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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

Volume 95, Number 16

August 8, 1996



An estimated 8,000
Southern Baptist
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recent centennial
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Search process announced for seeking NAMB president

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The process for receiving nominees for president and chief executive officer of Southern Baptists' new North American Mission Board has been released by C.B. Hogue, chairman of NAMB's 13 incorporators. He also released an overview of qualities sought in the new executive.

NAMB, which will become operational at the conclusion of the 1997 SBC annual meeting, will replace the current SBC Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission.

Key among the NAMB incorporators' duties is the search process for the agency's first president. Once the NAMB trustees are in place in June 1997, they will vote on the nominee recommended by the incorporators.

According to NAMB incorporators, the search process includes three guidelines for a person to submit a nominee for NAMB president. The recommender must obtain permission from the person being recommended, a full resume must be included and the resume should include appropriate references.

Recommendations should be sent to Hogue at 41771 Auberry Road, Auberry, CA 93602, or to Hogue in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203.

The incorporators' overview of qualities sought in NAMB's new president states the individual "should be a Spirit-filled man of God" who also "must be a visionary leader and strategic thinker with organizational and managerial skills."

The profile specifies that the individual

"must be firmly committed to the Bible as the inspired, authoritative and inerrant Word of God" and also "must hold to the historic Baptist doctrines set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message."

The guidelines also call for the new leader to "understand and accept the Covenant for a New Century, and the vision for this office as set forth in the bylaws of The North American Mission Board," adding that the individual must possess "proven Christ-like character, unquestionable Christian integrity, uncompromising commitment to the call of evangelism, church planting, and ministry in North America and around the world."

According to the Covenant for a New Century, the NAMB's work will entail nine "ministry statements" which involve assisting churches:

- "By the appointment and support of missionaries in the United States and Canada."

- "In the ministry of evangelism."

- "In the establishment of new congregations."

- "Through Christian social ministries."

- "Through the involvement and coordination of their members in volunteer missions throughout the United States and Canada."

- "By involving their members in missions and missions education."

- "By communicating the gospel throughout the United States and Canada through communications technologies."

- "By strengthening associations and providing services to associations."

- "In relief ministries to victims of disaster."

Cover Story



More than Gold 6-7

An estimated 8,000 Southern Baptist volunteers, including several Arkansas Baptists, witnessed, distributed tracts and provided hospitality ministries during the recent centennial Olympics in Atlanta.

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SBC leader evaluates media

Elliff: Communication tools can be used to boost family values, prayer

By C.C. Risenhoover

SBC Radio & TV Commission

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Emphasizing that media as a communications form has no conscience of its own, Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff said any person who uses it presses his or her own particular conscience on an audience.

"It's a tool, and because it's a tool, media can be used positively or negatively," noted Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla. He said many people using media in an immoral way confuse the concept of freedom with license.

"In America, free speech is a right and privilege," he said, "but freedom carries with it a responsibility. Free speech is a trust that should be used to build up the moral values of the nation, not tear them down.

"Greed is often the driving factor behind the media's promotion of immorality. Some people don't care what they do as long as it makes money."

Elliff said it is his conviction that media are driven by an agenda, whether it be broadcast of a Christmas pageant at a church or a secular editorial in a newspaper or magazine.

Elliff said while some Christians throw up their hands in despair at how some writers, directors and producers use media to perpetrate immorality, there is a great deal that Christians can do to stem degenerate behavior by use of the same tools.

"The Bible is the communication of God's nature and agenda for the ages," he affirmed. "The Christian message shines brightly in contrast to the world's message. A Christian should shine brightly against any backdrop of deviant behavior and influence projected by those who have an immoral agenda. The church should use media to articulate Christ's message in word and deed.

"Unfortunately, the church is often portrayed by media as being reactive instead of proactive. We need to be proactive, on the offensive, sowing seeds through media that weed out evil."

In the area of entertainment, Elliff said Christians ought to spend, or not spend, their dollars to send a message.

"It's ironic that so many purported Christians excuse subscribing to a cable service by saying they're going to be selective in their choice of channels," Elliff said. "Their subscription fee, however, pays for all sorts of salacious material. It's



"Greed is often the driving factor behind the media's promotion of immorality. Some people don't care what they do as long as it makes money."

— Tom Elliff
SBC President

like a guy who says he's a Christian but who works as a bartender. He can say he doesn't drink and that he doesn't want families to be destroyed by alcohol and lives to be lost by drunk driving, but he is willing for that to happen so he can make a living."

Concerning an SBC resolution urging the Walt Disney Company to return to family values entertainment, Elliff said, "We are simply asking Disney to be responsible in the use of free speech. We've challenged Disney to think seriously about their position and challenged Southern Baptists to respond accordingly.

"The irresponsible use of media pains

and grieves me," Elliff said. "And we should not be silent about it. But we should offer something better. The burden of my heart is for Southern Baptists to jump on all available media as a tool by which we clearly identify ourselves and our mission.

"Any program we produce should show our mission," he remarked. "Producing programs that simply parallel secular media does little for us or the gospel of Jesus Christ. The thing that characterizes Southern Baptists is proclamation of the gospel. We don't have to water down what we do, and we don't have to apologize for the message. If anything, we need to saturate the media with it. If we have the opportunity to say just one thing, it should be the right thing."

Elliff said he believes a key responsibility of the new North American Mission Board (NAMB) should be to define the role of Southern Baptist media in North America.

"We need to seize the day, be on the leading edge of technology in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ," he insisted.

"We live in a media-oriented society, and failure to use this technology is equivalent to continuing to send missionaries to foreign countries by boat. We ought to look at such things as the jet airplane and cyberspace with missions in mind.

"We should have the greatest media network. But we must never lose sight of our purpose, which is the proclamation of the gospel.

"In any involvement with media, the local church and our convention should be focused to drive home its purpose," the SBC president remarked. "The message should be taken right to the heart. That means knowing what you're about, your purpose and message."

First Southern Baptist Church has a daily 30-minute radio broadcast and a weekly one-hour television broadcast which is carried on cable throughout the state. The church also has a global tape ministry and a home page on the Internet.

"One of my dreams for a Southern Baptist media ministry would be the utilization of all available technology for a daily worldwide prayer ministry," Elliff noted. "Through prayer together, we can find the inner strength and resources to proclaim the gospel throughout the world. Southern Baptists ought to marshal the greatest prayer force in history. Our radio and television-related entities could help us develop such a force through daily communication of prayer needs and victories."

A PASTOR'S HEART



By EMIL TURNER
ABS-C Executive Director

Twenty-eight years ago it happened. It was totally unlike what we expected. I was in a daze. There were more than 5,000 fellow freshmen at Louisiana State University in 1968. The nearest town to my home had a population of only 750. The campus was huge, the freshmen classes averaged 150 students per class and few of us had any idea about what we were doing.

In a week or so, history will repeat itself. Mary and I will watch as our oldest, Joel, begins his university experience. We are confident that he will be better prepared than I was. But we are still concerned. For the first time, I realize that my trauma was not the only trauma in the Turner family the week I started LSU. My parents felt the same concern for me that we feel for Joel — and they did the only thing they could do. They prayed and committed me to the Lord. It is the most they could have done and we are doing it, too.

Arkansas Baptists are blessed in having two fine institutions to which they can send their sons and daughters. Ouachita and Williams have reputations for excellent academics and for being "student friendly." And, unlike many other Baptist schools, they have remained true to the state convention and to the Bible. We should treasure and safeguard our relationship with these two jewels.

In addition, our student ministry department has staff on almost all of our campuses to ease a student's transition, reach lost students and build strong believers. Our Baptist Student Union leaders are an excellent resource to Arkansans.

■ Have you read *Olympic Heroes* by Gerald Harris? (Broadman & Holman, 1996). This timely release profiles Christian athletes who won Olympic medals. These testimonies are inspiring and great resources for speakers and teachers.

KATSY McALISTER

Woman's Viewpoint

Treasure spiritual wealth



The electricity bill arrived today. Sometimes it's almost threatening to open it. During the summertime the bill is especially high since we leave the air conditioning running all of the time. We enjoy having our house cool, but it really takes a bite out of the budget.

Our energy usage alone accents the fact that our standard of living is extravagant in comparison with the billions of hungry neighbors who are living in the Southern Hemisphere. North Americans consume 351 times as much energy as the average African nation.

A columnist that I read lamented that people in the United States earning \$15,000 a year are near poverty. That would be incomprehensible to the majority of the world's humanity.

The light bill often makes me wonder just how good stewards we are of all the wealth which we possess. The Bible tells us that one to whom much is given, of him will much be required.

How do our privileges and responsibilities compare? I have a cool, comfortable, air conditioned home. Do I entertain those who need my hospitality? Do I use what I have? How much of what we have is necessary and how much is extravagance?

If we have the right relationship with God, we will love and share with one another and with all mankind. If the world's values control our lives, it seems we live by a saying that our minister of education told us: "Get all you can, all you get and sit on your can."

We will give up all of the material possessions that we have sooner or later. Our luxuries are nothing, not even the air conditioning, in comparison to the spiritual wealth that will be ours in heaven.

Katharine "Katsy" McAlister is a homemaker. She and her husband, John, live in El Dorado where they are members of First Church.

Personal perspectives

"The thing that characterizes Southern Baptists is proclamation of the gospel....If we have the opportunity to say just one thing, it should be the right thing."

—Tom Elliff, *Southern Baptist Convention president*

"The setting of the Olympics is a great time to do ministry and do it in as many different ways as possible....It was amazing to see how God worked."

—Lynn Loyd, *BSU director, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*

"I don't think you can be the best minister if you aren't fit.... We can serve God longer and better with healthy bodies."

—Dick Couey, *professor of health sciences, Baylor University*

"Your attitude will determine whether or not you have exciting golden years....You can use whatever your circumstances are to glorify God."

—Don Moore, *retired Arkansas Baptist executive director*

Perseverance despite adversity

Following a few fun-filled days of family vacation at the Olympics in Atlanta, I had anticipated writing a positive, feel-good editorial about the inspirational examples of unity and teamwork embodied in the Olympic experience. But that was before The Bomb. The early morning explosion that rocked Centennial Olympic Park forever changed the way the 1996 summer Olympics will be remembered.

It seems that each domestic terrorist attack has hit closer and closer to home in recent months. First there was the devastating Oklahoma City tragedy that shattered the lives of hundreds of people in one of our neighboring states. Then there was the crash of TWA flight 800 on a routine flight to Europe from JFK International — an airport that dozens of Arkansas Baptist mission volunteers have flown through in recent years. Even before investigators concluded their work in New York, the Olympic bombing made headlines around the world.

Just two days earlier, my wife and I had spent much of the day at Centennial Olympic Park with our two grade-school daughters. Suddenly, our television screen was filled with images of the familiar site which had been transformed into a deadly



STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON

crime scene. The inviting brick-lined paths our kids had eagerly explored were now cordoned off by yellow police tape. Terrorism had smashed our personal comfort zone.

Despite the chaos in Atlanta, Olympic officials quickly determined that the games would go on. There were many reasons for such a decision: The once-in-a-lifetime dreams of athletes from around the world, multi-million-dollar financial concerns, the refusal to cave in to terrorism. Hopefully one other reason, whether spoken or not, was the commitment to persevere in the face of adversity.

There were at least two shining

examples of perseverance amid adversity during the Atlanta Olympics. The most memorable moment during the pre-bomb Olympics was produced by Kerri Strug. The gymnast-turned-hero landed her final vault despite an ankle injury that left her grimacing in pain as she crawled off the mat at the end of her routine. Her perseverance stands as a reminder of the importance of placing the good of one's team (family, church, etc.) above personal comfort or convenience.

The biggest post-bomb event was simply the continuation of the Olympics. While it may have been tempting to give up in despair, the right thing to do was to preserve the Olympic spirit and allow the international competition to continue. Quitting would have sent the wrong message to a watching world — and the same is true when followers of Christ are faithful only when the circumstances of life are going their way.

"Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). Sounds a lot like persevering — even in the face of adversity.

Concern over fasting

I am concerned about the promotion of fasting by leaders of the convention. The only fast required by Moses was that on the Day of Atonement. Fasting was greatly abused as a sign of religious activity as is clear from Isaiah 58, indicating that fasting as a means of provoking God to answer prayer was condemned. The fasting God rewards is righteous living by helping those in need (v. 8).

