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### Feburary 27, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "Feburary 27, 1992" (1992). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 47.

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# Arkansas Baptist



Answering the question  
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Vol. 91, No. 5

February 27, 1992



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# Arkansas Baptist

## At a glance

### 8 Race Relations Conference

"Noah is the father of all mankind; therefore, he inevitably had to be the father of the Negro race," declared William Dwight McKissic Sr., at a Baptist Race Relations Conference Feb. 6. McKissic, pastor of the Cornerstone National Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, spoke to more than 100 white and black Baptists who attended the conference sponsored by the ABSC Cooperative Ministries Department.

### 14 Parks, trustees set up talks

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted Feb. 12 to hold a spiritual retreat with board president R. Keith Parks, allocated funds for theological education in Eastern Europe and named a committee to work on relationship with European Baptists. The trustee retreat with Parks and board staff of his choosing is set for March 19-20 in a Dallas-Fort Worth area hotel.

### 15 Morris Chapman elected

Praying for a "spiritual awakening through Southern Baptists to this nation," Morris H. Chapman accepted election as the fifth president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee during the committee's opening meeting Feb. 17 in Nashville. Chapman will assume the \$120,000 per year post on June 15. In other actions, the Executive Committee squarely positioned itself against two North Carolina churches weighing measures sympathetic to homosexuality and recommended the reallocation of \$300,000 in disputed funds held by the Southern Baptist Foundation.

### 16 Answering the question

"When are you leaving?" The question was more of an accusation than a search for information. Missionary Larry Miguez has answered the question by staying in New Orleans mission work for 17 years. Miguez and New Orleans' downtown Rachel Sims Mission are supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and the Cooperative Program. The Week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 1-8.

## Cover story

File photo / Joanna Pinneo



### Baptist work in Israel

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The Baptist Village near Petah Tikva, Israel, is a retreat and conference center where Christians can meditate, study, pray, relax and have fellowship with other Christians. Narkis Street Baptist congregation in Jerusalem also provides fellowship for its 125 members, with services drawing 200-400 in attendance.

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# The role of ordination

J. EVERETT SNEED

Ordination for the gospel ministry plays an important role in contemporary Baptist life. Yet, all too often it is taken too lightly by churches and frequently misunderstood. Ordination is a recognition of a call which has been given by God and confers no new right or authority.

The central part of the ordination service is the laying on of hands, which can be traced through the Old Testament, the New Testament and Judaism. As one studies the accounts, it is evident that some form of ordination was practiced by New Testament Christians, although not all laying on of hands was connected with ordination. In some instances there is no record of the laying on of hands for those whom God had called, and in other instances the laying on of hands took place on more than one occasion.

The background of our contemporary practice of ordination is found in the Old Testament. Probably it had its inception as Jacob blessed Joseph's sons (Ge. 48:14-16). Jacob recognized that only God could give the real blessing.

In the appointment of Joshua to be the leader of Israel, it is quite evident that God is the one who chooses, and the laying on of hands is but a visible recognition of God's call. The Lord summons Moses to present himself with Joshua in the tent of the meeting (Dt. 31:14-15). The Lord appeared in a pillar of cloud as a sign that he was commissioning Joshua as Israel's leader. Another visible sign of the ordination of Joshua was the laying on of hands by Moses (Js. 34:9).

A part of the ordination of the Levites included the laying on of hands by the people. Key words used to describe the function of the Levites include "separate," "set apart," "anointed," and "ordained."

Little is known about the ordination of the prophets. They are referred to as the Lord's "anointed ones" (Ps. 105:15).

In the New Testament, also, laying on of hands was practiced to recognize those whom God had called. There are several clear examples such as the seven (Ac. 6:1-6), Barnabas and Saul (Ac. 13:3), and Timothy (1 Ti. 4:14).

In the post biblical period the same practice of the laying on of hands was continued. There is no specific authority or new right attached to the ordination service until after the time of Constantine. In 312, Constantine was struggling to establish



himself as emperor of Rome. On the eve of the Battle of Milvian Bridge, he saw a vision of the cross, and above it were written the words "In this sign conqueror." After he established himself as emperor, in 313, he granted full liberty to Christians and all other religions.

In 325, Constantine issued a general exhortation for all of his subjects to embrace Christianity. In a few years a great deal of heathenism was amalgamated into Christianity. Among the false doctrines that were embraced were baptismal regeneration, and the authority of the ordained.

While God is the one who calls, there is an important responsibility of the local church to examine those who are being ordained for ministry. The Scripture is clear that it is not something that should be done hastily. Paul clearly said a pastor is not to be a "novice" (1 Ti. 3:6).

A church should use care in examining the character of a prospective candidate for ordination. Paul said that a minister should be above reproach (KJV "blameless," 1 Ti. 3:2). When Paul's ministry was under attack, he defended it on the basis of his own good character (1 Co. 6:4-7a).

Paul outlined the general characteristics that should be embraced by a minister of the gospel (1 Ti. 3:1-7). Most of these are quite clear. The word "prudent" is extremely difficult to translate. It comes from

the Greek word *sopbron*. It is translated "sound of mind," "discreet," "prudent," "self-controlled," etc. It carries the idea of an individual who is in complete control of his emotions, passions, and desires. An individual who totally embraces this concept never acts out of impulse or anger.

The apostle adds to this concept as he says that the bishop is not to be "a brawler." The Greek word *Kosmos* can be translated "well behaved." It carries with it the idea of proper outer conduct. While *sopbron* connotes an inner life *Kosmos* connotes the outer activities of the man of God. When the minister of the gospel has proper inner motivation and proper outer behavior his life is above reproach.

Much heartache can be tracked to quick ordinations, where little examination of doctrine and investigation of character has been made of the prospective candidate. Such failure brings problems to churches and provides opportunity for non-Christians to attack the Lord's work in an attempt to justify their own sin.

Any church considering ordaining a candidate should recognize that a licensed individual can do anything that is necessary for the continuation of the Lord's work. Final ordination should come only after a person has shown through his life and his ministry that he is qualified in character and in doctrine for ordination.

Churches and candidates for ordination should recognize the significance for ordination lies in a call from God, which is confirmed after proper evidence by a local congregation. A church is saying that it believes this individual has the proper gifts of ministry, and is doctrinally sound, and is of good character, and that it is willing to pray and support him.

## Arkansas Baptist

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Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete reply statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the *Arkansas Baptist*. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The *Arkansas Baptist* (ISSN 1040-6506) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newswriters, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.85 per year (individual), \$6.36 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.00 per year (Group Plan) Second Class Postage Pending at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist Newswriters, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-7491.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

VOLUME 91 • NUMBER 5

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## Letters to the Editor

DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know



Will you suffer me one more appeal? Be careful if you say "no." It may be I am having to make another appeal because you have said "no" before. Have you given anything to help the largest Christian camp in Arkansas, the Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs? Have you thought the amount you could give would be insignificant? Could you have given anything to help this Assembly that unapologetically proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ to almost 10,000 youth and children each summer? Would it please God for you to take some of the money he has given you and give it back to him as an investment in the lives of young people? Is it right for Arkansas Baptists to leave the living quarters of their largest assembly in such a state described by a World War II veteran as "very similar to the facilities of the German prisoner of war camp," where he was kept for several months? We cannot expect counselors or campers to continue to come to our Assembly when they can go almost anywhere else and find more satisfactory accommodations.

The answers to these last questions are so serious that I am made bold to ask you to have a part. You may give a one-time gift or make a three-year commitment. Whichever will allow you to do what you feel you should do. For every \$100 you give, the Mabee Foundation will give \$84. That is, if enough of us give before April 10. We needed \$645,000 after the worship center was built. The Mabee Foundation agreed to give us \$295,000, if we could raise the remainder. We have raised \$193,752. That leaves us \$156,248 we must have committed before April 10. There is probably not a single person reading this that could not do something to help.

This is an appeal to individuals. No church has been asked to give, though some have given. If we do not reach our goal by April 10, we will not only lose the \$295,000, but we will likely lose campers in the years to come. Send your gifts to the Siloam Springs Campaign, P.O. Box 14, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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

## Taking a stand

A few weeks ago I went down to southwest Arkansas to visit a little town where I was born. I had been gone for 30 years.

The old church is now gone and a smaller one stands in its place. As I stood there in silence I could almost hear the folks singing the old gospel songs and praising the Lord.

I thought of the three-week revival meetings we had after the war in 1945 where people came from miles around to give thanks and praise the Lord for their sons' safe return.

I walked on behind the church to the old cemetery. I stopped at my mother's grave

and thought, "Mother, since you left Mrs. Marsh quit teaching. You see they told her that she could no longer read the Bible or pray in the classroom."

I walked a little further to Uncle Eddie's grave and thought, "You would be so upset, Uncle Eddie. It is now okay for us to wear anything we want to church; some even wear shorts to prayer meeting. Modesty is a thing of the past and wearing our best in God's house is no longer prevalent in these times."

Then I came across our family doctor's grave. "You prayed for the little ones as you delivered them. Now the law says that a mother has the right to kill her unborn baby."

Next I came to my Uncle Howard's grave.

WILLIAM H. SUTTON

## The President's Corner

## Defending our ground



Confederate General T. J. Jackson was so successful in the art of quick maneuver and surprise attack that his military campaigns were modeled by German *blitzkrieg* commanders almost 100 years later. Yet he won the famous name "Stonewall" when the occasion called for him to stand firm in immovable, stubborn defense of ground assigned him to hold.

Such is Arkansas Baptist life in 1992. We have ground that we must go out and win. At the same time, we have ground that must be held at all cost. Recognition of these principles has resulted in our current focus on the Christian family.

I think the most awesome admonition in all of the Bible was spoken to fix the priority of our responsibility for the Christian family when Paul wrote:

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever" (2 Ti. 5:8). This statement is so strong and so condemning of our present society that we can scarcely face the reality of it.

Sadly we must admit that among those who will not recognize and support their own children are fathers and mothers who grew up in Baptist churches. Likewise, we find our own among those who will not teach sexual purity as the

absolute standard of Christian morality. Some will not commit their children to the great Baptist conviction of total abstinence from alcohol and drugs; some disclaim any responsibility for being able to control what shall be viewed on television or in movie theaters. It naturally follows that many offer no spiritual guidance whatsoever in the area of prayer or Bible study at home.

God has blessed our faithfulness to his absolute standards when we have embraced them. His provisions for security, support, peace of mind and love at its best are all found in the totally committed Christian family. Grievously, we have learned that the counterpart to uncompromising commitment produces fear, insecurity, distrust, selfishness and loneliness.

In the days ahead, let us resolve to defend our ground around the Christian home. Let us be bold in our determination to stand like a stonewall on issues that effect our families. It is not possible to celebrate victories on other fields if we lose the citadel that is our first priority to nurture and defend.

William H. "Buddy" Sutton, a Little Rock attorney, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Glorify God in your body

He was the preacher in our family. "Uncle Howard, you taught us the importance of the family unit. Today we leave our kids at the sitter's so we can earn extra to give them all the things that we never had. We don't seem to realize that those kids want their parents more than things."

As I walk back to my car I think of all the worry about the economy... yet we are in the state we are in today because we as Christians never took a stand.

Arkansas Baptists, let's take a stand against sin and do whatever we can to get Arkansas back to what it should be.—Bob White, Siloam Springs

### Rampant crime

Last June, President Bush informed the messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention that his crime bill had been before the Congress for 100 days. He pleaded for the messengers to go home and encourage their Congress to support the bill. Now, eight months later, the bill is still not passed! The liberals are stalling while extracting the muscle and teeth from it. If it ever passes, it will be so impotent, we will see little if any change.

Recently, the 500th student was shot in the New York Public Schools. New York has a rigid gun ban. You didn't hear the report on the evening news or read it in the Arkansas whatever? Why not? Crime is now the most profitable business in America. So-called Christian churches are some of the most active supporters of crime. Those who reject the New Testament teachings of civil government and its ordained authority and responsibility, are giving a green light to the most vile and savage creatures ever to walk upon this planet.

It is a proven fact that the only requirement for evil to thrive is for good people to do and say nothing! Isn't this what Arkansas Baptists are doing; nothing! How long has it been since you heard your pastor preach or teach from Romans 13:1-7?

Every 22 minutes, another innocent American is murdered! Arkansas' prison population is growing by about 1,000 per year. If we continue to believe the liberal lie and support the criminals we have in Congress, state legislatures, city councils, and courts, we will look back on the present as the good ole days; that is if we survive!—Jim Glover, Heber Springs

The healthiest looking people star in advertisements for the deadliest products. Have you ever noticed that? Have you noticed that glamorous women and handsome men are used to sell alcoholic beverages and tobacco products? Have you noticed that the disease-promoting industries hawk their products with race car drivers, mountain climbers, sandlot softball players, hikers and cowboys, all of whom are young, in great shape and full of vigor?

