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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 6

March 24, 1994

Southwestern Seminary trustees fire president Russell Dilday

"We just felt like the institution needed new leadership to move into the 21st century."

--Ralph Pulley
Trustee chairman
Southwestern Seminary



"It was not my intention to retire immediately. God led me here and I had no leadership from the Lord that this was the time to retire."

--Russell Dilday
Former president
Southwestern Seminary



Russell H. Dilday
Southwestern Seminary president
1978-1994

Witness training in Germany kicks off European partnership

Three Arkansas Baptist volunteers recently traveled to Kaiserslautern, Germany, for the first training exchange between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the European Baptist Convention since the two conventions voted last fall to enter into a three-year missions partnership.

Leading the Continuing Witness Training conferences at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern were Pat Batchelor, associate pastor of Cedar Heights Church in North Little Rock; Randy Brantley, an associate in the ABSC evangelism department; and David Crouch, pastor of First Church, Searcy. The training, held Feb. 28 through March 2, attracted 18 participants from three countries.

Crouch said the purpose of the project was to "train pastor-leaders in Continuing Witness Training toward earning their national certification."

"We basically took them through a 22-hour seminar that is supposed to be a 13-week cycle, orienting them in CWT," Brantley said. "We taught them how to lead equippers in the process and equipped them to train two apprentices." He said the apprentices would then train two additional apprentices each, multiplying the process through ongoing cycles.

"CWT is our most comprehensive evangelism training program," explained Brantley. "It is the foundation on which we base other training, such as Building Witnessing Relationships and WIN schools."

ABSC partnership coordinator Glendon Grober said European Baptist leaders had requested Arkansas Baptists to provide

the training. "When we talked in planning meetings last July, they asked for evangelism training, he said. "We have a lot of people in European Baptist churches who need direction in personal witnessing and CWT is the most efficient and practical way of sharing your faith."

Following the training, Brantley said the participants from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands divided into six teams and attempted 56 contacts at homes, making 24 visits and 35 gospel presentations and sharing their testimonies. The contacts resulted in seven professions of faith.

Brantley and Crouch said they saw several uplifting experiences unfold during the training.

"The last two people that were led to the Lord on the last night were from, of all places, Little Rock," Brantley said.

Crouch felt the impact of the training was "eternal," and that "the highlight of my trip was being able to personally lead a Turkish military airman to the Lord somewhere between Newfoundland and Cincinnati."

"Sometimes figures can be cold," Brantley acknowledged. "As a people group, they are more receptive to the gospel than Americans. If you look at the figures in Kaiserslautern, we made 24 visits and had seven professions of faith. Compare that to a one in seven ratio in Arkansas."

The EBC is a convention of 60 English-speaking congregations in 19 countries. Grober said the next partnership events will include a Woman's Missionary Union training conference and a Brotherhood conference, both in April.

Cover Story



Dilday fired 6-7

The trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary voted March 9 to dismiss president Russell Dilday, later citing "irreconcilable differences." Dilday had served as the president of Southern Baptists' largest seminary since 1978.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Trennis Henderson.....Editor
 Russell N. Dilday.....Associate Editor
 Colleen Backus.....Assistant Editor

Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
 Paige Cooper.....Accountant
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Convocation highlights needs in Delta

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

JACKSON, MS—Poverty-stricken people with inadequate health care, high illiteracy and poor housing sounds like a foreign mission field ripe for harvest by Southern Baptists. But this mission field is not in Central America or Eastern Europe — it is in the heart of the United States. Portions of the Mississippi River basin, stretching through seven states, often seem comparable to a third world region.

Southern Baptists in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee have banded together with the Home Mission Board through the Mississippi River Ministry to meet the unique needs of the people who live in the region. In an effort to assess accomplishments of the first year and to become aware of new and changing ministry needs, more than 200 participants gathered for the Mississippi River Ministry Convocation in Jackson, Miss., on March 11-12.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, spoke directly to the hearts of participants during his keynote address. "I am here because I believe God is ready to do things through Baptists that have never been done before," Moore said. "We have a world mission field right at our doorstep." Citing Ezekiel 8, he pointed out the need for Christians to be spiritually and dramatically gripped by God to "deliver the goods" for Him.

However, Moore pointed out, there are four very real barriers that must be overcome in order to serve God effectively in this region.

The first, he said, is indifference. "We must overcome our customs and traditions with overriding spiritual realities."

The second is familiarity and proximity. "If 1,000 young people had to choose to do a mission trip in Florida, Guatemala or the Mississippi Delta, where do you think they would choose?" he asked. The reluctance to do missions so close to home must be overcome, Moore emphasized.

The third obstacle is racism and classism. "We haven't come far enough," he noted. "Classism in the Delta is real.... We must build new churches and find new places for ministry."

The fourth obstacle is cowardice and conformity, Moore said. Ministry affected by such obstacles "becomes diffused and diluted," he declared. "God must work in our hearts to spiritually and dramatically grip us."

The Mississippi River Ministry will "take off," Moore asserted, "when we see and feel like God does."



Arkansas executive director Don Moore urges personalized ministry involvement.

More than 60 Arkansas leaders and participated in special interest conferences dealing with topics from health care to literacy. Tommy Goode, director of church and community ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is regional coordinator for MRM. In planning the convocation, he scheduled seminars that included community needs assessments, improving community housing, utilizing volunteers and storefront ministries.

Assessing community needs

Sharing ministry ideas was the focus of the medical missions seminar led by Fred and Lavada Loper of Oklahoma. Dr. Loper, currently the only national medical missionary in the Southern Baptist Convention, said there is no "cookie cutter" method to do medical missions. "You have to look clearly at community needs," he explained. His workshop cited several forms of ministry, from one-day health fairs to ongoing "free" clinics.

Meeting needs also was at the center of the workshop led by Jimmy Barrentine, director of the ABSBC missions department. Focusing on "crossing barriers and cultures to do ministry," Barrentine highlighted sociological problems encountered in the Delta ministry. He defined culture as "a way of life that distinguishes a given group of people." Especially in the MRM region, Barrentine noted, problems occur when "people are not able to keep up with the flow of change."

In order to build bridges to another culture, Barrentine asserted, there are three essential ingredients—understanding, love and meeting needs. "Only when expectations are understood can you meet needs, and all of that must be encompassed by love," he said.

Three Arkansas also provided MRM

testimonies during general sessions. Home missionary Diana Lewis described the ministry in Dixonville, which started as a one-week summer feeding program for children and has expanded to a Baptist Center which houses a clothing ministry, Bible studies and Sunday School.

Lygia Treat, a member of Searcy County Church in Marshall, a storefront ministry, explained that their church had to "do things a little different." The church sends two old vans into the hills on Sunday mornings to pick up children and cooks breakfast for church members, who often come in overalls. "Five years of van trips and cooking breakfast was worth it when the momma of one of those kids got saved and walked the aisle," she said.

Carl Schmidt, migrant missions coordinator in Mississippi County, said he had originally moved to the Leachville area with plans to do something for Hispanics but soon learned that God wanted him to do something with Hispanics. "I felt all alone before I came to this conference, but not anymore," he noted.

Country humorist Jerry Clower, a Mississippi Baptist layman, concluded the conference by telling the audience that "commitment is what we've got to commence to having." Clearly pointing out the need for non-judgmental aid, he noted. "When you see that 17-year-old single mom, be nice to her because she could have been my mama."

Explaining that his father divorced his teenage mother, leaving her with two small boys, he said the church didn't really want her. When ministering to poverty-stricken people, "Make sure the church you're a member of wants 'em," he emphasized. "And keep bringing them in, because it works."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABS Executive Director

How thrilled I am with what I am sensing and seeing of God's work in our midst! Never have we had so many people in our churches praying. While there are programs that give structure to prayer ministries, what is taking place is far more than a program. It grows out of our desperate need for the intervention of God and the strong prompting of the Holy Spirit. I truly believe the vast prayer efforts on behalf of Shirley and me have carried over into concerted efforts for others and especially for Kingdom advancement.

In our recent Pastors' Retreat, dramatic testimonies were given of supernatural intervention in which lost men, even older lost men, were calling for help that they might be saved. These are the types of things that happen when real revival and awakening come! May God be pleased to further these early beginnings of revival.

My last two Sundays were spent with churches that were packed out for their morning services. We were dedicating a building at First Baptist, Dover, and First Church, Perryville, is considering expanding their facilities. How encouraging!

The number of people who are unwilling to just go through the motions of church activities is increasing. Folks are hungering for a relationship with God that is both real and personal. God is transforming people and churches.

God is faithfully working to bring individual lost people to the point of repentance and faith. True to His pattern, He will be prompting spiritually alive believers to bear witness to His saving grace. The spiritual newborns will need to be received into a warm and nurturing environment. My prayer is that every community will have a fellowship of warm-hearted, enthusiastic and committed believers who will be used of God to reach and develop the people who are at this time just being prepared by the Lord.

I can't imagine any true believer nor any church not wanting to be totally prepared to be used of God in this way. We need to "get with the program," that is, His program.

RONNIE ROGERS

The President's Corner



Perform ministry! But how?

The theme this year for our state convention is "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name." The most effective context for ministry is the local church. There ministry can best be started, supported and directed.

In this series of articles, I will focus on the pastor's role in transitioning a maintenance-based church into a ministry-based church.

The mandate for ministry is found in Matthew 28:18-19. For ministry to be valid, it must contribute directly or indirectly to making disciples and disciples actually means "disciple makers."

The model for carrying out the Great Commission is found in Ephesians 4:11-16. Any contemporary model for church growth or ministry is only valid insofar as it is consistent with this passage.

God gave spiritually gifted men to the church (v. 11). According to verse 12, the pastor's call is for "equipping of the saints." This necessitates two things:

First, the pastor must be focused. He is to teach and train the church. If the pastor fails to equip the church, it

will fail to fulfill the Great Commission. That is why Satan incessantly tries to sidetrack the pastor.

Our call has clearly defined priorities; although the pastor must inevitably be involved in other ministries, those efforts must not ever be allowed to usurp the priority of equipping. If that happens, Satan has won a great victory and stifled the church. Satan will throw every distraction in the world at the man of God in order to sidetrack him. He must tenaciously resist those temptations and remain focused. His priority must forever remain equipping.

