

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

3-12-1992

### March 12, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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



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

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "March 12, 1992" (1992). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 50.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_90-94/50](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/50)

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

# Arkansas Baptist



*Helping families*

*Page 4*

Vol. 91, No. 6

March 12, 1992

## COVER

### **Baptists respond to environmental issues**

*Page 2*

### **How to make the most of your resources**

*Page 6*

### **Truck stop ministry**

*Page 9*

### **Helping children with stress**

*Page 20*

### **Volunteers needed in Russia**

*Page 23*



# Arkansas Baptist

## At a glance

### 4 Families: Can you help?

"This mystical, wonderful thing called 'family' has been taken for granted," ABCS Executive Director Don Moore says in his article on helping families. "No one should need to be reminded of all of the well-known facts that give evidence that the family is in crisis," he continues. A list of 64 suggestions from pastors around the state is offered in an attempt to get churches involved in strengthening families.

### 6 How to make the most of your resources

Interest rates fall to the lowest level in years; unemployment remains high; the federal deficit sets a new record; consumer confidence plummets to its lowest level in 10 years! For many, the present is truly a time of great financial stress. OBU professor Eddie Ary enumerates six practical ideas to make the most of your resources during economically turbulent times.

### 9 Truck stop ministry

Pastor Tommy Stacy and the men of West Memphis Second Church have taken advantage of their geographical location—near one of the busiest crossroads in the country—to take the gospel to those who may not be reached by regular church ministries. With a pickup truck and gooseneck trailer, they minister to the nation's truckers.

### 20 Helping children with stress

A child arrives at the day care center or preschool class at church and immediately heads for a corner where he speaks to no one for the entire day. "What you have is a stressed-out child," says Maurice Graham, a pastoral counselor from Richmond, Va. "What we usually try to do, then, is fix the child, and what we should be doing is fixing the parent."

### 23 Volunteers needed in Russia

The SBC Brotherhood Commission needs volunteers to distribute food in Moscow, Russia. The U.S. State Department has obtained 570 tons of food to assist with the Russian food shortage and the government has asked the Brotherhood Commission to assist in distribution. Those interested in volunteering for a two-week stint in Russia should contact the state Brotherhood office.

## Cover story

Photo / Ken Touchton



### Baptists respond to environmental issues

Baptists across the nation are responding to growing environmental concerns. Leigh Eason's environmental activism was ignited when the creek she learned to swim in was deemed unsafe for her children's recreation. Forming Vision, an international organization that consults with churches and communities seeking ways to reduce waste, is Eason's way of educating people to environmental issues. "Everyone is living now with what we did 20 years ago," says Eason, who suffers from lupus, a disease she suspects she got from exposure to chemicals as a child in Montevallo, Ala. "Vision tries to work with communities on a Christian basis," says Eason. "Our motto is: 'the Earth is the Lord's.' We work on respect for the Creator versus just the creation." For information about Vision, write Leigh Eason, Vision, P.O. Box 217, Montevallo, AL 35115.

## Also inside

### Local & State

Arkansas All Over..... 8  
DOMS meet..... 10  
Willis elected trustee chairman. 11

### Nation

Homosexual union endorsed... 14  
White House pulls support... 15  
'It's okay if I die'..... 20

### World

Haitians look to churches.... 24

Next issue: March 26

# Homosexuality

J. EVERETT SNEED

We commend the Southern Baptist Executive Committee for squarely positioning itself against homosexuality during its February 18th meeting. Two North Carolina churches currently are weighing measures which are 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." All Southern Baptists need to stand up and be counted against this gross perversion of man's God-given sexuality.

The Bible is clear concerning the practice of homosexuality. One of the most explicit passages in the Old Testament is the account of the events which transpired at Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham had pleaded with God to save the city for as few as 10 righteous men. God sent two angels, dressed as men, to carry out the investigation. The two men spent the night at Lot's house. The men of the city, hearing that there were some strangers present at Lot's house, demanded, "Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them" (Ge. 19:5b). The term "know" carries with it the idea of sexual cohabitation. Many scholars believe that they were saying, "Bring these men out that we may rape them."

The book of Leviticus, which was the priestly handbook intended to provide an interpretation of the law or the "Torah," specifically condemns homosexuality. The clear condemnation is expressed as Moses said, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is an abomination" (Lv. 18:22). Leviticus also provides severe penalties for individuals involved in homosexuality (Lv. 20:13).

The New Testament clearly condemns homosexuality as does the Old Testament. There is a good reason for this condemnation, since the courts of the Roman emperors were noted for their homosexual activity. The Apostle Paul clearly spells out God's condemnation of this activity.

The apostle said, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affection: for even their women did change the natural use in that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural



use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves this recompense of their error which was meet" (Ro. 1:26-27).

Homosexuals have gone to unbelievable lengths to try to distort the Scripture to fit their lifestyle. For example, they have cited Ruth and Naomi as examples of lesbian activity. Even Paul and Timothy have been sighted as an example of homosexual activity. Perhaps the greatest blasphemy is the attempt to characterize Jesus as a homosexual, carrying on ungodly activities with Lazarus and John, the beloved disciple. The Scripture is so clear that these ungodly statements require no response.

Many homosexuals wish everyone to believe that homosexuality is inherited, just as brown hair or blue eyes are genetic in nature. The evidence, however, is clear that the practice of homosexuality is learned behavior. Alfred C. Kinsey, in *Sexual Behavior of Human Females* said, in speaking of homosexuality, "There is no sufficient data indicating that specific heredity factors are involved." Every indication is that homosexuality is learned. Homosexuals are individuals who have other personality disorders as well.

The question arises: Is there a way of escape for the homosexual? Both human

experience and the Bible indicates that homosexuals can change their ungodly lifestyle. Paul, in dealing with homosexuals in the church at Corinth said, "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Co. 6:11).

The hope for all sinners, including homosexuals, is the transforming power of God. Human experience also proves that through the power of Christ former homosexuals can have a normal Christian life. Two of the leaders in the ministry in California are a husband and wife team who were practicing homosexuals prior to their salvation. Each states that it was God's power that changed them and that they now have a good, normal marriage.

Prevention of homosexual activity is a part of the God given responsibility for Christian parents. This can be done by providing wholesome sexual training for children, and by parents modeling Christian love for their children. It is extremely important for all children to have a wholesome relationship with both parents. It also is essential that our churches accept their God given responsibility to teach human sexuality from a biblical perspective. This should be done in the pulpit, in the Sunday School, in discipleship training, and in youth retreats.

Finally, we ask: What should the Christian attitude be toward the sin of homosexuality? Christians should abhor this tragic sin and use their influence to keep children and young people from being influenced by homosexuals. But Christians should have love for the homosexuals as people. Christ always hated sin, but always loved the sinner.

## Arkansas Baptist

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor  
Mille Gill . . . . . Executive Assistant to the Editor  
Darrell Bartlett . . . . . Operations Manager

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

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. 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 News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individual), \$6.35 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 News Magazine, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

VOLUME 91 • NUMBER 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron, president; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Harold Gateley, Fayetteville; Don Heuer, Baseville; Greg Kirksey, Benton; Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; and Lucile C. Hagins, Fordyce.

# Families: Can you help?

by Don Moore  
ABC Executive Director

This mystical, wonderful thing called "family" has been taken for granted. It has existed since the first couple formed the first family. Things that exist over many generations do tend to be taken for granted. We may become more indifferent than intentional about our families. We are reaping the results of this neglect.

The rich traditions and qualities that have nurtured proper development, security, dignity, character and achievement have usually been developed in the context of the family. Personal integrity, moral values and spiritual reality are usually first generated in the family.

Indications are that when children have not been given this privilege, they suffer emotionally, morally, socially and spiritually. Not only do the family and individuals suffer from this; all of society suffers.

Since family was the creation of God and since his Word provides the only absolutely trustworthy guide for the family, it seems that those who preach and teach his Word are the ones in the best position to help the family. The findings of the National Commission on Children were that special needs of children today point to the need for strong, stable families.

No one should need to be reminded of all of the well known facts that give evidence that the family is in crisis. Therefore, they will not be rehearsed.

The family must be given priority and addressed as it is today, rather than as it once was.

Can you help? Can your church help? If you can, if your church can, should you? If you should, will you?

Perhaps you are asking, "What can I do?" If so, this article may help you. The following list of actions should provide several ideas that you or your church can use. These are actual activities that Arkansas churches are using to "Strengthen Families" in 1992.

We are indebted to Stan Ballard, Tommy Cunningham, Stephen Davis, Ronnie Floyd, David Johnson, Greg Kirksey, H.D. McCarty, James McDaniel, David Moore,



There are many things churches can do to strengthen families.

Larry Pillow, Sonny Simpson, and Bruce Tippitt for sharing with us what they and their churches will be doing to strengthen families. A sampling of each is listed below with the hope that others may be encouraged to take bold steps to "Strengthen Families."

(1) Model your commitment to your immediate and extended family.

(a) Have them as your special guests, seated together in a worship service. Recognize them with sincere appreciation.

(b) Let the church know things you are doing to strengthen your family, such as books you are reading, marriage enrichment retreats, tapes or seminars.

(2) Encourage couples to be involved in Family Life Conferences sponsored by Ozark Conferences and "Weekend to Remember" sponsored by Campus Crusade.

(3) Offer classes designed to meet the special needs people have who come out of dysfunctional families.

(4) Video series by Gary Smalley, "Loving Relationships," and "The Hurried Family" by Tim Kimmel have been used. "Preparing Teenagers for Sexuality" by Dawson McAllister has been offered. "Mastering Your Money" by Ron Blue has been offered and well received.

(5) Use the family musical, "Bind Us Together."

(6) Have families sit together when the church has the Lord's Supper and on special occasions at the Wednesday night supper.

(7) Plan church schedules with a view to not only involve the family, but to respect and strengthen it.

(8) Some of the special classes offered by one church were: Coping With Stress, Plan-

ning For Financial Freedom, Raising Kids Alone: Parenting After Divorce, and Teaching Sexuality in the Home and Church.

(9) Sermon series are used to address the family. Some pastors will preach two short series this year rather than one long series.

(10) Study "Little House on the Freeway," by Tim Kimmel.

(11) Provide a Marriage Enrichment Retreat.

(12) Offer a Discipleship Training Class on "Building Your Mate's Self Esteem."

(13) Offer a Discipleship Training Class on "Human Sexuality."

(14) Preach on the family on Mother's Day, Father's Day and when you have baby dedication.

(15) Use Dobson film, "A Father Looks Back" during Discipleship Training.

(16) Six weeks course offered in Discipleship Training for newlyweds.

(17) Conduct Hope for the Home conferences. (See booklet provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for suggestions.)

(18) Dedicate a week of revival to strengthening families.

(19) Use the Valentine Banquet for a Father and Daughter Banquet.

(20) On Baptist Men's Day have a father and son breakfast.

(21) Youth study on Wednesday night, "Raising Effective Parents."

(22) Ladies retreat.

(23) Special family worship service.

(24) Cancel all weekday activities to major on family activities one week.

(25) Discipleship Training course (six weeks), "Single Parenting."

(26) Summer youth study on Sunday evenings, "How to Get Along With Your Parents," (4-part video)

(27) Youth study on Sunday evenings, "Relationships with Friends, Self and Family," (5-part video)

(28) Youth choir tour study, "Building Relationships Between Parents and Teenagers."

(29) Use "Blended Families" for a three week study in Discipleship Training.

(30) Use "Parenting By Grace," a seven-week study in Discipleship Training.

(31) Children's musical, "A Family Portrait."

(32) Weekend retreat, "Divorce Recovery for Teenagers."

(33) "Dad, The Family Shepherd" seminar.

(34) Discipleship Training Studies on "Marriage Communication," "Divorce Recovery," "Master Money," and "Parent Communication."

(35) Christmas pageant, "Christmas Is calling You Home."