Like the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, America's youth are seduced by media campaigns with delightful-looking people consuming carefree-looking products which are ever so deadly. The truth is hidden behind healthy bodies.

The first and second leading causes of premature death in the United States are tobacco and alcohol. Tobacco causes well over 1,000 needless deaths every day, for an annual death toll of 390,000. The death toll forces the tobacco industry to replace each former customer every day with another customer.

Alcohol causes almost 100,000 deaths every year. Drunk-driving crashes take 25,000 deaths annually, while diseases, homicides and suicides reap the rest. Heavy-drinking problems cost billions of dollars, cause ill health and break up families.

Another alcohol-related problem is Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. FAS is one of the three leading known causes of birth defects with accompanying mental retardation. Its prevention seems simple: Pregnant women should not drink any alcohol.

What should Christians do to curb the almost half-a-million deaths annually which come from these two products? First, we should review the biblical witness. The Bible speaks for physical health: "Glorify God in your body." The body is the sanctuary of God's spirit. As such, we should use, not abuse, our whole being for the purposes of God. Even the biblical concept of salvation means wholeness which includes sound bodies.



Second, we should unmask the ads for alcohol and tobacco. Tell your children that the ads are untrue, that the lifestyles they portray may become a false god (Ex. 20:3). Ask billboard companies not to sell space for tobacco and alcohol ads near schools, churches and civic centers. Request college and professional sports teams not to accept money from these disease-promoting companies.

Third, we should support local, state and federal legislation designed to restrict ads for tobacco and alcohol. Also, we should back efforts to rein in the use of these products.

On Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday, glorify God with your commitment to personal good health and with a pledge to fight the spread of disease-promoting products.

*(This theme interpretation was prepared by the SBC Christian Life Commission.)*

### Bible Campground and Youth Facilities

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# LOCAL & STATE

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**David Miller** is serving as pastor of Bakers Creek Church, Russellville, having served there as interim pastor since October 1991.

**Tim Richardson**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Richardson, was licensed to the gospel ministry Feb. 2 at First Church of Atkins where his father serves as pastor.

**Steven Hilton Bowen** was ordained to the gospel ministry Jan. 12 at Immanuel Church in El Dorado. Bowen is serving as pastor of Caanan Church near Lockhart, La.

**Richard Stipe** was ordained Feb. 1 to the gospel ministry at Lake Hamilton Church, Hot Springs. He serves in the music ministry at First Church of Springdale. Participating in the ordination service were John Jenkins, pastor of the Lake Hamilton Church; Stipe's father, John Stipe of Forrest City; and his father-in-law, Pete Petty of Little Rock, associate in the ABSC Missions Department; and Freddie Pike of Sherwood, ABSC Sunday School Department director.

**Scott Frank** is serving as pastor of Lonsdale Church, coming there from Lakeview Church in Leland, Miss.

**Donald Crossley** is serving as pastor of New Life Fellowship Church, Hot Springs.

**Shane McNary** has joined the staff of Trinity Church in Benton as minister of music and youth.

**Gary Wheeler** has joined the staff of First Church of Yellville, going there from Third Church of Malvern.

**Jimmy Karam**, a Little Rock businessman and a member of Little Rock Immanuel Church, was inducted into the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 15. He was selected for the honor because of his contributions to the school as a former student athlete. Karam shared his personal testimony Feb. 2 at Chicot Road Church in Little Rock.

**Greg Love** joined the staff of First Church in Osceola Feb. 23 as minister of youth discipleship activities. He is a first-year student at Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis.

**Vernon Wickliffe** has completed his two-year assignment as a part time field consultant in Church Extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. A retired home missionary, having served for several years in pioneer mission work in Michigan, he can be contacted at 501-753-7125.

**Sonny Simpson** will begin serving March 8 as pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock, coming there from Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff.

**Mickey Anders** has resigned as pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

**Roy Brooks** has resigned as pastor of First Church, Vandervoort, to serve as pastor of a church in Paris, Texas.

**Fred Blanton** resigned Feb. 2 as pastor of Yocana Church, Mena.

**Joe Denton** has resigned as interim pastor of Hatton Church.

**Robert Smith Jr.** has joined the staff of First Church of Hatfield as minister of music and youth and children, coming there from Concord Church at Ink.

**Walter Draughon III** will begin serving March 1 as pastor of Calvary Church in Little Rock, coming there from Arapahoe Road Church in Dallas, Texas, where he has served for the past seven years. He is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and also holds both the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Draughon and his wife, Jane, are parents of three children, Meghan, Jacob, and Haley.

**Alice Marie Davis** of Paragould died Jan. 19 at age 57. She was a member of Alexander Church near Paragould. Survivors include a son, Cecil Mack Davis Jr. of Kansas City, Mo.; two daughters, Rita Lange of Lafe, and June Keeling of Paragould; three brothers; and four grandchildren.

**Don Ward** recently observed five years of service as minister of music and youth at Mount Olive Church, Crossett.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



**First Church, Gillett, held a noteburning service Feb. 16. The congregation borrowed \$28,000 in March 1977 to erect a pastor's home and to build two additional Sunday School rooms to the church facilities. The project also included adding central heat and air conditioning to the Sunday School rooms. The note was paid off in December of 1991, six months early. Speaker for the noteburning service was Bill Williamson, who was pastor of the church when the building project took place. Pictured (left to right) are Pastor Allen Peebles, Williamson, Trustee Carolyn Sullivan, Trustee Leon Ferritt, and Buzz Mtnard.**

#### ATTENTION

ARKANSAS BAPTIST MEN RETIREES AND WIVES  
Volunteers for Jesus need your help to build MISSION CHURCHES in Arkansas for the BODY OF CHRIST. What better demonstration of our obedience to Jesus' Great Commission Command! Call Frank Allan 966-4882 or Debbie Davenport 378-4791.

Jacquelyn Wells Jones will be honored March 8 by Second Church of Little Rock in recognition of 40 years of service as pastor's secretary. She will be honored in the morning worship service, as well as at a noon luncheon.

Lynsøl Richmond is serving as pastor of First Church of Luxora, going there from Emmanuel Church, Blytheville.

Rick Vaughn is serving as pastor of Glad- den Church, Parkin.

## Briefly

Briggsville Chapel, located near Danville, held its first worship service Feb. 2 with 23 in attendance for Sunday School and 21 in attendance for the evening service. First Church of Danville is sponsor of this new congregation which is meeting in a portable chapel provided by the ABSC Missions Department.

Morrilton First Church ordained Harry Caldwell, Ben Caruth, David Duffie, Clark Lewis, Eddie Strawn, and L.D. Stroud to the deacon ministry Feb. 2.

Mount Olive Church of North Crossett will begin a revival March 8 that will conclude March 11. Jimmy Barrentine, ABSC

Missions Department director, will be evangelist. Kenny McKay will direct music. Ricky Lee is pastor.

Glenwood First Church held a Spiritual Warfare Prayer Seminar Feb. 23-25 that was led by Evangelist Mickey Bonner of Houston, Texas. John Gannoway is pastor.

Little Rock Second Church observed Race Relations Sunday Feb. 9 by hosting a joint worship service that included Mount Pleasant, Mount Zion and Lakeshore Drive Churches of Little Rock. Robert Willingham, pastor of Mount Pleasant Church, was speaker.

Lakeside Church, 3601 Malvern Road, Hot Springs, will host a Marriage/Family Life Enrichment Seminar March 1-4. Richard Wells, professor of divinity at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and former professor and dean of students at Criswell College in Dallas, Texas, will be speaker, covering the many aspects of the family, from the single adult to married life. Seminar times are 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. March 1, and 7 p.m. March 2-4. The church also will begin a radio broadcast ministry March 1 at 8 a.m. on station KXOW 1420 AM.

England First Church will hold its spring revival March 1-6. Wes Kent of Birmingham, Ala., will be evangelist and Johnnie Lewis will direct music.

Ridgeview Church in Fayetteville will ordain Gale Holt, minister of youth and education, to the ministry March 8.

Woodland Heights Church in Conway ordained Mel Blackwood and Stan Mascoe to the deacon ministry Jan. 26. Lee Lawson, director of missions for Faulkner Association, preached the ordination message.

Little Rock Immanuel Church will break ground March 1 for a \$3.9 million building program approved by the congregation Feb. 5. The program will include a new dining room, library, music suite, atrium, and other areas of renovations and improvements. Rex M. Horne Jr. is pastor.

Sheridan First Church observed Teacher Appreciation Day Feb. 16, recognizing teachers, their assistants, and public educators.

Ridgecrest Church in Blytheville ordained Bryan Cook, Ron Garner, and Steve Elrod to the deacon ministry Feb. 23.

University Church is Fayetteville will host a reunion for the UBC New Creations, its collegiate choir, Feb. 29-March 1. The organization was started in 1967 under the directorship of Don Wright and continued under E. Tanner Riley. The current director is Michael Bedford; all three directors will be present for the reunion. For more information, call the UBC Music Office at 501-442-5312.

## Nailbenders gather awards

During the past year, Nailbenders for Jesus have gathered several awards for their volunteer construction work. The awards include: the John and Jewel Abernathy Foundation award for volunteer mission service; the SBC Home Mission Board Christian Service Corps award for outstanding volunteer service; a State of Arkansas award from Governor Bill Clinton for outstanding public service to the people of Arkansas; and the Benton Chamber of Commerce award for outstanding community service.

## Carpenter graduates NOBTS

Timothy Carpenter from Monticello received the master of arts in Christian education degree on Dec. 20 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana.

Carpenter, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Carpenter of Hamburg, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello.



Foundation officers—Arkansas Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees officers for 1992 are (left to right) Lyndell Lay of Little Rock, president; Sberwin Williams of Arkadelphia, vice-president; and David Ray of Little Rock, secretary.



# Race Relations Conference

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Noah is the father of all mankind; therefore, he inevitably had to be the father of the Negro race," declared William Dwight McKissic Sr., at a Baptist Race Relations Conference Feb. 6. McKissic, pastor of the Cornerstone National Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, spoke to more than 100 white and black Baptists who attended the conference sponsored by the Cooperative Ministries with National and Southern Baptists in Arkansas at the Baptist Building in Little Rock.

Pastor McKissic presented his series "Beyond Roots: In Search of Blacks in the Bible." McKissic, a native of Pine Bluff, serves a church affiliated with both Southern Baptists and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Its membership is predominantly black.

The primary focus of the Race Relations Conference centered on the need to address racial injustice experienced by black citizens of our country. These accumulated experiences have severed many black Americans from their anthropological and theological roots. Thus, the conference sought to provide information that would assist in the uniting of the roots of black Americans.

Jack Kwok, director of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, said, "In the area of anthropology, McKissic established the antiquity and nobility of the black ancestry. The intention was that this historical information will produce effects which will begin to neutralize the effects of misinformation that has supported racism in our country.

"This historical information," Dr. Kwok continued, "should encourage black Americans to hold their racial identity in great esteem. Moreover, this anthropological information should elicit from non-blacks affirmation toward black Americans. Such affirmation is not needed for legitimacy nor validity of the black culture. Rather, it is needed for racial justice and reconciliation."

The theological roots of black Americans also demand racial justice. McKissic countered the distortion of Black Muslims



ABSC Cooperative Ministries Director Jack Kwok and conference leader William Dwight McKissic Sr.

and the perversion of white supremacists. The biblical facts overwhelmingly destroy the arguments that Christianity is a white man's religion, and its major purpose has been to suppress non-white people.

McKissic emphasized that the Bible clearly teaches that all mankind derived from Noah and his sons (Ac. 17:26; Ge. 9:18-19). Noah had three sons named Ham, Shem, and Japheth. The name Ham means "dark or black," Shem means "dusty or olive colored," and Japheth means "bright or fair."

McKissic quoted Bible scholars and at least one prominent archaeologist as considering Ham to be the ancestral father of the Negroes, Mongolians, and the Indians. Shem is considered to be the ancestral father of the Shemites (Arabs and Jews); and Japheth is considered to be the ancestral father of the Caucasians.

McKissic said, "Based on the anthropology of the three sons' names, the nations associated with their names in Genesis 10, historical resource and biblical authority, I agree with the scholars. Noah's three sons were the progenitors of the three basic races of mankind."