Second, he must be faithful. The task of maturing the saints is an arduous and long process with many heartaches, setbacks and disappointments. Satan effectively uses these devices (along with criticism, busyness, ad infinitum) in causing pastors to sacrifice their call to equip the saints. Beware of Satan's strategies, and remain focused and faithful to your calling.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"In the overall well-being of an institution, sometimes tough decisions are made....This happens in churches, it happens all the time, and the kingdom will move forward."

—SBC president Ed Young, discussing the dismissal of Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday

"Of all the tragic circumstances affecting Southern Baptists in the last decade, I think (Dilday's firing) is by far the worst. On the Richter Scale, this earthquake is a big one. I think it is a killer."

—Leon McBeth, Southwestern Seminary professor

"The substance for which the seminary stands will abide....My chief concern is that the seminary at this point, as it has always been, is a Bible-believing, committed institution for Southern Baptists."

—Robert Naylor, Southwestern Seminary president, 1958-1978

Dilday dismissal damages denomination

The prophet Jeremiah warned against proclaiming "peace, peace; when there is no peace." The time has come to renew that warning in Southern Baptist life.

Whatever else the dismissal of Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday may signal, it is not a sign of peace in our troubled convention. Dilday, who has effectively led the world's largest theological seminary for the past 16 years, was fired by trustees just 18 months before his 65th birthday.

Trustee chairman Ralph Pulley, a long-time Dilday critic, initially told reporters that details about the closed-door firing were not "pertinent." Two days later, he cited "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for Dilday's dismissal.

There is no question that Dilday has provoked conservative trustees in years past—but not over theology. Dilday, himself a theological conservative, has been outspoken against political strategies employed by convention leaders during the 15-year Southern Baptist Convention controversy.

Preaching the convention sermon at the 1984 SBC annual meeting, Dilday warned of an invading "Orwellian mentality" which threatened to drag the SBC into the "demonic family of forced uniformity."

Trustee efforts to fire him in 1989 and 1990 were defused with both parties agreeing to "cease and desist from making any statements or writing or engaging in any activities that could reasonably be interpreted as being intentionally political in nature, all the while seeking to deal with each other and the institution we serve in truth and love."

Throughout his tenure, even Dilday's detractors have praised his "able leadership and administration." As recently as the night before he was fired, Dilday received



STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON

high marks during his annual trustee evaluation session.

At that meeting, Dilday asked about rumors of his impending dismissal. Trustee officers denied any knowledge of such action. The following morning, however, some of those same trustees—including newly elected chairman Pulley and outgoing chairman Damon Shook—approached Dilday about taking early retirement. When Dilday declined the offer, Pulley reportedly told him that the alternative was to be fired.

Later that morning, during a 75-minute executive session, Dilday's tenure as president of Southwestern Seminary came to an abrupt end on a reported 26-7 vote.

Baptist reactions to the firings have been diverse. SBC president Ed Young has insisted this "is not an SBC matter" and that "the kingdom will move forward" while Texas Baptist president Jerold McBride has labeled the action "a sad day" that has "inflicted irreparable damage both to the seminary and the SBC."

Beyond the specific reasons for the trustees' action, which remain shrouded in executive secrecy, widespread concerns are being raised about the way in which the dismissal was handled. Locks immediately changed on the president's

office, administrative assistants placed on immediate leave and trustees being escorted across campus by security guards are not how the watching world needs to see Southern Baptists conducting family business.

Even after his dismissal, Dilday affirmed that "the board can vote to change presidents—at any time....I respect their authority to do that." He did add, however, that "I think they should have good reasons."

Regardless of their reasons, the seminary trustees are empowered with the right to take what actions they choose. But that is where Christian integrity and statesmanship must be demanded from our elected leaders. The simple fact is: Having a right to take action and taking action which is right are two different matters.

No one knows at this point how far-reaching the impact of those 26 votes will be. One thing is certain—the trustees' harsh political tactics have once again thrust Southern Baptists into the national media spotlight and damaged our denominational witness.

Jeremiah's prophecy wasn't limited to laments about the lack of peace. He also challenged Judah to "hearken to the sound of the trumpet." The time has come to renew that call in Southern Baptist life, as well. We must remain constantly aware of who our true enemy is, engaging only in appropriate battles waged in God-honoring ways rather than continually turning our hostilities inward.

May God forgive Southern Baptists for allowing family-fracturing feuds to weaken our worldwide witness. May He give all Southern Baptist leaders, both present and future, the wisdom and integrity to discern between the right to take action and taking action which is right.

Exert Christian leadership

I recently heard pastor Sam Higgs of Calion speak on Ezekiel 33:1-9, and our responsibility as watchmen to warn of sin and its consequences. My thoughts turned to a freely available tool that we ought to make a better use of—the letters to the editor sections in our newspapers. During the past year, I can only think of two pastors in the area who have used this, along with one pastor's wife. These columns are open to all and provide an opportunity for Christian leadership that has often been neglected.

Here is a realistic goal: Our association



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

has 52 churches. If every pastor or church would be responsible for one letter a year, this would average one letter a week giving a Christian view of the issues. Of course, not all would have the strongest feelings about the same problems. I have always tended to emphasize alcohol and gambling.

Others might have the strongest feelings about homosexuality, abortion, secular humanism or other issues that need to be addressed. If all worked, every issue would be covered.

It is not enough just to keep the doors open and the lights on or even to maintain the membership and attendance of the churches. God expects us to exert Christian leadership in our decaying society. If we don't, it is certain that no one else will. May God help us to do it!

Clay Hale
El Dorado, AR

Southwestern trustees fire Dilday

FORT WORTH, TX (BP/ABP) -- Russell H. Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1978, was fired March 9 by seminary trustees during a 75-minute closed-door session.

Trustees initially offered no reasons for the dismissal, with trustee chairman Ralph Pulley of Dallas noting simply that the seminary "needed a new direction for the 21st century." Telling reporters that details of the firing weren't "pertinent," Pulley added, "The action has been taken, and there's no reason to think about the past."

Two days later, however, amid growing outcries from faculty, students and alumni, trustees cited "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for Dilday's dismissal.

The March 11 statement said Dilday's "reluctance to move in concert with policies established by the board brought constant concern to the trustees and often led to gridlock within the administration and to his stonewalling the board." They also charged that Dilday "continued to speak out on political issues...in contradiction to his earlier agreement with trustees not to do so."

Dilday disagreed with that assessment, affirming "how well the seminary has done" during the 15-year Southern Baptist

Convention controversy. "I don't think that would be described as gridlock," he said. "There were certainly times of disagreement on the board about issues, which I think is appropriate. I would propose things, they would disagree, I would argue my point, but then if the board voted, we followed it."

Concerning political involvement, Dilday said he and the trustees made a covenant several years ago that neither he nor they would be involved in denominational politics. "I've tried very hard not to be caught up in, or speak, or anything else in the arena of convention politics," he added. "In the appraisal review the night before the action, none of these complaints about my speaking out came out at all."

In fact, Dilday received a favorable trustee evaluation the night before he was fired. During that session, Dilday said he asked the trustee executive committee members about rumors that he would be

dismissed. He said they responded that they knew nothing about such a plan although other trustees have confirmed that plans for the action were being discussed by trustees at least two days prior to the executive session.

The final morning of the meeting, as trustees gathered for their 11 a.m. session, chairman Damon Shook of Houston and trustee secretary Lee Weaver of Fort Worth asked to meet with Dilday privately in the president's office, Dilday said. Waiting for them were Pulley, newly-elected trustee T. Bob Davis and Gerald Dacus, a trustee from Walnut, Calif.

Pulley said they wanted to offer him an early retirement plan, Dilday recalled. "I said I had no plans to retire and didn't need to see the plan because I wasn't ready for retirement. I said if they wanted me to announce my retirement plans, I would be glad to do that, but that they were for when I am 67 or 68."

"It was not my intention to retire immediately. God led me here and I had no leadership from the Lord that this was the time to retire."

Dilday said that Pulley replied that the alternative then was that he be fired.

"I asked under what charges, what rationale, would they dismiss me," said Dilday. "His response was 'We don't need a reason. We can do it. We have the votes and we will, and it will be with no provision for anything if you don't accept the early retirement plan.'"

Dacus, a supporter of Dilday, told the president the trustees had been polled and there were not enough votes to block the move to dismiss him.

Dilday said he told them, "You have to do your business as a board. My business is to determine my calling in life, and I am not planning retirement. So let's go. You do what you have to do."

The group then joined the other trustees, who immediately called for an executive session and excused press, faculty and students. Only Dilday remained with the trustees during the executive session. When they emerged, Dilday told the 500-plus students gathered outside the meeting room that the seminary no longer had a president.

Several events suggested trustees had laid plans for the dismissal well in advance:

- Within minutes of the firing, trustees changed the locks on the president's office and denied him access.

- Letters from trustees to students and faculty were distributed immediately. Two versions had been prepared -- one if Dilday accepted forced retirement and the other

(Continued on pg. 16)



Russell H. Dilday

Trustees reject Parks as graduation speaker

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)--One day before firing Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday, trustees voted to withdraw an invitation to R. Keith Parks as the seminary's spring commencement speaker.

Some trustees said they were not aware that Parks had been invited until Dilday mentioned the fact in his report to the trustees March 8. Parks, former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, is missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Dilday told the trustees the invitation to Parks was issued in 1991, when Parks was still FMB president. He said he continued to support the invitation because of Parks' many years of Southern Baptist missions service and support.

"I couldn't believe Dilday brought it up" in the trustees' meeting, Charles A. Lawson II, told Baptist Press. Lawson made the motion to withdraw the invitation following Dilday's report.

Lawson's motion was approved on an overwhelming voice vote by the 40-member board. Later in the meeting Lawson also voiced strong misgivings about accepting money from the CBF,

calling it "tainted" money. Southwestern received more than \$180,000 from the CBF last year.

Parks told Baptist Press, "I just regret we've reached the point in Baptist life when nearly all the decisions are made from a political standpoint...I don't think that's really Baptist."

In other actions during the March 7-9 meeting trustees delayed until the fall faculty tenure recommendations and consideration of a proposal from Dilday to reorganize the administration.

A proposed 1994-95 budget of \$19.7 million was approved but returned to the administration with instruction to cut an additional \$305,940.

The trustee executive committee brought a report reaffirming the trustees' support of the Cooperative Program.

The resolution encouraged faculty to support the CP and lead their churches in that support. It also instructed administrators and faculty to adhere to such principles "in selecting individuals for special recognition and awards, in the election and promotion of faculty, and in other activities related to the seminary."

