideration, the 1993 version may receive more attention because of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic*. In a 6-3 opinion, the court ruled a 120-year-old federal law cannot be used to protect abortion clinics or women seeking abortions against blockades by pro-life activist organizations.

### Wake Forest church denies Paige Patterson request

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP)—A request by Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, for a "watchcare" relationship with Wake Forest Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C., was denied by church deacons who asked Patterson to withdraw his request.

Patterson, acknowledged as one of the architects of the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979, and his wife, Dorothy, had submitted a written request to the church for "watchcare" status.

The deacons voted 16-1, with one abstention, to recommend to the church that the request be denied. The deacons voted to ask Patterson "out of respect for your feelings and with regard for the well-being of this church, that you be given the opportunity to withdraw your request," which Patterson and his wife agreed to do.

Pastor Thomas Jackson said the action was taken due to concern that the Pattersons' "membership in this church (even on a watchcare basis) would certainly result in disruption and division in this congregation."

### Southeastern Seminary initiating Islamic study center

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is developing an Islamic study center as a major portion of its Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies.

"We recognize there haven't been any major steps in providing an Islamic study center in Southern Baptist life," said Paige Patterson, Southeastern's president. "We intend to work in the direction of providing an effective witness to Muslims."

Patterson credits the influence of Southeastern professor George Braswell for this emphasis on Islam. Braswell is professor of world missions at Southeastern and was the first Southern Baptist representative to work in Iran.

### U.S. teenagers believe more strongly in angels today

PRINCETON, NJ (ABP)—American teenagers are more likely to believe in angels today than at any time in the past 15 years, according to a new Gallup poll.

More than three-fourths (76 percent) of American teens believe in angels, the study found. That represents a significant increase from 1978, when only 64 percent of teens thought angels were real. The percentage of teens believing in angels has been generally increasing since that time.

Teenagers' belief in ghosts also is on the rise, but their belief in astrology, ESP, clairvoyance, witchcraft, Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster is declining. About one-third (31 percent) of U.S. teens believe in ghosts, the latest survey found, compared to only 20 percent in 1978 and 15 percent in 1986.

The telephone survey was conducted with a representative national sample of 502 teenagers ages 13-17.