McKissic raised the question, "Is it possible for one man by the same woman to father three children with different complexions?" In response, he quoted Burnett Hanson, M.D. who said, "In order for this to take place, either the man or his wife has to be dark-complexioned or both of them could have been dark. Dark-skinned people can and often do produce fair-complexioned offspring; however, it is genetically impossible for bright or fair-complexioned persons to produce dark-skinned children."

McKissic concluded his chapter on

"Ham: Noah's Negro son" by saying, "My belief that Noah is the father of all mankind is supported by Scripture, theologians, history, anthropology, and science."

Pastor McKissic's presentation at the Race Relations Conference was drawn from his book entitled *Beyond Roots: In Search of Blacks in the Bible*. Kwok said, "This book should be required reading for all Christians, both black and white. It can be purchased from the Baptist Book Store in Little Rock. Video and audio tapes are available from the ABSC Department of Cooperative Ministries."

## Classifieds

**For Sale**—1964 Suburban Flexible 49 passenger bus. Has a rebuilt Detroit engine; safety brakes, new upholstery. Contact Bob Shelton, Alma First Baptist Church, (501) 632-2020. 49

**For Sale**—1965 Model Baldwin 5A Organ with 5 Tone Cabinets. Receiving Sealed Bids at First Baptist Church, West Main & Fifth, P.O. Box 385, Piggot, AR 72454. 277

**Needed**—Part-time music and youth director. Salary plus house. Send resume to Keo Baptist Church, P.O. Box 87, Keo, AR 72083. 312

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

**Eastern Arkansas  
Migrant Mission Conference**  
**Saturday, March 7**  
**10:00 a.m. til 3:00 p.m.**  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
**Blytheville, Arkansas**

*For more information contact Judy  
at the State Missions Department,  
of the Arkansas Baptist State  
Convention. — 376-4791, ext. 5249*

## Cook is Monticello BSU director

Darrell C. Cook began his work Feb. 1 as Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas in Monticello. He holds the bachelor of science degree from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va., and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



Cook

Immediately prior to Cook's election as BSU director at UAM, he served as campus intern at Georgia College BSU in Milledgeville, Ga. He also has previously served as a singles department director and teacher, a college and career Sunday School teacher, interim BSU director, youth minister, and a family group leader. His secular work included serving as a vending machine route manager.

Cook's goals include encouraging students to make the Baptist Student Union a lighthouse for Christ on campus, teaching students to effectively share Christ with other students, and providing materials that will encourage students to live a balanced Christian life.

Currently, the UAM BSU has a weekly Bible study that is led by pastors, local religious leaders, and lay persons. A free luncheon also is provided for students by the women of local area churches. Thursday evening is set aside to encourage students to be involved in Bible study.

Cook is married to the former Laura Petty.

## ACDF schedules retreats

Two retreats for Adult Children from Dysfunctional Families have been scheduled by Conway Second Church as a part of its recovery ministry, entitled "Living Beyond."

A spring retreat to be held at Heifer Project International has been slated for May 15-16, to be followed by a fall retreat Oct. 16-19. These retreats focus on personal issues such as chemical dependency, physical/sexual abuse, eating disorders, addictions, depression, anger, etc. The format consists of both lectures and small group experiences.

For more information, contact Second Baptist Church, 701 Polk Street, Conway, AR 72032; telephone 3271-6565.

## ARKANSAS BAPTIST FOUNDATION

### Board hears year-end reports

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation Board of Directors met on Feb. 6, 1992, with the newly elected officers presiding. Lyndell Lay is chairman of the board, Sherwin Williams, vice-chairman and David Ray, secretary.

Williams presented the Operating Budget Report by stating that the balance in the Operating Account on Jan. 1, 1991, was \$261,213.43. The year closed out in the black with \$13,027.19 being transferred to the reserve account. He shared with the board that although the Cooperative Program receipts were under budget, the allocation for the Foundation was only \$64 short due to a carryover from 1990.

Ray gave the Investment Fund report by highlighting the Client Investment funds. He reported that funds under management exceeded \$30,106,518.68 in 1991 which was over a 10 percent increase over the previous year. He gave an overview of the investments that had been made in the fourth quarter and called attention to the reports that detailed the information on the investments.

In the President's Report, Trulove stated that 1991 had once again been a good year for the Foundation. He noted that while the assets at the end of the year in the Clients Statement were up over 10 percent, that when the operating assets are considered the total assets under management were up 11.97 percent for an increase of \$3,246,063.

Trulove pointed out that the fourth quarter distribution totaled \$649,374.28 giving a total for the year of \$2,374,654.18 distributed to individuals and agencies.

	Fourth Quarter	YTD
OBUS	\$216,714.62	\$845,503.18
Individuals	102,134.89	340,021.34
ABCH&FM	67,813.24	239,972.03
BSU	43,952.86	157,730.06
WBC	28,597.12	149,676.81
Church & Assn.	39,883.47	140,413.14
Misc. SBC	201.76	4,828.10
Cooperative Prgm.	13,661.92	59,452.92
FMB SBC	11,621.14	60,759.30
ABSC	19,661.92	68,713.79
ABF	4,091.03	18,465.26
Other Christian Org.	23,474.14	37,822.03
Home Mission Board	3,101.19	24,066.95
ITP**	74,464.98	227,229.27
	<b>\$649,374.28</b>	<b>\$2,374,654.18</b>

\*\*Most of these funds represent return of income to the corpus of individual trusts.

During the fourth quarter \$900,000 was contributed by five individuals who either executed new trust agreements or added to existing accounts. Institutions added another \$204,459 for a total for \$1,104,459.

Trulove concluded his report by summarizing the year's activity. He indicated the staff held 41 conferences in local churches/associations that resulted in 134 requests from individuals for assistance in estate planning. There were 21 conferences with attorneys and other professional advisors.

If you are interested in further information about the ministry of the Foundation please contact their office by telephone at 376-0732 or by mail at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Foundation installs new phone system

In an effort to increase service and reduce expenses, the Arkansas Baptist Foundation has installed its own phone system. Starting Feb. 18, the number to reach the Foundation will be 376-0732. The agency will no longer be an extension off of the PBX at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Building.

For information about wills, estate planning and/or church incorporations, please call your Arkansas Baptist Foundation at 376-0732.

## Cradle roll conferences slated

Every community has many, many preschoolers and young adults who need to be reached for the Lord and for Bible study.

A Cradle Roll department can help your church do just that!

A Cradle Roll department is a home ministry to preschoolers under two years of age who are not enrolled in Sunday School and their parents. This ministry can also include expectant parents who are not enrolled in Sunday School.

Conferences designed to help start and strengthen a Cradle Roll ministry will be offered in three locations during the Cradle Roll Tour: March 30—First Baptist Church, 1120 E. Main, Van Buren; March 31—Southwest Association office, 4201 Sanderson Lane, Texarkana; April 2—Second Baptist Church, 1117 N. James, Jacksonville.

The conferences will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. each evening. They will be led by Ann Liles, Cradle Roll consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Pastors, Sunday School directors, Cradle Roll directors and visitor-teachers, and other leadership should plan to attend one of these conferences in order to know more about reaching and ministering to the young families in their communities.

The tour is sponsored by the Sunday School department. For more information, contact Pat Ratton, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5128.



## Celebrate Missions!

Celebrate missions at the WMU Annual Meeting, March 20-21, 1992, being held at First Church, Little Rock!

WMU Annual Meeting is...

- \*hearing how God is at work in Togo, the Soviet Union, Alaska, South Africa, Guatemala, and Arkansas;
- \*learning what God's Word says about being "Called and Accountable";
- \*experiencing worship through music and prayer;
- \*hearing testimonies from Acteens Activators and state Acteens panelists;
- \*having fellowship with missionaries and friends;
- \*being inspired and challenged to be God's people on mission, and more!

Other features include the choir and orchestra of First Church and a processional of banners on Friday evening; a reception/fellowship featuring internationals and program personnel following the Friday evening session; dramatic monologues; a nursery for preschoolers during all sessions; a Baptist Book Store display; and the opportunity to give to a love offering which provides magazines for more than 150 missionaries from Arkansas.

GAs and Acteens are especially invited to the Friday evening session when they can visit with the missionaries during the fellowship that follows. Acteens will want to attend the Saturday morning session when Acteens will be featured and recognized.

To have lunch with and hear a missionary on Friday, tickets must be purchased by March 6 by contacting the State WMU Office at 376-4791, ext. 5137.

WMU Annual Meeting is a time to celebrate missions. And, it is a meeting for everyone. Come celebrate with us on March 20-21 at First Church, Little Rock.—  
**Julla Ketter, Arkansas WMU executive director**

## Fellowship meets

Two joint meetings were held recently, sponsored by the National and Southern Baptist Fellowships.

Crossett First Church hosted a Baptist Fellowship Jan. 6 that was sponsored by National and Southern Baptists of Ashley County Association and Southeast Regular District Association. David Newberry was host pastor.

Over 135 black and white Christians gathered Feb. 6 at St. Peter's Rock Baptist Church in Cato to worship Christ in unity. The gathering was sponsored by the National and Southern Baptists of Union Association, Argenta Association, Golden Rule Association, Middlewestern Association, and North Pulaski Association. Clyde Kelley was host pastor.

## Correction

The Jan. 30 ABN should have reported that Rogers Trinity Church recently had suffered smoke damage. The ABN regrets the error.



ABN photo / J. Everett Green

**Bi-vocational Ministers Fellowship**—A dinner was held Jan. 28, during the ABSC Evangelism Conference at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, for bi-vocational ministers. The group organized under the name "The Arkansas Bi-vocational Ministers Fellowship." L.B. Jordan, director of the ABSC Church Leadership Support Department, observed that the purpose of the organization was to provide a fellowship on a statewide basis and to encourage bi-vocational ministers on the associational level. ABSC Executive Director Don Moore moderated as officers were elected. J.A. Cole, pastor of Salem Church, Nunley, was elected president; Max Garrison, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Cabot, vice-president; and Dane Dover, pastor of Mill Creek Church, Hot Springs, was elected secretary-treasurer. At least two associational fellowships have been organized. These are Ashley County and Washington-Madison. Pictured (left to right) are: Jordan, Cole, Garrison, and Dover.



"Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. My voice shall thou bear in the morning, O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Ps. 5:1-3).

#### Answered Prayers

The Las Vacas Baptist Mission has been established in Guatemala as God has used Harmony Association and Pine Bluff First Baptist Church. Remember them as you pray.

Without cost for freight, 292,500 copies of the Gospel of John have been shipped to Guatemala City for distribution during the March, June and October crusades. Prayers have been heard.

#### Prayer Requests

Pray for those who serve you in the Stewardship/Annuity Department of the ABSC: James Walker, Jonnie McCumpey.

Pray for Yvonne Hilton, the missionary to Guatemala working with the Las Vacas (The Cows) Mission.

Pray for the children of missionaries in the USA and throughout the world.

Pray for March 5-6 Partnership Planning Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa.

## New emergency receiving home

Washington-Madison Association broke ground Feb. 8 for the sixth Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries emergency receiving home.

The groundbreaking, attended by approximately 30 people, was held at West Fork on two acres of land donated by University Church of Fayetteville, H.D. McCarty, pastor.

Participants in the service were Bill Carter, West Fork mayor; Audrey Gateley; Leslie Elam, pastor of First Church of Hunstville; Jane Jones, a member of First Church of Fayetteville and wife of the late Tommy Jones who served as a member of

the ABCHFM Board of Trustees; Jere Mitchell, pastor of First Church of Fayetteville; Gary Burnet, pastor of First Church of West Fork; and Harold Gateley, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association. Special guests included Johnny Biggs, executive director of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, John Ross, ABCHFM director of development, David Perry, director of programs and staff development; and Joe Young, University Church counselor and director of the Christian Counseling Center.

The 3,500 square foot home, to be built by the 40 churches in the sponsoring association, is estimated to cost \$125,000. The architectural design includes a living area for eight children, an area for battered mothers and their children, and an area for houseparents. Upon completion, it will be staffed and operated by Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

## Editor search begins

The personnel committee of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* has begun its search for an editor, subsequent to Dr. J. Everett Sneed's retirement at the end of October 1992.

Those desiring to recommend qualified persons for the position should submit names, resumes and any other pertinent information to the chairman of the search committee at the following address: Greg Kirksey, First Baptist Church, 211 S. Market St., Benton, AR 72015.

## A better way

Lee Davis, developer of a new computer program, The Christian Manager, believes the computer can help people better manage their money.

Money management is not an option with Christians, according to Dr. Davis. It takes Christian commitment to overcome denial, fear of change, lack of willpower or laziness in managing family resources.