(36) "Finances For Singles," during

### Discipleship Training.

(37) Use "Covenant Marriage" material during Discipleship Training.

(38) Have a family Vacation Bible School.

(39) Use "Single Again" in Discipleship Training.

(40) Use each Wednesday night during the summer to emphasize and strengthen the family.

(41) Both spring and fall revivals will emphasize the family.

(42) Plan a three-day family retreat.

(43) Host a Family Life conference with guest speaker.

(44) Use the Family Life Center for more family oriented activities.

(45) Serve Wednesday night meals family style with families seated together.

(46) The widows and widowers are adopted by the deacons and receive special

attention and support.

(47) "Super Weekend for Men" is designed to help men in their role as family leaders.

(48) "Love Is A Decision" seminar, Gary Smalley.

(49) Family ski retreat.

(50) "How To Speak To The Heart And Spirit Of Your Child," a series of studies.

(51) Have a class for "Nearly-Weds" as well as "Newlyweds."

(52) "For Youth Parents Only"—a series on Sunday night to equip parents of adolescents.

(53) Weekly Bible study for single parents.

(54) A young men's Bible Study based on "Best Friends."

(55) A seminar on "The Hurried Child."  
(56) Observe Senior Adult Day.

(57) Have two men to give testimonies on Father's Day.

(58) A weekly Bible Study at 6:45 a.m. for men giving special attention to their responsibility to be spiritual leaders in the home.

(59) A weekly ladies group that studies material related to the family.

(60) Encourage the use of good books and tapes and videos that strengthen the family, available in the church library.

(61) Inject some teachings on the family in RA's and GA's.

(62) Encourage the participation in conferences beyond the church designed to strengthen families.

(63) Continually encourage establishing and maintaining family altars.

(64) Work to strengthen the families of the staff so that they will be good examples.

It is amazing how many different things can be done. It is also thrilling to realize how much is available through our own Discipleship Training program. While many churches could not bear the cost of some of these activities, every church can do the things related to Discipleship Training. The cost is minimal and the time is right.

Many others could have given input on the subject. In fact, 19 were invited to respond. These are from the ones who responded.

If you are still without ideas or suggestions you can use, please contact our Family Ministries representative for an additional list of resources.

BECKY HORNE

## Woman's Viewpoint

### Be an affirmer

Spring is my favorite season of the year. I always remember my delight, as a child, at the crocus shooting up all over our lawn in South Arkansas. I would gather handfuls of the crocus, then jonquils, and take them to my mother to say, "I love you." She never fussed at me for picking all of the flowers. I'm thankful she always responded with a hug and a smile. This was our way of affirming each other.

As I look up the word "affirm" in the dictionary, I find it means: "to confirm, to state positively, to uphold." When we do this, we are in the affirming process. It is a choice we make. Everyone needs to be affirmed. Hebrews 24 and 25 tells us, "Let us consider one another. Exhort, or encourage, one another." We can be used in loving many lonely people in our world.

In Proverbs 31:20, we read, "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor. She reacheth forth her hands to the needy." As I read this verse in Proverbs, I'm reminded again of how one precious lady in our church is fulfilling God's purpose for her life, as she ministers and affirms the poor and needy. She tirelessly goes about her work daily, with joy. I watch and admire her. This friend brought several children to Bible School last summer who had been placed, along with their mother, in a home for battered

women. Rachel was particularly concerned with her appearance, as they frantically searched for something suitable to wear. She wore a pretty blue dress and a ribbon in her hair, and I had the privilege of being her teacher that day. As I complimented her on her pretty dress, her eyes lit up. When she took her home, she asked what Rachel liked most about Bible School. She said, "I think my teacher likes me!" How the Lord spoke to my heart regarding the many children and adults who need to be liked and loved.

There are so many who need just a word of affirmation. We can all affirm someone today, encourage them, show a little of Jesus' love. In Mark 9:41, Jesus tells us, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." Our teacher, the Lord Jesus, will be very pleased and will like what he sees.

Becky Horne is a homemaker and wife of the pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. She and Rex have four children. Becky is involved in the work of the church, particularly in the area of women's ministry. She teaches a ladies' Sunday School class and coordinates the speakers for their monthly ladies' luncheons.



A Symbol  
To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett  
Healey & Roth

LITTLE ROCK

Forest Hills

LITTLE ROCK

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills

PLAZA ONE ONE WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE NORTH LITTLE ROCK

GROSS  
FUNERAL HOME

WEST SPRING

PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

## How to make the most of your resources during turbulent times

by Eddie Aryn  
Special to the Arkansas Baptist

Interest rates fall to the lowest level in years; unemployment remains high; the federal deficit sets a new record; consumer confidence plummets to its lowest level in 10 years! For many, the present is truly a time of great financial stress. The unemployed worry about how they will put food on the table for their families. Elderly watch the income from their savings and time deposits shrink. Many consumers wonder if they will be able to continue to make payments on mountains of debt accumulated in the 1980s.

Paradoxically, the stock market seems to be looking forward to better times as it soars to new highs in an environment of low inflation and interest rates. President Bush states with resolve, "We can bring the same courage and sense of common purpose to the economy that we brought to Desert Storm. And we can defeat hard times together."

What does the future hold? No one knows except God, of course, but there are some steps we all can take to insure that our futures will be brighter regardless of whether the economy improves or stagnates further.

Take a snapshot of your current financial situation by preparing a personal balance sheet and an income and expenditure statement. Before you can plan effectively for the future, you must get an idea of the financial progress you have made thus far. A personal balance sheet and an income and expenditures statement can provide valuable insights into your present financial health.

To begin preparation of the personal balance sheet, list your assets. Assets include liquid items such as checking and saving account balances, personal property (furniture, clothing, appliances etc.), real property (cars, your home etc.), and investments (for example, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.) Record your assets at their current fair market value.

Next list the unpaid balances of all liabilities (debts) you owe. Include bills received but not paid and balances owed on credit cards, auto loans, your home loan, and other debts.

Finally, subtract the total of your debts owed from your total assets. The result is called your net worth and represents your

ownership in the assets. If you are successful financially, the net worth figure will grow as you prepare each successive balance sheet. Keep in mind your net worth will increase as you spend less than your income, and as your assets appreciate in value. Wise investing will hopefully result in asset appreciation, but the key to a growing net worth is a deliberate, dedicated savings plan.

Prepare your income and expenditures statement on a cash basis. List all sources of income over the past year. W-2s and Form 1099s may have to be consulted.

Next list all of your expenditures over the past year. If you have paid most of your obligations by check, a review of your checkbook can be a means of discovering where your money was spent. If you have failed to keep receipts or to pay obligations by check, keep track of your income and expenditures over a two- to three-month period in order to determine your current spending flows.

Hopefully your income and expenditures statement will reveal that your in-

come exceeds your expenditures, but if the opposite is true, pay special attention to the next recommendation.

Develop a monthly budget which incorporates your short and long term savings goals. Now that you have gotten a handle on your current financial situation, you are ready to chart a course for the future through the preparation of a budget.

The first step in preparing the budget is to estimate your monthly (or weekly) in-

come. Use after-tax income (take home pay) and be conservative if you are not exactly sure of the projected amount. Be sure to include all sources of income, such as dividends, interest, expected tax refunds etc.

The next step in budget preparation is to estimate your expenses. A review of your checkbook (if you pay most of your obligations by check) or your income and expenditures statement will be helpful here. Be sure to budget an amount for savings: 10 percent of your gross income is a good goal, but you may find that debt obligations prevent you from achieving this initially. Break down your savings allocation for your various savings objectives, such as saving for a child's education, retirement, a vacation etc.

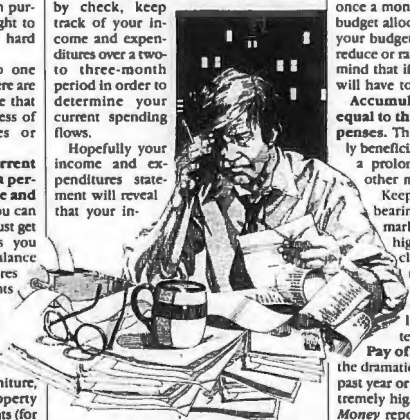
Review your actual income and expenses once a month and compare them to your budget allocations. You may find some of your budget allocations unrealistic; if so, reduce or raise them as needed, keeping in mind that if you raise one allocation you will have to reduce others.

Accumulate an emergency fund equal to three to six months living expenses. This strategy will prove especially beneficial if you lose your job, develop a prolonged sickness, or face some other major catastrophe.

Keep emergency funds in interest-bearing checking accounts, money market deposit accounts which pay higher interest and offer limited check writing privileges, or money market mutual funds (similar to money market deposit accounts but normally paying an even higher, interest rate).

Pay off credit card debt. In spite of the dramatic drop in interest rates over the past year or so, credit card rates remain extremely high. The February 1992 issue of *Money* reports a national credit card interest rate average of 18.8 percent. For a person in the 28 percent marginal tax bracket, paying off credit card debt on which the interest rate is 18.8 percent is equivalent to earning a pretax return of 26.1 percent on an investment. Since finding an investment that pays 26.1 percent is going to be extremely difficult, retiring credit card debt is one of the wisest moves you can make!

After reducing your credit card balances



to zero, try to pay your balance off every month to avoid future finance charges. If your current credit cards do not have a grace period (a time span during which you can pay your charges without incurring interest), consider switching to cards that do.

**Make one of your long-term goals to become completely debt free.** Some well-known Christian financial experts feel hard times are ahead as our economy reacts to the massive debt load of our federal government. (For example, see Larry Burkett's book, *The Coming Economic Earthquake*). Hopefully, these experts will be wrong, but if they aren't, you will come through the crisis in much better shape if you are completely debt free.

As your finances permit, add an amount over and above your regular monthly payment on your highest interest rate loan. This extra payment will be applied to the principal balance which you owe. Over time try to double up on your payments. As an illustration of the savings you can realize through the early retirement of a loan, let us assume you have a five year \$10,000 auto loan upon which you are paying an annual percentage rate of 10 percent. If you could pay this loan off in three years, you would avoid paying approximately \$1,133 in interest.

The interest savings from early retirement of longer term loans such as your home mortgage are even greater. For example, you could save a whopping \$91,868 in interest charges by paying off a \$75,000 mortgage with a 10 percent interest rate in 15 years instead of the scheduled 30. Of course, one advantage mortgages (and home equity loans) have over auto and other kinds of consumer loans is the fact that you can claim the interest paid as an itemized deduction on your tax return. If you are in the 28 percent marginal tax bracket, this would reduce your after-tax cost on a 10 percent mortgage to 7.2 percent. In spite of this favorable tax treatment afforded mortgage interest, you are still paying 7.2 percent, so planning for early retirement of mortgage debt is a wise strategy.

Review your finances carefully and set a time frame for becoming completely debt free!

**If the prospects for paying off your mortgage anytime soon are dim, consider refinancing.** Normally, it pays you to refinance if current mortgage rates are two percentage points below the rate you are paying. Be careful, however; refinancing may not be beneficial if you plan to move soon.

To determine whether you should refinance, find out from lenders what your monthly payments would be on each of the various mortgages they offer. Then ask

them to itemize all the expenses involved in refinancing. These expenses (points, charges for title search, a credit report etc.) may run as high as 5 percent of the loan amount. Finally, divide the projected expenses of refinancing by the amount by which your monthly payment will drop under the new mortgage. This calculation will tell you how many months it will take you to recoup the refinancing costs; if you plan to live in your home longer than this time period, refinancing makes sense!

If you decide to refinance, another decision you will face is whether to take on a fixed-rate or an adjustable-rate mortgage. Your tolerance for risk is one factor which affects this decision. Another is how long you plan to live in your home. Although there are no hard and fast rules, you should probably opt for a fixed-rate mortgage if you plan to live in the home for more than seven or eight years.