Arkansans voice mixed reactions to firing

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas Baptists voiced mixed reactions to recent events at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary that climaxed March 9 with trustees firing president Russell Dilday.

Fort Smith layman Ken Lilly, a former trustee chairman at Southwestern who acknowledged having a "difficult relationship" with Dilday, noted that "anybody who is a trustee of a seminary has a tough job....I'm empathetic with them having to come to this point."

By contrast, the executive board of Southwest Arkansas Association unanimously adopted a resolution last week denouncing "the methods by which the trustees of Southwestern Seminary fired the president and the apparent effort on their part to limit information concerning that action."

Mark Tolbert, president of Southwestern Seminary's Arkansas alumni chapter, described Dilday's dismissal as "a difficult and critical time for this historic institution." Noting that "it is too soon for any of us to say for certain what the long-term results of this action will be," Tolbert called on alumni and other seminary supporters to "rise above the emotional turmoil of this crisis."

Former Southwestern trustee C.A. Johnson, retired pastor of First Church, Paragould, said he was not permitted to attend the closed-door meeting in which Dilday was fired because Johnson had forfeited his trustee position by recently moving from Paragould to Fort Worth.

Johnson, a trustee for eight years, said his status as a trustee for the most recent meeting was "a gray area" and he "did not want to cloud the issue." Ironically, a few hours after the meeting adjourned, a call from SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman's office indicated that Johnson could have participated as an active trustee through the end of the board meeting.

Although he did not attend the board's executive session, Johnson said the issue "has been simmering a long, long time." Noting that this was the third time trustees had sought to fire Dilday, Johnson remarked, "I've stood up for Dr. Dilday many times and defended him."

"It's a sad day for all of us, whether you like Russell or don't like him, whether you're in the moderate camp or the conservative camp," Johnson remarked. "I wish it could have been handled differently. I feel like we could have worked through it. I've always been of the opinion that you try to work with the leaders."

SBC reactions range from reflection to outrage

FORT WORTH, TX—Reactions to the abrupt firing of Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday ranged from quiet reflection to outrage as word of his dismissal spread across the nation.

Southern Baptist Convention president Ed Young, pastor of Houston's Second Baptist Church, said he has mixed feelings about the trustees' action, describing the Dildays as "good friends."

Young added, however, that "I know many of the trustees. I do not know all the issues involved. But I'm sure they were thinking about the direction the seminary would take in the next decade and felt this was the proper time, evidently, to look for a new president."

Claiming that Dilday's dismissal "is not

Acknowledging that "a group within the board was very dissatisfied with Russell and decided he had to go," Johnson said "it was already set" prior to the executive session "that he either resign or they would fire him."

Predicting "tremendous fallout" from the trustee action, Johnson added, "I think the ramifications of this are going to be tremendous in loss of money and students and morale and maybe even faculty."

Lilly agreed that "the convention will be in turmoil as a result of this."

Affirming that Dilday "was probably as good an administrator as the seminary has had in many, many years," Lilly said his concern was over Dilday being "out on the political front" while serving the denomination as a paid employee.

"He was never willing to back down," Lilly recalled. "On at least two occasions, I would have felt it my obligation to vote for his dismissal." He cited differences between Dilday and trustees over faculty selection, commencement speakers, tenure proposals and other administrative actions in recent years.

"There are things that have needed to be done for a long time that we couldn't get done," Lilly said. "Those things were never resolved."

"I wouldn't want to second-guess what the trustees did," he concluded. "The way the issue comes up is the way you have to deal with it as a trustee."

Concerns expressed by executive board members in Southwestern Arkansas Association focused on the method in which trustees fired Dilday. Southwestern alumnus James Preston, pastor of First Church, Stamps, introduced the resolution which was adopted and signed by the 20-plus board members present.

"For me, I felt here is a place I can stand up and express my views and invite others to join me," Preston said. "It touched a chord that others agreed with."

The resolution charged that seminary trustees "made no effort to explain the reasons for firing the president beyond the statement released to the press stating that it was based on irreconcilable differences, leaving constituent Baptists without enough information to make an informed judgment concerning the trustees' actions."

Preston called the series of events "a further erosion of trust" in Southern Baptist life since trustees elected by Baptist messengers "haven't entrusted us with the information on which their decisions were made."

a SBC matter," Young said the trustee action was largely an internal issue.

"I would hope this wouldn't explode into more political activity, because there's no Machiavellian plan that's involved in this," he insisted. "In the overall well-being of an institution, sometimes tough decisions are made....This happens in churches, it happens all the time, and the kingdom will move forward."

Students, faculty and a group of "concerned Texas Baptist pastors" voiced a quite different perspective. The pastors' meeting, held two days after the firing, attracted about 300 participants. A statement released by the group called for the trustee board to "face up to its grievous wrong, confess its terrible injury to Dr.

Dilday and...seek to restore integrity to the seminary and re-establish a Christ-like style of relationships and actions within the school."

The group, convened by Texas Baptist convention president Jerold McBride, described Dilday's firing as "a day of destructive darkness, a day when an oppressive act of injustice and pride pierced the soul of a people called Baptists."

Student reactions to the firing ranged from labeling trustees "Pharisees" and "puppets" to voicing concern for the seminary's future. More than 1,000 students gathered in front of Dilday's campus home the day after he was fired.

(Continued on pg. 17)

Foundation, stewardship leaders offer practical income tax tips

As the Internal Revenue Service tax filing deadline nears, the president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation reminded ordained ministers to "remain honest and confess all" and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention stewardship department director urged them to "put as much as you can into retirement" as they prepare their 1993 tax forms.

Foundation president David Moore said ordained ministers "must let honesty and integrity guide your tax preparation. You must confess all you made and claim all you can deduct." He added that ministers will want to be good stewards of their resources by using the tax laws to the best advantage, "but you want to set an example of Christian integrity in the process."

"You must also understand your filing status," he counseled. "The IRS considers you an employee for Federal Income Tax (FIT) and self employed for Social Security purposes. This means that the church should give you a W-2 and you pay SECA rather than FICA tax."

He said churches, though, cannot treat ministers as ministers with a housing allowance excluded for FIT and an employee paying FICA. "To correct this, in fairness, a church should add 7.65 percent to the minister's salary and let the minister pay SECA at the full 15.3 percent."

"Report other income from revivals, weddings and funerals on Schedule C," he

said. "But you can report expenses related to that income there too."

Expenses related to employment, though, such as business mileage, "should be worked out with the church in an accountable reimbursement program." He said the Annuity Board can help suggest a format for the arrangement.

Moore's suggestions for ministers also include:

■ Use a housing allowance. "It's not as great a break as many think, but it is a nice benefit." He said it is excludable only for FIT and state tax purposes, not Social Security. "You can exclude a housing allowance within some limits, but this must be designated as an allowance prior to payments received."

■ Consider charitable giving. "Most pastors who tithe will need to itemize their deductions rather than taking the standard deduction," he said, adding that "each dollar you give away to God's work saves a portion of your taxes."

■ Consider deferred giving. "Many people do not realize that they can make a gift now through an agreement that will allow income to be received for one or more lifetimes, with the remainder given to charity."

James Walker, ABSC stewardship department director, said ministers should put as much as they can into retirement by using the Southern Baptist Convention

Annuity Board 403b plan, a not-for-profit tax-deferred plan.

He explained there is "an upper limit set by the IRS that varies depending on one's age and years of service. For ordained ministers, contributions can be made and not subject to income tax or SECA."

He said non-ordained ministers "also can shelter contributions for income tax only, but they do have to report for FICA."

Walker said the Annuity Board is available to perform tax calculations free of charge for ministers to determine the maximum amount a person can contribute. Contact the Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511 for more information.

Moore also offered suggestions for churches preparing taxes.

A new law, he said, dictates that "a church must receipt and sign any gift of \$250 or more. Include a statement to the effect that 'No goods or services were provided for this gift.'"

Any "quid pro quo" (something for nothing) gift of more than \$75 must be receipted with a "good faith estimate of the value of such goods and services," he noted.

Giving an example of fair market value, he said, "if a church fundraising dinner is given with a celebrity entertainer who donates his time, the value is the cost of going to such a dinner with entertainment, not the actual cost to the church."

For more information on church tax preparation or charitable giving, contact Moore at the ABF offices; phone 376-0732 or Walker at the ABSC stewardship department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5114.

Hispanic Evangelism Conference set for April 16 at Olivet Church

The Arkansas Baptist Hispanic Evangelism Conference, to be held April 16 at Olivet Church in Little Rock, will feature fellowship, special conferences and preaching "in the language of the people." It is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department.

The conference, held in the Spanish language, will highlight "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now!," the Southern Baptist Convention's 1995 evangelism emphasis.

The program will feature Bob Sena of the language department of the Home Mission Board. It also will feature music, devotionals and testimonies and special evangelism training conferences for Woman's Missionary Union, Sunday School and new church starts.

Jim Hausler, interim language associate in the ABSC missions department, said Spanish is the largest ethnic language group in Arkansas with more than 20,000 Spanish-speaking residents. Currently there are two active Spanish-speaking missions in Arkansas.

The cost for the conference is \$4.50 per adult and \$2.50 per child for lunch. For more information, contact Hausler at the ABSC missions department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5150.

Conferencia de Evangelismo será el 16 Abril en Olivet Church

La Arkansas Conferencia Hispana de Evangelismo será el 16 Abril en Olivet Baptist Church de Little Rock, y tendrá compañerismo, conferencias especiales y predicación en "el idioma del pueblo hispano." La Convención Bautista de Arkansas (ABSC) es el patrocinador.

La conferencia, en el idioma español, hará, hincapié a "Hay Esperanza. ¡Comparte a Jesús Ahora!," el énfasis de la convención para el año 1995.

El programa tendrá a Bob Sena de la junta de Misiones Domésticas como predicador principal. También hará música, devocionales, testimonios y conferencias enfocando el evangelismo por la Unión Femenil Misionera, la escuela dominical y por medio de reuniones caseras.

Jim Hausler, el asociado interino de lenguajes en el departamento de misiones de ABSC dijo que los hispanos son el grupo lingüístico más grande de Arkansas con más de 20,000 residentes que hablan español. Hoy hay más de 27 misiones hispanicas en Arkansas.

El costo de la conferencia es solamente \$4.50 para adultos y \$2.50 para niños por el almuerzo. Para más información, llama a Hausler del departamento de misiones de la ABSC; teléfono 376-4791, ext. 5150.