Davis will lead four money management seminars sponsored by the Stewardship/Annuity Department. The seminars, which begin at 9:30 a.m., are open to all participants and are available as follows: March 30—Jonesboro First Church; March 31—Van Buren First Church; April 1—Ardakelphia First Church; April 12—Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock.

Some of the features of The Christian Manager to be discussed include the family budget, reconciling bank accounts, mortgage amortization, compound interest, future plans and debt retirement.

## The Appointment



The new Christian film, *The Appointment*, is a story about Liz Watson, a hot-shot reporter, who has written a series of anti-God editorials. One day, a mysterious visitor informs her that is eight days, on Sept. 19 at 6:05 p.m., she is going to die. Is this a hoax? An angel? Will she die? The suspense begins... and is guaranteed to hold your attention.

This is a contemporary film, slickly done, well-written and thought-provoking. You will not forget the ending to this film.

To schedule a showing of *The Appointment*, call Rich Christiano Films at 501-932-7018.

## Interested in a Ministry of Love?

Arkansas Baptist Homes is looking for dedicated Christian singles (with no children) or couples (without children) to live and work with children in a home-like setting. Salary, fringe benefits, and training are provided. Call or write Royce Aston, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 501-367-5358.

For \$25 see the Great Passion Play & stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort for GROUPS of 12-160, in Eureka Springs, Ark. Air-conditioned lodging, swimming. \$9 tickets, cheeseburger cookout, dessert and breakfast. All included! Call 501-253-8418 today!



Quality Van Sales

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

# Baptist work in Israel

## Baptist Village

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Today there is an openness to evangelism in most cities of Israel," declared Southern Baptist Representative Ray Altman. "But our purpose, at Baptist Village, is to provide a place where Christians can connect with each other and have fellowship."

Baptist Village is an agricultural community of 77 acres located on the Yarklin River, approximately one and one-half miles north of Petah Tiqua and approximately seven and one-half miles southeast of Tel Aviv. It is not a village in the truest sense of the word, but a small community whose members serve and maintain the facilities. Members of the community live privately and not in a communal as in a kibbutz.

The village was founded in 1955 as an orphanage. Originally there were 19 orphans, some of whom were victims of the Israeli War of Independence. After the young people reached maturity, they left to work and establish their own homes.

The facilities were converted from an orphanage to a school. The school closed in 1972 and Baptist Village became a retreat, and conference center.

Baptist Village primarily is a place devoted to the service of God. It is a place where Christians can meditate, study, pray, relax, and have fellowship with other Christians.

The village continues to be involved in various kinds of agricultural pursuits. The income from the farming helps to support the village, and it is an easy way of participating in the economic life of Israel.

Numerous conferences are held throughout the year where Christians can come for study, inspiration, and fellowship. A summer camping program is conducted in July and August that provides a program for children of all ages. The camps are open to children without regard to background. A local Baptist congregation meets at the village for worship services. The congregation uses the camp dining hall as a place



In the kitchen of the Baptist Village near Petah Tiqua, Israel, Baptist representative Marita Lytle carries out food. The village is a retreat and conference center.

of prayer. There is no building which is used exclusively as a house of prayer. These worship services are conducted on the sabbath (Saturday). The facilities can accommodate up to 100 people for worship services and conferences.

The annual budget of Baptist Village is \$130,000. Approximately one-third of the budget comes from Foreign Mission Board support and the balance comes from the crops that are raised, rentals, etc.

Baptist Representative Altman said, "Baptist Village plays a unique role in Christian development in the state of Israel. We are grateful for the good rapport that we have with both Jews and Christians in Israel."

## Narkis Street Baptist congregation in Jerusalem

"If it were not for the *Intifada* (Arab uprising) there would be no problem in Israel," declared Baptist Representative V.M. (Pat) Hoaldrige Jr., pastor of the Narkis Street Baptist Congregation. Hoaldrige has served the congregation for four years and is a native of Fort Worth, Texas.

The church has existed since the 1940s. Its primary activity is with an English speaking congregation that comes from all over the world. The English speaking congregation includes individuals who live in the area from around the world, Arabs, and Jews. The congregation consists of approximately 125 members with an attendance of 200 to 400. Some of the people live in

the area permanently and others are living in the Jerusalem area only temporarily.

Hoaldrige said, "It is our purpose to minister to all of the Christians who live and work in the Jerusalem area. Some of those who attend our worship come from the West Bank."

The church building was burned to the ground nine years ago. But, the congregation enjoys a basically good relationship with the neighborhood and the officials. The neighborhood in which the church is located is composed of Orthodox Jews and secular Jews.

***'Our ministry is open and honest as to who we are, but we try not to agitate anyone.'***

Today there is no law in Israel that forbids a Christian from sharing the gospel. However, the gospel is never shared with anyone under 18 years of age because public pressure makes it difficult.

There are approximately 2,000 to 3,000 Messianic Jews living in Israel. This represents approximately 30 congregations.

Hoaldrige said, "Our ministry is open and honest as to who we are, but we try not to agitate anyone. The Middle East is in the middle of the rise of fundamentalism (Orthodoxy) as is the entire world."

A minimum of 80 percent of the population are not religious. They are secular individuals. But with the Orthodox Jews and the Moslems, politics and religion are mix-

ed together. There is a great deal of tension between the secular and Orthodox Jew.

Hoaldrige observed that it will be exceedingly difficult to resolve the tensions in the Middle East. He said, "The Palestinians represent a variety of points of view, as do the Jews. Since each group has a wide range of feelings regarding a solution to the problem, it will be exceedingly difficult for a solution to be found that will be lasting."

Hoaldrige observed that sometimes negative encounters can open up opportunities. He said, "The most important thing for those of us who are Christians is for us to reflect love for everyone. God can turn a negative situation into a positive victory."

Hoaldrige observed that there is very little danger in Israel. He said, "In general I would say that it is safer in Jerusalem than it is in Fort Worth, Texas. When I was home on furlough, my dad warned me to be very careful because of the violence in the area. Every place in the world has its dangers, but I would not hesitate to tell people to come to Israel as a tourist."

FMB photo / Don Rutledge



*Jerusalem's Narkis Street Baptist congregation holds services on Saturday since most of the activity in Israel works best by fitting it into the Jewish Sabbath rather than the Christian Sunday.*

## Overseas baptisms set record; critical need for leaders

by Donald D. Martin  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and their national partners baptized more people in 1991 than ever before, yet declines in Christian training threaten long-term church growth.

A record 233,334 baptisms in 1991 reversed a decline in 1990, when baptisms fell by 8.4 percent. This was the third year since 1987 that worldwide baptisms set a new record.

However, mission planners express concern about the need to develop church leadership, said Jim Slack, church growth consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Slack prepares the board's annual statistical review.

Bible teaching ministries, which include Sunday school, continued to slip when compared to total church membership. Although 1991's Sunday school enrollment climbed by 6.4 percent to 1.7 million, the percentage of church members enrolled in this type of regular Bible study actually fell to 57 percent of total church membership.

For most of the 1980s Sunday school enrollment accounted for more than 70

percent of total church membership. The percentage had slowly dropped for the past 20 years, Slack said. Church growth begins to suffer when the percentage falls below 75 percent, he warned.

Also, an inadequate supply of seminary-trained leaders for church planting disturbs mission planners, Slack said. Enrollment in seminary extension programs dropped nearly 14 percent from 13,105 in 1990 to 11,285 in 1991. Enrollment in residential seminaries climbed from 12,586 in 1990 to 14,579 in 1991. But only a small percentage of seminary graduates actually become church planters, Slack said.

Most church growth gauges, however, signal healthy expansion, Slack noted. New church starts, preaching points and world wide church membership all made gains in 1991.

"We had positive growth in all major areas but we can't be happy with what we've achieved when you consider how many people are lost in the world," Slack said.

In 1991 missionaries and overseas Baptists started 1,576 new churches, a 6.5 percent advance over 1990.

The number of overseas churches related to Foreign Mission Board work

also increased from 24,122 in 1990 to 27,932 in 1991. This net gain of 3,810 churches reflects a strong growth of 15.8 percent, Slack said.

The board tracks new church starts separately from net growth in the number of churches missionaries work with, Slack explained. Net church growth may increase in several different ways — new church starts, existing churches affiliating with a national convention or improved record keeping overseas. In singling out new church starts, mission planners can best judge the board's evangelistic efforts since church starts highlight direct results of church planting in a given year.

Still, the net church growth rate is used to evaluate the board's progress in reaching a major Bold Mission Thrust goal. Bold Mission Thrust is the plan adopted in 1976 for spreading the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 and for achieving a tenfold expansion of overseas Baptist work. In 1991, the net church growth rate easily surpassed the 12 percent needed to stay on track to meet the expansion goal.

Other good news included growth in worldwide church membership and preaching points.

## FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

## Parks, trustees set up talks

by Robert O'Brien  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted Feb. 12 to hold a spiritual retreat with board president R. Keith Parks, allocated funds for theological education in Eastern Europe and named a committee to work on relationships with European Baptists.

In other action, trustees approved \$3.85 million, including \$1 million for Bibles and other materials, as the initial installment of their "Green Alert" initiative in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

They also elected Bill Goff, a 20-year veteran of missions in Venezuela, area director for mission work in Spanish South America, named a writer and editor for a book on the mission board's 150-year history and appointed 17 missionaries.

The new appointments bring the mission force to 3,926 in 122 countries, with work extending into several other nations.

The trustee retreat with Parks and board staff of his choosing is set for March 19-20 in a Dallas-Fort Worth area hotel, shortly before the trustees hold their April 6-8 meeting in Clemson, S.C. At the retreat they will try to resolve the cloudy question of Parks' tenure — as well as questions Parks and some trustees have asked about willingness for mutual cooperation.

Trustees decided on the retreat for dialogue and prayer after Parks, in an address Feb. 12, asked them either to resolve whether his tenure would last through the 1995 date he had requested or to "move as quickly as possible to change leadership."

Parks asked trustees to respond to his request the same day to "lay to rest many anxieties" or at most no later than the April meeting.

During the ensuing discussion, some trustees agreed they must act immediately to assure Southern Baptists of their support for Parks and missions. Others argued for a delay so Parks, who had expressed strong disagreement with some trustee actions, could address his own willingness to work cooperatively with them.



FMB President Keith Parks (left) listens to FMB trustee chairman Bill Hancock

(BP photo / Sandy King)

In other action, trustees divided the \$365,000 they had redirected in October to theological education in Eastern Europe among eight seminaries in that area. The funds originally were budgeted for the international Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The money was divided among seminaries in Bulgaria, \$100,000; Estonia, \$50,000; the Ukraine, \$50,000 in Kiev and \$50,000 in Odessa; Russia, \$50,000; Latvia, \$45,000; and Romania, \$10,000 in Bucharest and \$10,000 in Oradea. The work in Oradea received an earlier \$50,000

from the board for construction of the Second Baptist Church, which sponsors the seminary there.

The committee to work on relationships with European Baptists will respond to an invitation from the European Baptist Federation to explore relationships in the wake of the trustees' vote to defund the Ruschlikon seminary. It will meet with European Baptist leaders in Europe, with the place and date to be determined.

Trustee committee members are Steve Hardy of North Carolina, John Simms of Virginia, Hoyt Savage of Nevada, John Jackson of California, Joel Gregory of Texas and Pat Bullock of Texas. The committee also includes Parks and Winston Crawley, interim vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Trustees also heard a report that Parks and interim Europe vice president Crawley will report to the board in April about their discussions with Ruschlikon seminary president John David Hopper about fundraising in the United States.

Trustees had felt Hopper, a missionary of the board, was violating FMB policy against missionaries raising funds for their work among Southern Baptists in the United States. Crawley said a letter has been written to Hopper telling him to cease direct fund raising among Southern Baptists if he is to remain a missionary.

That does not prevent Hopper, as president of the institution, from raising funds among other groups in the United States or elsewhere, Crawley said. Also, the Foreign Mission Board has no control over the fund-raising activities of trustees or non-missionary staff of the seminary.



Ford



Pike



Hurley

## BOYCE BIBLE SCHOOL CLASSES OPEN—TERM 4 March 13 — May 9

### Friday:

6:00-7:55 p.m.

Planning Your Preaching - Ron Ford

8:20-10:15 p.m.

The Church Serving Its Community -  
Freddie Pike

### Saturday:

7:45-9:40 a.m.

Developing the Christian Leader -  
Maurice Hurley

10:15-12:10 noon

Interpreting Romans - Bob Klutts

12:50-2:45 p.m.

History of American Christianity -  
Everett Sneed



Klutts



Sneed



Webb

For information, contact Lehman Webb  
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203  
Telephone 378-4791, ext. 5249

## Morris Chapman elected

### Executive Committee sets salary at \$120,000

by Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—"I want God's will, nothing more, nothing less."