If you plan to move within the next few years, consider an adjustable-rate mortgage. Recently some lenders have offered a first year rate of around 5 percent, compared to between 8 and 9 percent on fixed-rate mortgages. Many adjustable-rate mortgages limit annual rate increases to 2 percent; lifetime caps are often 6 percent. Be sure you are aware of the annual and lifetime caps in any adjustable-rate mortgage you are considering.

One final observation that might be helpful in making your decision between a fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage: the United States League of Savings Institutions concluded in a study that holders of adjustable-rate mortgages paid less over the life of their loans than holders of fixed-rate mortgages. Of course, since it is impossible to predict the direction of interest rates over the long term, this may not necessarily be true in the future.

**Use stocks or stock mutual funds as a means of achieving long range objectives like saving for retirement.** Over long periods of time stocks have outperformed nearly all investments. During the 30 years ended Dec. 31, 1990, stocks provided a compound annual total return slightly in excess of 10 percent. At 10 percent for 30 years, each dollar invested would grow to \$17.45.

Invest in stock mutual funds if you have neither the time nor inclination to pick individual stocks. Several periodicals (*Business Week* and *Money*, for example) provide information that will help you pick mutual funds. If you want to make sure your dollars are being invested in companies which are good corporate citizens and produce worthwhile products, consider a socially responsible (or ethical) mutual fund.

It might be wise to wait for a correction

in the stock market before buying shares in a mutual fund because at the time of this writing the market appears to be overvalued. After your initial purchase of mutual fund shares, consider investing a specific dollar amount at regular intervals (dollar cost averaging).

Although the above suggestions cannot guarantee you financial success, they should increase your chances of achieving it. And if times do get even harder, the probability of your survival should be greatly increased.

Eddie Ary currently teaches personal finance, money and banking, and contemporary economic problems at Ouachita Baptist University. Ary has been at OBU since the fall of 1980 and is a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner.



## MONEY MANAGEMENT SEMINARS

For all ministers and spouses,  
and lay people

**MARCH 30**

Jonesboro First Baptist Church  
9:30 a.m.

**MARCH 31**

Van Buren First Baptist Church  
9:30 a.m.

**APRIL 1**

Arkadelphia First Baptist Church  
9:30 a.m.

**APRIL 2**

Baptist Medical Center  
Shuffield Auditorium  
9:30 a.m.

LED BY:

Dr. Lee Davis

Author of

Books and

Software

for Family Budgeting



Stewardship/Annuity Department



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**Ledell Bailey** will begin serving April 1 as director of missions for Calvary Association with offices in Searcy. He will go there from Augusta where he has been serving as pastor of First Church. He also has pastored Woodlawn Church in Little Rock, Westview Church in Paragould, and Third Street Church in Kennett, Mo. Bailey attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) and Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. He and his wife, Jeanette, have four adult children and eight grandchildren.

**Allen R. Greer** will begin his first pastorate March 16, serving as pastor of First Church of Marianna. A native of North Little Rock, he has been serving as associate pastor of education, senior adults, and single adults at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. He is a graduate of Hendrix College in Conway and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Nancy Carol Furnell. They have two children, William Hunter, and Megan Allyson.

**Marty Light** is serving as pastor of New Liberty Church, Marmaduke.

**Darrell Martin** began serving Jan. 9 as pastor of Second Church of Cabot. He and his wife, Carol, have two children, Randall, and Courtney.

**Denny Neff** is serving as bi-vocational pastor of Eastern Heights Chapel, Van Buren.

**Randall Hall** is serving as pastor of Saline Church, Hermitage.

**B.K. Harris** is serving as pastor of Enon Church, Monticello, going there from Saline Church, Hermitage.

**Eddie Elrod** is serving as pastor of Calvary Chapel, Malvern.

**Terrell Wallace** is retiring as pastor of Trinity Church of Malvern.

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

**Allen Thrasher** has resigned as pastor of First Church of Booneville.



Bailey



Greer

**Norman C. Neely**, pastor of First Church in DeWitt, died Feb. 20 at age 52. Survivors include his wife, Betty Jo Neely; a daughter, Karen Christine Cover of Gillett; his mother, Stella Neely of Jonesboro; and a brother. Memorials may be made to First Church of DeWitt or to the Dr. Norman Neely Scholarship Fund, c/o of the church.

**Wayne Kocourak** has resigned as pastor of Nimrod Church, Perryville.

**John Holston** will complete his service as interim pastor of First Church of Marianna March 15, having served for five months.

**Eddie Combs** of Fort Smith is serving as bi-vocational pastor of Mount Zion Church in Concord Association.

**Virgie Brown Jordan** of Dardanelle died Jan. 17 at age 85. She had been a member of First Church of Dardanelle for 62 years, serving as a Sunday School teacher and an active member of Woman's Missionary Union. She was a retired beautician. Survivors include a step-daughter, Florine Cor-

nell of Prairie Grove; two brothers; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Tammy Murphree** was honored Feb. 16 by First Church of Heber Springs in recognition of 10 years of service as the church's financial secretary.

**Zane Chesser** has resigned as pastor of First Church of Malvern.

**Rodney Reeves**, a professor at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, is serving as interim pastor of West Church in Batesville.

**William D. Downs Jr.** of Arkadelphia, chairman of the department of communications at Ouachita Baptist University, is the recipient of the 1992 Journalism Educator Award given by the Arkansas Press Association. The award was presented in recognition of Downs' service, commitment and dedication to journalism education and especially to scholastic journalism.

**Sam Dunham** is serving as pastor of Valley View Chapel in Eureka Springs, coming there from Bisbee, Ariz.

**Mike Hughes** is serving as pastor of Faith Church, Texarkana.

**H.G. Rhea** is serving as interim pastor of Shiloh Memorial Church, Texarkana.

**Robert E. Craig**, a native of Mena, has announced his retirement as president of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas, effective July 1.

**Jerry Kausler** has resigned as pastor of First Church of Marked Tree to serve as pastor of First Church in Leachville.

Photo / Larry Kay, Shirley



*First Church of Shirley, constructed in the early 1950s, was totally destroyed by fire Jan. 18. The congregation that is more than 100 years old had some insurance, but not enough to replace both the building and its furnishings.*

**Terry Simpson** is serving as pastor of Cadron Ridge Church, coming there from Flint, Mich.

**Rick Montgomery** has resigned as pastor of Zion Church, Conway.

**Mark Jackson** has resigned as minister of youth and activities at First Church in Fordyce.

**Frankie Enloe** has resigned as minister of education and youth at East Side Church in Paragould to continue his seminary studies.

**Vernual Ridgeway** is retiring March 1 as pastor of Board Camp Church, having served there since 1970.

**Dee Birdwell** is serving as pastor of First Southern Church, Bismarck.

**Steve Roberts** is serving as pastor of Mount Olive Church, Arkadelphia.

**Raymond Browaholtz** is serving as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Curtis.

**Bill Viser** is serving as pastor of DeGray Church, Arkadelphia.

**Charles Hampton** is serving as pastor of South Fork Church, Gurdon. He has been serving the church as interim pastor.

**Gordon Wells** was ordained to the deacon ministry Feb. 16 by Spradling Church in Fort Smith. Nelson Wilhelm, director of missions for Concord Association, preached the ordination message.

## Briefly

**Tyler Street Church** in Little Rock ordained Cary Cox and Oather Garner to the deacon ministry Jan. 26. Vernon Wickliffe, who served the church as interim pastor in 1990, preached the ordination message.

**Strawfloor Church** in Jonesboro honored Pastor Dennis J. Davis Feb. 16 in recognition of five years of service. The service included testimonies and the presentation of gifts from the deacons and Woman's Missionary Union, and a money tree from the congregation.

**Bowman Church** at Lake City is expanding its Wednesday evening services to include Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Mission Friends missions organizations. The church also recently purchased

a van to be used in church ministries. In addition, there were 51 in attendance for Sunday School January 19, the highest attendance in five years. Winfred Bridges is pastor.

**Providence Church** of Jonesboro recently presented service plaques to Deacons Bob George and David Mote Sr. George was recognized for 30 years of service and Mote for 20 years.

**Hot Springs First Church** ordained Leo Grant and John Jarrell to the deacon ministry Jan. 19.

**Judsonia First Church** has begun using an office complex that was constructed adjacent to the sanctuary and educational building.

**Rose Bud Church** celebrated completion of a new fellowship hall with a special service Feb. 9.

**Ridgeview Church** in Fayetteville ordained Gale Holt, minister of youth and education, to the ministry March 8. Pastor Mitchell Odom moderated the service.

**Pleasant Hill Church** in Harrisburg recently had 15 members to attend the Larnelle Harris concert in West Memphis. The church also has completed a Bible study in Isaiah that was led by Robert

## Truck stop ministry

Maybe a gooseneck trailer travelling to truckstops emblazoned with the logo "Mission on the Move: Winning Truckers for Christ" does not seem like a traditional Baptist missions endeavor. But to the men of Second Church in West Memphis, it is a heartfelt conviction to minister to truck drivers at one of the country's busiest crossroads.

Pastor Tommy Stacy and several men from Second Church started their project on Jan. 26 at the Union 76 Truck Stop, where they ministered for two hours. Two of the drivers were so excited about what they experienced that they asked to go with the men to the next stop. The team and their guests then went to the Petro Truck Stop, where they shared the gospel with eight truckers. One driver told them, "When I started out this morning, I was really feeling down, but seeing your trailer and being able to be in this religious service has really made my day."

This innovative idea started with a conviction almost two years ago in a



*West Memphis Second Church Pastor Tommy Stacy and the mission 'rig.'*

joint meeting between Pastor Stacy and men from the church and representatives from the ABCS Missions Department. The ministry took off with the recent gift of the trailer from a church member, with the congregation pulling together to buy

a truck to pull the trailer and other needs.

The ministry is paying off well and has the potential of touching the lives of thousands of men and women who drive rigs all over the country.

Tucker of Wynnc. Plans are being made for a vacation Bible school to be held June 8-12.

**Lake Village Church** recently closed a revival that was led by David Davis. Pastor Mike Titsworth reported 165 professions of faith, 29 rededications, and seven other decisions. He also reported that Davis preached in the public middle and high schools in Lake Village on drug and alcohol abuse and extended an invitation to students to attend a Wednesday evening service that resulted in 173 young persons registering their commitments to Christ, 153 accepting Christ, and 13 rededications. Nightly attendance for the revival averaged 200-250. There were more than 600 in attendance Wednesday, leading to the necessity for adults viewing the service by cable in the church's fellowship hall.

**Stamps First Church** ordained Pastor James Preston to the ministry Feb. 16. Scott Collins, public relations director of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, preached the ordination message.

**Dove Circle Church** at Holiday Island ordained Ralph Willis to the deacon ministry Feb. 2.

**Berryville First Church** held a Church Growth Trends conference Feb. 28-29. Eddie Combs of Fort Smith, a church growth consultant, was leader. Ray Edwards is pastor.

**Midway Church** in White River Association hosted a tea Feb. 13 in observance of Woman's Missionary Union Focus Week and in honor of Volunteers in Missions. Speakers were Jim and Margaret Gibson with Bill Glass Prison Ministry, and Leon Kirby of Volunteers in Missions in Arkansas. Those attending brought gifts for the Promise House in El Dorado. Special guests were Phyllis Powers and Alice King.

**Grace Church** in North Little Rock broke ground March 1 for an educational building and fellowship hall. Tim McMinn is pastor.