Arkansas baptisms reflect slight decline

A slight decrease in the number of baptisms follows a five-year pattern of rises and falls in Arkansas baptism totals, said Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

According to statistics compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board from reports' 1993 Uniform Church Letter records, baptisms in the state totaled 12,645 last year, a 2.8 percent decrease in baptisms from 1992.

Shell said the roller coaster baptism statistics began in 1990 during the "Here's Hope" evangelism campaign, when Arkansas Baptist churches recorded a 15 percent increase over 1989 baptism statistics. The totals turned downward from 13,029 baptisms in 1990 to 12,388 baptisms in 1991 and went up again in 1992 to 12,907 before decreasing last year.

He said part of the reason for the fluctuating number of baptisms "is a commitment from churches when they see a lower year. It causes them to set higher goals for the next year."

Shell noted that when the state convention and Arkansas churches "have a strong emphasis on personal witnessing, we have more saved."

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, agreed. He said church members there are trained "through the Bible study program on Sunday mornings a month to three months in soul winning" and the church has a weekly outreach program "providing accountability for our people. But the major thing," he said, "more than outreach on Monday night or anything else, is our emphasis on lifestyle evangelism."

First, Springdale, led Arkansas Baptist churches in baptisms in 1993, recording 826 baptisms. Shell said it was the highest number of baptisms recorded by an Arkansas Baptist church, surpassing the state's previous record by more than 300 baptisms.

Floyd said the church led in baptisms because of the "intentionality" of its members. "I think there are two phrases that depict First Baptist Church of Springdale: We are focused on the Great Commission and we are very intentional. We have an intentional, strategy day by day, week by week, month by month."

He said the church "has averaged more than 400 baptisms in the last six years" including 456 in 1992, but held an evangelistic crusade allowing the church to have an additional 400 people saved.

Highlighting the Great Commission, Floyd said, "I think the No. 1 reason for baptisms is the biblical reason. It's why we are here."

Bert Self, pastor of Grace Church in



1993 Arkansas Baptisms

TOP 10 CHURCHES

TOP 10 BY NUMBER

826	Springdale First
160	Immanuel, Rogers
147	Mulberry First
145	West Memphis First
138	Trinity, Texarkana
128	Central, Jonesboro
122	Rogers First
114	Geyer Springs First
107	Lowell
96	Little Rock First

TOP 10 BY RATIO

1.53	Grace, Augusta
2.00	Hiwasse First
2.47	Shady Grove, Gurdon
2.48	Paragould Second
2.65	Old Union, Monticello
2.71	Western Grove
2.84	West Ridge
3.11	Flora, Salem
3.33	Vista Heights, Hot Springs
3.40	Southside, Paris

*Ratio = Number of members per baptism

Augusta, said that prayer is "the only solution for increased baptisms."

Self, prayer coordinator for Calvary Association, said, "Churches that pray grow and churches that don't pray don't grow. Even churches that grow haven't really realized the importance of what their praying has done."

"Now that Satan is stirring things up," Self said, "It is important we organize for prayer and put it to the forefront so people don't get led astray."

He said Grace Church was recognized as first in baptismal ratio due to a UCL mathematical error. The church, which has an average Sunday School attendance of 55, baptized five people in 1993. "God just brought those people in," he said. "If we pray that kind of thing will happen."

'Hopeful and expectant'

Shell said he is "hopeful and expectant" that the "Here's Hope" evangelism training in 1994 along with the witnessing and simultaneous revival emphasis in 1995 will lead to more baptisms in the state. He noted that 1994 training opportunities will be offered in prospect discernment, personal witness training and Roman Road training, as well as "an emphasis on prayer for spiritual awakening and local church revival preparation."

He said he is "disappointed but not discouraged" we are down. I am aware that one plants, another waters and God gives increase. I hope the seeds planted in 1993 will end in a harvest in 1994 and 1995."

Shell also is concerned about the

number of baptismless churches in Arkansas, which rose from 230 in 1992 to 248 in 1993. "We are trying to avoid a mentality of maintenance," he explained. "We are sympathetic and want to help."

"Many baptismless churches are small," he noted. "And I think there is sometimes a mentality of 'We are a small church and we don't feel we can win as many as the large churches can.' I'm afraid many churches don't realize their potential for winning others."

He said help from the state convention is available to baptismless churches that wish to take advantage of state resources. "We can help them by providing \$200 per church for the expenses of an evangelist, we are available for a one-day evangelism training workshop and are available to act as training resources when needed," he said. For more information, contact Shell at the ABSCE evangelism department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5132.

Tom Hatley, pastor of Immanuel Church in Rogers, said keeping evangelism at the forefront of ongoing programs led to his church's 160 baptisms.

"We have a different approach in that we don't have a special event, just a lot of ongoing programs such as old-time visitation, multiple needs programs like mothers' day out and senior adult ministries," said Hatley. "Every need we can find we try to fill with a planned ministry and stress evangelism. It's a steady reaping rather than event-oriented, but every ministry we have, we keep evangelism a part of it."

Youth, education leaders schedule dual retreat

Arkansas Baptist youth ministers, ministers of education and their spouses have the opportunity to meet for two days to "Get in the Act" April 21-22 at DeGray State Park Lodge near Arkadelphia. The dual retreat, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist discipleship and family ministries department, will feature two nationally-known conference leaders.

Leading the youth ministers in "Doing Youth Ministry and Enjoying It" will be Richard Ross, youth ministry coordinator for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Ross is author of *The 24-Hour Counselor* and *The Work of the Minister of Youth* and is the originator of the successful "True Love Waits" campaign sponsored by the BSSB. He will lead participants in workshops in preparing for a new millennium, "tough issues" in youth ministry, renewal and growth and self-management.

Bruce Powers, professor of Christian education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead the ministers of education toward "Personal Renewal and Spiritual Growth." He is author of *Building Better Groups*, *Christian Education Handbook* and *Christian Leadership*.

Bill Falkner, an associate in the ABCS discipleship and family ministries department, said the retreats are an opportunity for ministers "with hectic schedules to get away from typical settings for spiritual growth."

The program begins at 1 p.m. Thursday and concludes at noon on Friday.

The cost for the retreat is \$25 per participant and \$15 per spouse. The cost includes materials, breaks and Thursday dinner. The cost for lodging is \$60 per room for one to two occupants per room. Participants must make their own lodging arrangements by contacting the lodge at 1-800-737-8355 and specifying the retreat.

For more information or for a program registration form, contact Falkner at the ABCS discipleship and family ministries department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

Ministers' wives retreat set for April 29-30

Ministers' wives are invited to "Come Celebrate the King" at the Ministers' Wives Retreat April 29-30 at the AmeriSuites Hotel in Little Rock. The retreat, sponsored by Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives, is open to the wives of any active or retired vocational minister.

Retreat chairman Nan Maxwell said the retreat "will allow us to get together with other ministers' wives and get away from other duties." She said a special session

will allow participants to share ideas, joys and frustrations with each other.

The program will feature keynote speaker Lawanna McIver of Dallas. She is the wife of Bruce McIver, pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas.

Mrs. McIver has been co-host of "Lifestyle" and co-anchor of "Lifelines," daily talk shows broadcast on the American Christian Television System. Known for her dramatic first-person biographical presentations, she will speak on "Worshipping the King" and will share her testimony of her life and ministry with her husband.

Maxwell said the program also will feature an informal dinner, praise time, small group sharing and the special conference, "How to Decorate Your Home on a Budget."

The retreat will begin at 7 p.m. Friday with dinner and conclude at noon Saturday.

The cost for the retreat ranges from \$30 per person to \$75 per person, depending on number of occupants per room. The cost includes lodging, dinner, breakfast and conference fees.

For more information or to register, contact Maxwell at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; phone 376-4791, ext. 5161. Registration deadline is April 12.

Youth Music Festival May 7 in Little Rock

Arkansas Baptist youth choirs, vocalists and instrumentalists will perform for recognition and awards during the State Youth Music Festival May 7 at Life Line Church in Little Rock. The festival is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Church Music Ministries.

Department director Rob Hewell said the festival is open to all youth choirs, regardless of having participated in an area festival. He said vocal soloists or ensembles, instrumental soloists or ensembles, handbell soloists, pianists, organists or song leaders may perform for adjudication only if they participated in an area festival and received a "superior" rating.

Recognitions and awards presented at the festival will include choosing groups or individuals to perform during worship, acknowledgment of those receiving "1" ratings, five- and ten-year participants, certificates and half scholarships to Music Arkansas 1994 to selected outstanding performance winners.

Leading the mass choir will be Bob Magee, chairman of the music department at Williams Baptist College. The program will begin at 10 a.m. with a mass choir rehearsal and end at 2:30 p.m. following the worship service. The choir will perform

"The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" (Fetteke, Word Music #3010122160).

The schedule of costs for the retreat includes: catered lunch for \$2.50 per person; choir or large ensemble registration, \$2 per person (with choir maximums of \$50 per choir or \$80 for two choirs) \$10 per small ensemble; and \$5 per solo entry. Registrations postmarked after April 11 are subject to an increase in costs.

To register, complete the registration form on pages F4a through F4f of the *1994 Music Ministry Handbook*, sent to all churches in January, and mail to: Church Music Ministries Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

For more information, contact Hewell at the ABCS; phone 376-4791, ext. 5121.

Live Wisely Seminars urge 'financial freedom'

Arkansas Baptists can learn "financial freedom" at one of five Live Wisely Seminars scheduled for May 9-13. The seminars, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention stewardship department, will teach the basics of money management.

The seminars will be held May 9 at Calvary Association, May 10 at Liberty Association, May 11 at Washington-Madison Association, May 12 at Trinity Association, and May 13 at Tri-County Association.

Department director James Walkers said the seminars are designed "as the first step in growing as a Christian steward." He described financial freedom as "the use of whatever resources God has provided to meet life's basic essentials without having to be burdened by constant financial concerns."

Leading the seminars will be Lee Davis of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission. Davis is the author of *Five Steps to Successful Money Management and In Charge*.

Walker said Davis "will cover the five steps to money management." He said participants "will work with establishing their financial goals, establishing their income and debt expenses, designing a plan for spending and looking at record-keeping."

There is no cost for the seminars, but participants are required to use the *Live Wisely Workbook*, available at each seminar for \$1 per copy.