And praying for a "spiritual awakening through Southern Baptists to this nation," Morris H. Chapman accepted election as the fifth president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee during the committee's opening meeting Feb. 17 in Nashville.

Chapman will finish his second one-year term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the annual meeting in Indianapolis on June 11. Four days later, June 15, he will become president and treasurer-elect of the Executive Committee and succeed Harold C. Bennett on Oct. 1. Bennett retires Sept. 30.

The Texas pastor was elected amid friends and a high-tech video. The 70-member committee voted, without apparent dissent, to accept the search committee's nomination following a video presentation. Chapman, 51, has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, the past 13 years.

Julian M. Motley, search committee chairman, said Chapman's salary would be \$120,000, including a housing allowance. Motley said the salary figure is below what Bennett currently is receiving but the committee felt the economic conditions dictated the suggested lower figure, in agree-

ment with Chapman.

Chapman pledged his "very best" and said he sees himself as a "servant of Southern Baptists."

"I see myself as carrying out the will of the majority and carrying out genuine healing among Southern Baptists," Chapman said. In an apparent reference to his new position as chief executive officer for the group which distributes a Cooperative Program budget of \$140 million, Chapman said "sometimes we fret too much over finances. I believe God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Not figures, facts or finances will carry us through these days... only faith."

### Homosexuality opposed

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee squarely positioned itself against homosexuality Feb. 18 and against two North Carolina churches weighing measures sympathetic to homosexuality.

The Executive Committee adopted a resolution singling out Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh and Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, reminding them "God regards homosexuality as a gross perversion and unquestioned sin."

The 77-member committee also initiated efforts to recommend to the Southern Baptist Convention that it amend its constitution and/or bylaws to include measures against any church "affirming, approving or endorsing in any way the active practice of homosexuality," according to one proposal. Such acts would include ordaining or licensing homosexuals into the ministry, performing marriage-like ceremonies or otherwise affirming homosexual practices as an "alternate lifestyle."

### Recommends reallocation of disputed funds

A reallocation of \$300,000 in disputed funds, held by the Southern Baptist Foundation, to "convention causes as the Executive Committee deems appropriate," will be recommended to the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis in June.

The Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-18, voted overwhelmingly to approve a recommendation that the controversial account, claimed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and sought by the SBC Christian Life Commission, be reallocated. The decision, a voice vote without audible dissent, was the climax of months of study by the Executive Committee but may be fought by the BJCPA, a Washington-based religious liberty agency.

"I don't believe the Lord leads people to take money that is not theirs," Oliver S. Thomas, BJCPA legal counsel told Baptist Press after the vote. Thomas said he felt the decision by the Executive Committee was inconsistent with the SBC action in 1964 setting up the fund.

However, the Executive Committee also will ask the SBC annual meeting to "disclaim any right to the interest accumulated on these funds on deposit and request that the Foundation remit all accumulated interest to the BJCPA as soon as practicable." As of Jan. 27, 1992, the accumulated interest was \$83,954.45. The BJCPA had been granted the interest earned on the funds over the years and has drawn \$568,384 since 1968.

Thomas rejected the decision as a possible compromise with the BJCPA getting the interest but not the original funds. Asked if the BJCPA would pursue legal action if the SBC approves the recommendation in June, Thomas would say only that he planned to report to the BJCPA board of directors who ultimately would make any decision to respond.



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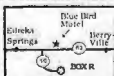
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This book is a must for both blacks and whites who are interested in the study of the origin of the black race from a biblical and historical perspective.



HMS photo / Paul Ostragon



Larry Miguez (left) says downtown New Orleans, like any inner city, can be a difficult place to minister and an even more difficult place to grow up. He says prayer support from his family and fellow Southern Baptists enables him to stay in New Orleans, where he has been for 17 years.

## HOME MISSIONS EMPHASIS

## Answering the question

by Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

**NEW ORLEANS**—"When are you leaving?"

The question was more of an accusation than a search for information.

Having witnessed parades of people walk in and out of their lives, children in downtown New Orleans asked Larry Miguez when he was leaving in the practically same breath that they said hello.

To their surprise, the home missionary stayed for 17 years.

Miguez, director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans, encountered the inner-city as a student intern from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He graduated from the seminary but not the city.

The native of Port Arthur, Texas, says his community is typical of any mission with a downtown zip code.

More than 56,000 people representing 19 ethnic groups live in the seven blocks between the mission and the Mississippi River. The mission is four blocks from the second largest housing project in the city. High school dropouts, illiteracy, poverty, crime and drug abuse are everyday problems.

Rather than retreating to the suburbs at

the end of every work day, Miguez lives within a block of the mission.

"My idea of ministry is that it's not over at nine when you close the doors," Miguez says.

Miguez is the legal guardian for three boys from the community, including one who has lived with him for 11 years.

One of the boys staying with Miguez is a high school senior. His mother has been in jail for murder. Last fall, four of his brothers were incarcerated. He will be the first in his family to graduate from high school.

"We have a good group of young people who come to the mission," Miguez says. "Most of them make an attempt to get out of this environment, but it's very, very hard to change when you're living in a bad situation."

It can also be hard to be upbeat. "I just can't dwell on the magnitude of the problems," Miguez says. "There are too many needs and problems to think about it continuously."

Week-day programs for preschoolers through senior adults and church services on Sunday are available at the 42-year-old mission center. But by far the most popular activities are youth sports.

Softball, volleyball, basketball and track

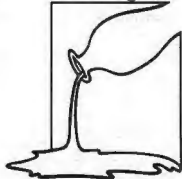
are the center's drawing cards. "When the sports programs are going, it can double our Bible study attendance," Miguez says.

The mission does not have a gym, so the weather sets the sports schedule.

Miguez and the mission are supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and the Cooperative Program. While Miguez is indebted to Southern Baptists, he says prayer enables him to stay in the inner city.

"I would have been out a long time ago without prayer support," he says. "If you want to be extra extravagant in mission support, pray another five minutes every day for your missionaries."

A TIME FOR  
Extravagance



Week of Prayer for Home Missions  
March 1-8, 1992

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
National Goal: \$41 million

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#### Needed: Director of Missions

Treasure Valley Baptist Association and Magic Valley Baptist Association are searching for a Director of Missions who would serve both associations.

Anyone who is interested may send a resume to:  
Calvary Baptist Church  
911 South Cole Road, Boise, Idaho 83709  
In care of the D.O.M. Search Committee

# Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries

## 1991 Contributions for Churches and Missions

(Thanksgiving Offering, Mother's Day Offering, church budget, birthday, sponsorship, Capital/Endowment Campaign contributions, etc...)

If an error is found in this report, please notify

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

### Thank You, Arkansas Baptists

<b>ARBOURG RIVER VALLEY BAPTIST ASSN</b>		West Side Baptist Church	43.14	Huntington First Baptist Church	109.03
		Milar Baptist Church	120.00	Jesse Fork Baptist Church	381.20
				Long Ridge Baptist Church	390.00
				Manfield First Baptist Church	475.00
			7,750.84	New Providence Baptist Church	250.00
				Parke Baptist Church	37.00
				Pleasant Grove #2 Baptist Church	670.00
				Pleasant Grove #3 Baptist Church	194.83
				Rock Creek Baptist Church	130.00
				Unity Baptist Church	420.00
				Waldron First Baptist Church	2,203.04
				West Hartford Baptist Church	807.07
				Winfield Baptist Church	8,301.15
					\$ 18,000.48
<b>BENTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSN.</b>					
		Bella Vista Baptist Church	6,179.50		
		Bentonville First Baptist Church	735.00		
		Centerben First Baptist Church	180.77		
		Charity Southern Baptist Mission	58.06		
		Decatur First Baptist Church	632.73		
		Espanola Baptist Church	48.26		
		Faith Baptist Church	152.13		
		Garfield First Baptist Church	150.57		
		Gentry First Baptist Church	3,000.46		
		Greene Baptist Church	50.00		
		Gravette First Baptist Church	50.00		
		Gun Springs Baptist Church	37.73		
		Harvard Avenue Baptist Church	180.00		
		Highland First Baptist Church	360.03		
		Hiwassee First Baptist Church	130.67		
		Izenhau Baptist Church	378.50		
		Lakeside Baptist Church	47.00		
		Lakeview Baptist Church	114.87		
		Lowell Baptist Church	128.13		
		Maize Valley Baptist Church	54.40		
		Monte Ne Baptist Church	850.00		
		Park Street Baptist Church	73.00		
		Pea Ridge First Baptist Church	44.20		
		Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	7.00		
		Re-Lynn Hills Baptist Church	4,379.82		
		Regars First Baptist Church	38.44		
		Rileas Springs First Baptist Church	600.00		
		Sulphur Spgs. First Baptist Church	66.01		
		Sunny Side Baptist Church	130.00		
		Trinity Baptist Church			
		Twelve Corners Baptist Church			
			\$ 15,500.60		
<b>BIG CREEK BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		County Line Baptist Church	25.00		
		Elkins Baptist Church	80.43		
		Enterprise Baptist Church	50.00		
		Hamosh Springs Baptist Church	610.00		
		Humb Leland Baptist Church	51.21		
		Mr. Zien Baptist Church	101.00		
		Saddle Baptist Church	116.60		
		Spring River Baptist Church	73.04		
		Viola Baptist Church	149.60		
			\$ 1,354.76		
<b>BLACK RIVER BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Alicia Baptist Church	35.00		
		Black Rock First Baptist Church	66.00		
		Calvary Baptist Church	211.34		
		Carroll Station Baptist Church	100.00		
		Crescader Baptist Church	34.00		
		Diaz Baptist Church	304.00		
		Grubbs First Baptist Church	133.37		
		Hearts First Baptist Church	1,640.25		
		Isabden First Baptist Church	1,253.33		
		Jacksonport Baptist Church	3,600.00		
		Murphy's Corner Baptist Church	125.00		
		New Hope #2 Baptist Church	124.75		
		Newport First Baptist Church	1,801.25		
		Pitts Baptist Church	25.23		
		Reverend First Baptist Church	42.00		
		Seithville Baptist Church	210.77		
		Spring Lake Baptist Church	430.56		
		St. Francis Baptist Church	231.71		
		Tuckerman First Baptist Church	495.38		
		Walnut Ridge First Baptist Church	1,022.43		
		White Oak Baptist Church	326.90		
			\$ 11,678.19		
<b>BUCHON BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Abbott Baptist Church	125.00		
		Bates Baptist Church	261.00		
		Bates Baptist Church	125.00		
		Calvary Baptist Church	53.15		
		Cauthren Baptist Church	125.00		
		Cedar Grove Baptist Church	125.00		
		Dayton Baptist Church	870.00		
		Denton Baptist Church	300.00		
		Fellowship Baptist Church	125.00		
		Friendship Baptist Church	113.64		
		Hartford First Baptist Church	1,929.46		
		Haw Creek Baptist Church	794.00		
			\$ 1,542.88		
<b>BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Calvary Baptist Church	91.00		
		Central Baptist Church	50.00		
		Central Baptist Church	331.63		
		Eagle Lake Baptist Church	602.37		
		Ebenzer Baptist Church	100.00		
		Enon Baptist Church	156.00		
		Florence Baptist Church	50.00		
		Herritage Baptist Church	372.10		
		Izenhau Baptist Church	2,964.00		
		Monticello First Baptist Church	1,830.00		
		Monticello Second Baptist Church	430.00		
		Palin Baptist Church	600.00		
		Southside Baptist Church	38.00		
		Warren First Baptist Church	300.00		
			\$ 7,642.57		
<b>BUCKVILLE BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Rock Springs Baptist Church	0	191.93	
<b>CADDO RIVER BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Ally Second Baptist Church	0	103.87	
		Big Park Baptist Church	100.00		
		Black Springs Baptist Church	125.00		
		Caddo Gap Baptist Church	200.00		
		Clenshaw Baptist Church	490.70		
		Lake Ouachita Baptist Church	1,715.00		
		Little Hope Baptist Church	873.00		
		Mr. Ida First Baptist Church	717.00		
		Osceola Baptist Church	200.00		
		Norman First Baptist Church	258.87		
		Penic Bluff First Baptist Church	497.00		
		Ruffell Baptist Church	181.21		
			\$ 4,332.06		
<b>CALVARY BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Antioch Baptist Church	0	300.00	
		Augusta First Baptist Church	1,000.00		
		Besse First Baptist Church	2,000.00		
		Bethany Baptist Church	110.00		
		Calvary Baptist Church, Beary	361.00		
		Central Baptist Church	1,660.00		
		Clinton Plant First Baptist Church	75.00		
		Crosby Baptist Church	846.00		
		Densaw Baptist Church	80.00		
		Good Hope Baptist Church	113.00		
		Grace Baptist Church	430.20		
		Gregory Baptist Church	100.00		
		Griffithville First Baptist Church	411.10		
		Hunter First Baptist Church	180.29		
		Judeville First Baptist Church	291.42		
		Kensett First Baptist Church	1,223.00		
		Liberty Baptist Church	125.00		
		McCraw First Baptist Church	216.87		
		McRae First Baptist Church	254.00		
		Midway Baptist Church	126.20		
		Pangburn Baptist Church	125.00		
		Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	187.77		
		Rocky Point Baptist Church	908.73		
		Rose Bud Baptist Church	825.00		
		Seary First Baptist Church	5,940.89		
		Sidon Baptist Church	30.00		
		Teuple Baptist Church	124.00		
		Trinity Baptist Church	604.63		
		Tupelo First Baptist Church	454.06		
		Union Valley Baptist Church	210.00		
		Wiley Baptist Church	345.00		
		West Point Baptist Church	200.44		
			\$ 19,459.63		
<b>CAREY BAPTIST ASSN</b>					
		Bearden Baptist Church	0	1,542.88	
		Bethesda Baptist Church	400.00		
		Calvary Baptist Church	429.15		
		Eagle Mills Baptist Church	400.00		
		Faith Baptist Church	343.00		
		Fondyce First Baptist Church	149.00		
		Heapton First Baptist Church	300.00		
		Hareny Baptist Church	870.00		
		Highly Springs Baptist Church	290.00		
		Hanning Baptist Church	125.00		
		New Hope Baptist Church	840.54		
		Ouchita Baptist Church	125.00		
		Prosper Baptist Church	125.00		
		Shady Grove Baptist Church	600.00		
		Seash Side Baptist Church	415.00		
		Sparkman First Baptist Church	2,763.68		