## DOMs elect officers, honor DOM of the year

Photo / Pete Petty



**DOM officers**—When Arkansas directors of missions held their annual retreat Feb. 26-28 at DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia, they elected as officers (left to right) Jeff Cbeatham, DOM of Arkansas River Valley Association, president-elect; Norman Lewis, DOM of Black River Association, president; and Marvin Reynolds, DOM of Mississippi County Association, secretary/treasurer. Retreat speakers were Henry Blackaby, director of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening for the Home Mission Board, and Norris Smith, consultant in the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

OBU photo / Jeff Root



**DOM of the Year**—Billy O. Kite (left) of Crossett was presented the DOM of the Year award by Ouachita Baptist University President Ben Elrod (right) at an annual dinner given in honor of Arkansas directors of missions given on the OBU campus Feb. 27. Kite, 58, has served as DOM for the Ashley County Baptist Association since 1986. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He also served as a SBC foreign missionary to Zambia from 1968-70.

**FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES**

STEEPLES-CROSSES  
WATER HEATERS  
FREE COLORED BROCHURE

ATLANTA LIGHT MANUFACTURING CO.  
Box 517, Ocala, Texas 77630  
800-251-2111

**PEWS**

NEW & USED (800) 366-1716

*Ernholtzer*

## When giving multiplies

Traditionally, Hot Springs Second Church established a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal of approximately \$15,000. Under the leadership of interim pastor Bill Steeger, the church's Mission Committee decided on a goal of \$47,765 to help meet the changing needs on the foreign mission field.

Many in the congregation were skeptical of such a dramatic increase in mission giving and doubted the congregation's commitment to such a massive task, according to Steeger. Activities were coordinated throughout the month of December to emphasize the offering and by mid-month the goal had been met. At this point, the Mission Committee decided to raise the goal to \$55,000, a figure they understood as the basic requirement to keep two missionaries on the field for a year.

On Wednesday, Jan. 1, Steeger announced to the congregation that a check for \$59,572 would be written for the Lottie Moon Offering. A challenge was issued to the congregation to provide the \$248 it

would take to top \$60,000. Not only was that goal met, but a five-year-old boy asked that the check not be sent until Friday, when he received his allowance so he could bring his jar of pennies plus his allowance for Lottie Moon.

Another interesting phenomenon accompanied the increased Lottie Moon gifts; the general fund also jumped dramatically, allowing the church to finish the year 3.8 percent over budget.

"Second Baptist Church has learned a dramatic lesson," said Steeger, "we cannot outgive God and he has called us to be a missions people."

## College Digest

### Ouachita Baptist University

**Endowed scholarship**—The J. Dennis and Marsha Riddle Wilkins Family Endowed Scholarship has been established at OBU by Dennis and Marsha Wilkins of Tucson, Ariz. and will eventually be endowed at a minimum of \$100,000. Wilkins is a 1967 graduate of Ouachita. The first scholarship will be awarded to a sociology major and

is in honor of Dr. Randolph Quick of Arkadelphia, professor emeritus of sociology at Ouachita; the second to a music (voice) major; the third to a ministry major; and the fourth to a sociology major.

**International studies gift**—The OBU board of trustees has allocated funds in the amount of \$50,000 to be added to the endowment of the Daniel R. Grant International Studies Program. The funds are a portion of the proceeds from the estate of the late Pete Parks of Tupelo, Okla.

### Williams Baptist College

**Spring production**—The WBC Theater Department will present the student production of "A Matched Set" by Melinda Williams on April 2-3 at 7:30 p.m. The original production tells the story of two sisters who are forced to deal with their lives and values after a tragic event.

### ANNUITY BOARD

## Willis elected trustee chairman

DALLAS—William A. Willis of Little Rock was elected chairman of the trustees of the SBC Annuity Board during its February meeting. Willis will succeed B.J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, who served four one-year terms.

Willis retired last year as general manager of the Little Rock agency of The Prudential Insurance Company of America. He has been a trustee since 1986. Willis is a member of Calvary Church in Little Rock.

The trustees also voted a five percent increase in benefits for 22,000 annuitants effective July 1, 1992 (see story, pg. 15).



Willis

## CHURCH PLANTING CONFERENCE

Theme: GATHERING - GOING - GROWING

May 18-19 ★ Camp Paron



Jimmy Berardine  
Director, Men's Dept.

### Special Conference Subjects

1. How to Collect and Interpret Census Data
2. How to Use Missions Development in Starting and Growing New Churches
3. How to Use Innovative Methods to Start New Churches
4. The Administrative, Evangelistic and Pastoral Role of a Mission Pastor

### Special Testimonies

1. How to Help a Mission Church Revive Her Vision
2. Why Southern Baptists Should Start Churches in Black Communities

### Special Guests - W.M.U. Leaders

#### Special Invitations to

1. AMDP Directors
2. AMDP Church Extensions
3. Missions Development Directors
4. Mission Pastors
5. Sponsoring Church Pastors
6. Directors of Missions
7. Lay Leaders-Mission
8. Future Mission Leaders



Paul Williams  
Pastor, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, LA



Irvin Dawson  
Director, Missions Development  
IMS



J.B. Waincom  
Regional Director, Church Extension, Baptist General Convention of Texas



Hank Harrington,  
Pastor, First IMB Mission  
Bryce



Don Moore  
Executive Director, ABC



Pats Petty  
Missions Minister



Jack Ramsey  
Church Extension



Floyd Tidsworth, Jr.  
Director, New Church Extension  
IMS

## Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeple
- Baptistry
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Kiosklight\*
- Windows
- Baptistry Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

482-523-2028  
PO Box 1240  
Henderson, TX 75652-0240

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

## Three couples appointed

Three couples with Arkansas connections were among 17 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 11 at Cool Spring Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, Va.

Gary and Susan Fulton will live in Guatemala, where he will start and develop churches and train national pastors.

Since 1981 Fulton has been pastor of West View Church in Paragould. He is the son of Edith Fulton of Trumann and the late Lyle Fulton, and grew up in Lepanto. Fulton is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and also attended Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis. He also has been a teacher and basketball coach at Lake City High School and pastor of Maple Grove Church in Trumann.

Mrs. Fulton, the former Susan Eddington, is the daughter of Don Eddington of Tyrone and the late Rose Eddington. She grew up in Tyrone. A graduate of Stephen College in Columbia, Mo., she also attended Arkansas State University. She has been a teacher at Bay High School.

The Fultons have five children. Boyd and Rhonda Hall will live in Botswana, where he will develop youth work.

Hall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hall of Jonesboro. While growing up he lived in Forrest City and considers Jonesboro his

hometown. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He has been a Foreign Mission Board journeyman in Swaziland and youth minister at Salem Church in Benton.

Born in Little Rock, Mrs. Hall, the former Rhonda Dismuke, is the daughter of Robert Dismuke Jr. of Pine Bluff and Neva Lyp of North Little Rock. She considers Pine Bluff her hometown. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. She has been a teacher for Naylor's Children Center at Southwestern Seminary and a journeyman with her husband in Swaziland.

The Halls have one child. Kenneth and Shelly Izzard will live in Togo, where he will start and develop churches.

A native of Florida, Izzard is a graduate of Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana.

Born in Helena, Mrs. Izzard, the former Shelly Elenburg, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Elenburg of Marvell. She considers Marvell her hometown. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University.

The Izzards have one child. All three families will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

## Looking Ahead

### March

13-14 State Handbell Festival, *Little Rock First Church (M)*

13-15 Deaf Marriage Retreat (*Mn*)

20-21 WMU Annual Meeting, *Little Rock First Church (WMU)*

20-21 HSBYM Basketball Tournament, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church; Little Rock Immanuel Church (Bbd)*

23-24 State Media Library Conference, *North Little Rock Central Church (DT)*

23-30 Guatemala City Area Crusade (*Bbd*)

26-27 Minister of Education Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*

26-27 Youth Minister's Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*

28 Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat, *Paris First Church (M)*

28 Youth Evangelism Training Day, *Jonesboro Central Church (Ev)*

30 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, *Huntsville First Church (DT)*

30 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, *Hope First Church (DT)*

30 Money Management Conference, *Jonesboro First Church (SA)*

30 Cradle Roll Conference, *Van Buren First Church (SS)*

31 Cradle Roll Conference, *Southwest Association Office, Texarkana (SS)*

31 Money Management Conference, *Van Buren First Church (SA)*

31 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, *Hope First Church (DT)*

31 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, *Booneville First Church (DT)*

31 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, *Warren First Church (DT)*

### April

1 Money Management Conference, *Arkadelphia First Church (SA)*

2 Money Management Conference, *Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock (SA)*

#### Abbreviations:

Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CL - Church Leadership; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; NB - National Baptists; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annually; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union



The Fultons



The Halls



The Izzards

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

March 20-21, 1992

Basketball ★ Hot Shot Competition ★ Speak Out

- ★ Park Hill Baptist Church, NLR
- ★ Immanuel Baptist Church, LR
- ★ Calvary Baptist Church, LR

For more information: Brotherhood Department / 501-376-4791, Ext. 5158

## Videos, CP defense offered

NASHVILLE (BP)—The convention relations office of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee is now offering churches three new denominational videos and a paper defending the Cooperative Program against alternative funding.

There has been a need for fresh denomination-wide videos, according to Mark Coppenger, vice president for convention relations (formerly public relations). Also, there have been calls from pastors and church members desiring to defend the Cooperative Program against the appeals of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Coppenger said.

Three video items are now available. A five-minute version of the "Meet Southern Baptists" brochure premiered at the recent session of the Executive Committee in Nashville.

The other two video pieces are designed for use on television. One is a public service announcement called "Treasures." It begins with scenes of the Statue of Liberty, the St. Louis Arch, Lincoln Memorial and Mt. Rushmore but then shifts to a fami-

ly walking together into church. The voice says, "Some of America's most priceless treasures are not found in concrete and steel or on the side of a mountain but in the faces of our children."

The second television spot, called "Safe Sex," presents a traditional wedding scene. As the camera shifts perspectives, the narrator says, "We've heard a lot about safe sex lately. God's had a plan all along."

The SBC Radio and Television Commission produced all three of the video items.

A fourth video, one featuring a geographically and ethnically diverse collection of Southern Baptists, is in production and should be ready by the Indianapolis SBC meeting in June, Coppenger said: "This one-minute spot will lift up the character and work of Jesus, he added.

"To help in defense of the Cooperative Program, convention relations has prepared an open letter putting the charges of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in historical perspective," Coppenger said. The letter is essentially a collection of quotes from Southern Baptist luminaries.

The letter does not presume to settle the

question of theology, Coppenger said. It does, however, argue the Fellowship has failed to present the whole story and it attempts to supply some historical data that church denominational relations committees might miss.

## February CP down, designated gifts up

NASHVILLE (BP)—The SBC Cooperative Program total for February dropped more than 12 percent but designated gifts received by the Executive Committee rose nearly 8 percent.

CP total for February was \$11,988,817 compared to the same month in 1991 of \$13,682,655 or a 12.38 percent decrease. For the SBC fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the Cooperative Program was down slightly, 0.63 percent, at \$57,954,409 compared to \$58,323,609 for the comparable year-to-date.

"I am concerned that the CP year-to-date gifts are down slightly compared to a year ago," Executive Committee President Harold Bennett said. "However, I still believe Southern Baptists believe in our world missions program and the need to support world missions through our Cooperative Program."

The drop in February receipts followed a huge, 20.99 percent, increase in CP gifts in January. The 1991-92 monthly basic operating budget requirement for the SBC is \$11,725,856.

Designated gifts were up \$2,916,909 for February, 7.69 percent, for a total of \$40,831,809 for the month compared to \$37,914,890 a year ago. Designated gifts for the year-to-date were up 11.80 percent at \$66,213,413 compared to a year ago at \$59,225,459.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon offering, the Annie Armstrong offering, and other special gifts.

## BAPTIST HISTORY WRITING CONTEST

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1995, the Historical Commission, SBC, is sponsoring a "Baptist History Writing Contest." All Southern Baptists (and non-Southern Baptists writing on Southern Baptist topics) are invited to participate.

All entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1994. First-place winners in each category will be awarded \$200 plus a certificate. Second- and third-place winners in each category will receive certificates. Categories are as follows:

### Category A

Books dealing with history of Southern Baptist institutions, persons, issues, events, etc.