According to *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, Jesus "observed the usual public fasts, but neither by practice nor by precept did He stress fasting." In all His teaching, He spoke of fasting only twice: first in Matthew 6:16-18 and second as recorded in Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22 and Luke 5:33-39.

In the first instance, Jesus stressed that fasting was to be done privately or secretly, to God and not to impress men. He did not command fasting. He forbids it unless it is an expression of inner contrition and devotion. It seems strangely out of place for prominent Southern Baptist leaders to be trumpeting their fasts for all to observe.

The disciples of John the Baptist and of the Pharisees asked why Jesus' disciples did not fast. Apparently, Jesus' followers had already stopped participating in the Jewish fasts. *Zondervan* notes that in



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

response: "He shows that fasting belongs to the body of old observances and customs and is not congruous with the liberty of the Gospel. The new era that He inaugurates must have new forms of its own."

It is interesting to note that references to fasting in Matthew 17:21 and Mark 9:29 are not found in the best New Testament manuscripts and are left out of most modern translations.

The two references to fasting in Acts (13:2-3 and 14:23) are genuine and indicate a continuation of the customs of the Jews in those early days of Christianity.

We must not lose the joy that comes in knowing that Jesus is the Victor. The world does not need to see us in mourning but in rejoicing in the victory that He has given us and that will be complete some day.

W. Trueman Moore
Barling, AR

Justice without judgment?

Justice is not mentioned in the New Testament. It occurs 28 times in the Old

Testament. The first occurrence is in Genesis 18:19 along with the word judgment which occurs 294 times. Can there be justice without judgment?

The use of justice and judgment is associated with the first great promise of the Messiah in Gen. 18:18. It is also related to the investigation of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God is seemingly pleased and confident that Abraham will "command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment: that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (v. 19).

Thanks to our false teaching, we see a nation disintegrating, flying apart in every direction. Our children are brainwashed with relativity. To advocate justice, law and order, one is labeled a "legalist." Licentiousness is taught and accepted as grace.

Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord. He built the ark according to the direct instructions of God. Had he done otherwise, his family would have been destroyed also. He was a "preacher of righteousness" (II Peter 2:5). The Greek word for righteousness in the New Testament means *justice*. Check it out.

Jim Glover
Heber Springs, AR

'More than gold'

Arkansas Baptist volunteers share international ministry in Atlanta

By Trenns Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The setting of the Olympics is a great time to do ministry and do it in as many different ways as possible," emphasized Lynn Loyd. Speaking from personal experience, Loyd was among dozens of Arkansas Baptist volunteers who took advantage of that opportunity during the recent summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Loyd, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, led a 14-member BSU team representing six campuses throughout the state. Working in conjunction with Atlanta International

Ministries (AIM), team members were involved in witnessing and hospitality ministries in Atlanta's Little Five Points area, a section of the city known for alternative lifestyles and New Age influence.

The Arkansas team worked alongside volunteers from several other states who provided drama, music, children's activities and other ministry efforts throughout the Olympics. Loyd's team was based at Euclid Avenue Church, a small congregation located near the center of Little Five Points.

"Our group went out on the square and met people and brought them down to the church lawn" for conversation, refreshments and activities, Loyd said. "We spent a lot of time just talking with people and building relationships." He said team members hope that those initial relationships will help strengthen the work of Euclid Avenue Church and a nearby Christian coffeehouse.

Al Adams, pastor of Euclid Avenue Church, emphasized that the area surrounding his congregation is a mission field. "There's a little bit of everything here," he noted. "The family unity, unfortunately, has been lost.

"It's a joy to see these young people," he added. "I see this as a stepping stone to energize our congregation and renew their spirit, giving us a new vision and a new challenge. That's what it's all about. To say it can't be done is to say that God can't do it — and that's absolutely totally wrong."



Arkansas volunteers Dorothy Humphrey and Debbie Davenport distribute hospitality bags to Olympic visitors in downtown Atlanta.

Stacy Thurber, a BSU team member from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, sensed that one of her primary efforts "was to be an encourager to other Christians down there."

"I pretty much felt helpless at first," she noted. "I had to depend on God."

Affirming that "God answered prayers daily" during the ministry effort, Loyd added, "It was amazing to see how God worked."

In a setting much closer to the international Olympic crowds that converged on Atlanta, an Arkansas Baptist Women on Mission Enterprise team worked at AIM's downtown ministry center.

Monica Keathley, an associate in the state Woman's Missionary Union department, led the seven-member team which included volunteers from Little Rock, Jacksonville, Pottsville and Kibler. She explained that team members distributed refreshments, Olympic information and hospitality bags in an effort to gain witnessing opportunities.

The hospitality bags, distributed by thousands of Baptist volunteers throughout Atlanta, contained an "Interactive Pocket Guide" which featured Olympic sports information as well as a six-page witnessing guide that includes the plan of salvation. Other packet items ranged from lip balm to adhesive bandages for travelers to use during their Olympic vacations.

"I've been really proud of our ladies," Keathley remarked as she sat in the back of the ministry center stuffing more

hospitality bags. "They've been very bold witnesses.

"Hopefully seeds are being planted," she said. "We're trusting the Lord to take every person we've talked to and move them closer to a personal relationship to God."

Although final statistics have not been compiled, AIM officials worked with an estimated 8,000 volunteers during the Olympics. Several hundred professions of faith in Christ have been reported by volunteers throughout the area.

Several Arkansas Baptist youth groups were among the more than 500 teams that responded to the ministry opportunities in Atlanta. An Arkansas Acteens Activator team served during

the week of the opening ceremonies at Techwood Baptist Center located three blocks from Centennial Olympic Park.

"We were able to talk with people from over 40 countries," recalled Angela Lowe, a state WMU associate. "They were just thrilled to receive a Bible. It was a real blessing to us."

Youth groups from First Church, Mountain Home, and Immanuel Church, Little Rock, also traveled to Atlanta to participate in Olympic ministries.

"Wherever we went, we witnessed," noted Jay Taylor, youth minister at First, Mountain Home. "We rode MARTA (Atlanta's rapid transit system) up and down the line and struck up conversations with people. There were some people who had never heard a gospel presentation.

"We went expecting God to do something and He did. It changed our youth group. They're much more bold now to tell people about Jesus."

Dale Carlton, minister to students at First Church, Searcy, noted that his youth group canceled plans to travel to Atlanta following the Centennial Olympic Park bombing. Despite the disappointment of missing the opportunity to minister at the Olympics, the youth decided to conduct similar ministry projects in their own hometown.

Noting that six months of spiritual preparation "helped us whether we went to Atlanta or not," he added, "We decided to do the same things here. We felt like it was a time to be faithful here at home."



Visitors from around the world frolic in the fountain at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park.



Members of a drama team from Arlington, Texas, perform a Christian skit on an outdoor stage as a witnessing tool for Olympic visitors.



Volunteers distribute free hospitality bags at a rest stop on I-20 in Georgia.



Members of Second-Ponce De Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta provided free water, first aid and activities for spectators at an Olympic cycling event.

Be good stewards of 'God's body'

Nutrition, exercise can help ministry years be better and longer

By Charles Willis

Baptist Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, NM (BP)—People who fail to take care of their physical needs may cut their ministry years short, an expert in nutrition and exercise told participants at the National Conference for Church Leadership at Gloriaeta (N.M.) Conference Center.

From headaches to heart attacks—even death—stress can take its toll on the bodies of church leaders just as it does everyone else, said Dick Couey, professor of health sciences at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Caring for one's health has a biblical basis, he said, citing I Corinthians 6:19-20 as the Scripture to which he has dedicated his life.

"These verses deal with the principle of ownership, occupancy and obedience," he noted. "Many people think, 'This is my body. God will take care of me and I'm doing God's work.'

"It's God's body," Couey emphasized, "and we should be good stewards of it, exercising, feeding and resting it from the first breath to the last breath."

The principle of occupancy deals with "who is in your body," he said. "We carry the Holy Spirit to bring people to the Lord."

Obedience deals with "loving God, loving our neighbors and glorifying God in our bodies," he continued. "We can serve

Him longer and better with healthy bodies."

Both physiological and psychological stressors can affect overall health, he pointed out. Overeating can be a physiological stress for the body, for example, while the emotional toll of a family death or any other significant loss can result in psychological stress.

Among the body's responses to unmanaged negative stress—distress—are shrinking of the thymus gland and the lymphatic system, enlargement of the adrenal gland, disappearance of white blood cells and, eventually, bleeding ulcers.

Responding to distress

Couey said the stages of response to distress include alarm, resistance and exhaustion. It is the resistance stage that can channel stress to one's weakest organ. And exhaustion can lead to death, in extreme cases.

"Develop good, positive self-talk," he urged ministers and lay leaders. "Use your faith, and use humor to deal with stress."

Nutrition plays a significant role in the body's ability to cope with stress, he added.

"Get in five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, drink six to eight glasses of water, and consume carbohydrates, fat and protein in the proper amounts.

"Forty percent of Americans are on the verge of dehydration," he said. "Constipation and kidney stones result from lack of water."

He recommended a daily diet consisting of 65 percent carbohydrates (fruits, vegetables and starches), 20 percent fat and 15 percent protein. While today's emphasis on low-fat foods is good, he said, the body needs some fat to maintain health.

"God made fat," he said, "and if you don't get enough fat in your diet, you will have health problems or you will die."

Couey said he prefers to see people get the nutrients their bodies require through a balanced diet, rather than through vitamin tablets. Eating the right foods in moderation and variety should provide the nine amino acids, 13 vitamins, 19 minerals, carbohydrates, fat, protein and water necessary for good health.

Regular exercise improves every part of the body's performance, he said. And rest and relaxation are equally important. In Mark 6:31, he reminded participants, Jesus encouraged the apostles to find a secluded place to rest from their work.

"I don't think you can be the best minister if you aren't fit," he said. "You may be good and efficient, but you can't be the best."

Classes in nutrition, exercise, wellness and stress were offered as the first training sessions on wellness in the Baptist Sunday School Board's LeaderCare program.

Individuals interested in additional information related to wellness may contact Tommy Yessick at 615-251-3846 in the BSSB's pastor-staff leadership department.

Stewardship leaders to join Executive Committee staff

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—James L. Powell and James L. Austin, executive vice president and vice president for Cooperative Program promotion, respectively, of the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission, have accepted positions with the SBC Executive Committee.

The moves will be effective no later than June 19, 1997, when the Stewardship Commission will be dissolved. The commission's dissolution will result from the SBC restructuring adopted by convention messengers.

Executive Committee president Morris Chapman announced the planned staff additions during a meeting of the Stewardship Development Association in Carmel, Calif., July 24. The SDA, made up of national and state leaders in stewardship and CP promotion, greeted the announcement with applause.

"Powell and Austin have a vast amount of knowledge about relationships and the production and distribution of informational resources needed for continued growth of the Cooperative Program," Chapman noted. "They will bring creativity and openness to change, in addition to their total of 40 years of experience in CP promotion."

Powell, employed by the Stewardship Commission 24 years, will serve as director of CP relations in the division of CP Advancement.

"I'm excited about joining the EC staff in its commitment to

advancing the impact of the CP on Southern Baptists' growing ministry in the United States and throughout the world," Powell said. "The call of Christ to reach our lost world, matched with developing technologies in communicating our messages, gives us great challenge and great opportunity in CP advancement."

Austin, a 16-year Stewardship Commission employee, who will serve as director of CP promotions, echoed Powell's view. "Southern Baptists have always responded well when provided biblical and practical information in useful formats," Austin said. "I've become more enthused about the future of the CP and the resources we can develop to assist in its advancement."

Powell and Austin will work to help the Executive Committee enhance awareness of the CP as the basic channel of support for ministries of state conventions and the SBC and to assist churches, associations, state conventions and SBC entities in conducting, enlarging and improving plans for increased support of Great Commission ministries through the CP.

Powell will assist in planning and implementing strategies, giving attention to enhancing relationships and understandings essential to CP advancement.

Austin will focus on planning, developing and distributing electronic and print media resources. He will continue to provide CP information to other SBC agencies for their use and distribution.

Church growth conference set for Aug. 27

Pastors and church leaders will receive growth helps and ideas during the Visionary Leadership for Church Growth conference Aug. 27 at First Church in El Dorado. The conference, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church leadership support department and stewardship department, also includes the introduction of changes being made in the Annuity Board retirement program.

Bruce Swihart, CLS department director, said the conference is targeting pastors, church staff and key leaders "to prepare for the next century and to get ideas for vision."