Walker encouraged participation from outside the sponsoring associations. For more information, contact Walker at the ABCS stewardship department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5114 or contact the director of missions at the sponsoring associations.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Church news

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana will hold a 90th anniversary celebration on April 10. The event will begin with a special Sunday School service; a worship service with Harold Bennett, president emeritus of the SBC Executive Committee; and dinner on the grounds.

Springdale First Church will hold a Power Team crusade April 10-17. Services will be held at 6 p.m. on April 10 and 17 and at 7 p.m. on April 11-16.

Military Road Church in Jacksonville will hold dedication services for its new building on March 27 at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds. David Vosborg is pastor.

Staff changes

Jan Akins is pastor of Webb City Church of Ozark. He previously was pastor of churches in Clarksville, Scranton, Paris and Midway. In addition, he has been interim pastor of Van Buren First Church mission and First Church of St. Charles and has been associate pastor of First Church of Ozark and Kibler. Akins attended Ouachita Baptist University. He also has attended extension classes of both Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and

Oklahoma Baptist University. He and his wife, Sandra, have three children, Jennifer, Jordan and Joel.

Donald F. Rose is the pastor of Crow Mountain Church in Russellville, coming there from Jasper First Church. He is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University in Russellville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Patricia, have four children.

Joey Dodson has been called as youth director at Star City First Church. He is a native of Junction City and a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

David Smith is serving as music and youth director at Forest Park Church in Pine Bluff. Smith is from Edmond, Okla., and will enter Ouachita Baptist University this fall.

Michael Hulsey recently accepted the pastorate of Trinity Church in Searcy, coming there from Hermitage Church. He is a graduate of Baptist Christian College in Shreveport, La. He and his wife, Sherry, are the parents of two children, Amber and Christopher.

Tom Perkins has joined the staff of Pyatt Church as minister of youth and children. Perkins recently served as pastor of Hopewell Church in Harrison. He and his wife, Ellen, have two children, Jodi and Adam. They reside at Bergman.

Trevor Bowman is serving as part-time minister of music at Delaware Church.

Les Fraser began serving March 6 as pastor of Scranton First Church. He formerly was pastor of Southside Church in Lead Hill. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Andrew and Timothy.

Linda Phillips has joined the staff of Russellville Second Church as counselor. She is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She and her husband, Don, have one son.

Eugene Howie is serving as interim pastor of Corinth Church in Crossett.

Shane Wooten is serving as youth director of Temple Church in Crossett. He is a student at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Correction: An error concerning the family of Eddie Meharg, bivocational pastor of Cabin Creek Church of Lamar, was published in the March 10 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine. Meharg and his wife, Glenda, have two sons, Greg and Eric, and one daughter, Melanie.

Obituaries

Elvin Steed, 65, of Texarkana died March 4. Steed was pastor of several churches in Southwest Arkansas Association: Haley Lake, Harmony Grove, Macedonia #2, Tennessee and McNeil Second. Funeral services were held March 6 in Prescott.

Fay McClung, 82, of Hot Springs died Feb. 27. Mrs. McClung was the widow of Ray McClung, former director of missions for Pulaski Association. She retired from the missions department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Survivors include two sons, Lynn R. McClung and Robert A. McClung; and a daughter, Beth Williams. Funeral services were held March 1 in Hot Springs.

G. Corene Brunt of Black Springs died Feb. 27 at age 76. She was a lifetime member of Black Springs Church, having served as church secretary/treasurer for many years. Survivors include a son, Kenneth Brunt of Bryant, and a daughter, Wilma Lewis of Black Springs, two sister, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and two step-great grandchildren.



First Church of Dover recently completed a 6,000-square-foot educational facility as phase one of a two-phase building program. The new facility includes 15 classrooms, a preschool area and restrooms. In addition, the church remodeled its 1,200-square-foot administrative space. "Because He Is Faithful" was the theme for the \$270,000 program, noted pastor Jeff Paxton. Phase two will be the construction of a sanctuary.

CLC seminar speakers warn of family, cultural breakdown

By Louis Moore

SBC Christian Life Commission

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—The breakdown of American family life can be reversed by a concerted emphasis on the traditional two-parent family, where husbands and wives share mutual affection and respect and where children are disciplined in love, said speakers to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 1994 "Family in Crisis" seminar.

At the same time, speaker after speaker criticized the elements in American society today they say are destroying the family, such as sex outside marriage, drug abuse, pornography and homosexuality as well as educational institutions, government entities and media outlets that enable or glorify such immoral behavior.

Over and over speakers emphasized the traditional family is God's ideal presented in the Bible.

"The family is the most basic unit of society," said Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. "God intended it that way."

Christian Life Commission executive director Richard Land said, "The family has almost ceased to function in a nurturing, moralizing way in major segments of society."

"We must not only awaken intact families, revive intact families," he said, but Christians must reconstruct within communities of believers a biblical understanding of the family as God meant it to function.

"There is a way back from this moral abyss, but it is only found in God's Word and God's institution of families," Land said.

Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper Jr. said the hope of America lies in returning to biblical principles of the family.

"The crowning achievement of God was the creation of the family," he said, adding that authority, affection and admonition are the principles God laid down for a unified family.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary president Paige Patterson said families must rear their children in the "fear of the Lord."

"Parents must store the Word of the Lord in their hearts and express profound love for God," he said.

Arkansas Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee identified three reasons for the cultural crisis in America: the rejection of absolute values, reckless lifestyles permeating

society and the impotence of religion.

"Right and wrong are not determined by the mere consent of government. Law is based on something higher than majority opinion," Huckabee said.

He appealed to Christians to avoid growing comfortable in the pew when Christ called His followers to be salt and light. "We must not continue asking government to do what God ordained Christians to do."

Several speakers said pornography and homosexuality are two of many ways Satan is attacking families today.

"The family is, was and will always be the first, best and most important department of health, education and welfare."

—William Bennett
Former U.S. drug czar

Every Christian needs to be involved in the fight against pornography, said Jerry Kirk, founder and president of the National Coalition Against Pornography (N-CAP).

"Pornography is anti-child, anti-woman, anti-man, anti-marriage, anti-family, anti-church and anti-God, and it is filling America," he declared. Kirk, a former Presbyterian pastor, called for a united Christian effort to eliminate both child pornography and all illegal pornography in America.

Americans can win the war against pornography, but they will have to do it one battle at a time, said Oklahoma City district attorney Bob Macy.

Macy is credited with spearheading a citywide effort to drive out pornography-related businesses and prostitutes. His efforts are said to have lowered the rate of sexually related crime in the city and saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.

In his keynote address to the seminar, former U.S. drug czar William Bennett said happiness "has moved ahead of commitment in modern American thinking. When that occurs, the dissolution of critical institutions is bound to follow."

"The family is, was and will always be the first, best and most important department of health, education and welfare," he said. "Its dissolution is the most important fact in American life."

Bennett, a Roman Catholic, said he believes the United States is on the "edge of a moral, religious revolution" which will re-establish and reinvigorate the family in this country.

While ministering to the ills of families in society, Christians must guard against erosion in their own homes, said Harold O'Chester, pastor of Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, and his wife, Barbara O'Chester.

The O'Chesters said the breakdown of Christian families because of infidelity is increasing rapidly.

"People today are asking why immorality is wrong," O'Chester said. "God says, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' That's why it's wrong. God forbids it."

Draper said the tragedy today is that Christian morality and ethics is often no different from that of the world. "Marriage is an exclusive union. It excludes a sexual relationship with anyone other than one's spouse. It is never right to compromise God's standards."

During a public-policy luncheon, CLC staffers said Christians also must focus on government policy that influences families.

James A. Smith, CLC director of government relations, said, "There is too much doom and gloom" among evangelicals over whether they can impact government policy.

American evangelical Christians can win federal public policy battles even though President Clinton and often the Congress and Supreme Court are aligned against them, Smith said.

Fort Worth, Texas, dentist, Richard Neill said Christians can fight back individually against aspects of the media they find offensive. He told seminar participants about his personal campaign to remove the Phil Donohue talk show from the airwaves in his hometown.

To conduct such a campaign, Christians need to take a positive perception of what they are doing, work with passion, be persistent and let their motivation evolve from their Christian commitment, Neill said.

During the seminar, the CLC presented Neill with its 1994 Distinguished Service Award for his battle against Donohue.

Nancy Schaefer of Family Concerns Inc. in Atlanta, urged seminar participants to oppose the goals of Outcome-Based Education. She said OBE goes by various aliases, such as PASS; Success for All; and Performance Based, Mastery Learning.

Schaefer said OBE advocates changes in the American public education system which will undermine the family, undercut religious values and "regulate citizens from the cradle to the grave by using the educational system to challenge fixed beliefs through a religious cleansing."

Young 'laterals' study input to SBC leaders

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Input for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention from nine study groups commissioned by SBC president H. Edwin Young has been handed over to the Executive Committee and other SBC agencies.

"Now I'm lateraling all of this to the Executive Committee," the Houston pastor said. In his comments to the committee, Young noted the study involved 120 individuals in nine ad hoc groups formed in September 1992 who worked without any SBC funding.

In other comments, Young called for an SBC strategy to reach America's cities, challenged investigative reporting by religious journalists and criticized the Clinton administration.

Beyond the recommendations of the study groups, Young said, "We need to get a very clear, dynamic, prayed-through, dreamed-through strategy to reach our cities...certainly the inner city, but the whole city, the suburbs, downtown, the different groups, up-and-outs, down-and-outs, all in between."

Young said he hopes the Executive Committee will appoint a group to work with the Home Mission Board to "come up with a strategy to reach the cities as we go to the turn of the century. That's where people are."

Following Young's presentation, HMB Larry Lewis told reporters that Young "may not be aware we do have a long-established strategy" for reaching cities — the HMB's Mega-Focus Cities process which involves population centers of 1 million or more in goals for church planting, evangelism and cooperation across agency lines.

Annuity Board proposal could save states \$35 million

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board is offering state conventions \$35 million over the next five years if they will approve changes in the Church Annuity Plan, the basic retirement program the board administers for the convention's 38,000 churches.

Outlining the proposal to Annuity Board trustees during their recent meeting in Dallas, W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., executive vice president and chief operating officer, said if the changes are approved by the various state conventions, the Annuity Board will fund the states' entire protection section — the amount the states provide to encourage ministers' participation and which pays for supplemental disability protection and survivor benefits.