### Category B

Histories of local churches and associations

### Category C (1)

Unpublished manuscripts (3,000-5,000 words) focusing on "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995" by students and lay historians

### Category C (2)

Unpublished manuscripts (3,000-5,000 words) focusing on "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995" by professional historians

For more information about the contest (including an Entry Form), write the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203-3630.

## PROVEN PLANS, SERVICE, RELIABILITY

Join over 180  
SBC churches



Call TODAY for a free  
EVALUATION

Church Insurers  
1-800-422-3384

A Division of James Greene & Assoc. Inc.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Homosexual union endorsed**

by Art Toalston

Baptist Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)—The "same-gender union" of two homosexuals has been approved by members of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh.

The congregation's secret ballot vote was announced March 1 at the conclusion of worship. Of 750 ballots mailed to Pullen Memorial members, 531 were returned, with 64 percent approving the same-gender union and 94 percent favoring full church membership for homosexuals.

Deliberations by Pullen Memorial — and by Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., over licensing a homosexual to the gospel ministry — prompted the Southern Baptist Executive Committee Feb. 18 to adopt a resolution against homosexuality and against such congregational actions.

The Executive Committee also initiated efforts to change the Southern Baptist Convention's constitution and bylaws to bar any church "affirming, approving or endorsing in any way the active practice of homosexuality," according to one proposal. The committee will meet prior to the SBC's June 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis to formulate any specific proposals to be presented to messengers representing Southern Baptist churches across the country.

The Southern Baptist Convention has adopted six resolutions against homosexuality since 1976, the latest during last year's meeting in Atlanta.

The Executive Committee's initiative, however, "could reverse more than 140 years of precedent by adding a church's stand on a social issue, homosexuality, as a requirement for participation in the SBC," according to an article in the Feb. 27 issue of *Word & Way*, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"Everybody (at Pullen Memorial) has struggled deeply with what it means to be a church in our day," the pastor, Mahan Siler, told Baptist Press March 2.

The church has learned about "the particular struggle of homosexuals in our culture," Siler said, "(and) how to be a community that values individual expression and differences of opinion." The church began its deliberations last fall after a church member asked Siler to perform a marriage-like ceremony for him and his homosexual companion.

Pullen Memorial's actions will be discussed during a March 28 dialogue sponsored by the Raleigh Baptist Association's mutual care commission. The

meeting will be open to the pastor and a lay representative of each of the association's 70 churches, said Siler, a member of the commission. It will be "a Baptist family meeting," he said, not to take a stand for or against the church's actions "but to foster understanding and dialogue around a subject that all churches are facing or will face."

Pullen Memorial also is affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Alliance.

## The Arkansas Baptist's

**CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY****Baptistries/Steeple****Construction Sales Co., Inc.**

P.O. Box 1049  
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049  
800-526-9663 FAX:501-234-6475

Also: Laminated wood arches, beams and decking.

**Bible Campground/Youth Facilities****Lake Hamilton Bible Campground**

6191 Central Ave.  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
Call 501-525-8204

On the lake, canoes, sleeps 250, dining room, auditorium, air cond.—write for a brochure.

**Book Stores****Baptist Book Store (SBC)**

9101 W. Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
501-225-6009

**Cemeteries****Roselawn Memorial Park**

2601 Asher Avenue, Little Rock  
Phone 501-663-0248  
Ark. Largest Perpetual Care Fund

**Electrical Contractors****Concord Electric Co.**

6114 Alma Highway  
Van Buren, AR 72956  
Hm: 501-474-9232; Of: 474-3792

Roy J. Smith, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, issued a written statement in response to Pullen's actions.

Smith stated: "... although I affirm the autonomy of the local church and the worth of every individual, my personal understanding of the New Testament compels me to reject the homosexual lifestyle based on several passages of Scripture. Although I have no authority as executive director of the state convention to speak for any Baptist except myself, I nevertheless must state my position clearly. I do not affirm, approve nor condone such lifestyle which I believe stands clearly outside the teachings of the New Testament."

**Electrical Contractors (cont.)****Harvill-Byrd Electric Co., Inc.**

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

**Heating & Air Conditioning****Cox Heating & Air Conditioning**

1612 Park Avenue  
Stuttgart, AR 72186  
673-2061

**Graham Air Conditioning**

505 Sixth Street  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
Dale Kemp, Owner; 501-623-1202

**Insurance****Bob Stender - State Farm Ins.**

Auto - Life - Home - Health - Boat  
509 J.P. Wright Loop Rd.,  
Jacksonville, AR 72078  
982-9456 or 835-8150

**Sound Systems**

American Audio, Inc.  
Ruston, La: 318-251-0290  
Specialists in Audio Systems  
and Acoustics Applications

**For a listing call  
the ABN at 376-4791,  
ext. 5156**

# White House pulls support

## For church reports on donors

by Tom Strode  
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The White House has withdrawn support for a proposal requiring churches to file reports with the Internal Revenue Service on contributors giving more than \$500 annually, Vice President Dan Quayle said.

Quayle, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press" Feb. 23, called the reporting requirement a "nonsense regulation" neither President George Bush nor he was aware was in the budget.

"I can assure you that I didn't know it was in (the budget), the president didn't know it was in there and, unfortunately, sometimes these things get in there, and when it's brought up to us and brought to our attention, we do what is right," Quayle said. "And what is right is to say that that piece of legislation is not going to have our support."

"Now, Congress can go ahead and pass it if they want to, but it's not going to have our support."

The administration is "backing off" the measure, a White House source confirmed Feb. 24.

It appears unlikely the proposal will go anywhere in Congress. On Feb. 20, the Democrats, who control Congress, introduced an alternative tax package without the reporting requirement. Presi-

dent Bush's tax package, which includes the requirement, was reported to the House of Representatives without recommendation by the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 12.

The reporting requirement, included in the president's recently introduced fiscal 1993 budget, would force churches, religious organizations and other charitable groups to report to the IRS the name, address, Taxpayer Identification Number, amount given and the circumstances under which contributions were made on every person who gave more than \$500 during the calendar year. The Taxpayer Identification Number usually is the person's Social Security number.

Evangelical and religious liberty groups in particular protested requiring churches to be participants in the government's tax-enforcement process and burdening many churches with unnecessary work.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said, "Such a reporting requirement would put an overwhelming and onerous burden on that large number of churches which do not have computerized formal record-keeping or full-time bookkeepers."

The CLC and the National Association of Evangelicals also opposed the proposal in a joint letter to the chairman and ranking

minority member of the Ways and Means Committee and the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs criticized the proposed requirement in a letter to all members of Ways and Means.

The reason given for the reporting requirement was to help IRS distinguish between gifts to churches/charities and payments to churches/charities for such goods or services as entertainment events or items purchased at charity auctions. The requirement would be a double check enabling IRS to catch donors who deduct the full amount on their tax return rather than reducing it by the value of the items or services received.

If passed, the reporting requirement would affect about 80 percent of Southern Baptist churches.

## Increase for 22,000 SBC annuitants July 1

DALLAS (BP)—Trustees of the SBC Annuity Board voted a 5 percent increase in benefits for 22,000 annuitants effective July 1, 1992. Both Plan A and defined contribution plan participants will receive the raise. Annuitants will see the increase in checks at the end of July.

The trustee insurance committee reported improvement in the financial condition of the church comprehensive medical plan — including a less-than-predicted rate increase July 1. Trustees also heard about lower-cost options planned for Jan. 1, 1993. The group comprehensive medical plan, however, did not fare as well in 1991. Its \$2.4 million loss resulted in large increases for groups with bad claims experience. Some agencies' rates more than doubled.

Leading the list of reports and actions was the annuitants' benefit increase. Unlike the 10 percent increase of Jan. 1, 1992, for Plan A participants only, the July 1 raise also will apply to benefits received through the board's defined contribution plans. The increase will not apply to variable annuities which are already reviewed each year, with benefits adjusted based on the prior year's experience.

Plan A, which was closed to contributions Jan. 1, 1988, pays a defined benefit based on a formula involving the member's salary and years of service, with a maximum of \$4,000 per year for the salary part of the formula.

Defined contribution plans result in individual accumulations based on varying contributions. At retirement, the accumulations are used to purchase an annuity under any of several benefit options.

# GLAD

IN CONCERT



**SATURDAY  
MARCH 28  
7:00 P.M.**

**Park Hill Baptist Church**  
JFK at "C" • North Little Rock

Tickets — \$6.00

753-3413



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Transition plan revealed

by Herb Hollinger & Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The SBC Executive Committee approved a six-month transition plan for incoming president/treasurer Morris Chapman, who will replace the retiring Harold Bennett, during its February meeting. Bennett, 67, will be feted at a number of receptions beginning with the annual meeting in Indianapolis in June.

Harold and Phyllis Bennett will receive all expenses paid through 1995 for commitments he has as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, expenses for the couple to attend SBC annual meetings throughout their lives, a 1993 Lincoln Town Car automobile and the title of "President Emeritus" of the Executive Committee.

In addition, the auditorium in the SBC building in Nashville will be named the Harold C. Bennett Auditorium with appropriate bronze plaque. Bennett will receive a \$22,000 retainer for three months following his retirement, through Dec. 31, 1992, as "the need is determined by Dr. (Morris) Chapman." He also will receive additional retirement benefits allotted in the personnel manual of the Executive Committee.

A convention operating budget of \$4,211,070 for 1992-93 was approved to be recommended to the SBC in Indianapolis. The figure is a 4.67 percent increase over the current year's budget.

The SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget for 1992-93 also was approved for recommendation to the annual meeting. The \$140,200,395 proposed total reflects 0.36 percent decreases shared equally by the 19 SBC agencies and institutions compared to the current year's budget.

The audit of the 1990-91 fiscal year for the convention operating budget revealed the budget ended that year \$287,372 in the black. Coupled with \$103,096 surplus to start the 1990-91 year, the current fiscal year began with a nearly \$400,000 balance in the convention operating budget fund.

Executive Committee members approved the Christian Life Commission's revision of its program assignment to incorporate religious liberty concerns after the SBC defunded the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs last year. The new CLC document, which also authorizes it to relate directly to local churches in its work, must be approved by the SBC in June.

Concerns regarding the CLC's religious liberty assignment were aired by the Foreign Mission Board during an Executive Committee workgroup session Feb. 17. The

FMB took issue with new CLC responsibilities for communicating "with representatives of governments the concerns of the Southern Baptist Convention for ... religious liberty throughout the world."

According to the FMB, it traditionally has represented Southern Baptist concerns overseas. But, the CLC responded, many religious liberty concerns extend beyond U.S. borders. The trustee workgroup amended the document to state that the CLC should work "in consultation" with the FMB on overseas concerns.

Program statement revisions also were approved for the Executive Committee and the Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary. The WMU had requested approval of the revision, although as an auxiliary, was not required to do so. Both program statement revisions were approved for recommendation to the Indianapolis annual meeting.

However, the WMU revision did bring a unique request from Executive Committee member E. Gibbie McMillan of Louisiana. He moved that the WMU be invited to initiate legal steps to become an agency of the SBC instead of an auxiliary. Following some discussion, his motion was referred to the administrative subcommittee for further study.

A three-member Executive Committee team focusing on seminary accreditation reported on its meeting with the Accreditation Task Force of the Southern Baptist

Education Commission. The team listed five recommendations it offered: 1) annual trustee training, including an overview of the nature of various accrediting bodies, 2) legal review of institutional documents to assure "clear, legal and proper procedures for decision-making," 3) affirmation of seminary administrators and trustees "for their efforts to carry out their mission," 4) renewed priority by administrators and trustees for "affirming their institutional's Southern Baptist heritage and ... spiritual mission," and 5) a request to accrediting agencies "to avoid creating pressure or the illusion of pressure designed to affect the theological posture" of the seminaries.