"We know the Great Commission, but how do we put arms and legs on it?" Swihart asked. He explained that the conference will seek to help participants "generate an impact on this generation of people who need the gospel and help those grow who have accepted the gospel."

"Hopefully, what they learn will move churches from being stagnant in their thinking and plateaued in membership with ideas for being more productive, ministering better to people and reaching out to communities," he emphasized.

The program will feature Swihart and Truman Brown, former church growth consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board, leading workshops. Workshop topics include: "Four Critical Questions for 21st Century Pastoral Leaders"; "Work Group: Implications for Ministry"; "How Effective Church Leaders Manage Change"; "How to Begin a New Life Cycle"; and "Discovering Your Design for Ministry."

The program also will feature stewardship department director James Walker and Brad Thompson, Annuity Board vice president, explaining the new LifePoints savings and investment program being instituted by the Annuity Board.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 9:30 p.m. There is no cost for the conference and a meal is provided for participants.

For more information or to register for the meal, contact Swihart at the ABCS church leadership support department toll-free at 1-800-838-ABCS, ext. 5148.

Retirees receive information about health care, annuity

By Millie Gill
Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Southern Baptist Annuity Board updates, a report on senior adult medical issues and a keynote message by Don Moore highlighted the July 18 meeting of the Fellowship of Retired Baptist Workers in Arkansas. The annual meeting was held at Park Hill Church of North Little Rock with Harold White of Benton presiding.

Information about the Annuity Board's 24-hour telephone service was shared by James Walker, director of the state convention's stewardship and annuity department. He also highlighted next year's expansion of annuity retirement funds from four to 13 options.

Discussing Internal Revenue Service self-employment housing allowance taxation, Walker said a decision concerning that issue should be finalized this year by the U.S. Congress. He also explained the availability of Annuity Board relief and Adopt-an-Annuitant grants for retirees needing additional income.

Russell D. Harrington, president of Baptist Health Corp., shared information about Medicare funding and other health programs available to assist senior adults.

Harrington noted that Medicare, which is observing its 30th anniversary this year, is the single largest health insurer in the country. He said the program's financial trouble is due to increased enrollment which has nearly doubled from 19.1 million participants in 1966 to 37 million enrolled in 1995. He reminded Arkansas Baptist retirees that Medicare covers less than half of total medical expenses, prompting the need for supplemental insurance.

Harrington noted that the nation's oldest age group, persons 85 years of age and over, has tripled since 1966. "While the U.S. population is projected to increase 18 percent between 2000 and 2020," he added, "the age group 65 through 75 is expected to increase by 66 percent, reflecting the post-World War II 'baby boom.'"

Explaining that Baptist Medical System embarked on a multi-year transformation

process in 1994 to design a healthcare system in response to the needs of the population, he said BMS changed its name to Baptist Health last year as part of that process.

He said design of the new Baptist Memorial Medical Center campus in North Little Rock, integration of patient care programs across the delivery network, adaptation of programs related to the growth of managed care and creation of a partnership with the community to help improve the health status of its vulnerable populations are among issues related to

a population-based planning process.

Harrington cited free health clinics and wellness centers at Immanuel Church and St. Paul AME Zion Church in Little Rock, Baring Cross Church and Park Hill Church of North Little Rock and Calvary Church of Rose City as examples of what churches can do to assist senior adults.

Moore, the recently retired executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, focused on the topic, "Golden Year

Changes." Emphasizing that "your attitude will determine whether or not you have exciting golden years," he encouraged participants to look to the future with excitement rather than dwell on the past.

"You can use whatever your circumstances are to glorify God," he declared. "One thing you definitely can do is to become an effective pray warrior. As a prayer warrior you can let your grandchildren know you are praying for them and others. God has said He will bless those who are intercessors for Him."

State convention executive director Emil Turner told the group, "When we at the Baptist Building look at you, we see how much you love the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise you for your service, sacrifice and the souls which you have brought to know the Lord."

Other program features included a message brought by Martha Hairston from president Erwin L. McDonald who was unable to attend because of health reasons. Dillard Miller of Menla led memorial moments.



Officers elected for 1996-97 are (front row) Jesse Reed of Little Rock, president, and Erlene Bauer of Little Rock, secretary; (back row) Luther Dorsey of Warren, first vice president, and Loy Garner of Texarkana, second vice president.

Staff changes

Harold W. Chandler began serving July 28 as pastor of First Church of Genoa, coming there from Sunset Lane Church of Little Rock. He previously was pastor of Roland Church and Plainview Church of Little Rock. Chandler is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Betty, are parents of a married daughter, Windy Crow.

James D. Matlock, a sophomore at West-ark Community College, is pastor of Vesta Church of Charleston. Licensed to the ministry by First Church of Lavaca, he currently is responsible for Baptist Student Union ministry for Winfield Church of Waldron. He previously was minister of youth for Calvary Church of Fort Smith and interim pastor of Enterprise Church of Lavaca. He also served as a summer missionary in 1992.

Hayden Hendrix has joined the staff of First Church of Star City as youth minister. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

David T. Bond has accepted the call to join the staff of First Church of Hamburg as minister of music and youth. He will come there from First Church of Dover where he has served since 1993 as minister of music and youth. In addition, he was music and youth intern for First Church of Ashdown. Bond is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He and his wife, Renee, have one daughter, Kelsey Brooke.

Monroe Hunt retired July 28 as pastor of Solgohachia Church where he previously served from 1988-1991. He also has been pastor of Bluffton Church and Moreland Church. An employee of the Corps of Engineers, he is a graduate of Boyce Bible School. He is married to the former Laveda Bowen of Rover. They have four adult children, Monte, Marty, Jacquelyn and June, and 13 grandchildren. Hunt, who will be available to serve as a supply preacher, may be contacted at 501-968-7705.

Lendol Jackson retired Aug. 1 as pastor of Central Church of Marked Tree where he has served since January 1994. Jackson, who has served other Arkansas churches, plans to become more involved in the work of Campers on Mission for which he serves as state volunteer coordinator and his wife, Dorothy, serves as treasurer. Jackson is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), East Texas Baptist University of Marshall and Memphis State University. In addition, he will be available to serve as a supply or



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

revival preacher or as an interim pastor. Jackson may be contacted at 502 Candis Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72404; phone 501-933-0055. The Jacksons are parents of two adult children and have five grandchildren.

Gerald Taylor of Little Rock is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Star City, having recently retired as pastor of Hebron Church of Little Rock. In addition, he has been pastor of other Arkansas churches. Taylor and his wife, Katherine, have served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Senegal, West Africa.

Bert Spann is part-time youth director of New Life Church of Alexander. He previously preached at Dixonville Baptist Center. A member of First Church of Benton, he is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Sara Williams has resigned as children's ministry coordinator for Beech Street First Church of Texarkana, effective July 28 to serve as a kindergarten teacher with a private Christian school in Hot Springs.

J. Tim Johnson has resigned as minister of music and youth for First Church of Pochontas to join the staff of Glynwood Church of Prattville, Ala. He is a graduate

of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Harold Stephens retired July 28 as pastor of Trinity Church of Benton where he had served for 20 years. He came to Benton from Hardin Church of Pine Bluff. While at Trinity, Stephens led the congregation in sponsoring Congo Road Mission (now Congo Road Church) and to begin a children's church. He also is a former member the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. Stephens and his wife, Shirley, were honored at a special evening service July 28, followed by a churchwide fellowship where they were presented with a love offering. He will be available to serve as an interim pastor or supply preacher beginning in October and may be contacted at 2620 East Line, Searcy, AR 72143; phone 501-268-3503.

Coy W. Camp has resigned as pastor of Claud Road Church in Pine Bluff and retired from the full-time ministry. Camp has been pastor of six churches in Harmony Association, as well as serving in Missouri and Indiana. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary and International Bible Institute of Plymouth, Fla. Camp is available to serve as a supply preacher, interim pastor and to lead revivals. He may be contacted at 815 Delmar, Blytheville, AR 72315; phone 501-838-1027.

Gordon Lunceford has resigned as minister of youth for First Church of Pine Bluff to join the staff of Rosedale Church in



First Church of Mansfield recently broke ground for a 9,500-square-foot educational building that is being financed through individual contributions. The two-story facility will provide Sunday School space for preschool, youth and adult departments. Breaking ground were members of the building and building fund committees, assisted by pastor Joel Faircloth.

Richmond, Ky. He and his wife, Kristi, are parents of a son, Kent.

Dow Welsh has resigned as minister of youth and young adults at Central Church of North Little Rock, following two years of service. He plans to continue his education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Welsh is married to the former Karen Bledsoe of North Little Rock.

J.R. Hull of Mountain View is serving as interim pastor of Calvary Church of Timbo. He recently retired as pastor of Foothills Church.

Church news

Bella Vista Church honored George O'Neel June 30 for his 20th anniversary of ministry as the church's pastor. His wife, Arlene, observed her 20th year of service as church organist. J. Harold Smith, who was the O'Neels' pastor at First Church of Fort Smith, was the anniversary speaker. Others on the program were her brother, Truman Moore of Fort Smith, and Bob Post. The couple was presented with a love offering and cards of appreciation.

Hope First Church recently recognized individuals who had served for 30 or more years in the church's Sunday School ministry. Those receiving plaques and their years of service include: Dora King, 47; Annette Rogers and Margaret Martin, 45; Velora Halm, 38; Forrest Singleton, 31; and Helen Smith, 30.

Monette First Church launched a new outreach ministry July 14 in the Monette Government Housing complex in an effort to reach area residents. Bert Self is pastor.

Park Street Church of Bentonville recognized pastor Ronald Roughton and his wife, Evelyn, Aug. 4 for 10 years of service. The couple was honored with a fellowship dinner and card shower.

Cherokee City First Church of Gentry voted July 10 to sponsor Cornerstone Church in Cherokee City as a mission. George McFeron is serving as pastor of the new work that is also being assisted by Harvard Avenue Church and First Church, both of Siloam Springs and First Church of Colcord, Okla.

Greenwood First Church dedicated its Milton F. James Educational Building July 21 that was named in honor of the church's pastor who was the featured speaker. Guests included Sen. Bill Walters, Rep. Ed Wilkinson and Greenwood mayor Leon Hicks. Others on the program were Kris Lamie, David Hogan and Clint Nauert. Building committee members recognized were chairman Gerald Edwards, Desley

Lawson, Ray Wolpert, Pat Presson, Larry McConnell, Virgil Hicks, Bob Evans and Damaris Kesner. With this addition, the Greenwood church has completed almost \$2 million in building programs since 1975. During that time, there have been 951 baptisms and 1,326 additions by letter.

Hatfield First Church surprised pastor Brad Justice July 4 with a special service in celebration of his 10th anniversary of ministry. He was presented with a wall plaque and a bound volume of letters from friends. Roy Brooks gave a special tribute to Justice, after which he and his family were presented with a pre-paid vacation package.

Rogers First Church music ministry presented its fifth gospel hoedown edition of the Mountain Home Companion and Quilt Show July 18. The program featured several church ensembles, quartets, soloists and the Exaltation Choir and Orchestra under the direction of minister of music Tim Logan. He also coordinated the music with original skits, commercials and stories.

Unity Church of Paragould held a baptismal service in Black River July 21 at which pastor Terry Songer baptized six individuals. The 120 attending held a fellowship picnic at the conclusion.

Central Church of North Little Rock's 29-member mission team recently returned from Waterloo, Iowa, where they assisted Trinity Church with a Vacation Bible School, door-to-door outreach and a people search. Skip Platt was the coordinator for the trip.

Little Rock Second Church's mission team of 26 youth and six adults recently returned from working in Arizona. The group first worked in Tempe, assisting the Church on Mill with yard and repair work. Their second project was with the Church on Filmore in Phoenix where they ministered through daily Backyard Bible Clubs to approximately 40 children, as well as assisting with a neighborhood cleanup. Toby Simers, minister to youth, coordinated the mission trip.

Obituaries

Anitia Tapson Elias, 67, of North Little Rock died July 15. A retired executive secretary for the Arkansas Arts Center, she was a member of Mount Carmel Church of Cabot where her son, Mitch Tapson, is pastor. Other survivors are her husband, Charles Elias; three sons, Mark Tapson of San Francisco, Calif., Neil Tapson of St. Charles, Mo., and Stuart Tapson of Kennett, Mo.; four step-children, Charles Elias Jr. of

Plano, Texas, Rachel Fann of Big Sur, Calif., Sharon Malcolm of Lorain, Oregon, and Jim Elias of Burbank, Wash.; seven grandchildren; and eight step-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the building fund of Mount Carmel Church.