Central Baptist Church	822.93
Cloud Road Baptist Chapel	57.72
Dellany Baptist Church	142.00
Douglas Baptist Church	53.42
East First Baptist Church	822.67
East Side Baptist Church	822.00
First Southern Baptist Church	173.24
Farrast Park Baptist Church	396.00
Gould First Baptist Church	1,476.57
Grady First Baptist Church	173.00
Green Meadows Baptist Church	1,164.43
Greenlee Baptist Church	1,814.10
Hebron Baptist Church	1,422.00
Hickory Grove Baptist Church	788.00
Humphrey Baptist Church	874.80
Isaiah Baptist Church	752.22
Kingsland First Baptist Church	341.00
Linwood Baptist Church	177.57
Matthew Mesias Baptist Church	224.00
Northside Baptist Church	193.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church	59.20
Pine Bluff First Baptist Church	12,211.21
Pine Bluff Second Baptist Church	441.97
Plus Bayou Baptist Church	188.00
Plzen Baptist Church	1,000.00
Shannon Rock Baptist Church	1,828.00
Shepherd Hill Baptist Church	139.00
Star City First Baptist Church	624.00
Walpole Baptist Church	678.00
Watson Chapel Baptist Church	258.00
White Hall First Baptist Church	583.95
Yorkston Baptist Church	73.20

**INDEPENDENCE BAPTIST ASSN**

Arbanna Baptist Church	759.57
Batesville First Baptist Church	645.00
Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville	759.61
Card Baptist Church	459.00
Desha First Baptist Church	38.00
Eastside Baptist Church	81.00
Emanuel Baptist Church	71.00
Fellowship Baptist Church	35.00
First Baptist Church	809.43
Football Baptist Church	182.91
Marcella Baptist Church	188.00
Mountain View Baptist Church	759.61
Mt Zion Baptist Church	255.00
Newark Southern Baptist Church	98.00
Northside Baptist Church	157.23
Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church	157.23
Pleasant Plains Baptist Church	148.00
Reheath Baptist Church	492.00
Rezie Baptist Church	479.23
Ruddell Hill Baptist Church	331.00
Saddle Baptist Church	25.00
Sherrary Baptist Church	241.82
Walpole Rock Baptist Church	1,128.00
West Baptist Church	79.00
White River Baptist Church	79.00

**LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSN**

Calton Baptist Church	199.57
Cadden First Baptist Church	591.23
Chickster Baptist Church	156.00
Civilandale Baptist Church	85.00
East Main Baptist Church	324.90
Greener Baptist Church	839.15
El Dorado First Baptist Church	37,675.00
El Dorado Second Baptist Church	1,714.00
Ellist Baptist Church	492.00
Fairview Road Baptist Church	1,248.27
Finkelstein Baptist Church	1,235.27
Hallie Baptist Church	411.42
Grace Baptist Church	156.20
Harmony Baptist Church	484.00
Heiliger Baptist Church	38.00
Hutfig First Baptist Church	833.94
Isaiah Baptist Church	4,436.30
Junction City Baptist Church	1,196.00
Knobel Baptist Church	177.85
Lapile Baptist Church	518.00
Landon Baptist Church	788.35
Liberty Baptist Church	356.00
Louann Baptist Church	189.00
Maple Avenue Baptist Church	312.12
Merrabell Hill Baptist Church	713.32
New London Baptist Church	791.00
Norahlet First Baptist Church	48.00
Northwest Baptist Church	58.00
Parkview Baptist Church	174.47
Philadelphia Baptist Church	316.00
Reader First Baptist Church	66.00
Sales Baptist Church	1,899.34
Seacrest First Baptist Church	825.00
Stephens First Baptist Church	1,225.37
Strong First Baptist Church	508.00
Union Mills Baptist Church	83.47
Tepple Baptist Church, Camden	68.09
Tepple Baptist Church, El Dorado	187.25
Three Creeks Baptist Church	478.00
Trinity Baptist Church	478.00
Union Baptist Church	1,898.00
Urbana Baptist Church	188.10
Victory Baptist Church	477.00
Village Baptist Church	478.00

Messon Baptist Church	199.00
West Side Baptist Church	198.00

**\$ 63,117.23**

**LITTLE RED RIVER BAPTIST ASSN**

Brownsville Baptist Church	82.00
Concord First Baptist Church	95.97
Harris Chapel Baptist Church	18.23
Hebron Springs Baptist Church	2,401.39
Irma Star Baptist Church	335.00
Mt Zion Baptist Church	43.73
New Baptist Church	54.00
Palestine Baptist Church	398.00
Pines Baptist Church	828.00
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	25.00
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	18.00
Post Oak Baptist Church	97.13
Gulfport Baptist Church	215.05
South Side Baptist Church	232.50
Sugar Loaf Baptist Church	128.00
West Side Baptist Church	495.00
Woodrow Baptist Church	487.18

**\$ 2,488.92**

**LITTLE RIVER BAPTIST ASSN**

Ashdown First Baptist Church	414.00
Ben Leland First Baptist Church	178.25
Bingen First Baptist Church	35.00
Bromston Baptist Church	448.00
Central Baptist Church	480.12
Clouston Baptist Church	25.00
Cross Roads First Baptist Church	885.23
Foreman First Baptist Church	551.30
Hicks First Baptist Church	278.00
Heratic First Baptist Church	167.23
Kern Heights Baptist Church	221.00
Lakeside Baptist Church	35.00
Lockesburg First Baptist Church	314.79
Long Oak Baptist Church	185.00
Millwood Baptist Church	105.00
Murfreesboro First Baptist Church	109.30
Nashville First Baptist Church	379.30
Oak Grove Baptist Church	68.00
Ogden Baptist Church	243.15
State Line Baptist Church	189.00
Washington Baptist Church	283.00
Wilton First Baptist Church	45.68

**MIDGIBIDPOI CO. BAPTIST ASSN**

Arceel Baptist Church	288.00
Bethany Baptist Church, Gosnell	65.56
Blackburn Baptist Church	35.00
Blytheville First Baptist Church	1,453.00
Brinkley Chapel Baptist Church	145.00
Brown Chapel Baptist Church	184.00
Calvary Baptist Church, Osceola	418.11
Calvary Baptist Church, Blytheville	318.13
Central Baptist Church	222.00
Clear Lake Baptist Church	33.30
Cole Ridge Baptist Church	33.30
Dell Baptist Church	274.85
East Side Baptist Church	98.00
Emanuel Baptist Church	18.00
Gosnell Baptist Church	41.50
Heiser First Baptist Church	315.00
Leachville First Baptist Church	1,284.00
Leachville Second Baptist Church	45.86
Marys Chapel Baptist Church	68.00
Memorial Baptist Church	238.75
New Harmony Baptist Church	55.00
New Liberty Baptist Church	397.01
Number Nine Baptist Church	117.00
Osceola First Baptist Church	110.00
Ridgecrest Baptist Church	35.00
Rosa Baptist Church	482.00
Trinity Baptist Church	225.00
Wardell Baptist Church	312.50
Westside Baptist Church	88.48
Whittier Baptist Church	372.00
Wilton First Baptist Church	61.95
Woodland Corner Baptist Church	688.50
Yarbaco Baptist Church	688.50

**MT IION BAPTIST ASSN**

Arlup Baptist Church	164.00
Bay First Baptist Church	32.89
Bethabara Baptist Church	58.00
Black Oak Baptist Church	361.81
Bowman Baptist Church	254.90
Brookland Baptist Church	14.00
Buffalo Chapel Baptist Church	35.00
Canaan Baptist Church	294.43
Cash First Baptist Church	294.43
Central Baptist Church	5,097.50
Childers Baptist Church	258.00
Dixie Baptist Church	25.00
Egypt Baptist Church	45.00
Highland Baptist Church	1,335.00
Jonesboro First Baptist Church	157.85
Monette First Baptist Church	157.85

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church	87.29
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	1,329.65
Neethas Baptist Church	101.72
Northside Baptist Church	416.00
New Hope Baptist Church, Black Oak	78.76
New Hope Baptist Church, Jonesboro	92.83
Northside Baptist Church	93.05
Philadelphia Baptist Church	672.71
Pleasant Baptist Church	58.00
Rowles Baptist Church	1,117.00
Strawler Baptist Church	78.44
University Baptist Church	172.00
Walnut Street Baptist Church	1,178.70
Westvale Baptist Church	58.00

**NORTH ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSN**

Alpina First Baptist Church	1,182.85
Betavia Baptist Church	499.00
Bear Creek Springs Baptist Church	384.54
Bellefleur Baptist Church	382.00
Berryville First Baptist Church	915.39
Bethel Baptist Church	98.00
Blue Eye First Baptist Church	180.17
Bowley Baptist Church	202.61
Burlington Baptist Church	818.84
Carroll Baptist Church	498.24
Deer Baptist Church	78.00
Deer Circle Baptist Church	158.41
East Mountain Baptist Church	2,312.59
Elkair Baptist Church	48.00
Elwood Baptist Church	875.00
Emanuel Baptist Church	64.99
Eureka Springs First Baptist Church	31.62
Everett Baptist Church	381.88
Freeborn Heights Baptist Church	381.88
Galtner Baptist Church	381.88
Grandview First Baptist Church	1,147.81
Green Forest First Baptist Church	1,163.99
Grubb Springs Baptist Church	944.00
Harrison First Baptist Church	180.00
Hopewell Baptist Church	688.00
Jasper First Baptist Church	333.00
Lakeland Baptist Church	788.72
Leola Baptist Church	1,184.44
Marshall First Baptist Church	619.56
New Hope Baptist Church	292.54
Osage Flat Baptist Church	118.44
Oregon Flat Baptist Church	123.85
Osage Baptist Church	557.38
Parkview Baptist Church	177.58
Pindall Baptist Chapel	5.38
Rock Springs Baptist Church	697.73
Rudd Baptist Church	185.00
Searcy County Baptist Church	35.78
Snowball Baptist Church	359.00
Trinity Baptist Church	42.00
Union Baptist Church	459.44
Valley Springs, First Baptist Church	4,123.32
Western Creek Baptist Church	177.58
Woodland Heights Baptist Church	434.61

**NORTH CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSN**

Bay Branch Baptist Church	165.00
Clinton First Baptist Church	1,980.97
Corinth Baptist Church	35.00
Fairfield Bay Baptist Church	237.00
Ford Baptist Church	237.00
Friendship Baptist Church	1,223.48
Isaiah Baptist Church	1,112.43
Leola Baptist Church	359.00
Lexington Baptist Church	359.00
New Hopewell Baptist Church	112.20
Per Deo Baptist Church	58.00
Piant Baptist Church	1,182.00
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	889.74
Rupert Baptist Church	889.74
Scotland Baptist Church	867.93
Shady Grove Baptist Church	867.93
Shirley Baptist Church	11.00
Skyland Southern Baptist Church	11.00