Also approved were amended articles of incorporation for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., which reflects an Executive Committee request to end a stipulation the seminary could remove convention-elected trustees. A companion request for an SBC bylaw on trustee absenteeism also was approved with both proposals sent to the SBC June meeting.

Approved for study were the possibility of a computerized SBC registration process and a registration fee for SBC annual meetings.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved an application for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey for full representation on SBC entities.

Committee members also approved a 5 percent increase adjustment in their staff's salary structure, effective Oct. 1.



"In spiritual work,  
everything depends  
on prayer."

Andrew Murray



**BOLD MISSION PRAYER THRUST**

# Volunteers up in 1991

## But shortage predicted for coming year

by David Winfrey  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—The number of volunteers for home mission projects increased in 1991, but coordinators say a bad economy may keep many volunteers at home this year.

"We've got missionaries who are about at the point of panic," said Valerie Hardy, a Home Mission Board volunteer coordinator.

Fewer youth groups are volunteering for Home Mission Board projects this year, meaning more missionaries will not get enough staff for such summer projects as Vacation Bible Schools and backyard Bible clubs, she said.

The Home Mission Board counted more than 69,600 volunteers in 1991, up 9.4 percent from the 63,600 in 1990, according to a report from the board's volunteer division.

Volunteer projects range widely in age groups and duration of service, from adults working for a year establishing a church to mission youth groups working a summer in resort ministry.

Youth groups showed the largest increase in 1991, jumping from 22,000 in 1990 to 30,500 in 1991, the report states.

While the Home Mission Board recruited more youth groups in 1991, some of the increase also came from better accounting for

groups that set up their own projects without help from the HMB, said Mike Robertson, director of short-term volunteers.

But the number of volunteer youth groups likely will decrease this year, Robertson said. On average, 70 percent of missionaries' requests for volunteer groups are filled annually, he said, but that figure could be as low as 60 percent this year.

"If we don't get more help here at the last minute then we will be well down," he said.

In Daytona Beach, Fla., the Halifax Baptist Association has just half the groups it needs for sand and surf clubs in area hotels, said Bernie Davis, pastor of Spruce Creek Baptist Church.

Volunteer youth groups from around the country come for a week each in June and July to help staff the games and Bible studies offered at hotels at Daytona Beach.

Some hotels that otherwise would have no mission project have called the Halifax association to see if the clubs will be offered this year, Davis said.

The association will try to place a group in each hotel for at least one week but fewer groups will mean fewer witnessing opportunities, Davis said.

Robertson said the poor economy may be restricting some churches from assembling volunteer groups this year.

"There are still some critical needs that need to be filled," he said. "It's not too late if a group will tell us they'll do it."

People interested in volunteer missions with the Home Mission Board may call toll-free at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

## 1,027 new missions started in 1991

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptists started 1,027 church-type missions last year, according to a report presented to a national conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Although the number of church-type missions started during 1991 was a slight increase over the number the previous year, it fell far short of the HMB goal of 1,500 new missions per year.

In 1991 Texas led the nation with 191 new congregations. Florida ranked second with 89 new missions and California was a close third with 87.

Other leading states in the number of new congregations included North Carolina, 71; Georgia, 69; Virginia, 40; Tennessee, 37; Alabama, 29; Mississippi, 28; Kentucky, 26; and Oklahoma, 25.

The report was based on statistics compiled from the annual "Uniform Church Letter" filled out by Southern Baptist churches and tabulated by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

David Bunch, HMB assistant vice president for church extension, said the statistics from the Uniform Church Letter differ from statistics compiled by state convention offices.

Reports from state missions offices indicated there were 946 missions started last year. Bunch said the Home Mission Board is working with the BSSB research services department to try to resolve the differences in the two reports.

## Running Out Of Time



Only a short time remains! The April 10 deadline for receiving the \$295,000 challenge grant from the Maybee Foundation of Tulsa is fast approaching. We are approximately \$139,000 short of our goal.

The ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs, Arkansas touches 10,000 young people each summer. Contributions of \$1-\$80,000 have been received and each one is an investment in a place where many futures begin.

Send your contributions to: Siloam A Trusted Friend Needs You, P.O. Box 14, Little Rock, AR 72203.

**REMEMBER April 10 will be here before you know it.**

### ACTEENS ENCOUNTER

For All Teen-age Girls  
Plus Sixth Grade Girls

April 3-4

Park Hill Baptist Church

North Little Rock

Cost: \$8

Includes lunch & snacks

Deadline: March 23

Featuring: Karen Simons,  
Missionaries, State Panel,  
Student Recognition, Fun.

Contact: State WMU Office

## Price announces candidacy

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)—Citing "a broad base of encouragement from friends across the country," Marietta pastor Nelson L. Price announced Feb. 21 he would allow himself to be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the 1992 session in Indianapolis.

Price, pastor of Marietta's 8,000-member Roswell Street Church for 26 years, currently is the convention's first vice president. He also served terms as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention from 1982-1983 and was president of the SBC Pastor's Conference in 1987.

In a prepared statement, Price said, "Since June of last year, persons have encouraged this announcement." He said his decision to allow his nomination "is a consequence of grass roots requests and comes after much prayer."

Price said his leadership style, experience and theological commitments could allow him to "congeal the body, heal wounds and allow the convention to concentrate on carrying out the commission of our Lord."

He stated his commitment to continuing the "conservative resurgence" within the SBC and to a process of enlarging conven-

tion involvement among those "with whom we share doctrinal kinship but who have not been a part of the conservative movement."

"I am unequivocally an inerrantist," he said, "who believes the doctrines of biblical inerrancy and Christology are interrelated. If you deny one, you debate the other. Inerrancy is foundational, but the ultimate issue is the person of Christ."

Price added the inerrancy issue "will never be settled, but must be perpetually guarded and dealt with. Great strides have been made to confirm it, but they must be conserved."

He said this would be done "without doctrinal equivocation while being loving and compassionate to persons of all persuasions."

Price's announcement came through his office, and did not emerge from any strategy session with the leadership of the conservative movement, he said. In recent years only one conservative candidate has been nominated each year for the presidency. That candidate usually has emerged from a process of collaboration and consultation among conservative leaders.

## Houston pastor asked to be nominee

DALLAS (BP)—Houston pastor H. Edwin Young is considering a request from Joel Gregory that Young permit himself to be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11.

"I am just trying to seek the mind and will of God; that is all I am doing," said Young, who said he has no timetable for giving Gregory an answer.

Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, told the Baptist Standard, newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Feb. 24, he had approached Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, to invite him to be a presidential nominee.

"If he acquiesces in that invitation, I will nominate him for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis," Gregory said.

"I feel that Edwin has demonstrated in this generation that he is one of the most creative and effective church builders and leaders in America. He has demonstrated that leadership at Second Baptist Church, Houston, in an exemplary way, and as well at First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C. (Young's previous pastorate).

"I feel that he is a man whose spirit in an exemplary way can bring us together."

Gregory said the decision to nominate Young was his alone but added he and "some of the fellows have talked together" about it in informal conversation over "a period of some months."

In recent years, the conservative element of the SBC has come forward with one nominee and has successfully elected the president of the convention since 1979.

Asked about being identified as the "fundamentalist" nominee, Young said he would fight the term and believes "all labels we put on Baptists are pejorative. I don't identify with any of them. I am a Southern Baptist, theologically a thorough-going conservative who believes in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement. I am not for theological pluralism. I am a Southern Baptist. I believe in the Cooperative Program, and I won't change."

His agenda, whether it be as pastor of Second Baptist Church or as SBC president, should he permit his nomination, he said, "is strictly two things — missions and evangelism around this world."

## Classifieds

**Needed**—Part-time music and youth director. Salary plus house. Send resume to Keo Baptist Church, P.O. Box 87, Keo, AR 72083. 3/22

**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. 4/9

**INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION PACKAGES**—Hotel accommodations, shuttle, transfers and more. Roundtrip airfare from Little Rock from \$115. Christian Travelers 1-800-624-2947. 3/28

**Needed**—Experienced Pianist — 1st Baptist Church Barling, AR. Call 452-2566. 3/22

**Needed**—Music and Youth Director. If interested send resume to Personnel Committee, Pickles Gap Baptist Church, #2 Pickles Gap Road, Conway, AR 72032. 4/23

**For Sale**—Used choir chairs. Upholstered with wooden frame. \$10 each. Call Second Baptist Church of Conway 327-8565. 3/22

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 unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.



### YOUR FUN HEADQUARTERS

For groups of 20 or more

- ★ Large shaded picnic area (seating for 60 at a time)
- ★ Old Fashion Hayride (Music, Ghost Stories & other entertainment)
- ★ Open sided-old fashioned barn
- ★ Canoeing and tubing on local rivers and lake
- Plus - Horseshoes ★ Volleyball ★ Softball

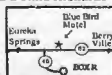
Your Hosts: Tom and Donna Richards

1-501-253-6003

Box R

Rt. 2, Box 464

Berryville, AR 72616



## Coordinating transnational work

by Jim Newton  
SBC Home Mission Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—An agreement to enable the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards to cooperate across national and geographic boundaries has been approved by the presidents of the two agencies.

Under the agreement, each of the two mission boards will establish a transnational missions desk with a staff member to coordinate joint missions efforts in both the United States and 122 other countries where Southern Baptists work.

Wally Buckner, assistant executive vice president at the Home Mission Board, and Tom Prevost, director of the international service department at the Foreign Mission Board, have been named to direct the transnational mission desks at their respective agencies.

Their appointments to the coordinating roles were announced during a dialogue between key staff members of the Home and Foreign Mission boards held in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. A special 11-member staff task force recommended the plan for cooperation after a year's study.

Buckner and Prevost will assume the coordinating responsibility in addition to their other duties on special assignment by

the two presidents.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., said the agreement is an indication the world has become "a global community" with interdependent activities affecting every sector of society.

"The world continues to change radically and rapidly," Parks said. "What we've done is develop a system whereby we can work together on a shorter response time across national boundaries."

Lewis said the agreement acknowledges the two agencies "are very different, but share a common concern for reaching the whole world for the Lord Jesus Christ. There is much we can do together in partnership and ways we can work together."

During a dialogue between key staff members of the two agencies, Lewis also pledged support of the Home Mission Board to the Foreign Mission Board's "Green Alert" initiatives to respond to urgent mission needs in the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union).

"Unparalleled opportunities are open for us to work together," Lewis said. "The challenge is so great and the need is so great, we must move forcefully to respond."

Paul Adkins, vice president for ministry at the Home Mission Board, suggested one way the Home Mission Board could help is through involving 20,000 Baptists in the United States who have been trained through HMB-sponsored literacy programs to teach English as a second language in overseas situations where volunteers are needed.

The presidents of the two mission boards approved a pilot project to pair major cities in the United States with major cities overseas that have similar characteristics. No specific cities were named as participants in the pilot project, which would be jointly developed and proposed by HMB and FMB staffs.

## Virginia committee warns of foreign mission changes

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Virginia Baptists' denominational relations committee has warned of "ill-conceived efforts" by some trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board that may result in "radical change" in the denomination's overseas missions strategy.

"Open challenges to long-established, proven and effective mission strategies have been published and seriously considered," noted the statement, released Feb. 24 by committee chairman Ray Spence of Richmond.

"These disastrous actions continue to undermine and wreck the confidence and trust relationship that has marked Southern Baptists' cooperative mission endeavor for generations."

However, the committee did not suggest severing ties between the FMB and Virginia Baptists, most of whom, it said, "are not yet ready to abandon the board as their primary vehicle for doing overseas missions."

"Faithful and productive missionaries continue to merit and to deserve our sacrificial support," the statement said.

The denominational relations committee is a standing committee of the 600,000-member Baptist General Association of Virginia and is assigned the task of making periodic assessments and recommendations regarding Southern Baptist life.