Ruth McDaniel Couch of El Dorado died July 23 at Oak Ridge Nursing Home. She was a member of East Main Church of El Dorado. She was a former Sunday School teacher and Vacation Bible School leader for churches in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and California. Survivors are her husband, Willie Franklin Couch of El Dorado; two sons, Dana Franklin Couch of Little Rock and Kyle William Couch of El Dorado; and one granddaughter.

Upcoming events

East End Church of Hensley will observe homecoming Aug. 18 with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and a noon potluck meal. A 1 p.m. gospel singing program will conclude activities.

South Highland Church of Little Rock will celebrate its 80th anniversary Aug. 25 with traditional morning services, a noon meal and a 1:30 p.m. service in which a van, purchased with anniversary donations from members, will be presented. Former pastor Herb Hodges will be the speaker.

Rover Church will dedicate a sanctuary, educational rooms and offices Aug. 24 in an 11 a.m. "To the Glory of God" service. Arkansas' Nailbenders for Jesus and residents of the Rover area constructed the new facility which was used July 14 for the first time.

Douglasville Church of Little Rock will observe homecoming Aug. 25 with Sunday School and morning worship, followed by a noon potluck meal. Ed Hinkson, director of missions for Pulaski Association, will be the guest speaker. Glen Smith is pastor.

Blytheville First Church will observe Frank Huffman Day Aug. 25 in recognition of 35 years of ministry as Sunday School director. Huffman, who is retiring, will be presented with an appreciation plaque. Flowers also will be presented to him and his wife, Dora. In other church news, the men's mission team returned Aug. 3 from their 16th annual mission effort. The 1996 work took them to Farina, Ill., where they constructed a church sanctuary.

Emmanuel Church of Forrest City will have 7 p.m. revival services Aug. 18-23 led by evangelist Dennis Erwin of Lancaster, Texas, and music director Clyde Cranford of West Memphis. Brad Banks is pastor.

BSSB offers free books to churches damaged by arson

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—As an expression of concern and support, the Baptist Sunday School Board is contacting churches damaged or destroyed by arson in the last 18 months with an offer of up to 13 free books.

"As a publisher of resources for churches and church leaders, we are making available at no cost some books which we hope can be useful in replacing those which may have been lost or for your use in planning for the future," BSSB president James T. Draper Jr. wrote in a letter being sent to the churches.

Draper said church names and addresses are being compiled by the BSSB from numerous sources, including state Baptist conventions, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, lists published in newspapers and others.

He said the offer is being made to African-American and other churches victimized by arson. It is not limited to Southern Baptist churches. The list of 13 books includes study resources such as the *Experiencing God Bible*, *Holman Bible Dictionary* and *Holman Bible Handbook* as well as books for leaders including

Kingdom Principles for Church Growth, *Church: God's People on Mission* and *Church Leadership Team Handbook*.

The BSSB has established a toll-free number for churches to call and place orders after receiving Draper's letter. The number is 1-800-357-7029.

Draper said the board's actions are an outgrowth of an ongoing policy through which the board provides some free materials and discounts on many items to Southern Baptist churches that experience disasters such as fires, floods and storm damage.



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|-----------|-------------|----------------|----------|
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| Thur 8/29 | Fort Smith | Grand Avenue | 10:00 am |
| Thur 8/29 | Little Rock | Calvary | 6:30 pm |

Mr. Thompson will walk you through specially prepared investment education material called *LifePoints*. *LifePoints* will help you better understand investing for retirement, risk/reward, and the Annuity Board's new investment options.

For those not currently participating in the retirement plan Mr. Thompson will discuss the unique features of the Church Annuity Plan.



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9-year-old MK mauled by tiger in Indonesia

Aaron Baker, a nine-year-old son of Southern Baptist representatives to Indonesia, was attacked and mauled by a tiger in a wildlife park in that country July 19.

According to a Foreign Mission Board prayer request, Baker underwent "surgery to repair three severed facial nerves...and lacerations."

The prayer request also reported that he "is doing well, but it will be six months before there will be evidence of whether the nerve repair is successful."

Aaron is the son of Arkansas natives Ron and Debbie Baker. Ron Baker has served as a Foreign Mission Board agricultural representative in Indonesia since 1985. Debbie Baker serves as a church and home worker.

Baker is a native of Lee County and considers Brinkley his hometown. Mrs. Baker considers Van Buren her hometown. The Bakers have three other children, two sons and a daughter.

Growth of gospel accelerates in Albania

TIRANA, ALBANIA (BP)—Churches continue to spring up in Albania, with dozens of new believers being baptized at the same time and hundreds praying to receive Christ during visitation campaigns.

Albania government leaders once bragged that theirs was the most atheistic country on earth. Now the Eastern European country has dozens of Christian congregations and a people hungry for the gospel, said Gale R. Hartley, a Southern Baptist foreign missionary serving there.

And with 11 Baptist congregations in Albania now, Baptist leaders are beginning to discuss starting a convention or union to improve cooperation, he said.

The Foreign Mission Board is sending several new missionaries during 1996 to help meet the heavy response, said Larry Cox, associate area director for central Europe. One request for a church planter has not been filled, he added.

Panel examines CIA use of missionaries

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Religious leaders and journalists urged a Senate committee to close a loophole that could in rare instances allow missionaries and overseas correspondents to be used as informants for U.S. spy agencies.

Witnesses at a July 17 hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence told the panel that overseas journalists and religious workers could lose credibility and be at risk if they are seen as possible agents of U.S. intelligence operations.

Since 1976, Central Intelligence Agency policy has barred the use of clergy and journalists in covert operations. But earlier this year, CIA director John Deutch acknowledged that the policy can be waived in rare circumstances.

Religious leaders urged that all loopholes allowing use of religious workers be closed.

"As long as there is any reason to suspect that religious workers may be agents of the U.S. government, the lives and safety of these servants of the public are in jeopardy," said Rodney Page, deputy general secretary for Church World Service and Witness of the National Council of Churches of Christ. The very existence of the waiver authority jeopardizes religious workers, he said.

'God goes before you,' journeymen told

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Young people who follow God's call to missions will find He goes before them and rolls back the obstacles, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin told a group of new missionary journeymen.

The board commissioned 68 journeymen during a July 21

service at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., bringing the number of journeymen serving worldwide to 193. Since the program's inception in 1965, 2,650 college graduates under the age of 30 have been named to two-year terms as journeymen.

Rankin reminded the group how God helped the Israelites cross the flooded Jordan River as they went in to possess the Promised Land. Reading from Joshua 3, he noted that as the Israelites stepped into the raging river, the waters rolled back and the people crossed on dry ground.

"You will encounter obstacles — conflict, government red tape and visa problems," he told the young people. "But you must keep following God in faith that He will roll back those obstacles."

"You are not taking God to the people you will serve," he added. "God is already there, opening doors in providence and power...calling nations to repentance and faith. What a privilege to join Him in that task."

Speakers say Calvinism fuels evangelism

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—The Christian obligation to engage in missions and evangelism is an integral part of the "doctrines of grace," said two speakers at the 14th annual Southern Baptist Founders Conference, July 23-26 at Samford University.

The annual Founders Conference attracts Southern Baptists who hold to the doctrines of grace, known most widely by the title, "Calvinism." The five doctrines are summarized in the acrostic TULIP, with each letter representing the main points: T — total depravity; U — unconditional election; L — limited atonement; I — irresistible grace; and P — perseverance of the saints.

Missions professor George Martin and evangelist R.F. Gates both contended the doctrines of grace are the most effective basis for missions and evangelism, in contrast to critics who say Calvinism is a deterrent to winning the lost. Martin will begin teaching this year in the Billy Graham School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Gates is a Southern Baptist evangelist from Shreveport, La.

"There is nothing that will shake our people out of their slumber and lack of concern for world missions like a good dose of the doctrines of grace!" Martin declared.

Preaching from Ezekiel 37 concerning the account of the "dry bones," Gates emphasized that the place of evangelism is "the place where His providence places you," even when it is in a valley of dry bones.

Conference focuses on MKs' concerns

HONOLULU (BP)—Many children of internationally based missionaries suffer from feelings of abandonment and isolation when they leave their homeland to attend college in the United States.

Other MKs deal with the same issues when their parents' death, divorce or resignation results in their being removed from the only home, lifestyle and culture they've ever known.

Still other MKs — lost in the shadow of their parents' missionary zeal — struggle with personal identity issues. About 300 adult MKs, missionaries and leaders from several denominations and mission-sending boards met the last week of July in Honolulu to discuss the unique needs of MKs at what might be the first-ever conference of its type.

The week-long conference, billed as "Mission Meeting 1996," was sponsored by the International MK Fellowship, an independent, trans-denominational organization founded in 1989 by Southern Baptist MK Steve Solesbee of Dallas. He said the purpose of the conference was to affirm MKs, to provide a forum for dialogue and to search for solutions.

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*August 18.....**Survival '96** at the Baptist Student Union.

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*August 22.....**Church Fair** after the BSU's TNT Program.

*September 11..**Freshman/Transfer Progressive Dinner**
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Team Leaders Front (L-R): Allen Elkins, John Dressbach.
Back Row: Packy Magel, Chad Morgan, Nancy Burke, Jerry
Muckensturm, Arliss Dickerson, Darrell Cook.
Not Pictured: Marc Sebes

Team Leaders!!!

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Chad Morgan, University Minister
Corner of E. Nettleton and Thom...932-4960

Walnut Street Baptist Church
Allen Elkins, Minister to Students
1010 Scenic...972-0220

First Baptist Church
Marc Sebes, University Minister
Nancy Burke, Minister of Education
701 S. Main...932-3456

Central Baptist Church
Jerry Muckensturm, University Minister
John Dressbach, Associate University Minister
1010 S. Main...935-1950

Highland Drive Baptist Church
Patrick "Packy" Magel, Student Minister
515 E. Highland Drive...932-2197

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

James highlights keys to BSU ministry

David James, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministry department, coordinates the ministry of 34 Baptist Student Unions on college and university campuses throughout the state. He recently reflected about the status of Baptist student work in Arkansas.

Q *As a new school year begins this fall, what is the "state of the state" for Arkansas student ministry work?*

A I am thrilled with where we are with Arkansas Baptist Student Union. The thing that excites me most about Arkansas BSU is our BSU directors. We have some tremendous leaders who have committed to evangelism, discipleship and missions. We have had some position changes, but we feel positive about the changes that have happened. The West Arkansas Community College director is moving to Arkansas Tech. We are interviewing a person for West Ark and for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The UAPB position has now been placed in the student ministry department. We will not forsake cooperative ministries with National Baptists. We will continue to work very closely with the Cooperative Ministries department. I feel like we are positioning ourselves where we are going to have some long-term people. I don't think we are going to see the kind of changeover in the past.

Q *Are there any changes in Arkansas BSU this year?*

A We are going along with the ABC's 1997 Arkansas Awakening theme, "Strengthen the Family." This year "Home Improvement" is our theme, playing off the sitcom. In Arkansas BSU we are family and each BSU has a family network and becomes a positive model for students, so it's easy for us to play off of the family emphasis of Arkansas Awakening. We kicked it off at Leadership Training Conference and did some training of 321 of our Arkansas BSU leaders for next year who will come back and be ready for next fall.

Q *What is the current strength of student work in Arkansas?*

A We probably have 8,000 students who are active in the program. By active, we talk about student leaders as a key number. That number, 321, is a strong number for us because they are paying the price. Then we have 8,000 students on top of that involved in our program. If you look at the number of people who have attended our programs one time during the course of the year, then that number is massive, but it is not a number we really keep. There are some campuses that during orientation have access to the whole campus, so we sometimes have one shot

at every student on campus. We have 34 BSUs and 39 directors. We have 18 full-time people, eight part-time directors, and many volunteer special workers. There are 13 places where we do not have BSUs — technical colleges and other settings. But we feel good about where we are. The tech colleges are coming. At every one of them we have had some kind of initial contact but we are waiting for local areas to help us and as we surface a leader, we will begin the work.