The bill for that is \$7 million annually. The Annuity Board will pay it for the next five years, if the states approve the changes.

The state conventions will be asked to consider the changes this fall. If all approve, the changes will go into effect Jan. 1, Hobgood said.

Under the proposed amendments, states would determine requirements for coverage of non-ministerial employees. The current provision is that all employees of a church using the Church Annuity Plan automatically are covered as of Jan. 1, 1998.

On investigative reporting, Young said, "I should not in any way seek to uncover anything about your life and publicize it in a negative way, whatever you have done, whatever I have done....When there's investigative reporting in the name of Christianity, I think you'll have a hard time justifying that if you read the Book and the spirit of brothers and sisters in Christ."

Concerning President Bill Clinton, Young said he has "prayed faithfully for our president and vice president for the 40 days that I asked" in a January prayer effort coordinated by the SBC Brotherhood Commission. "And we still pray for these men. It's very important that we do this," Young said.

"But by the same token, I don't think we as individuals and as spiritual leaders can turn our back on the agenda that we see of free abortions, free condoms and free needles.

"And you go right down the line, it is anti-family, it is contrary to what I believe an honest reading of the Bible is all about."

Study group proposals

Among several recommendations from the study groups recapped by Young:

■ The "cords and stakes" study group's call for, as Young put it, "a plan to reach independent churches of like mind and theology and invite them to join the SBC" and for an informational piece to explain how a church can affiliate with the SBC, which already has been developed by the Executive Committee's convention relations office.

"There are literally thousands of independent Baptist churches that are

more Baptist than a lot of us in this room in doctrine, in theology, in everything they're about," Young said. "Many of these are looking for a place to really invest in worldwide ministry."

■ The multi-ethnic advisory study group's call for ethnic board members for all SBC agencies, boards and commissions, along with an ethnic and black task force to work with all SBC boards and agencies for formulating a unified strategy to carry out the Great Commission.

■ The reaching children and youth study group's call for a youth coordinator to work with all SBC agencies. "We are baptizing half the number of children that were baptized in the 1970s," Young said. "We are not even keeping up with biological growth."

Young also noted a need to broadly circulate the report of the theological study group's paper, which affirmed the SBC's traditional Baptist Faith and Message statement, the theological positions of the 1987 SBC Peace Committee report and the evangelical Chicago Statements on Biblical Inerrancy.

"I think if we as Southern Baptists were alert" when the thinking of influential German theologians Bultmann, Barth and Brunner came to American theological circles "and we clearly identified what this was about in lessening the high view of God's Word, God's perfect truth, perhaps we would never have gotten the situation we found ourselves in a few years back as far as theological education is concerned."

Young said Southern Baptists "need to be alert" to each new wave of theological thought that could affect SBC life.

The changes would provide for withdrawals of funds from the plan regardless of a participant's age if he or she discontinues service. Currently, if a person has \$20,000 or more in the retirement plan, it cannot be withdrawn until the person is 55.

Another change would permit participants to borrow from their retirement accounts, although the amount has not been determined.

Participants in the old Plan A program would be permitted to receive a reduced retirement benefit at age 55, regardless of whether he or she had terminated service with all churches and associations, which is the current provision.

Other changes will bring the Church Annuity Plan into conformity with standard provisions of other plans, simplify and clarify it and conform to administrative practice.

"We are proposing it because we are able to do it and because of the ease in administration that it will provide," Hobgood said. "It is very difficult now to have people understand the difference between the church plan and other corporate plans.

"We are trying to make the Church Annuity Plan more understandable so the people can feel better about it and about us."

Evangelist discovers 'openness in Asian hearts to the gospel'

By Colleen Bäckus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

When Wade Armstrong prayed for a ministry in retirement, there was no way to know what the Lord had in store. Armstrong, a native of Hartford, has gained ongoing opportunities to lead Chinese people to faith in Jesus Christ. He recently returned from a three-month evangelistic effort in Hong Kong which recorded more than 1,400 professions of faith.

Armstrong has a long personal history of involvement in evangelism. He accepted Christ as Savior at the age of 13, and by the age of 17 was serving as pastor of two local Arkansas churches while still in high school. Since graduating from Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Armstrong has served as director of evangelism in California and West Virginia and director of missions in Palm Beach, Fla., and Durham, N.C.

Preceding his retirement in 1989, Armstrong, who is a trustee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, asked other trustees to pray with him for a ministry. The answer was an invitation by the Foreign Mission Board to fill a need for an evangelism teacher at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. For a year, he taught six classes in evangelism and his wife, Shirley, a registered nurse, taught English medical terminology to Chinese nurses.

Eye-opening encounters

"Some of the students got their eyes opened," Armstrong said. "They realized that evangelism is more 'caught' than 'taught.'" Some of students formed a committee which helps Armstrong hold evangelistic efforts in Hong Kong each fall.

"I went over for the first time in 1992 for three months," Armstrong recalled. "We held one service in a different church every Sunday." The committee adopted a goal of 100 professions of faith. "Traditionally, Hong Kong churches only give an invitation two to three times a year," he explained. "So having an American evangelist was an event — they really put out a lot of effort to turn out friends and family."

The effort resulted in 431 profession of faith in Christ and also showed Armstrong fertile ground for soul-winning — schools. "I preached in one high school to more than 1,600 kids and over 100 came to Christ; in the next school another 100

made professions," Armstrong noted.

This set the stage for his most recent trip. The committee set goals of 1,000 professions of faith, conversions in all 20 churches in the region, and 10 services being held in schools. In order to achieve those goals, Armstrong agreed to spend four months in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, even most church-related schools accept government money, Armstrong explained, which means the percentage of faculty who are Christians is often low. In all, Armstrong preached 13 times in schools, speaking to student ranging from fifth-graders to junior college. "In every school, there was great response to the gospel," Armstrong asserted.

In most services, Armstrong spoke on "Who is Jesus?" He explained that in Hong Kong, even at church-supported schools, people have very little exposure to the identity of Jesus. Preaching from Hebrews 13:8, through an interpreter, Armstrong explained to his audiences that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. "I had to keep in mind that there were some people in every audience who had no idea who Jesus is."

Armstrong also used Chinese translations of the CWT witnessing booklet, "Eternal Life," on both trips. The first time he took 2,000 tracts fresh off the press; the next trip he took 20,000 and used all but a few hundred, which he left for further distribution.

While professions of faith in the schools were made by young people, the professions in church services were made by adults. "Most of the churches I spoke in were typically Southern Baptist in size — small," Armstrong explained. "But the audience was primarily young to median adults."

The "Wade Armstrong Crusades," as the Hong Kong committee calls the efforts, achieved all of its goals — including more than 1,400 professions of faith. Both churches and schools had made preparations for follow-up. "One man, about 45 years of age, made a profession of faith in one of the church services," Armstrong recalled. "He said, 'I have worshipped many gods, but today I have taken Jesus to be my God.'"

The success of the evangelistic effort has led the Hong Kong committee to invite Armstrong back not only this fall, but every year for the foreseeable future, with the possibility of extending the effort to mainland China. Affirming the opportunity to continue the successful ministry effort, Armstrong pointed out, "There is a real openness in Asian hearts to the gospel."

Burton Perry: Midwestern's 'senior' graduate

When Burton Perry retired he didn't hit the golf course. He hit the books, graduating at age 73 as Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's oldest graduate. Perry, a member of Highway Church in North Little Rock, has used his master of religious education degree to benefit his church and students at Boyce Bible School in Little Rock.

Perry, who served as a bivocational minister in Arkansas for 45 years, said he decided to go back to school because of the "challenge of trying to learn more as a consequence of being a pastor. I became more aware of the benefits of knowledge."

After retiring from the pastorate in 1982, he enrolled in classes at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. "Going to college at UALR opened up a whole new world for me. 'Holy mackerel!' I said. 'Look what I've been missing!'"

He graduated from UALR in 1986 with a bachelor of arts degree in history. He then enrolled in Midwestern's off-campus program in Little Rock.

"It was going slow, so my wife, Alice, said, 'Go get it over with.'" In 1991, just two months after their 50th anniversary, the couple parted tearfully as she left him in Kansas City to complete his studies.

After seminary graduation, Perry returned to Arkansas and taught a pastoral leadership class as an adjunct professor at Boyce. He said his years as a bivocational minister coupled with his education helped make him an effective professor.

"I come from the bivocational ranks, and Boyce is full of bivocational ministers," he said. "I have a lifetime of bivocational experience and the latest in Christian education and theological training."

Although Perry is officially retired, he hopes to return to the Boyce classroom soon. He also is serving Highway Church as a Bible study preparation teacher for other Sunday School teachers.

Offering advice to other older adults wanting to return to the classroom, he noted, "Don't be afraid to try it. With the right kind of encouragement, you can."

Record Lottie Moon receipts projected

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Early forecasts indicate Southern Baptists gave 1.89 percent more to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions in 1993 than the previous year.

Projections released this month indicate Southern Baptists will have given \$82.5 million to the annual offering when the 1993 books close May 31. That's \$1.5 million more than they gave in 1992 and the most given ever. Prior to the current projections, Lottie Moon gifts decreased two of the previous three years.

The board's March projections normally differ no more than 1 percent from the offering's final figure. The projected total would be 97 percent of the \$85 million goal set for the offering.

The projected total would exceed the 1991 offering, the largest to date, by about \$1.2 million. It also will provide about \$1.5 million for the board's planned \$8 million capital outlay overseas for such things as new construction, equipment and vehicles. Still, it falls short of the \$83 million the board expected when it created the 1994 budget last October.

Estate provides \$2.7 million fund for China

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The estate of the late Roy Cotulla, of Cotulla, Texas, has established a \$2.7 million fund at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for ministries in China. Cotulla, who died in July 1992 at age 86, asked the board in his will to use the money for work in China.

The fund, named after Cotulla and his late wife, Lucille, should surpass \$3 million in the coming months, when a final settlement of the estate releases additional money, explained Carl Johnson, the board's vice president for finance.

The couple owned a ranch in Hugo, Okla., and another in Cotulla, a town of about 3,700 people between San Antonio and Laredo, Texas. The town of Cotulla is named after the late Cotulla's grandfather, a Polish immigrant who founded it in 1881.

The Cotulla fund allows the board to invest the multi-million dollar gift and use the interest from the principal for appropriate ministries in China. However, the board has the leeway to use part or all of the principal if the need arises.