Controversy has swirled around the Foreign Mission Board since last October when trustees eliminated \$365,000 from the 1992 operating budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and redirected the money toward the other theological education efforts in Eastern Europe. Some trustees alleged the school teaches liberal theology.



### Prayer for Awakening through Men and Families

#### Pastors and Wives Prayer Retreat May 8-9

Day	Time	Place
Friday	3:00 P.M.	J.A. Gilbreath Conference Room Baptist Medical Center
Saturday	8:30 A.M.—11:30 A.M.	First Baptist Church, Little Rock

Pastors and wives interested in attending this retreat please contact  
Brotherhood Dept., Dr. Glendon Grober, 501-378-4791, ext. 5158

## Helping children with stress

by Terri Lackey  
Reprint Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—A child arrives at the day care center or preschool class at church and immediately heads for a corner where he speaks to no one for the entire day.

Or perhaps, a normally good-natured child becomes irritable and restless. Maybe he even begins hitting other children or constantly crying.

"What you have is a stressed-out child," said Maurice Graham, a pastoral counselor and associate pastor of Bon Air Baptist Church of Richmond, Va.

"What we usually try to do, then, is fix the child, and what we should be doing is fixing the parent," Graham told participants in the Advanced Training for Preschool Children's Workers Seminar VII. The Feb. 24-27 seminar was sponsored by the preschool/children's section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department.

Understanding a child involves understanding at least two family generations above that child, Graham said. Church workers, as opposed to grade-school teachers, have an advantage here because they are probably acquainted with the child's parents and perhaps his grandparents, he added.

When leaders are familiar with a child's background, they usually find it easier to pinpoint the cause of stress, he said.

Graham said adults who see signs of stress in children usually tend to ignore those signs and say, "They are just children, they'll get over it," or "They're too young to know what's going on (in the family)." But, he said, "Children are more traumatized by stressful events than adults. They are deeply affected by life situations."

Most commonly, children experience stress because of the separation or divorce of their parents.

Parents owe it to their children to tell them the truth about what is happening in their marriages, Graham said. Waiting and hiding the truth only delays the child's recovery from the trauma, he said.

Graham advised the children's workers not to adhere to the cliché that "time heals all wounds" when dealing with a child's pain.

"If you don't deal with that child's pain in a very short amount of time, they only get a deeper wound," he said. "If you wait too long, it's hard to get them back to ex-

perience that original pain."

Some signs of stress in children include irritability, impulsive behavior, restlessness, inability to concentrate, loss of sense of humor or sense of joy, fatigue, excessive sleeping or insomnia, verbal or physical aggressiveness, sudden weight loss or gain and hyperactivity.

When children's workers see little ones behaving differently than usual, don't ignore it, Graham advised. "Spend time unraveling their story."

Children often experience stress because their home life is hectic, Graham said.

"We need to be very careful as preschool/children's workers that we don't

buy into this urgency," he said. "We need to help the child slow down. Our sense of urgency just raises the child's stress level."

Children with a high level of stress are unteachable, Graham said. "You cannot teach children until you get the stress out of their bodies."

"Help children learn the life skill of slowing down. Show them they can take their time and enjoy an activity without feeling like they will be left out of something else."

Graham warned overlooking and avoiding dealing with stress in children can translate into problems for them in adulthood.

## 'It's okay if I die, I'm ready...'

by Marty Croll  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP)—Trevor Woods, 16-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan, died Feb. 22 after a courageous eight-month fight with leukemia.

Doctors told his parents, Tony and Martha Woods of Evergreen, Colo., they had never seen a more mature response than Trevor's when they told him days before his death his blood was half cancerous and he was about to die.

"It's okay if I die. I'm ready to die," he said. "But I want to die in Japan, and I want to be buried in Japan."

Trevor was born in San Francisco but, except for furloughs in the United States, had lived in Japan since the Woods began their church-starting missionary career when he was 3.

"He had three best friends in Japan—Japanese he grew up with," Mrs. Woods said. "They've all become Christians through the years. They're buddies; best, best friends. They're kind of 'the gang' at church."

The four boys had decided early they would all be baptized, although one boy's parents held out until just last year before allowing their son to become a Christian, she said. The group planned to form a Christian rock band and then be together throughout eternity.

Unable to make the trip to Japan, Trevor lay in a coma in a Colorado hospital for three days before his parents realized he was waiting to experience one last time with his buddies. The Woodses arranged for them to talk to him over the phone. About 30 minutes later, he died.

The Woodses were preparing to return to Japan last July after their third furlough when their son was diagnosed as having leukemia. The following months brought

much pain as the disease and chemotherapy treatments progressed.

At the hospital, Trevor's character prevailed. "He would just attach himself to little children. He would tell me he would pray for these children because he'd hear them crying," his mother said. "He really had a heart like that."

At a young age, Trevor "had become aware that his life's calling" was to be a missionary. "He was really committed to that," she said.

But about a month before he died, doctors told him the cancer was winning over his treatments. He and his parents took a final trip together to Disney World in Orlando, Fla. "We had a fabulous trip," Mrs. Woods said. "He had a ball. (Cancer) didn't stop him from doing anything. We did it all. It was incredible. I was exhausted."

Coming back from Orlando, he was very sick but told a flight attendant: "I've been around the world twice. I've never thrown up on an airplane and I don't intend to now." And he didn't.

During Christmas, Trevor told his parents that 1991 was the best year of his life. Trevor loved cars, "anything with wheels," she said. Just before he became ill, Trevor had learned to drive. He drove much of the way to Alaska on a three-week camping trip with his parents and 11-year-old brother, Nathan.

As soon as he was diagnosed with leukemia, his father called a dealer and arranged a ride for him in a Ferrari. "He thought it was a ball, the fact that the guy said, 'Don't tell your parents we went 120 miles an hour,'" Mrs. Woods said. "We were all a little envious."

The Woodses said that anyone wanting to give memorial gifts make a donation through the Foreign Mission Board for work in Taihomi, Japan.

## Convention Uniform

*Works of wonder*

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 7:24-37

Focal passage: Mark 7:28-29

Central truth: Jesus works wonders in the lives of believers.

John tells us in his gospel: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name" (Jn. 20:30-31). We may believe that Mark wrote the same way. The miracles recorded in our basic passage are the kinds of things Jesus did over and over again while he was here.

The daughter of the Syrophenician woman was possessed by an unclean spirit. It was a spirit not subject to God. The lady and her daughter were Gentiles. The Jewish people did not associate with them. When the woman heard Jesus was near, she found him and asked him to cleanse her daughter. "... And she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter" (Mk. 7:26).

To say the daughter had an unclean spirit does not mean she was immoral; it does not mean there was anything improper about her conduct; it means unclean in the sense that it was not according to the will of God. This was a spirit not subject to the will of God. We might well call it an evil spirit. This certain woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell at his feet. She undoubtedly had heard of him and the miracles he had performed. The word of his miracles had spread far and wide. People had a great interest in and great esteem for Jesus of Nazareth.

God had brought the woman to the point of brokenness that freed her to humble herself and cry out to this Jewish man for help. Salvation is of the Jews, that is, it originates there. But salvation is not limited to the Jew; it is for everyone.

This is a message that should stick in our hearts and minds. Often it is the very people who we believe are the least likely candidates for salvation, that will readily respond to a gospel presentation. Our responsibility is not to be exclusive, but rather to go into all the world preaching the gospel and making disciples.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christiana Teaching, Uniflow Series. Copyright International Council of Educators. Used by permission.

## Life and Work

*To serve or not to serve*

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

Basic passage: Matthew 25:19-21, 24-30

Focal passage: Matthew 25:29

Central truth: Christians should use their gifts and abilities in faithful service to God.

The parable of the talents teaches us that we are accountable to God for our actions and attitudes. In the story, a man left on a long journey. Before his departure he turned over his possessions, in the form of silver, to his servants. He gave each servant different amounts of money, with the understanding that they would use his assets wisely. Upon the master's return, he rewarded those who made wise investments (25:20-23) and punished the one who did nothing with the money entrusted to him (25:24-28).

What is the heavenly meaning of this parable? How can we apply this passage to our lives today? Consider three applications.

First, God gives us gifts and abilities. To deny that you have been gifted in order to serve God, is to deny the truth of his Word. Not every person is gifted in the same way. In the parable, the master gave "to each according to his own ability." Not everyone can give wise counsel. Not everyone has the ability to lead, administrate or teach. Not everyone can play an instrument or sing. But God has enabled us to serve him and he expects our best efforts.

Second, to neglect our gifts and abilities is sin. The servant with one talent did not do evil with his master's money. But his non-use of the talent caused him to live as if he had no resources. We may assert that we are not guilty of misusing our God given talents, when we are guilty of doing nothing to further God's kingdom on this earth. In either case, we are unfaithful in our commitment to God.

Third, we need a clear understanding of the God we serve. The unfaithful servant saw his master as cruel and harsh. Therefore out of fear, he buried his talent. Our motivation to serve him should never be fear, but an intense desire to please him. Are you not serving God because you fear that if you fail, he will not love you anymore? When we see him as he really is, then we know that we serve a loving and generous God.

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

## Bible Book

*Taking Jonah seriously*

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Jonah, 1:1-6, 9-11, 2:1-3, 10

Focal passage: Jonah 1:1-6

Central truth: Many Christians have not taken the book of Jonah seriously. They see it as a light-hearted book of humor rather than a serious call to obedience.

Some sermon titles I have heard bear this out: "Jonah, the chicken of the sea," "The preacher who made a whale sick," and "How to worship in a whale's belly—with 'organ' accompaniment," to mention a few. The book of Jonah was not written to merely make men laugh. The message of Jonah is a serious message of Christ and his death, burial and resurrection. Rich treasures are buried in the book that need to be discovered and applied.

First treasure—A Christian cannot run away from God or his call by changing his address. Jonah, because of deep prejudice, did not want the wicked Ninevites to experience the mercy and loving kindness of God. He was a bold, strong and impulsive prophet. He ran but he was no coward. His was a willful disobedience to the clear call of God. Yet his rebellion led him to the very heart of God's claim upon his life. He just couldn't get away from the voice of God and neither can we.

Second treasure—When we run from God we head directly into a storm. God is sovereignly arranging circumstances to break our stubborn wills and shape our souls. Corrie Ten Boom said, "The circumstances of our lives, if we let God have them, becomes the mysterious and perfect preparation for the work he has for us to do."

Third treasure—Spiritual lethargy is a result of running from God's will. Jonah was sleeping when he should have been praying. Even the pagan mariners were crying out to their gods. Yet Jonah, the covenant man who "feared the Lord, the God of heaven who made the sea and dry land" (Jo. 1:9) was fast asleep. Disobedience had made him drowsy. I see in Jonah 1:6 an indictment to the sleeping church. Awake sleeper! There is a disaster looming on the horizon—call on your God. Where is the church in our current national crisis? We must awaken to our high call to prayer and proclamation of God's truth.

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

Lesson  
Date:  
March 29

# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### *Peter's confession*

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 8:27-9:1

Focal passage: Mark 8:27-30

Central truth: The call to follow Jesus is a call to a cross.

This event took place at the coast of Caesarea Philippi. It is near the plain where Jesus fed 5,000, taught parables, performed miracles, lived the faith before them for three years, and revealed himself as the Messiah. In the midst of all these revelations, the Sadducees asked for a sign. Jesus refused them. He left the impression of defeat. He then made some "hard" sayings. The disciples faith was being tried.

Now Jesus asks them, "Who do you say I am?" They gave him a kind, but unsatisfying answer. They could have said a fanatic, imposter, rabble rouser. In effect, they said you are regarded as a great man such as John the Baptist or Elijah.

Then Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter's first answer is that he is Christ. Then Jesus made some "hard" sayings about suffering, rejection, and being killed. Peter rebuked Jesus in line with many today who want their faith to be cheerful, moderate, and sensible. For many there is no room for a cross. The concept of sacrifice is left out. This is often called "common sense" religion.