Q *What do you think would surprise readers about state student work?*

A I don't know if there are a lot of surprises. There are a lot of unknowns. Arkansas BSU has been here a long time, but there are still a lot of people who are not aware of what BSU does. Many Arkansas Baptists have been faithful and supported us for years, but I don't think that many Arkansas Baptists are aware of how our students are involved in evangelism on campus. For instance, BSU students at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, in one week's time, presented the gospel to 318 students and had 10 professions of faith. That's a massive effort to do evangelism, but it means that it takes 30 times to share the gospel for one student to come to the Lord. One of the fun things that happened at Fayetteville is that their student center has three levels and, on the same day, at the same hour, three students were saved on different levels by students sharing the gospel.

Q *Is evangelism BSU's major program emphasis?*

A Yes, along with missions and discipleship. Our students are becoming more evangelistic. We are intentionally evangelistic in all we do and we still believe relational evangelism is what it's all about, but are not afraid to share the gospel with students one-on-one at any point. In missions, the greatest tool to train our students in evangelism has been our student missions program. Half of our students who are summer missionaries for the first time in their lives lead someone to Christ through a summer missions experience. For every summer missionary who goes out, on the average, we have about three professions of faith. It's exciting to see that it's a tool for evangelism. Student missions is a keynote of Baptist Student Union. I don't think we will ever forsake that as a high priority. Over 120 students are involved in summer missions this summer. In one week we had 278 students out doing Spring Break missions and had 95 professions of faith all over the United States. In discipleship, our students are committed to freshman ministry, which

is basic discipleship helping students begin their walk with the Lord — meeting spiritual needs through scriptural bases on a weekly basis. We also do upper-classmen and ongoing discipleship groups such as Experiencing God, Josh McDowell's material, Moral Maze, and we're involved on a consistent basis with students involved in discipleship programs. We had over 1,000 students in Bible studies last year — whether it was a dorm Bible study or an apartment Bible study or one in the BSU.

Q *What is so critical about this age group?*

A That's a question that Arkansas Baptists need to look seriously at because, if we really sense a need for this age group as still valuable, then we can be very much committed to our ministries and sense that we are headed into a target area that can impact. Another reason is that some of the great awakenings that have happened, the majority, have happened on college campuses. Why? Because a college student is versatile, a college student is moldable. We have an opportunity to impact those versatile, moldable students with the gospel of Christ and with a passion to see world revival in a setting that we may not have anywhere else, because those students are eager and hungry. I hear a lot of people say, "This collegiate generation is not responsible: They are not concerned." I think the opposite is true. They are not always responsive to our churches, because they do not know for sure that we are genuine. Until we prove we are genuine, students will not lock in to us. They are going to go to different denominations, they're going to do lots of things if we do not let them know we are for real and that the power of God works in our ministries.

Q *What will it take for churches to reach college students?*

A Two things: If the church is going to reach the college student, then the church is going to have to understand that students relate to music and worship. If a church is going to impact the collegiate world, they are going to have to get in line and focus and prioritize the importance of worship, not only corporate, but individual. Second, what's happening in our BSUs with the issue of holiness is intriguing to me. Holiness is an area in which we must take a stand. Our directors are having to take stands against students who are very tolerant and have convictions that compromise their beliefs. If we are for real and the students can see that, they respond to holiness and integrity. Baptists have lots of future in student ministry on college campus if we are willing to see that and see it as important.

ON 2 COLLEGE

BSU LOCATOR MAP

Northeast

Arkansas State University

Ariss Dickerson, Director
Darrell Cook, Associate
Amber Vaden, Outreach coordinator
Box 730, Jonesboro, AR 72467
Phone: 501-932-7241

■ Welcome Week, Aug. 19-22
Monday, noon-Free lunch: "Hear Nancy & Alan"
Monday 6 p.m.-Bible study led by Ariss Dickerson:
"What's the difference in guys and girls?"
Thursday 6 p.m.-Welcome Concert: Christian artist

12

East Arkansas Community College, Blytheville

c/o Student Ministry Dept.
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

13

Gateway Technical College

Joella Huddleston, Director
370 Reed Wade Dr., Batesville, AR 72501
Phone: 501-793-4875

■ Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-BSU fellowship
Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-GTC Fall Festival
Mondays, 6:30 p.m.-Monday night coffee break

14

Lyon College

Leslie Ellis, Director
195 11th St., Batesville, AR 72501
Phone: 501-698-0231

15

Mid-South Community College

Hubert Jarvis, director
313 Toni Dr., Marion, AR 72364
Phone: 501-735-3717

16

Mississippi County Community College

Barry Morgan, Director
P.O. Box 825, Osceola, AR 72370
Phone: 501-563-6497 (church)

17

Ozarka Technical College

Robert Stewart, Director
HC 90, Box 558, Melbourne, AR 72556
Phone: 501-368-7409

■ Christian fellowship, Bible study, evangelism

18

Williams Baptist College

Jackie Burton, Director
P.O. Box 3456, College City, AR 72476
Phone: 501-886-6741

■ Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Weekly worship
celebrations
Sept. 6-7-Fall Retreat
Summer Mission Emphasis Week

19

Northwest

Southwest

Arkansas State University, Mountain Home

Nancy Taylor, Director
701 4th St., Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone: 501-424-7138

1

Arkansas Tech University

Darrel Ray, Director
1404 N. Arkansas, Russellville, AR 72801
Phone: 501-967-3217

■ Back to School Week
Aug. 18-Ice cream/cake social
Aug. 19-Survival '96
Aug. 22-"Sandblast" on the river (volleyball & cookout)

2

North Arkansas Community Technical College

Todd Hunt, Director
Rt. 6, Box 56, Harrison, AR 72601
Phone: 501-741-8881

3

University of Arkansas

Lynn Loyd, Director
Kevin Inman, Associate
944 West Maple, Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: 501-521-4370

■ Aug. 23-24-Rookie Razorback Weekend
(New Student Orientation)
Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-LunchEncounter: Free lunch
Thursdays, 8 a.m.-Impact: student-led worship

4

University of the Ozarks

Winnie Kinsey, Director
BSU C-Box 377, Clarksville, AR 72830
Phone: 501-754-7754

■ Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m.-Welcome Party
Thursdays, noon-Noonday
Thursdays, 7 p.m.-Thursday Night Live

5

Westark Community College

813 North 49th St., Fort Smith, AR 72903
Phone: 501-782-1219

■ Aug. 19-Early morning coffee and donuts
Aug. 21-Noonday
Aug. 22-Welcome party (cookout, volleyball, games
at park)

6

Henderson State University

Mark Robinson, Director
713 North 12th St., Arkadelphia, AR 71923
Phone: 501-246-6592

■ Aug. 26, 7 p.m.-Pocket Full of Stones Concert
Aug. 29-Midnight Breakfast at the BSU
Aug. 30-31, Survival 96 Water Ski Retreat
for new students

7

Ouachita Baptist University

Ian Cosh, Director
Brandi Byrd, Associate
OBU Box 3783, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001
Phone: 501-245-5536

■ Aug. 25, 8:30 p.m.-BSU Mixer for new students
at the Tiger Den
Aug. 29, 7 p.m.-BSU Talent show to support
summer missions at Jones Performing Arts Center
Aug. 30-31-BSU Fall Retreat, Camp Paron

8

Rich Mountain Community College

Sherry Baker, Director
1100 Bush St., Mena, AR 71953
Phone: 501-394-5012

■ Fridays, 11:15 a.m.-Noonday (starting Sept. 6)
Bible study

9

Southern Arkansas University

Ben Phillips, Director
Scott Martin, Outreach coordinator
SAU Box 1275, Magnolia, AR 71753
Phone: 501-234-2434

■ Aug. 27, 6 p.m.-Freshman Pizza PigOut/
Scavenger hunt
Aug. 28, noon-Noonday: Free lunch
Aug. 29, 8:30 p.m.-Bordertown Fiesta

10

Southern Arkansas Tech University

Neal Nelson, Director
Box 4171, Camden, AR 71701
Phone: 501-574-2368

■ Monday-Thursday, each morning-BSU breakfast
Noonday welcome lunch at noon, BSU building-
sandwiches and fellowship
Breakfast of Champions-men only prayer
and study breakfast

11

With ministries on 34 campuses and activities year-round, Arkansas Baptist Student Unions can offer college students a way to plug into and become involved in evangelism, missions and Christian discipleship ministries, as well as have fellowship, worship and Bible study opportunities with other Christian students.

Southeast

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

Terry Garrison, director
56 Phillips 314 Rd., Lexa, AR 72355
Phone: 501-572-3593

■ Aug. 21, noon—Howdy Party, Bonner Room (Student Center)

Tuesdays, noon—Bible Study, cafeteria/game room
Wednesdays, noon—Free lunch and devotional, Bonner Room

University of Arkansas, Monticello

Jeff Noble, Director
UAM Box 3073, Monticello, AR 71656
Phone: 501-367-5381

■ FIRE by Night—weekly large group worship, testimony and Bible study time

Impact—weekly freshman ministry program (small groups)

LunchMission—Weekly lunch for students & faculty

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Box 4969, UAPB, Pine Bluff, AR 71601
Phone: 501-535-8545

■ Weekly discipleship luncheon—with guest speaker
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Thomas F. Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Series

Central

Arkansas State University, Beebe

Wanda Holland, Director
P.O. Box 235, Beebe, AR 72012
Phone: 501-882-6953

20

■ Aug. 22, 8 p.m.—BSU Coffeehouse
Aug. 26, noon—PowerLunch
Aug. 29, 8 p.m.—Synergy: Friends becoming family

Baptist Schools of Nursing & Allied Health

P. Hope Coleman, Director
11900 Col. Glenn Rd., Little Rock, AR 72210
Phone: 501-223-7468

21

■ Monday Munchin' Luncheon, 11:45 a.m. (fellowship)

Tuesday Lunch Club, 11:45 a.m. (Bible Study)
BSU Prayer Times—Monday, Tuesday, 7:45 a.m.

Garland County Community College

Mary Kisor, Director
BSU, GCCC
101 College Dr., Hot Springs, AR 71913
Phone: 501-767-9389

22

University of Central Arkansas

Richard Boyles, Director
Teresa Stephens, Associate
UCA Box 5164, Conway, AR 72035
Phone: 501-329-5763

25

■ Aug. 21, noon—weekly Lunch Bunch begins
Aug. 22, 6 p.m.—Celebration (weekly event), '70s theme, "Free Love"
Aug. 23, 5 p.m.—Progressive supper with local church; midnight - 4 a.m., Laser Tag

University of Arkansas, Little Rock

Tim Smith, Director
5515 West 32nd St., Little Rock, AR 72204
Phone: 501-562-4383

23

'They are so open'

Arkansas BSU team shares faith and culture with Chinese students

A six-member team representing Arkansas student ministries recently traveled to China, sharing their faith and culture with college students there. The group, a Baptist Student Union summer missions project, was led by Diane Parker, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministry department, and Jeff Noble, director of the University of Arkansas at Monticello BSU.

Parker said the group was sent to China as a "cultural exchange team" through the Foreign Mission Board because "it is a real prime time for Christians to be in Asia because they are so open (to the gospel) and the opportunity is so wide."

She said the team visited China from May 26 through June 7 and worked with International Service Corps teachers there. It was the first mission trip to China for an Arkansas student ministry group.

According to Parker, the group spoke on Chinese campuses, ate with groups, helped with an English class at a church, visited the home of pioneer foreign missionary Lottie Moon "and met and talked with approximately 800 students and young professionals."

Noble said the American students were popular wherever they went. At one campus, 40 Chinese students were expected to attend, but 250 showed up.

"As they asked us questions, there were several opportunities to share principles from Scripture and the gospel without quoting it as such," he recalled. "It was amazing to see the power of God's Word, even when it was 'concealed.'"

"We were Americans and English-speakers," Parker explained. "English is the language of commerce and especially the Chinese and Asians want to learn. If you speak English, you become almost a celebrity — and they have an almost unreal idea of Americans."

Team member Wei Wu, a Chinese-American, said he participated in the effort "to establish friendships and answer any questions these people had about Jesus Christ" and "to share the United States culture and learn about the Chinese culture."

The group faced frustrations in sharing their faith during the trip. Christianity is repressed in China and Chinese law prevents foreigners "from sharing their faith or religion unless someone asks," noted Parker.

Wu admitted his personal frustration in sharing his faith. His frustration stemmed from "going out daily and living by the Spirit and not seeing any fruit. We talked to students for almost three days before one would even mention God, and we



A cultural exchange team representing Arkansas Baptist student ministries stopped at the Great Wall of China during a summer missions trip there. The team consisted of (left to right) Stephanie Wells of UCA; ABSC student ministry department associate Diane Parker; Alan Johnston of ASU; Jeff Noble, director of the UAM Baptist Student Union; Wei Wu, a recent UAF graduate; and Jennifer Baldrige of UCA.

could not bring up religion in our conversations unless we were asked."