William Cotulla, the nephew of the couple and executor of the estate, said his uncle became deeply concerned about China after several trips there.

Mission board officials have not determined details of how the money will be used in China. However, William Cotulla said his uncle had expressed interest in supporting the printing of Chinese-language Bibles.

Board officials said they will look for ways to honor this interest, possibly channeling funds to the Amity Press, owned and operated by the Amity Foundation in Nanjing, China. Since 1987 the press has printed more than 4 million Bibles and New Testaments.

New law in Bulgaria targets sects, cults

VARNA, BULGARIA (BP)—A new law passed by Bulgaria's parliament targets religious sects. The law, passed in late February, will require groups such as the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and followers of Sun Myung Moon to re-register with the government within the next three months.

The measure apparently will not affect Baptists and other evangelicals, who already have been victims of a months-long campaign of hostility and propaganda. Some churches also have had problems renting public meeting rooms and constructing buildings. Southern Baptist mission workers have had trouble getting residency permits to remain in the country.

Baptist leaders have publicly denounced the law anyway, charging it violates human rights, said Boshidar Igoff, general secretary for Bulgarian Baptists.

"Everybody knows that nobody from these groups will receive a new registration," Igoff said.

Baptists and other church bodies affiliated with the Evangelical Alliance in Bulgaria already are registered with the government and are seemingly not affected by the new law, Igoff said. The other four evangelical groups in the alliance are Pentecostal, Church of God, Congregational and Methodist.

But the new law will affect many Christian para-church organizations, such as an independent evangelical Bible school in Varna, Igoff said. Foreign representatives of such groups may have trouble remaining in Bulgaria.

Rankin seeks end to Lebanon work ban

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin has asked U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to lift a ban that ousted all Americans—including 22 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries—from Lebanon seven years ago.

The ban came as murders, kidnappings, bombings and plane hijackings became frighteningly commonplace and threatened the lives of Americans more than U.S. diplomatic officials were willing to allow.

Rankin asked in a letter to Christopher that the travel ban be lifted—at least for those who want to perform religious, charitable or humanitarian services.

Hospital cleared of charges against Islam

JIBLA, YEMEN (BP)—A court in Yemen has cleared Southern Baptists' hospital in Jibla of charges that workers committed crimes against Islam.

Southern Baptist representative Bill Koehn, the hospital administrator, has received a copy of the newest verdict. The fact that brought the charges has 40 days to appeal.

Last August, after a highly publicized hearing by a judge running for the legislature, Koehn was ordered to close the hospital and leave the country. But the orders were never enforced. The hospital remained open while an appeal was filed.

The case stems from accusations 15 months ago that two men tore up the Koran and threw it in a toilet because a doctor directed them to do so. Accusers said hospital workers were trying to force people to abandon Islam in favor of Christianity. Baptist officials said the incident was staged by Islamic accusers.

Vietnam's open markets exclude churches

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Improved relations between Vietnam and the United States have opened doors to markets—but not churches.

"Vietnam is a country that's run with tighter controls on religion than China," said a Christian observer who regularly works in Vietnam. "It's too early to tell what all will change as Vietnam opens to the United States."

When the South Vietnamese government fell to the communists 19 years ago, 35 Southern Baptist missionaries and journeymen were working with nearly 50 churches and congregations. Today only one Baptist church exists in the country: Grace Baptist Church in Ho Chi Minh City.

Hanoi's tight controls on religion aren't likely to change significantly despite market reforms, said the observer, who requested anonymity. Still, restrictions on religious freedom have eased somewhat in the past year.

Government restrictions bar foreigners from starting churches or evangelizing, but opportunities do exist for Christians to work legally in the country. American Christians teach English as a second language in universities, work in agricultural development projects and offer medical treatment.

Seminary trustees fire Dilday

(Continued from pg. 6)

if he were fired. Some faculty said they actually received the wrong letter, which said Dilday retired.

Trustees voted on printed ballots prepared ahead of time.

John Earl Seelig, a longtime seminary vice president fired by Dilday in 1989, was appointed by trustees to take charge of public relations. Seminary spokesmen were instructed not to talk to the press. Seelig, who was on the seminary campus March 9, said trustees asked him to take the position before the firing.

Dilday is the first Southern Baptist Convention seminary president to be fired since conservatives gained control of the SBC. His frequent criticism of the tactics used by conservatives has brought him into conflict with his trustees in recent years. Two earlier attempts to force him out failed.

In 1984 Dilday preached the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City in which he said an "Orwellian mentality" in the denomination threatened to put Southern Baptists in the company of the "demonic family of forced uniformity."

Trustees came to the brink of firing Dilday in 1989 but backed away. The officers held a closed-door meeting with the president to discuss his alleged political involvement with SBC moderates, after which chairman Ken Lilly of Fort Smith issued an 85-page memo detailing Dilday's alleged political offenses. A five-hour private session between trustees and Dilday followed, which resulted in an agreement that both parties would avoid denominational politics.

The controversy erupted again a year later, however, after Dilday accused SBC conservatives of "crass, secular political methodology." Calls for trustees to fire or censure him were smoothed over by then-chairman Jimmy Draper.

Dilday appeared to have worked out his conflicts with trustees. However, Pulley — a trustee from 1975 to 1982 — was re-elected to the board in 1992, raising fears that the president again might be targeted.

Pulley, who introduced the motion to dismiss Dilday, has opposed Dilday since the president's election in 1978.

During the trustees' March 9 deliberations, one trustee accused Pulley of carrying out a personal vendetta against the president, a charge later denied by the Dallas attorney in a meeting with reporters.

Pulley later reported the action to a gathering of more than 1,000 students, who booed and jeered in response. "Why?! Why?!" students yelled. He asked students to make suggestions for Dilday's successor, to which they chanted, "Dilday! Dilday! Dilday!"

The firing "represents some years of frustration and gridlock with the existing administrator," said Davis, adding trustees "felt like a breath of fresh air was needed."

But William Hightower of Charleston, S.C., a trustee who voted against firing, called the event "a black day in the life of the school and the life of Southern Baptists." He attributed the move to "politics in the convention."

Other trustees objected to the manner of the firing. Larry Brown of Convent Station, N.J., said he had served on boards of major secular corporations and had never seen such a "mean spirit" as that demonstrated by the seminary trustees.

Wayne Allen of Carrollton, Texas, said,

"I cannot believe how un-Christian it was handled....It was a done deal."

"They took the position that it was their right," Dilday said. "And to be perfectly fair, it is true that the board can vote to change presidents at any time. The president serves at the pleasure of the board. I respect their authority to do that. But I think they should have good reasons."

"The fact is we have handled the theological issues here at Southwestern very well, and the school has not had any substantive criticism for liberalism in all these 15 years, nor has my own theology."

Trustees named a search committee to find Dilday's successor, chaired by Miles Seaborn of Fort Worth. They also appointed seminary provost William Tolar to head a committee of administrators to direct the school in the interim.

Although the original motion to fire Dilday included no severance benefits, trustees amended the recommendation to pay him his base salary — about \$85,000 — until he turns 65 in September 1995. He also will receive a housing allowance, medical and annuity benefits, and a \$3,000-a-month allowance for an off-campus office. He and his wife, Betty, must vacate the seminary-owned president's home by June 7.

Dilday urged students and faculty not to overreact to his dismissal.

"I don't want anybody leaving or the faculty reacting," he told reporters. "They need to stay with their work and the task to which the Lord has called them. I will be praying for them and supportive of them. I want this school to go forward."

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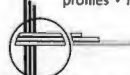
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CLC trustees give award to Russian dissident

By Louls Moore

SBC Christian Life Commission

OKLAHOMA CITY—(BP) Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees voted unanimously March 3 to present the CLC's John Leland Religious Liberty Award to Father Gleb Yakunin, an evangelical Russian Orthodox priest who was once imprisoned and exiled for his stand on religious liberty. Yakunin is noted for his stand for religious liberty for all Russian religious believers.

In 1965 the Soviet KGB barred Yakunin from performing his priestly duties because of his opposition to religious repression in the Soviet Union. In 1976 he founded the Committee for the Protection of Religious Rights in the Soviet Union. He was imprisoned repeatedly during the 1980s for his stand against religious repression in the Soviet Union. As the former Soviet Union began coming apart, Yakunin was released and given amnesty in 1987.

But in late 1993, after the fall of the Soviet Union, the Russian Orthodox Church stripped Yakunin of his priesthood because of his continued fight for religious

liberty for all believers. The Russian Orthodox Church has lobbied with the Russian government for preeminence over religious affairs in Russia, and Yakunin has emerged as the church's biggest critic.

Among his many stands, Yakunin has supported the influx of evangelical missionaries, including those from the Southern Baptist Convention, into Russia. He also fought against the previous Russian Parliament's efforts to curb religious freedom in Russia.

'Credit where credit is due'

During his report to the commissioners' meeting in Oklahoma City, CLC executive director Richard Land commended President Bill Clinton for including religious values as a part of discussions about solutions to problems in America.

"I would agree with Bill Bennett that we ought to give credit where credit is due," Land said. "Bill Clinton has been more than most presidents in the recent past — and certainly most Democratic presidents — in making it clear that there are moral difficulties in our nation that only moral answers will suffice. Now, in

the interest of fairness, I want to say that, so far, I like his diagnosis a lot better than I like his prescription.

"But I must tell you," Land told the trustees, "that I believe that his quoting of (the recent Stephen Carter book) *The Culture of Disbelief* and his returning to it on several occasions, and many of the things he said in response to reading that book, is the answer. These are direct answers to the prayers of millions of Christians who have been obedient to the command of our Lord to pray for those who are in authority, with the sure and certain knowledge that the heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord."

Land said his positive comments about Clinton do not "mean that we have any idea that he agrees with us on a lot of issues." He added, however, that "we ought to seize this opportunity and redeem it and use it for good purposes."

In other action, the CLC trustees unanimously adopted a motion clarifying that a previous motion adopted six months ago endorsing the 50th anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should not be interpreted as endorsing special rights for homosexuals.

The motion said, "Nothing the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has said in the past or in the future about the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be misconstrued as endorsement of special rights for homosexuals."

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Croatian pastor ministers amid civil war

By Michael Clingenpeel

Virginia Religious Herald

KARLOVAC, CROATIA (BF)—Ladislav Ruzicka is pastor of Croatia's fastest growing Baptist church. But not many pastors would trade places with him.