**NORTH FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSN**

Abney Baptist Church	358.00
Bayou Cross Baptist Church	1,080.00
Spring Meta Baptist Church	1,139.97
Berea Baptist Church	117.59
Bethany Baptist Church	1,040.00
Calvary Baptist Church	363.50
Central Baptist Church	254.90
Chapel Baptist Church	174.00
First Seventh St. Baptist Church	128.00
Gravel Ridge Baptist Church	128.00
Graves Hill Baptist Church	4,870.83
Highway Baptist Church	180.00
Indianhead Lake Baptist Church	1,115.00
Jacksonville First Baptist Church	174.00
Jacksonville Second Baptist Church	774.37
Lawrence Baptist Church	31.00
Lovett Baptist Church	1,345.38
N Little Rock First Baptist Church	686.16

Oakwood Baptist Church	811.06
Park Hill Baptist Church	8,727.47
Pike Avenue Baptist Church	125.45
Reverend Baptist Church	75
Riverside Baptist Church	7.90
Ryanan First Baptist Church	414.29
Shemwell First Baptist Church	1,181.27
Shanfill Baptist Church	437.00
Sylvan Hill Baptist Church	375.00
Victory Baptist Church	35.53
Zion Hill Baptist Church	1,321.82

\$ 21,119.25

**OURICHTA BAPTIST ASN**

Barnett Baptist Church	71.00
Beard Camp Baptist Church	125.00
Bellevue Baptist Church	128.00
Chapel Hill Baptist Church	379.50
Concord Baptist Church	37.02
Dave First Baptist Church	79.45
DeLia Avenue Baptist Church	1,892.47
DeQueen First Baptist Church	1,809.00
Elliana Baptist Church	645.00
Grannis Baptist Church	96.00
Hatfield First Baptist Church	187.25
Nation Baptist Church	296.00
Mena First Baptist Church	1,318.38
New Hope Baptist Church	114.00
Palma Baptist Church	183.50
See Hill Baptist Church	38.13
Vanderavert First Baptist Church	361.01
Winked First Baptist Church	114.00
Yacane Baptist Church	58.00

\$ 7,389.28

**PULASKI COUNTY BAPTIST ASN**

Alexander First Baptist Church	183.89
Archview Baptist Church	632.60
Barnett Memorial Baptist Church	183.50
Bingham Road Baptist Church	83.80
Bronwood First Baptist Church	176.00
East Southern Baptist Church	25
Calvary Baptist Church	2,848.00
Crossroads Baptist Church	199.00
Crystal Hill Baptist Church	25
East End Baptist Church	579.25
Fernest Tower Baptist Church	394.73
Geyer Springs Baptist Church	128.25
Green Memorial Baptist Church	163.00
Isaiah Baptist Church	2,822.00
Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church	480.00
Lancaster Road Baptist Church	25.49
Life Line Baptist Church	186.50
Little Rock Baptist Church	3,815.82
Markham Street Baptist Church	180.00
Mariondale Baptist Church	61.25
Milnet Baptist Church	371.00
Otter Creek Baptist Church	138.00
Darkway Place Baptist Church	392.00
Pine Grove Baptist Church	67.84
Pinnacle Baptist Chapel	148.99
Plainview Baptist Church	98.22
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	297.16
Pulaski Heights Baptist Church	1,246.00
Reynolds Memorial Baptist Church	127.00
Roland Baptist Church	382.00
Rosedale Baptist Church	382.00
Shannon Hills First Baptist Church	73.73
Thorndike First Baptist Church	377.03
South Highland Baptist Church	377.03
Sunset Lane Baptist Church	145.00
Tulley Baptist Church	98.83
Tyler Street Baptist Church	428.56
Wright Ridge Memorial Baptist Church	38.00
West Rock Baptist Church	18.00
West Side Baptist Church	847.42
Westman Baptist Church	86.00
Woodson Baptist Church	694.92

\$ 23,104.27

**RED RIVER BAPTIST ASN**

Ancher Baptist Church	29.00
Antoine Baptist Church	312.41
Arkadelphia First Baptist Church	48.00
Arkadelphia Second Baptist Church	749.18
Beech Street Baptist Church	742.04
Betrest First Baptist Church	296.29
Bethel Baptist Church	100.00
Bethlehem Baptist Church	58.00
Bissexek First Southern Chapel	328.00
Boughton Baptist Church	25.50
Cadeo Valley Baptist Church	547.00
Cane Run Baptist Church	186.00
Curtis First Baptist Church	145.00
Dobray Baptist Church	88.00
East First Baptist Church	93.27
Harceony Hill Baptist Church	116.00
Lakeview Baptist Church	524.27
Malvern First Baptist Church	251.00
Marlbrook Baptist Church	83.00
Mo. Olive Baptist Church	289.00
Mo. Zion Baptist Church	48.41
Park Hill Baptist Church	737.00
Prescott First Baptist Church	268.69

Richwoods Baptist Church	258.00
Shady Grove Baptist Church	288.00
Smith Baptist Church	65.00
Unity Baptist Church	1,388.00
Wheeler Springs Baptist Church	108.00

**ROCKY-BAYOU BAPTIST ASN**

Belview Baptist Church	48.00
Bessell Baptist Church	91.68
Calico Rock First Baptist Church	1,496.43
Cherokee Village Baptist Church	979.29
Delph Baptist Church	879.44
Edwards Baptist Church	18.78
Finley Creek Baptist Church	145.00
Franklin Baptist Church	282.00
Harvey Baptist Church	827.82
First Baptist Church	216.00
Isaiah Baptist Church	468.00
Harbourview Baptist Church	143.79
Midway Baptist Church	67.00
Mo. Pleasant So. Baptist Church	322.00
Myron Baptist Church	115.00
Northside Baptist Church	79.00
Oxford Baptist Church	296.00
Sage Baptist Church	941.90
Salter First Baptist Church	633.98
Sidney Baptist Church	184.20
Wynona First Baptist Church	103.97
Union Hill Baptist Church	1,973.90
Winecan Baptist Church	583.69
Zion Hill Baptist Church	10,875.23

**SOUTHWEST ARK. BAPTIST ASN**

Ababella Heights Baptist Church	659.00
Beech Street First Baptist Church	35.00
Bredley Baptist Church	881.73
Calvary Baptist Church	151.18
Central Baptist Church	1,013.00
Cornerstones Baptist Church	258.00
Faith Baptist Church	17.12
Fellowship Baptist Church	116.94
Fouke First Baptist Church	128.00
Garland Baptist Church	225.00
Harney Grove Baptist Church	113.05
Howe First Baptist Church	3,747.89
Immanuel Baptist Church	128.25
Macedonia #1 Baptist Church	58.00
Macedonia #2 Baptist Church	309.00
Maple Baptist Church	129.00
Memorial Baptist Church	569.00
Piney Grove Baptist Church	123.10
Piney Point Baptist Church	5.48
Piney Point Baptist Church	109.22
Recky Mount Baptist Church	158.00
Shiloh Memorial Baptist Church	28.00
Springhill Baptist Church	393.00
Stamps First Baptist Church	178.00
Sylvering Baptist Church	111.00
Tennessee Baptist Church	1,841.14
Trinity Baptist Church	873.19
Westside Baptist Church	75.00

**TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST ASN**

Antioch Baptist Church	111.00
Antioch Chapel Baptist Church	171.17
Calvary Baptist Church	393.33
Cherry Valley Baptist Church	375.00
Colt Baptist Church	375.00
Crawfordville First Baptist Church	38.29
Deer Creek Baptist Church	28.00
Fair Oaks Baptist Church	139.32
Fitzgerald Baptist Church	389.93
Forest City Baptist Church	145.00
Forest City Second Baptist Church	302.00
Gilespie Baptist Church	141.00
Good Hope Church	288.00
Goulden Baptist Church	69.43
Harris Baptist Chapel	78.81
Immanuel Baptist Church	178.31
Ingram Baptist Church	185.00
Madison Baptist Church	153.00
Midway Baptist Church	183.00
Palmetto Baptist Church	191.00
Parkin First Baptist Church	658.00
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	151.00
Richland Baptist Church	75.00
Shiloh Lake Baptist Church	42.00
Thicket Baptist Church	687.00
Turrell Baptist Church	749.53
Union Ave Baptist Church	325.98
West Memphis First Baptist Church	1,537.25
West Memphis Second Baptist Church	252.00
Wheatley Baptist Church	282.00
Wyatt Baptist Church	8,473.00

**TRINITY BAPTIST ASN**

Galvany Baptist Church, Harrisburg	71.48
Galvany Baptist Church, Lepanto	252.38

Central Baptist Church	1,119.71
Faith Baptist Church	41.86
Fellowship Baptist Church	65.00
Greenfield Baptist Church	854.83
Greenfield Baptist Church	191.91
Harrisburg First Baptist Church	1,912.00
Lebanon Baptist Church	1,760.00
Lepanto First Baptist Church	182.00
Married Tree First Baptist Church	472.00
McCarroll Baptist Church	276.00
Neal's Chapel Baptist Church	132.60
Reisender Baptist Church	330.00
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	150.73
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	325.23
Previdence Baptist Church	829.87
Red Oak Baptist Church	1,018.81
Trinity Baptist Church	364.47
Tyroneville First Baptist Church	25.00
Valley View Baptist Church	137.00
Walden Baptist Church	100.00
Weiner First Baptist Church	163.57

**WASH-MADISON BAPTIST ASN.**

Berry Street Baptist Church	612.51
Black Oak Baptist Church	1,150.00
Brush Creek Baptist Church	1,284.47
Calvary Baptist Church	1,425.47
College Avenue Baptist Church	82.00
Elkins Baptist Church	88.00
Emma Baptist Church	1,428.50
Fareington First Baptist Church	829.64
Fayetteville First Baptist Church	1,609.20
Oaken Hill Southern Baptist Church	113.43
Greenland First Baptist Church	79.73
Hindsville Baptist Church	332.60
Isaiah Baptist Church	289.00
Johnston Baptist Church	685.00
Kingston First Baptist Church	893.16
Liberty Baptist Church	376.47
Lincoln First Baptist Church	132.00
Oak Grove Baptist Church	175.50
Powell Street Baptist Church	98.00
Prairie Grove First Baptist Church	1,284.47
Previdence Baptist Church	519.70
Rang Avenue Baptist Church	35.00
Serra Baptist Church	5.00
Silent Grove Baptist Church	219.50
Senora Baptist Church	254.60
Southside Baptist Church	132.00
Spring Valley Baptist Church	414.01
Springdale First Baptist Church	978.00
Walpole Baptist Church	74.00
University Baptist Church	2,011.51
West Fork First Baptist Church	8.00
Winston First Baptist Church	498.34

**WHITE RIVER BAPTIST ASN**

Antioch Baptist Church	825.34
Arkana Baptist Church	25.00
Big Flat Baptist Mission	14.00
Bruce Baptist Church	21.83
Bull Shoals First Baptist Church	448.18
Cater First Baptist Church	284.50
East Oakland Baptist Church	71.00
Eastside Baptist Church	245.00
Flippin First Baptist Church	2,495.00
Ganwell Baptist Mission	165.78
Georgetown Baptist Church	491.43
Henderson First Baptist Church	446.74
Hill Top Baptist Church	139.81
Hopewell Baptist Church	23.00
Lone Rock Baptist Church	41.15
Midway Baptist Church	289.25
Mountain Hope Baptist Church	145.10
Mountain Hope First Baptist Church	3,182.00
New Hope Baptist Church	98.18
Peel First Baptist Church	44.43
Piggy Back Baptist Church	18.00
Pyatt Baptist Church	75.25
Sunset Baptist Church	182.84
Toehash Baptist Church	288.42
Whitville Baptist Church	167.00
Yellville First Baptist Church	1,212.37

**OTHER CHURCHES**

All Souls Church	\$ 190.00
Clarksville First Baptist Church	749.53
Paragould Second Baptist Church	135.00
Rolling Hills Baptist Church	266.47
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	1,000.00
Whites Baptist Temple	2,271.00

Total from all churches	5538,670.67
Capital/Endowment Campaign Contributions (\$ 13,245.99)	
Operating Funds	3525,424.68

## Convention Uniform

*The great physician*

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 2:23-3:6

Focal passage: Mark 2:24

Central truth: God's people are known by their love for others.

There's an old saying that it doesn't take size to criticize. It speaks a great truth. There are many critics among us today, both among Christians and in the world in general. It is one thing to sit in the grandstands and criticize those in the game. It is something else to get down on the field and into the game. Generally, those who are first and loudest to criticize are those who are not putting forth any effort in the endeavor.