Parker said that the team has learned, since their return, "that three students have become believers and 16 more have come back and asked about the Bible."

She said an ISC teacher explained to her that witnessing in China "is like a relay race: Everyone has part of the process and

each team plays a vital part. Some will get to see the end of race at some time."

Wu said he felt satisfied in "being able to share your life with people who do not have hope and do not even know it.

"I was able to share my testimony and my faith," he commented. "I also didn't think McDonald's would ever taste so good."

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Leachville First Baptist Church Pastor Jerry Kausler, a Williams Baptist College graduate, on why he is working as a volunteer for the Williams Local Church Campaign:

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WBC needs the support of all Arkansas Baptists to provide more scholarship dollars, and to upgrade its facilities.

For a video on the Local Church Campaign, please call the WBC Office of Institutional Advancement, 1-800-722-4434, ext. 164.

WILLIAMS
BAPTIST COLLEGE

Local Church Campaign

ON 2
COLLEGE

Nelms to serve as BSU director for East Ark Community College

Dwynd Nelms, pastor of Pine Tree Church in Colt, began serving as director of the Baptist Student Union at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City, effective Aug. 1.

Nelms, who will work part-time as BSU director, is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and is pursuing a masters of divinity degree at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis.

Active in the Arkansas State BSU, he was a part of the BSU drama team and participated in student-led revival teams.



Dwynd Nelms

He previously served as pastor of New Friendship Church in Paragould, as minister of youth and music at First Church in Marmaduke, and as minister of youth for Immanuel Church in Paragould and Rock Hill Baptist Church in Lexington, Tenn.

Nelms said his "strongest desire" as BSU director "is to see people won to the Lord and taught how to live for Him."

His strategy, he added is, "evangelism leading to discipleship. I don't want to see just salvation, but people living daily for Christ. College-age students are at a perfect time to find out how to live the rest of their lives."

Because this is his first BSU position, he said his program will be "experimental. I'm willing to try new things. If it doesn't work, I'll try something different. This is a totally new field to me."

George Sims, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministry department, said Nelms has inherited "one of the strongest community college ministries. It was one of the first started on a part-time basis and continues to have a strong ministry to the campus, including faculty and staff.

"There also is a strong African-American relationship there," noted Sims. "I hope that will continue."

Sims said that during the interview process for the position, the department was attracted to Nelms' "interest in relational evangelism and witnessing, his teachability and his willingness to take this on as a challenge while pursuing his seminary studies."

Nelms and his wife, Lori, are expecting their first child in early August.

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'A bright vision'

Williams looks to campaign, construction as positive signs of growth

By Brett Cooper
Director of Public Relations
Williams Baptist College

Williams Baptist College is preparing to face the challenges of a new century with a bright vision for the future. The Local Church Campaign, which will help make that vision a reality, is under way through prayer.

Williams has already begun to make positive changes on campus. New living quarters, a renovated cafeteria and a little sprucing up around the administration building will provide some fresh looks when Williams students return this fall.

"This is an exciting time for all of us, students, faculty and staff," said Williams president Jerol Swaim. "It's always exciting when you see construction work under way and improvements being made. We are also very pleased with the initial response to the Local Church Campaign. We see that Arkansas Baptists feel they have a part to play in the future of Williams, and they seem to be making the most of that."

Married student apartments and a residence hall wing for men will both be completed by the start of the fall semester, providing Williams students some much-needed new living quarters. The apartments will provide eight new units for married students, at a cost of \$260,000.

Williams also is getting residence hall space for 30 men, thanks to the generosity and skill of volunteers from North Central Association. Those volunteers have donated labor and materials to renovate a previously vacant wing of Sotherland Hall.

Swaim valued the project, counting labor and materials, at about \$250,000. "The materials alone have run about \$150,000, and their work would have cost us about \$100,000," he noted. "This is an incredible contribution, and we are deeply indebted to the North Central Association and Frank Shell." Shell, director of missions in the association, is a Williams trustee and former WBC faculty member.

The WBC Administration Building, at 40-plus years old, is also getting some touching up this summer with fresh coats of paint, new carpet in several offices and other minor renovations.

One of the biggest changes for students will be a new look in Mabec-Gwinup Cafeteria. Swaim said the cafeteria is being outfitted with a food court that will provide students a broader range of menu options and give the entire student dining hall a new look.

The biggest improvements are still to come and hinge in large part on the success of the Local Church Campaign. Swaim

said meeting the goal of \$5 million will help the college make great strides, both in scholarships and facilities.

"We are setting aside 60 percent of the campaign proceeds for a permanent scholarship endowment," he explained. "If we can meet our campaign goal, it will provide a momentous increase in the number of scholarships we offer. That means a lot more students will be able to get a quality Christian education."

Campus renovation plans

Another 39 percent of the money raised in the campaign will go toward facilities. "Among the priorities is an extensive renovation of our science building," Swaim said. "Biology/pre-med was the most popular major for our incoming freshmen last year, and that is likely to be the trend for years to come. If we meet our goal, we can nearly double the space of our science building and make it a cutting-edge facility."

The college also hopes to do a more extensive renovation of its administration building and add extra residence hall space with funds from the church campaign. The final 1 percent of campaign proceeds will offset campaign expenses.

"We are asking Arkansas Baptist churches to make a budgeted gift to Williams for the next three years. We have a video and a brochure available to anyone who is interested, and we would be delighted to answer any questions personally," Swaim noted. "Williams is a ministry of our state convention. It is a ministry that provides

a very high quality Christian college education, and we are asking our churches to help us propel that ministry forward."

Other news on the Williams campus includes additions to the faculty and staff.

Randolph Richards is joining the Williams religion department. Richards has extensive teaching experience, including Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he completed his master's and Ph.D. degrees. He also taught at two seminaries in Indonesia, where he and his wife, Stacia, were missionaries for seven years. Richards has had works published in several academic publications.

Williams graduate and former Eagles assistant coach Jeff Rider is returning to WBC to coach the men's basketball team. Rider racked up a 168-68 record in seven years coaching the girls at Sloan-Hendrix High School. He coached one team to the state championship game, and another to the state semi-finals.

WBC alumnae Marilyn Goodwin and Angela Flippo have been promoted to head librarian and director of admissions, respectively. And recent Williams graduate Lorie Ann Bell has been hired as an admissions counselor.

With fall registration and orientation set for Aug. 19-20, Swaim noted that the new people and new facilities will let students know that good things are happening at Williams. And, with help from Arkansas Baptist churches, Swaim and others at Williams are confident the best is definitely yet to come.



Williams students take their studies outside to enjoy the weather and fellowship. The college is situated on a 180-acre campus near Walnut Ridge in northeast Arkansas.

Ouachita 'accelerating'

University leaders anticipate banner year in enrollment and giving

By Jeff Root

Director of Public Relations
Ouachita Baptist University

The sound of construction continues its hum in the background this summer as Ouachita Baptist University takes stock of one busy year and prepares for another one.

The 1995-96 academic year was a landmark in many key aspects of the university's history and development. Ouachita was listed as one of the strongest academic institutions and the best value among universities in the south, according to *U. S. News & World Report*; the university began its most ambitious capital campaign with a base goal of \$28.5 million and a challenge goal of \$40 million; Ouachita alumni achieved distinction, from president of the Southern Baptist Convention to governor of the state of Arkansas to recipients of Dove Awards; and Ouachita students studied in 13 nations, including new study/exchange programs at Oxford University in England; Martin Luther University in Wittenberg, Germany; and Al Alakhawayn University in Morocco.

The momentum of progress at OBU is accelerating as the 1996-97 year approaches. For the first time in Ouachita's 110-year history, more than 1,000 new students have applied to enter OBU in the fall. Based on Ouachita's traditional "show"

rate of 55 to 60 percent, which exceeds the national average, university officials expect to welcome the largest group of undergraduates in the school's history.

OBU president Ben Elrod attributes Ouachita's growing success to remaining faithful to its mission.

"A Ouachita education, in all its aspects, from classroom instruction to BSU mission trips, is based on the idea that all knowledge comes from God," Elrod emphasized. "We are a campus under the lordship of Christ.

"In this pursuit, our alumni, friends, students and the churches of Arkansas have been vital partners," he added. "The progress we're seeing now would not be possible without the prayers and vocal and financial support of our friends throughout the state."

Window of opportunity

Newspaper reporters and television crews set up in front of Cone Bottoms Hall last October as Bernice Jones and Johnny Heflin joined Elrod and OBU executive vice president Andy Westmoreland to announce the Window of Opportunity Campaign.

Almost a year later, the campaign is in full swing. More than \$19.7 million in gifts and pledges has already been raised toward the base goal of \$28.5 million. The challenge goal for the three-year campaign is \$40 million.

Campaign highlights include:

■ The faculty-staff portion of the Window of Opportunity Campaign came to a successful conclusion May 3 with a Victory Celebration luncheon. Both the base goal of \$175,000 and the challenge goal of \$300,000 were surpassed. More than \$332,000 in gifts and pledges was raised in the campaign.

■ Johnny Heflin, the immediate past chairman of OBU's board of trustees, is the fund-raising campaign's national chairman. He is a charter member of the Development Council, a member of the Business Advisory Council and a 1967 graduate of Ouachita. His wife, Sharon, also is a 1967 graduate of Ouachita, and their sons Jay and Marc are Ouachita graduates.

■ The Harvey Jones Science Center is under construction across 5th Street from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Performing Arts Center. The \$8 million facility will house the departments of biology, chemistry, math and computer science, physics, and family and consumer sciences. The facility will be named in memory of Harvey Jones, the founder of Jones Truck Lines in Springdale.

■ As part of the campaign kickoff, the School of Music became the Bernice Young Jones School of Fine Arts. The endowment from Mrs. Jones has made possible the expansion of an already strong music program, as well as growth in theater arts and visual arts.

■ The Herbert and LaDelle Moody Chair in Pre-Law Studies has been established at Ouachita as the result of a gift of more than \$500,000 from the estate of Mrs. LaDelle Moody of Bald Knob.

Campus update

The 1995-96 academic year also will be remembered because it marked the retirement of three of Ouachita's most well-known faculty members and the death of another. Athletic director and former head basketball coach Bill Vining and professors Francis McBeth and Jake Shambarger retired. McBeth was a professor of music and resident composer and Shambarger was a professor of education. The three men had a combined total of 118 years of service to Ouachita. Alton Crawley, professor and chairman of math and computer science at Ouachita died June 18, following a lengthy illness.

Ouachita is experiencing a time of transition for the faculty as many veteran professors are reaching retirement age just as the growth of the university means additional hiring for new positions. It has

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Riley-Hickingsbotham Library is a central landmark on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University and is an important gathering place for many students. The facility includes a large section of books and periodicals, plus computer labs and Internet access to libraries worldwide.

been a priority among university officials to hire new faculty with a strong academic and spiritual background and an understanding of the importance of integrating faith and discipline.

One example is Charles Fuller, associate professor of music and acting chairman of the department of church music. Since coming to Ouachita in 1993, Fuller has taught, directed the Ouachita Singers and has supplied in area churches. He also performed as a member of the Robert Shaw Festival of Singers in New York's Carnegie Hall in January and has been invited back for another performance in January 1997. Fuller also traveled to Strasbourg, France, where as a member of the International Federation of Choral Music he has worked on a project which will catalog all of the serious choral music of the world in one on-line computer database.

Other newsmakers on campus include:

■ Scott Duvall and Terry Carter, associate professors of religion, who each had articles published in the 1996 Winter edition of *Biblical Illustrator*. Carter's work also has been published in *Proclaim*.

■ Seventeen recent Ouachita graduates were accepted in medical, physical therapy, dental and pharmacy schools this year.

■ The Arkansas Advertising Federation has named Bill Downs, professor and chairman of the department of mass communications, as its Distinguished Educator of the Year. Downs' students won the multi-state district competition and placed 11th in the nation in the American Advertising Federation's annual competition.

■ Coach Buddy Benson, who stepped down after 31 years as head football coach at Ouachita, is the new athletic director. His successor as coach, Jimmy "Red" Parker will make his Ouachita debut against Henderson State University on Sept. 7.

■ Tennis coach Craig Ward was named the 1996 Coach of the Year in men's tennis in the NIAA Southwest Independent Regional District.