Peter was well-meaning in his answer, but he was wrong. There are many people today who are sincere and well meaning about the things of God but who are also wrong. They do not accept the way of the cross. The Bible warns that there is a way that seems right to man, but that ends in death. Jesus said to Peter that he (Peter) did not savor the things of God. Peter's words did not taste like the words of God. Jesus discerned his thoughts. God is the discernor of the hearts of men. His Word cuts through the heart. I can't understand the power of the Word of God, but it reaches into the hearts of men and reveals to us what we really are.

Who do you say Jesus is? To answer Christ, calls for you to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him.

"For whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mk. 8:35).

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lessons for Southern Baptists, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## Life and Work

### *Will you come?*

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

Basic passage: Matthew 22:1-6, 8-14

Focal passage: Matthew 22:9

Central truth: God offers salvation to every person. Every person must respond and accept God's salvation in order to be saved.

The parable of the marriage feast is a complex passage which causes one to raise many questions concerning its interpretation. Jesus spoke this parable to the chief priests and elders (21:23) when they questioned the authority of his teaching. The heart of the passage is a call to accept God's offer of salvation. Consider three applications for our lives today.

First, salvation is for everyone. In the parable, the king issued invitations to anyone who would attend the marriage feast for his son (22:9). In the same way, God has offered salvation to all of his creation.

Second, we either accept or reject God's salvation. In the parable, to spurn the king's invitation was to reject his authority. When God offers salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, then we must make a choice. To accept his gift of salvation is to gain eternal life. To reject his offer is to reject his authority. In the parable, many of those invited made light of the king's invitation by putting other interests first. Have you ever heard someone make light of God's invitation by saying that someday they will decide? Many people simply deny the importance of making their lives right with the Lord. God will not force us to come to him. But in rejecting him, one chooses the alternative: destruction in outer darkness (22:13).

Third, we come to God on his terms, not ours. In the parable, the king noticed a guest who did not dress appropriately for the occasion (22:11-12). When questioned, the man was without excuse. Consequently, the king threw the guest out. Likewise, we cannot come to God on our terms. We must come to him dressed in the righteousness which comes from Christ, not ourselves.

The closing words of the parable (22:14) sound a somber warning: "For many are called, but few are chosen." We must clearly issue the facts of God's plan of salvation to a lost and dying world.

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

## Bible Book

### *The sign of Jonah*

by Rex Holt, Central Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: Jonah 3:1-2, 10-4:2, 5-11

Focal passage: Jonah 3:1-2

Central truth: The sign of Jonah is the preaching of repentance and God's mercy to our world.

Last week we saw three treasures from the book of Jonah. Today we look at two others.

First treasure—Jonah's experience is a sign to our generation. In two New Testament passages, Jesus responds to the people's request for a sign. (a) Matthew 12:40-41. The sign of Jonah is a type of: (1) Christ's death (Jonah was cast into the sea of God's wrath). (2) His burial (three days in the fish's belly—Jesus descended into *sheol* or hades to preach and lead from captivity captives following his atoning death on the cross). (3) His resurrection ("So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry ground"). (b) Luke 11:30-31. The sign of Jonah is the preaching of repentance. Jonah himself was the sign. He became an obedient preacher of repentance.

The "sign" we are commissioned to present to our age is one of repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We must faithfully proclaim as heralds of God the message of repentance for the remission of sins to our sin-sick society. Judgment is impending! Jesus is coming! Prepare to meet thy God! Jonah's eight-word sermon (Jo. 3:4) brought the entire city to brokenness, repentance, fasting, sackcloth, ashes and firm belief. They turned mightily to God and repented of their wicked ways.

Second treasure—God delights in showing mercy, grace and loving kindness to every repentant sinner. Jonah's anger at God's mercy reveals his inner motive. He delighted in sacrifice but not in mercy. He resented God's grace on undeserving sinners. We reveal our heart's motive by our response to God's mercy upon the outcast, the despised and the hopelessly lost.

I remember the response of many in the church when Chuck Colson, the Watergate man, was born again. Some favored the "wait and see" method of discipleship. Many like Barnabas toward Saul rejoiced and encouraged him. He stands today not only as a trophy of God's grace but a channel of his mercy to countless prisoners around the world.

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

## Volunteers needed

The SBC Brotherhood Commission needs volunteers to distribute food in Moscow, Russia. The U.S. State Department has obtained 570 tons of food to assist with the Russian food shortage. It is estimated that some 40,000 Russian families will benefit from the project.

The U.S. Government has asked the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission to assist in the project. ABCS Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober said, "This is an excellent opportunity for Baptist men to meet both physical and spiritual needs."

The estimated cost for the two-week in-



(BP) photo / Boris Yablakov

Massive changes in Russia have brought about many physical and spiritual needs.

volvement of each volunteer is \$2,500. Each individual will pay his own expense.

The SBC Brotherhood Commission has

established a Project Information Center at its Memphis headquarters. This center can be contacted by calling 901-272-2461.

"We will be happy to answer questions about Project Brotherhood," said Dr. James Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission. "But I must urge all Southern Baptists considering service as volunteers within Russia, once the actual food distribution begins, to contact their state convention Brotherhood departments first. The approval process begins there."

Those interested in being involved in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Moscow should immediately apply. The project will begin March 12, 1992 and is estimated to require six to seven months to complete. Those applying will need to complete the following forms: General Application to participate in the project, general medical fitness form, Christian testimony, application for Russian visa, a statement releasing the SBC Brotherhood and the Southern Baptist Convention from any and all liabilities incurred while involved in the two-week project.

Requests for applications should be made to Dr. Glendon Grober: P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 or call 501-376-4791, ext. 5158.

## Missionary Notes

**Ron and Debbie Baker**, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: 2455 Primrose, Fayetteville, AR 72703). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Lee County and considers Brinkley his hometown. The former Debbie Rogers, she was born in Fort Smith and considers Van Buren her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

**Emmett and La Nell Barnes**, Baptist representatives living in Cyprus, may be addressed at P.O. Box 835, Larnaca, Cyprus. They served in Lebanon until all missionaries evacuated the country in early 1987. He is a native of Missouri. She is the former La Nell Taylor of Monnette. They were appointed in 1966.

**Harold and Betty Cummins**, missionaries since 1959, have retired from active missionary service. They served in Kenya, where he was a church planter and she was a church and home worker. A native of Arkansas, he was born in El Dorado and grew up in Calion. She is the former Betty Noe of Missouri. They may be addressed at 844 West Valley Ct., Springfield, MO 65807.

**Henry and Linda Lee**, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 605 Ash St., Conway, AR 72032). He is a native of Mississippi; she is the former Linda

Jackson, also of Mississippi. They were appointed in 1985.

**Coy and Vivian Sample**, missionary associates to Nigeria, are on the field (address: Box 79, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in El Dorado and both consider Hot Springs their hometown. She is the former Vivian Keith. They were appointed in 1984.

**Joel and Rhonda Sutton**, missionaries to France, are on the field (address: 33 rue Pablo Neruda, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France). He was born in Hot Springs, and she, the former Rhonda Rainer, was born in California. Both consider Magnolia their hometown. They were appointed in 1988.

**Gerald and Catherine Taylor**, missionary associates to Senegal, are in the States (address: 717 N. Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72205). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Warren. The former Catherine Murphree, she was born in England, and considers El Dorado her hometown. They were employed in 1988.

**Bill and Vicki Thomason**, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, are in the States (address: 1903 N. Green Hill Rd., Mr. Juliet, TN 37122). They consider Springdale their hometown. She is the former Vicki Brannon. They were appointed in 1984.

## FOR SALE

30 upholstered oak pews,  
excellent condition,  
12 feet long,  
available mid-April.

Sang Avenue Baptist Church,  
Fayetteville, AR.

Call 521-0001 or 756-1476.



Quality  
Van Sales

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

## AUTHORS WANTED BY NEW YORK PUBLISHER

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly and juvenile works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free, illustrated 32-page brochure H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W 34 St., New York, N.Y. 10001



## Subscriber Services

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

**Every Resident Family Plan** gives churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

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

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

017557 COMP 22.50  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST #400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

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

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

## Haitians look to churches

by Barbara Denman  
38C Home Mission Board

MIAMI (BP)—While the federal government is shipping back thousands of Haitian immigrants to their homeland, many who have been fed and given shelter by Baptists in South Florida have been granted permission to enter the United States.

"The church in this community is here to help serve others," said pastor Wilner Maxy, pastor of the Emmanuel Haitian Church in Miami. "We help everyone in need. We feel the church is the right place to get physical food and spiritual food."

Scores of the newest Haitian refugees are joining fellow countrymen in Miami's Little Haiti where they are receiving food supplemented by Florida Baptists' hunger funds and are sleeping in apartments owned by church members. Others are finding refuge in Homestead, Fort Pierce, Orlando and Sarasota.

Miami's pastoral leadership is aware of the newest refugees will face many problems, including high unemployment, language barriers and crowded living conditions, Maxy noted. His church continues to help families who have been in Miami for at least five years.

"But if they come here they are better off than in Haiti," Maxy said. "They can find a church. They can find a friend."

Florida Baptists historically have responded when emigrants flooded their shores. In the past, Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans received help after immigrating to Florida. Currently, state convention officials are monitoring the Haitian influx to determine other ways the churches can supplement what is being done by government and other religious groups.

Estimates indicate as many as 3,000 Haitians will be able to qualify as political refugees, according to Mike Pszyk of Church World Services. About 1,000 already have entered the States on a 90-day parole basis. To remain, the refugees must request political asylum within 90 days, a time-consuming and expensive process. Failure to do so means immediate deportation.

The most recent influx of Haitian refugees are men between the ages of 20 and 40 who came to the States alone. Nearly 75 percent of those are resettling in Florida, mostly South Florida, where they have relatives.

"Everybody from the Caribbean wants to come here," said Mike Dalley, church and community ministries director with the Miami Baptist Association. "They know they have a community to come to. They can survive quite fine here in Miami."

Dalley is working closely with Haitian pastors to determine other ways Florida Baptists can assist in the resettlement.

Enouk Milgrise, 24, was among 11 men and one woman who sought refuge at the Emmanuel church. Milgrise left Haiti on a small boat with nearly 100 aboard. The boatload was rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard and sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Ten days ago he was permitted to relocate in Miami.

Milgrise said he felt compelled to leave Haiti because of the fear, turmoil and violence there. Speaking through an interpreter, he recalled a homeland where each night random shootings killed adults and children. Knowing that he left behind a mother and sister, the young man said he was cautious about revealing too much.

Milgrise is one of the fortunate ones. The U.S. Coast Guard has plucked 15,716 Haitians from the sea since the Sept. 30 overthrow of Haiti's first democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The current U.S. government policy is to return the vast majority of emigrants to their homeland, contending the refugees' decision to leave Haiti was based on economics, not political conditions in the country.

Some wonder how the Haitian military leaders who overthrew Aristide will greet their fellow countrymen who supported the president and then fled the island after his overthrow. A number of legal aid groups have protested the deportations, citing persecution and threats against the returned citizens.

Devil Legrand, pastor of Miami's New Bethany Haitian Church, can sympathize with the 15 refugees taken in by his church members. Five years ago he was pastor of a 1,000-member church in Haiti when he was persecuted for testifying against government employees who had stolen and cashed checks sent to him.

With the government in turmoil, Legrand said he could find no protection from this type of harassment in Haiti. So he and his family, who held passports, escaped to Miami from the island carrying nothing with them. For months, he and several family members stayed in his daughter's apartment, sleeping side by side on the floor.

But the Miami pastor has cause for rejoicing. One of the most recent refugees helped by the church made a profession of faith Feb. 9.

Legrand said the food is not used to force Christian commitments. "But when they pick up the food, we invite them to church. There they hear the gospel."