The Pharisees were always on the sidelines ready to nitpick and fault find whatever Jesus was doing. In this instance, the disciples had merely plucked off a few ripe grains while passing through a field on the Sabbath. "And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful." (Mk. 2:24). Those who bear a negative and critical spirit today are in line with the Pharisees.

In Ephesians 5:18-21, the Bible indicates the characteristics of a Spirit-filled Christian are a song in the heart, thankfulness and submissiveness. Those who are disciples of the Lord Jesus will be grateful for what God has done for them and sensitive and responsive to the needs of others. Jesus said that we would be known for the way we love one another.

Colossians 3:16-18 indicates the same characteristics are to be found in a Christian who is filled with the Word of God: He will have a song in his heart, he will be submissive to those in authority (civil authority, religious authority, and family authority), and he will be thankful.

The Spirit-filled life and the Word-filled life are mutually supportive. It is as we die to ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives and then fill up our lives with the Word of God by memorizing and meditating on it that the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, patience, meekness, and faith) emanates from our lives.

Those people who are negative and critical indicate by their attitude that they are either lost or are outside the will of God for their lives.

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## Life and Work

*Forgive always*

by Stephen G. Hatfield, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 18:21-24, 26-28, 32-35

Focal passage: Matthew 18:21-22

Central truth: The spirit of genuine forgiveness knows no boundaries.

The next four lessons are based on parables concerning the kingdom of God. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. In each of these passages, we will seek to understand the earthly story, then apply its heavenly meaning to our lives.

The earthly story (18:23-34) was prompted by Peter's question (18:21): "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" No doubt, Peter felt his offer was generous. Three times was the traditional Jewish allowance for seeking reconciliation.

Jesus responded to Peter's question with the parable of the unmerciful servant. The king had forgiven a man a huge debt, only to find out that the man in turn, demanded full payment of a much smaller debt from his neighbor. Consequently, the king changed his mind and not only cast the un-forgiving servant into prison, but demanded full payment of the debt.

What about the heavenly meaning of this story for our lives today? First, we must forgive because God has forgiven us. The earthly story is clear: the servant did not deserve forgiveness, yet he was forgiven. The heavenly meaning is also clear: we stand before God, guilty of sin, yet he has forgiven us. In turn, we should not only forgive those who have wronged us, but actively seek reconciliation.

Second, our forgiving spirit should know no boundaries. When Jesus said that we were to forgive "seventy times seven," He did not intend for us to draw the limit at 490 times. He desires that our hearts be willing to forgive over and over again. Do we limit the number of times we will show love to our families? Of course not. The same principle applies to forgiveness.

Third, we must not only forgive, but we must be willing to accept forgiveness, too. Does your unforgiving spirit toward others make it hard for you to accept God's forgiveness for your own sin? Accept God's mercy and then you will be able to show mercy to others.

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## Bible Book

*The Father's love*

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Hosea 11:1-9; 12:7-11

Focal passage: Hosea 11:1-8

Central truth: When we identify with God's excruciating agony and intense compassion for his backslidden children, we minister with new power.

"How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboulim? My heart is turned over within me, All my compassions are kindled" (Ho. 11:8)

This verse allows us to see the heart of Hosea bursting with love and tenderness. We have seen the love of Hosea, the husband, for his adulterous wife. Now we see a Father's heart yearning for his wayward child. Hosea's message is a veritable succession of sobs. He is like a soldier writing in his diary at the front lines between the explosion of shells. He is a man desperately in love and keeps on sobbing his heart out while he repeats his love story. Hosea's message is a cry of anguish to a stubborn nation with a call to repent and come home to the God who loves them.

Hosea's heart pictures God's heart as a father crushed with strong emotion over his rebellious child. He cries out in agony and pain, "How can I give you up? How can I hand you over?" Here is God's heart—cry for his people to repent.

Each one of us must identify more accurately with the intense pain, and excruciating agony of the father's heart. Then with deep sensitivity and compassion we can minister to the soul sickness all around. We must become a people of the broken heart. Like Hosea we must identify ourselves with sinful sorrowing humanity. Hosea 11:1-8 reveals the tenderness and fierceness of a loving, responsible father. The lightning flashed from his tear-filled eyes. Once we capture the Father's heart we will minister with new power to a dying society.

A missionary nurse in Africa was seen by an American businessman dressing the wounds of a leper. Seeing the repulsive sores and marveling at her tender care he suddenly exclaimed, "I wouldn't do that for \$10,000." Looking up she quietly replied, "And neither would I."

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# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### The carpenter

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 6:1-13

Focal passage: Mark 6:3

**Central truth:** A special blessing accompanies those who are rejected for the sake of Christ.

All of us, at some time in life, have felt unwanted, unwelcome, unloved. It is definitely not a good feeling. The story of Jesus is a story of rejection. John 1:11 declares that Jesus came unto his own and they received him not. Earth's residents arrogantly displayed a sign to their Creator. No trespassing. Especially grievous is that the residents of his hometown, Nazareth, had rejected him. They witnessed his miracles, heard his teachings, and were astonished by what they saw and heard. Yet, when confronted with his message, they exclaimed he's just a carpenter, a trade many of them possessed; he's the son of Mary, questioning the legitimacy of his birth.

Why do people get irritated at the name of Jesus? You may talk about Buddha, Mohammed, and others without people becoming upset. Why do they get upset at the name of Jesus Christ? There's just something about that name! It is the way of salvation!

Jesus was either a fraud, a mad man, or Lord of Lords and King of Kings. In the New Testament days, men speculated that he was John the Baptist, Elijah, or some new prophet. Today, he is spoken of as a great teacher and moralist. Those speculations, past and present, fail to identify him. Each individual must personally decide if Jesus is Lord and then consciously accept him personally in order to be saved.

Our judgment before God will be based on our relationship to Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:12 declares, "He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Life abundant and life eternal is based on a personal relationship to Jesus Christ.

As we accept Jesus we can anticipate being rejected as he was rejected. In Matthew 5:11-12, Jesus tells us a special blessing awaits those who are persecuted for his sake. One of the aspects of that blessing is that Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth, is constructing an eternal home in heaven for us (Jn. 14). It will be perfect for our every need.

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## Life and Work

### God's amazing grace

by Stephen G. Hatfield, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Matthew 20:1-14, 8-16

Focal passage: Matthew 20:13-16

**Central truth:** We should serve God because we love him, with no thought of receiving rewards.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard teaches us about God's grace and our service in the kingdom of God. The earthly story tells of a wealthy landowner who hired workers at the beginning of the day to work in his fields. He agreed to pay them the usual wage of a denarius. Throughout the day, the landowner found others in need of work and hired them as well. He even hired one group of workers one hour before the end of the workday. When it came time to pay his laborers, he paid them all the same amount, whether they had worked the full day or just one hour. Needless to say, there was much grumbling, especially among those who had worked the entire day.

Jesus told this story to make a point about the kingdom of God. The things he taught centuries ago still are valid today. First, God's grace is given on the basis of need, not merit. In the parable, the fact that the servants had jobs was an expression of grace. We can never repay God for all he has given us. His grace is based upon his abundant love for us and his generous heart toward us.

Second, God's grace is for everyone. No doubt, Jesus directed this parable to the scribes and Pharisees, who thought that God would show his love only to those who meticulously kept the law. The landowner gave the same wage to every worker, regardless of the amount of hours they worked. In the same way, God gives all his love to everyone who comes to him.

Third, Christians should serve God willingly, with a spirit of gratitude. In serving God, do you keep score or compare your service with what others do? In the parable, some of the workers worked only because they would be paid, while others worked without any promise of payment. They knew that the landowner would deal fairly with them. When we lose ourselves in serving God, then we truly find the secret to a fulfilling life.

Oh that we would serve God simply because we love him, with no thought of personal gain.

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## Bible Book

### Repentance and revival

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Hosea 13:4, 9-15; 14:1-8a

Focal passage: Hosea 14:1-8

**Central truth:** Revival will come when we repent of sin and receive God's gracious restoration.

Hosea's heart bursts with emotion as he closes his book with a plea, a promise and a prophecy.

(1) A passionate plea for repentance. God pleads through the broken-hearted prophet for the people to repent and return to their first love. They had gone after other lovers and come up empty. In verse 2 we have brief and concise instructions on how to repent. "Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him, 'Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously...'" (Ho. 14:2). Mercy and not sacrifice is God's desire. Deep contrition and confession of sin will bring God's swift and full forgiveness. We must systematically eliminate all options and abandon ourselves to the mercy of God—"For in you the fatherless finds mercy."

(2) A precious promise of restoration. God gives a beautiful promise: "I will heal their backsliding. I will love them freely; for my anger is turned away from them." When there is true repentance, the wall of separation is down and God opens the floodgates of his restoring mercy and grace. Wave upon wave of love sweeps over the repentant child. God then restores the years the locust have eaten.

(3) A powerful prophecy of revival. God's people are now in a position to experience the fruits of repentance and restoration. The passage overflows with revival promises. "He shall grow like the lily. His branches shall spread... like an olive tree. They shall be revived like grain and grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon." Olive trees for the oil of anointing pictures the Holy Spirit's power in witnessing. Grain pictures the seed of the Word as it is sown. Wine symbolizes the joy that results from the anointed preaching of the Word. Ephraim will then live up to its name—fruitful.

God is calling us through his Word to deep heart-felt brokenness over sin. As we experience genuine repentance he restores us to himself. The flood gate of revival springs open and multitudes are saved.

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## Across the Country

### Michael Clingenpeel elected editor of Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va.—Virginia Baptist pastor Michael J. Clingenpeel has been elected editor of the *Religious Herald*, newjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Trustees of the *Herald* unanimously elected Clingenpeel Feb. 10 at a meeting of the board in Richmond. He is to assume the position around May 1.

Clingenpeel, 41, succeeds Julian H. Pentecost, who will retire April 30 after 22 years as editor. Since 1983, Clingenpeel has been pastor of Franklin Baptist Church in southeastern Virginia. He is current first vice chairman of the *Herald* trustee board and has been a trustee since 1986 and a member of the board's executive committee since 1988. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond, and holds master's and doctorate degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

### Meacham unanimously approved as Nevada's exec

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The Nevada Baptist Convention's executive board, in a unanimous vote Feb. 6, named David F. Meacham the convention's new executive director.

Meacham, 46, will assume office no later than April 1, succeeding Ernest B. Myers, the convention's first-ever executive director who has announced his retirement effective March 15. Meacham has been director of missions for the Las Vegas area Southern Nevada Baptist Association the past 10-plus years.

### Administration wants churches to report donations

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration wants to require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to report to the Internal Revenue Service the charitable contributions of donors who give more than \$500 annually.

The proposal, part of the administration's fiscal 1993 budget plan, is aimed at helping IRS catch taxpayers who inflate the amount of deductible contributions. According to an administration document, preliminary IRS data shows taxpayers frequently have overstated charitable contributions in filing income tax returns.

The SBC Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs have expressed strong disapproval to Congress on the proposal.

### Senate approves blocking cable 'access' indecency

WASHINGTON—The United States Senate recently voted to empower cable television companies to prohibit sexually explicit programming on leased-access and public-access channels.

The action came on The Cable Television Consumer Protection Act (Senate bill 112). Amendments by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Sen. Wyche Fowler, D-Ga., corrected a 1984 cable television law which left local operators powerless to prevent the telecast of all forms of indecent material on their leased- and public-access channels, respectively.

### CLC installs message line on issues in Washington

WASHINGTON—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has installed a message line in its Washington office to provide up-to-date information on moral, ethical, social and religious liberty issues being considered by the federal government.

The message line, which can be reached by dialing (202) 638-4095, is revised regularly to alert Southern Baptists to the current status of matters before Congress and the other branches of government. The recorded message also provides addresses and telephone numbers for callers to use in expressing their concerns to members of Congress and other government officials.

### Southern Baptists asked to join hunger campaign

WASHINGTON—Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy group dealing with hunger issues, is asking Southern Baptists to help influence Congress to increase funding for three government programs aimed at needy children.

The Washington-based organization is encouraging Southern Baptists and other religious groups to participate in an "Every Fifth Child" Offering of Letters campaign to enlarge budget allocations for Head Start, the Job Corps and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

## Dino The Peace of God's Creation Tour '92



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Telephone for information:

(501) 982-1519

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### Join Ben J. Powell

Pastor of First Baptist Church of Rogers, Ark. on an 11 day Tour of the Holy Lands, Corinth & Athens, Greece.

April 28 thru May 8.

For more information call 501-636-3450.