As OBU begins a new academic year, registration for fall classes will be held Aug. 27 and classes will begin Aug. 28. A "New Beginnings" program for freshmen, transfer students and their parents will be held Aug. 25 at 3 p.m., with additional orientation the following day.



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Dawson Williams leaves UAPB post for military

Dawson Williams, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, resigned from his position effective July 31 to become the Arkansas Army National Guard's first full-time chaplain. Williams, who also is a National Guard captain, has served as a part-time chaplain since 1991.

Williams, who served as BSU director for six years, is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist

College), Ouachita Baptist University, Virginia Union University School of Theology and graduated in May from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a doctor of ministry degree.

While attending Southern, Virginia Union and Midwestern he was selected as Who's Who Among Students in America's Colleges and Universities.

He has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal (with two oak clusters),

the Army Achievement Medal and also has been selected to attend the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center three times.

He began his military career after graduating from Sparkman High School in 1975, enlisting in the United States Navy. A radio operator, he achieved the E-5 rank and was awarded the Navy Good Conduct Medal.

"As a chaplain I'm an officer, but I went though enough of the enlisted chain to where I understand the issues and concerns of enlisted men," he said. "I've been on both sides—the enlisted and officer fields."

After serving in the Navy, he entered college, then became a high school social sciences teacher and pastor of a National Baptist church, both in Arkadelphia.

He said that when he came to the UAPB position, "it was way behind. We've turned it around where it is not just a program. It is potentially one of the strongest in the state."

"Dawson Williams did a super job for student ministry work and moved us to a higher level," said David James, Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministry department director. "We feel like the model he has set is one that we will continue and we will be able to accomplish some things because of what he has done."

Williams credited the success of the UAPB program with his being a "home-grown product" and his wife, Rosemary, who he said "did it all at the BSU: Cleaned toilets, typed, cooked meals, drove students and counseled me."

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Retired Historical Commission director Lynn May dies

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Lynn E. May Jr., former executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, died July 24 from complications due to Parkinson's disease and congestive heart failure.

May, 66, served the commission for almost 40 years, including 23 years as executive director.

"Lynn May was a kind and caring Christian gentleman whose devotion to our Lord and love for history and Southern Baptists were inextricably interwoven," said Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee. "His deep faith and dogged determination to keep going in the face of severe suffering was an inspiration to me and undoubtedly to everyone who knew him."

"Southern Baptists and all Baptists have lost a loyal and faithful servant in the passing of Lynn E. May Jr.," noted fellow Baptist historian Slayden Yarbrough, interim executive director of the Historical Commission. "In the years to come, scholars, researchers, individuals and churches interested in the history and heritage of Baptist will continue to benefit enormously from his work."

"Dr. Lynn May is one of the greatest Southern Baptist leaders I have known," said Leon McBeth, distinguished professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and former Historical Commission chairman. "He was known for his energy, management skills, impeccable integrity and single-minded devotion to the task of preserving...and promoting the story of Baptists."

Under May's leadership, the commission has operated the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, a world center for the study of Baptist history, accessible not only to those who come to Nashville, Tenn., but also through CompuServe and Internet.

May led the SBHLA to acquire more than 15,000 reels of microfilm containing more than 13 million pages of Baptist historical materials, more than 25,000 books, 300-plus current periodicals, the official records of several denominational agencies and more than 71,000 annuals of Baptist associations and conventions.

May's influence also is apparent in the commission's development of four pamphlet series, 19 videotapes, a quarterly

newsletter and journal and annual meeting programs on topics that have impacted Baptist history.

May was a graduate of Louisiana College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt University. Named as a distinguished alumnus by Louisiana College in 1976 and by New Orleans Seminary in 1988, he was the 1990 recipient of the Mosaic Missions Award which was presented by the language church extension division of the Home Mission Board.

In 1991, the Historical Commission honored him by establishing the Lynn E. May Jr. Study Grant Fund, a program that has helped more than 50 students and professionals travel to Nashville to do research in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

He is survived by his wife, the former Alta Virginia Green, and two daughters, Deborah Virginia and Linda Diane Skelton.

Funeral services were held July 26 at Crisewood Baptist Church in Nashville. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Southern Baptist Historical Society.

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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Four regional presentations to introduce Annuity Board retirement fund changes

Four regional presentations for Southern Baptist Annuity Board participants will introduce changes being made in Annuity Board retirement funds in 1997. The presentations will introduce the changes with the Annuity Board's new LifePoints investment education program.

The program will feature state convention stewardship department director James Walker and Annuity Board vice president Brad Thompson.

Walker explained that the presentations are for "anyone eligible for participation in the Annuity Board retirement plan and all Baptist employees."

Walker noted that attendance is "important in that you will receive information to help you make choices on your investment strategies. An informed decision could make a dramatic difference in your future account size.

"If you do not attend," he added, "you will receive a packet but will not have the benefit of having your personal questions answered."

The four presentations precede the

implementation of a new fund structure by the Annuity Board in 1997. Walker noted that new investment decisions must be made by Annuity Board participants by Nov. 1. Conversion of the new fund structure will take place Jan. 1, 1997.

"We're moving from four to 13 funds to offer more diversification and to meet the retirement planning needs of Annuity Board participants," Walker explained.

The presentations will be held at the following dates and locations: Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at First Church in El Dorado in conjunction with the Visionary Leadership for Church Growth Conference; Aug. 28 at 10 a.m. at Highland Drive Church in Jonesboro; Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith; and Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Church in Little Rock.

There is no cost for attending any of the presentations. Participants will receive a packet about the new investing options.

For more information, contact Walker at the ABCS stewardship/annuity department toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5114.

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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Training set for church orchestras

September workshops at two locations will offer training for church orchestra members and their leaders. The Church Orchestra Workshops, to be held Sept. 10 at First Church in Springdale and Sept. 12 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, are designed for leaders during the day and members in the evening session.

Glen Ennes, associate director in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, said that the day sessions will "deal with topics critical to church orchestra leaders" while the evening sessions "will be literature-centered, and member-centered. We will be playing new releases and listen to three orchestras playing prepared music."

Session topics will include: "How to Create Balance and Flow with Instruments," "Creative Arrangements for the Mixed

Group," "Literature," "Personnel Management" and "Program Development."

The program will feature clinician Bob Williamson, minister of music for Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., and former instrumental consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The daytime program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. The program will resume at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

The all-day cost is \$20 per leader and \$7 per each additional leader. The leader cost includes lunch. The cost for members during the evening session only is \$2.

For more information, to register by Aug. 19 or for churches interested in performing during the evening sessions, contact Ennes toll-free at the ABCS church music ministries department at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5121.

'See You At The Pole' slated for Sept. 18

With almost 90 percent of Arkansas secondary schools participating in See You at the Pole in 1995, Randy Brantley is encouraging 100 percent participation in this year's student-led prayer emphasis.

"We are encouraging students to gather and pray around their school flagpoles on Sept. 18 at 7 a.m.," said Brantley, youth associate for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department. "It is a time for them to pray for their school, teachers, friends, families, government and nation."

He noted that approximately 20,000 Arkansas students from about 400 of 450 secondary schools participated last year and that "every campus in northwest Arkansas reported participation. Arkansas probably has one of the higher percentages of participation of any state."

Brantley reminded students and leaders that See You at the Pole "must be led by students" and that student leaders should meet prior to Sept. 18 "to decide exactly

how the time will be spent."

To help student leaders, Brantley's office is offering a "Student Leaders' Guide" to help leaders organize a SYATP program.

"It is a suggestion of a way to organize," he explained, "with a focus on involving as many students as possible in the program."

The suggestions include open prayer, claiming God's power over negative influences in teens' lives and praying for the gospel to be made clear on campuses.

To request a guide or for additional information, contact the ABCS evangelism department at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5222.

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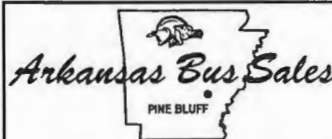
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Cancellation

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Needed — Full-time pastor. Send resumes to Trinity Baptist Church, Search Committee, 702 Church Road, Benton, AR 72015.

Youth ministry — seeking a part-time minister to youth. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 27025 Kanis Rd., Little Rock, AR 72211 or phone Cliff Springer 821-4309 or 663-3542.

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Needed — Mothers' Day Out Assistant Director for Tuesday and Thursday program. Please call Tammy at Calvary Baptist Church of Little Rock at 501-663-8303 for more information.

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PK '96 retreat offers encouragement and fellowship for pastors' kids

Emil Turner's introduction to Arkansas Baptists' PK Retreat came in 1986 when his son, Joel, told him, "Dad, I love you and Mom. I love the Lord — but sometimes it's real hard being your son."

"The words tore at my heart," recalled Turner, now executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"What followed was the first man-to-man talk my teenager and I ever had," Turnersaid. "This crucially important event was the result of Joel's participation in the 1986 PK Retreat. Because of that conference, our relationship began to take a wonderful new direction."

Turner urged Arkansas Baptist pastors and church staff members to send their children in grades 7-12 to this year's retreat, PK'96, Sept. 20-21 at Camp Paron.

According to Turner, preacher's kids, commonly known as PKs, have a unique role and deal with unique issues. "The purpose of the retreat is to help pastors' and staff members' children meet others and let them realize that their problems

are not unique problems — others share those struggles and come through them without detriment."

The program, which begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes at 1 p.m. Saturday, will feature recreation, small group share sessions, food, fellowship and worship.

Turner noted that the retreat meets during the State Sunday School Convention and that church staff members who are participating in the Sunday School conference may send their children on a "PK Shuttle" from Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock at 5:30 Friday that will return about 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The cost for PK'96 is \$35 for the first PK in a family, \$25 for the second, and \$20 per third or more PK in the same family. Students who register prior to Sept. 3 will receive a free PK'96 T-shirt.

Participants must bring their own bedding and personal items. For additional information or to register, contact Turner's office at the ABSC toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5102.

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Convention Uniform

Repent and be forgiven

By Gary L. Burney,
assistant to the pastor,
New Hope Fellowship, Springdale
Basic passage: Psalm 51
Focal passage: Psalm 51
Central truth: Sin's consequences
can only be survived by knowing
God's forgiveness.

Three things need to be drawn from the passage before us today:

■ **A definition of sin.** David uses three words to describe his sin: transgression, iniquity and sin. Transgression is to go past a boundary. Iniquity means to twist or pervert the laws of God to fit our own desires. Sin is to miss the mark.

These all define David's sin with Bathsheba. David went past the boundaries of decency and honor. He twisted the laws of God to fit his own desires and he missed God's mark of purity and honor. That also defines our sin as well. How often have we gone past the boundaries God has established, twisted the Word of God to justify our wants and desires, and totally missed the mark of right living?

■ **Circumstances that often lead to sin.** What led to David's sin? Three things may have contributed: He was experiencing a time of prosperity, he was in the height of personal power and glory, and he seemingly had nothing to do.

Our most pressing sin so often comes when things are going good. We forget God during times of prosperity and tend to think we can do anything we want without fear of consequences. What a tragic mistake. Sin always has consequences and those consequences can often be deadly.

■ **The importance of dealing with sin.** Sin is deadly. Yet, as Christians, we don't need to pray as David did in verse 11. God has forgiven and stands ready to continue His forgiveness as we recognize and truly repent of our sin. The key is to repent, turn from our sin and back to God's standard for our lives.

Sin has consequences. God forgives sin. Sometimes the consequences are lessened by God, but often they are not. The only way to survive the consequences is to know that God loves us in spite of our sin and has provided the means of forgiveness through the blood of Christ.

Life and Work

Wisdom in government

By Jere D. Mitchell, pastor,
First Church, Fayetteville
Basic passage: Proverbs 21:1, 20-21;
14:34; 16:12; 20:28; 28:2; 29:4;
24:23-25; 31:8-9
Focal passage: Proverbs 21:1; 16:12;
14:34; 29:4; 24:23-25; 31:8-9
Central truth: As good citizens, we
are to live righteously, pursue justice
and act with compassion.

God gives direction for individuals, families and nations. This lesson presents wisdom for government. The basic truths presented are listed below:

All nations are under God (v. 21:1). Leaders of governments should be righteous (v. 16:12). Every citizen of a nation should practice righteousness (v. 14:34). Justice should be practiced (v. 29:4, 23-25). Compassion is a characteristic of a godly nation (v. 31:8-9).

Knowing these truths, apply them to your lives by:

■ **Living as people under the rule of God.** Christians are people who live in a nation and are to live by the laws of that nation. We also are citizens of the Kingdom of God and live under the rule of God. I recently had a person ask me what it meant to live as a Christian and how to do so. My response was that it simply means to live like Jesus. We are to be honest in our dealings with others. We are to be pure sexually, treat others as we want to be treated and to live under the royal law of love. We do so out of love for God and gratitude to Him.

■ **Work for justice for all.** Our country guarantees justice for all, yet there is a great deal of racial and class prejudice in our country. Every Christian should practice justice in all of their relationships and speak out against injustice. All too often, silence is the norm.

■ **Act compassionately.** I am sure there are those who take advantage of compassion and generosity. I have always maintained that I would rather make a mistake in helping someone who is not deserving than miss helping someone who really needs help. If God only helped those who deserved help, heaven would be pretty empty.

■ **Pray fervently.** I wish all of the citizens of this great nation would pray for the leaders at every level of government. I realize that is too much to expect. It is not too much to expect of those of us who realize we all live under the rule of God.

Bible Book

Satan is anti-Christ

By Rodney Reeves, pastor,
Central Church, Jonesboro
Basic passage: Revelation 12:1-13:18
Focal passage: Revelation 12:10-12
Central truth: Satan tries to destroy
the Kingdom of God.

In this third vision, John sees what was, is and is to come. The entire sequence begins with the heavenly unveiling of the mysterious ark of the covenant (v. 11:19). Jews expected the lost ark to appear shortly before the end of the world. The revelation of the ark in heaven (God's temple) triggers "great sins" (vv. 12:1, 3), which signify the end of Satan's (red dragon) dominion (v. 12:1-12). Satan's downfall began with the advent of Christ (ch. v. 12:5).

His attempts to destroy the Christ-child, Israel (woman crowned with 12 stars), and the Church (v. 12:17) are foiled by divine protection. The child ascends to His heavenly throne (v. 12:5); the woman is protected in the desert (Israel's familiar story of escape from the waters, vv. 12:14-16) and "the rest of her offspring" (Christians) overcome the enemy "because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony," i.e., they do not fear death (v. 12:11).

With the arrival of the kingdom of God and Christ, "the accuser" has no heavenly (eternal) power. He has been "thrown down" from heaven (vv. 12:4, 9, 10, 13), to wreak havoc on earth and "make war" (v. 12:10-17) with the church. Having lost the battle of eternal consequences (v. 12:7-9), Satan brings misery upon the earth knowing that his time is short (v. 12:12), i.e., human suffering is temporal.

Thrown out of heaven, the weapons of Satan's temporary tyranny must come from the world. John sees two beasts, one coming from the sea (vv. 13:1-10) and the other from the earth (vv. 13:11-18). Replicating the two heavenly witnesses (vv. 11:3-13), these satanic counterfeits convince unbelievers to commit idolatry and worship the dragon (v. 13:4, 15). The first beast mimics the Lamb "standing, as if slain" (v. 5:6), having been "slain and his fatal wound healed" (v. 13:3). His purpose is to persecute Christians (make war with saints, v. 13:7). The second beast is a false prophet, performing signs like Elijah (fire from heaven), to deceive unbelievers to bear the mark of satanic slaves (v. 13:13-18). Everything they think (marked forehead) and do (marked hand) reveals their enslavement to the evil one (Gen. 6:5).

Convention Uniform

The basics of worship

By Gary L. Burney,
assistant to the pastor,
New Hope Fellowship, Springdale
Basic passage: Psalm 96
Focal passage: Psalm 96
Central truth: Worship is more than
going to church. It is to spring up
from our daily love relationship
with the Lord.

Worship takes many forms, from the traditional solemn assembly, to the highly emotional. The forms and places of worship aren't as important as the motivation and evidences of worship. The Psalmist gives us some essentials for worship, no matter where it happens or what form it takes.

■ **Music** — "Sing a new song" — our daily experience with God should be reflected by the songs we sing. Just because it's not in the hymnal doesn't mean we shouldn't sing it. New songs should be written daily because our experiences with God change daily. The key elements of scriptural music involve blessing His name, proclaiming salvation and declaring His glory and wonders.

■ **Proclamation** — We are to proclaim His glory and His wonders in worship (vv. 3-4). We are to declare His holiness, give Him respect, recognize His sovereignty and His right to judge His creation (vv. 9, 10). This is exaltation. One of the key elements of worship and the primary purpose of the church is exaltation.

■ **Giving** — We are to give Him the glory due His name. This is expressed several ways — by our humility, by our lifestyle, by our words, by our offerings. We are to give more than money to the Lord. We are to give ourselves.

■ **Rejoicing** — Creation rejoices in God's righteous judgment. This was fulfilled in Jesus. In Christ, the world was judged in righteousness and truth. At one point Jesus declared, "...if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40). We are to rejoice in what God has done for us. Worship, to be genuine, must be joyful.

No matter what form of worship we prefer, our worship must come from a pure heart. Our worship must be directed toward God and reflect the joy of our salvation.

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Life and Work

Warnings from the Word

By Jere D. Mitchell, pastor,
First Church, Fayetteville
Basic passage: Daniel 1:8-16;
II Corinthians 6:16-7:1;
Ephesians 5:15-18
Focal passage: Daniel 1:8-16;
II Corinthians 6:16-7:1;
Ephesians 5:15-18
Central truth: The Bible teaches you
are to avoid abusing your body
because you are the temple of God.

There are approximately 18 million Americans who exhibit symptoms of alcohol dependence or who abuse alcohol. About \$150 billion is the price tag on alcohol use and dependence. The price in terms of human life is even more staggering. Alcohol is estimated to be involved in over one-third of suicides, half of all murders and half of all traffic deaths. The vast majority of incidents of domestic violence are alcohol-related.

There are ways and reasons to avoid the use of alcohol and illicit drugs. The story of Daniel is one of the most encouraging examples of a youth determined in his heart not to defile his body with rich food or drink. Daniel was a young Hebrew lad who was taken to Babylon to be groomed to serve in the court of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. The king specified the food and drink these young men were to receive to properly prepare them to serve. Daniel said, "No." When pressured by the person who was in charge of him, Daniel proposed a test. His offer was accepted and Daniel prevailed.

In the focal passages, Paul called for abstaining from abusing one's body because, as believers, Christians are a temple of the living God. Paul also called for being wise rather than foolish. Drunkenness is described as being foolishness and dissipation. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is wise.

Knowing Scripture and the carnage that comes from substance abuse, what will you do? Here are some suggestions:

■ Study the Scripture. You are to live in a way that brings honor and glory to God (I Cor. 6:20).

■ Refuse to be pressured by others to abuse your body or to bring dishonor to the name of Christ.

■ Teach others Scripture and the consequences of alcohol and drug use.

■ Get involved in efforts to curb the use of alcohol and drugs among teenagers. The price is too high in terms of human life to allow this to go on unchallenged.

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Bible Book

Judgment's seven agents

By Rodney Reeves, pastor,
Central Church, Jonesboro
Basic passage: Revelation 14:1-20
Focal passage: Revelation 14:14-20
Central truth: Heaven and earth see
the justice of God.

Just when it appeared Satan's beasts would rule the world uncontested (vv. 13:1-18), John sees a vision of the coming judgment of God (vv. 1-20). The slaves who bear the mark of the beast on earth are contrasted with the 144,000 slaves of the Lamb (Christians) who sing in the heavenly chorus (vv. 1-3). They bear the mark of divine ownership, having the names of the Lamb and "His Father" written on their foreheads. Their praise is unique since they are earthly creatures who sing with one heavenly voice (vv. 2-3). They refused to worship idols, were obedient disciples and were faithful witnesses of Jesus (vv. 4-5). This heavenly vision of the perseverance of the saints was meant to encourage the Church to remain faithful until death — the sacrificed "first fruits" offered to God and the Lamb (vv. 4, 12).

Next, John sees coming out of heaven seven agents of divine justice. Six are angels: three fly in "midheaven" (v. 6), three come from the "temple" (vv. 15, 17, 18); the seventh agent is described as one "like a son of man," sitting on a "white cloud" and wearing a crown on His head (Christ, v. 14).

The three angels in flight announce God's message to the inhabitants of the earth. The first angel preaches the gospel, announcing the arrival of the hour of judgment (vv. 6-7). The second forecasts the fall of Rome/Babylon, the only two nations to destroy the Jewish temple (v. 8). The third angel directs his warning to idolaters, slaves of Satan, who will suffer eternal punishment in hell (vv. 9-11).

Before Christ appears (v. 14), a beatitude shouted from heaven is confirmed by the Spirit: Those who die in the Lord will be blessed with heavenly rest (v. 13). After the fifth angel announces the time for the final harvest (v. 15), Christ gathers His crop (v. 16). Then the sixth angel is summoned by the seventh angel, who has "power over fire" (hell, v. 9:1-2), to harvest grapes destined for God's wrath (unbelievers, vv. 18-19). Christ's harvesting of the firstfruits (vv. 4, 16) spares believers from enduring the final outpouring of God's wrath — a bloody massacre (v. 20).

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

■ **The Every Resident Family Plan** offers 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 subscription.

■ **The Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church.

Rick Warren earns 'gold' for Purpose Driven Church

ANAHEIM, CA (BP)—Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church* was one of 22 books which received "Gold Medallion" awards from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association July 13 in Anaheim, Calif. Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., was the top winner in ECPA's Christian ministry category.

Warren's 400-page book, from Zondervan Publishing House, details the story, philosophy and strategy behind Saddleback's growth from seven people in 1980 to more than 12,000 attendees for its weekend services. Saddleback reportedly is the second-largest attended church in the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the five largest in America.

The Purpose Driven Church, which has been in print only eight months, has been the top seller in Baptist bookstore stores the past six months. It is being translated into Russian, Chinese and Korean and has been adopted as a textbook by 23 seminaries, including the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

In other awards, the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association named *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey, published by Zondervan, as Christian book of the year.

RU-486 abortion drug nears approval by FDA officials

WASHINGTON (ABP/BP)—A Food and Drug Administration advisory committee has voted 6-0 to advise the FDA to approve use of the controversial abortion drug RU-486.

The recommendation clears a major hurdle for The Population Council, which holds the United States patent to the drug developed by a French company. There appears little doubt that the FDA will give final approval, possibly by year's end.

When approval comes, it appears certain to change the dynamics of the abortion battle and to cause further debate in the medical field. A survey released at the hearing by the Kaiser Family Foundation of California showed four of 10 obstetricians who now refuse to perform abortions would prescribe RU-486 for abortion, *The Washington Times* reported.

Both pro-life and pro-choice advocates agree that RU-486 may significantly increase the number of abortions in the country beyond the current 1.5 million a year.

Poll shows Americans give nominal gifts to churches

GLENDALE, CA (ABP) — The good news is people are still giving to their churches. The bad news is they aren't giving very much.

Church attendance is at its lowest level in 15 years, but 45 percent of all Americans still donate money to a place of worship in a typical month, according to a recent Bama Research Group survey.

The study also found 41 percent of adults donated money to non-profit organizations other than a church within the past month, and 23 percent gave to both a church and other non-profit groups. But 75 percent of adult Americans gave less than \$500 to both churches and charities last year, Bama reported.

Among those attending a Baptist church, 55 percent reported donating to the church within the past month. That was roughly equal to those attending a Catholic church (54 percent) and higher than those attending a Methodist (49 percent) or other mainline denomination church (47 percent).

Churches warned of scam falsely linked to Nicky Cruz

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (ABP)—Churches in at least three states have fallen victim to a scam related to a former gang member turned evangelist. A letter from Nicky Cruz Outreach states that someone claiming to be Cruz' cousin has dishonestly coaxed money from churches in California, Arizona, Florida and other states.

The person has called himself Jesse or Jerry Cruz, "and always says that he is a nephew of Nicky Cruz," according to Patrick Dow, executive administrator of Nicky Cruz Outreach.

Cruz, a former New York City gang member, has an evangelistic ministry to inner-city youth. He became a Christian through the ministry of evangelist David Wilkerson, who wrote *The Cross and the Switchblade*.

The scam artist tells a pastor or church staff member that he has been on a trip with students from Columbia University in New York, according to Dow. The person, who offers a contact at First Baptist Church in New York City, claims he has been left behind and needs money for an Amtrak ticket or hotel.

"Numerous churches and their pastors have been drawn into this scam," Dow warned, noting that the person making these claims has no connection to Nicky Cruz Outreach.

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