His church building is 400 yards from a "no man's land" that separates Croatian and Serbian troops in a land wracked by civil war.

"I watched the whole war from this window," the young pastor said, turning to the window behind his desk in a tiny second-floor office. "Twenty-five grenades landed within 100 meters of this building," he added, describing the three-month siege of Karlovac by Serbian troops in October 1991. The exterior walls of the church still wear the scars of shrapnel from mortar shells bursting in the church's front yard.

For 90 days shells rained down on Karlovac, a Croatian city of 50,000 people bordering Bosnia. Many people fled, leaving crops and livestock in the rolling farmland surrounding the city. Those who stayed endured a winter without electricity, water, phones, and sometimes food.

But Ruzicka, his wife Melanie, and their 5-year-old daughter refused to leave. At stake, he believes, was their credibility as believers and his as a pastor. "If I had left I could never have come back," said Ruzicka. "We just trusted that God would take care of us. The church must continue to go forward regardless of politics."

Despite the danger and hardships, the church continued to worship, but not without difficulty. "People would not come," the pastor noted. "There was no plumbing, the front line was next to the church and there were no lights at night."

But now the risks seem to have been worth it. The local police and Croatian

army, who earlier wondered if the Ruzickas were Serbian, gained confidence in his leadership. A soldier and his family visited his church during the war and became Christians. And Ruzicka's ministry has a credibility among the people it would not have known otherwise.

The young couple, both of whom are from other cities in Croatia, moved to Karlovac six years ago where he had been called to serve two tiny, struggling congregations, one 3 kilometers outside Karlovac, the other in Duga Resa, a nearby village. The churches had only 19 members, none of whom were natives of the Karlovac area. For 20 years no one had made a profession of faith, according to Ruzicka.

Slow, steady progress

Progress was slow, but gradually the people began to trust the new pastor's leadership. Services were held at Duga Resa on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, at Karlovac on Sunday and Thursday evenings. Four years ago Ruzicka invited a local reporter to cover an "open house" at the Duga Resa church. Her husband attended with her, and later returned with his friends. Soon he accepted Christ and was baptized, the "first fruit" of Ruzicka's ministry, and a revival began that has not stopped.

Now the churches have 100 members, and there is no room to seat all who want to attend services in the 50-seat sanctuaries at the two sites. Last year 20 adult converts were baptized. Four more await baptism.

Bill Steele, a Southern Baptist foreign missionary in neighboring Slovenia, affirms the genuineness of the commitments. "When you decide to be a Christian in this

culture it is a serious commitment. It determines your profession and future. It excludes you from so many parts of society. It is a life-changing thing."

Much of Ruzicka's ministry involves distributing humanitarian aid to victims of the war. Supply trucks loaded at Bratko Horvat's warehouse about two hours north regularly bring provisions which fill the second floor of the three-story house that serves as the Karlovac church. Almost 2,000 people are fed each month through this ministry. "It is very difficult," explained Ruzicka, "because people line up outside the building from early morning until night. But because of this we have been able to tell many about Jesus."

The war is not over near Karlovac. Three months ago Serbian gunners shelled the city for several days from positions a half mile away. The pastor's automobile was damaged by mortar fire and one church member's home was destroyed when it was struck by four grenades. The guns are silent now, but the armies have not moved. Two doors from the Karlovac church a tank sits silently in front of a house, sandbagged to protect it from flying shrapnel, a reminder that the war is never far away.

But that does not smother Ladislav Ruzicka's vision for reaching his community with the gospel. The church has purchased a plot of land near the center of Karlovac where one day, he says, they will build a new church building. It will have a 350-seat sanctuary, a bookstore and apartments to house refugees.

"Now we are waiting for the day when the war ends. In the future there will be a great result from what we've done there during the war." There already is.

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Youth seek 'A Heart that Knows U'

Arkansas Baptist youth will search for "A Heart that Knows U" at Super Summer Evangelism School June 20-24 at Ouachita Baptist University. The school, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, will feature four levels of training for participants.

Randy Brantley, an associate in the department, said the school is designed "to equip disciples in personal growth, evangelism and ministry in order to impact the world for Christ." He noted the school "compares to a university. We have deans and assistant deans and each school is a mixture of praise and worship, exciting master teaching of Christian education and small group discussion."

Brantley said training levels within the school will allow a variety of education opportunities for participants. Levels include junior high schools, senior high schools, Advanced Leadership School (ALS) and Youth Ministry School.

He said ALS is for "the student who has completed the 10th grade and has attended at least one year of Super Summer." He explained the school is designed primarily for students in leadership positions to "sharpen their skills in campus evangelism to see their connections in athletics and student clubs as a platform for witnessing for Christ."

Brantley also called for "staffers,"

college students who lead small groups during the school. "We are looking for at least 125 young people who are spiritually mature, recommended by their pastor and are no more than 30 years old to be staffers," explained Brantley.

"We are looking for those who feel called into the ministry," he added. "They are essentially a youth minister for a week, leading small groups in recreation, study times and in counseling. They get a good taste of what ministry is about during the week and it is invaluable to their ministry training process." He said there is no cost for staffers and training begins June 18 with courses on small group dynamics, evangelism and discipline.

The cost for the week is \$85 per Arkansas student and \$95 per out-of-state student before May 27. The cost includes lodging, all meals, curriculum and registration.

Registration forms are available through the ABSC evangelism department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5222. Registration is limited and Brantley advised early registration before the May 27 deadline.

MK birthdays

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in April are:

■ April 3: Carolyn Blackmon, OBU Box 3310, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, junior from South Brazil.

■ April 19: April Lee, OBU Box 4527, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, junior from Japan.

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Convention Uniform

The empty tomb

By Norman Lewis, DOM,
Black River Association
Basic passage: John 20:1-31
Focal passage: John 20:29

Central truth: The tomb shows us Jesus is victorious over death and through Him we have eternal life.

Mary Magdalene, patiently waiting the end of the Jewish sabbath, made her way that early Sunday morning to the tomb where her blessed Lord lay. Seeing that the stone sealing the tomb had been rolled away, she ran at once to Peter and John. "The tomb is empty. They have taken away the Lord and we don't know where they have laid Him."

John outran Peter to the tomb and did not enter but saw the grave clothes lying there. Peter arrived and charged right in. John followed him in and they both saw the napkin that had been about His head wrapped neatly separate from the linen clothes. The Scripture says John saw and believed, making him the first to believe that Jesus had risen from the tomb even before he saw Him.

The two went home but Mary remained, weeping. What a picture of her deep grief. Still believing that someone had stolen the Lord's body, she was so shaken that she failed to recognize Jesus even when He spoke to her. Something in the way Jesus said her name enabled her to recognize Jesus and she exclaimed, "Rabboni," meaning "my Lord." She reached for Him, but Jesus said, "Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended." She went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and He had spoken these things to her.

The disciples, without Thomas, were assembled and Jesus appeared to them. He taught that He gives them peace to replace fear, that they have a mission to perform and that the presence of the Spirit will guide them "if you forgive" (v. 23).

If Christians neglect their responsibility of preaching forgiveness, they will be responsible for sins unforgiven. The doubts of Thomas were erased as Jesus spoke to him (v. 27). He replied, "My Lord and my God." Our Lord's reply (v. 29) was not critical of Thomas but looked forward to all future believers. John concluded by saying this book was written that people might believe Jesus is the risen Christ. This is our message. He is risen—and believing and accepting Him as our Lord and Savior, we have life everlasting through His name. Hallelujah!

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Life and Work

Our anchor of faith

By Richard Avey, pastor,
Zion Hill Church, Cabot
Basic passage: John 20
Focal passage: John 20

Central truth: The reality of the resurrection is the anchor of faith.

The three great pillars of the Christian faith are the virgin birth, the cross atonement and the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you remove any one of these, the entire structure falls. The apostle Paul states: "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Cor. 15:14 NIV). Truly, the reality of the resurrection is the basis of our faith as well as witness. In this text, we see this truth in the life of the disciples.

The key verse for this lesson could very well be verse 8. John himself enters the empty tomb and the scripture simply says, "He saw and believed." Believed what? Did John simply believe that the tomb was empty and that Mary was telling the truth when she said that they had taken the Lord out of the tomb? I understand this to mean that John saw and believed that Jesus was indeed alive from the dead.

Faith must be anchored on the fact of the resurrection. Yet, there are hindrances to faith. These are seen in the experiences of His followers:

■ Emotions or feelings (vv. 10-14). Feelings rise and fall at every whim. Do not allow emotions or feelings to keep you from knowing the presence of the living Christ.

■ Ignorance (v. 9). The disciples did not believe because they were not able to interpret this experience by the Scriptures that they knew. Henry Blackaby reminds us not to interpret the Bible by our experience, but rather interpret our experience by the Bible. What I understand about God is based upon the Scripture.

■ Doubts (v. 25). Doubting leads to skepticism, as we see in Thomas.

We cannot see the physical presence of Jesus today. Faith does not rest on sight, smell or touch. Faith rests on the inner experience of receiving the living Lord (v. 29). The reality of the resurrection is attested to by His presence in the life of every believer.

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Bible Book

Jesus meets our needs

By John T. Evans, pastor,
Yarbro Church, Blytheville
Basic passage: John 20:1-31
Focal passage: John 20:19-22; 30-31
Central truth: The risen Christ is a personal Savior meeting our needs.

Immediately upon His resurrection, our Lord sought to meet the needs of His followers. He is still meeting needs.

Jesus' disciples were no doubt confused, bewildered and afraid. They had run when Jesus was arrested and for all they knew, He was dead. Would they be next? They needed peace; the peace that only Jesus can give. So Jesus suddenly walked through a locked door and said, "Peace be with you!" (v. 19). Whatever they had done that weekend, whatever they had thought or said or feared was all forgiven when Jesus said, "Peace."

The disciples also needed proof that Jesus was really risen from the dead. His disciples were filled with joy when Jesus met this need by showing them His hands and side (v. 20). Jesus would later do the same for Thomas (vv. 26-28).

Not only did Jesus give His disciples peace and proof, He also gave them a plan to evangelize the world (v. 21) and the power of the Holy Spirit to implement that plan (v. 22).

Likewise, the risen Savior meets our personal needs today of:

■ Salvation. John summarizes his gospel by noting that these events are recorded so that "you" may believe (our needs). The Scripture contains everything that anyone needs in order to believe unto salvation. No further proof or evidence is necessary.

■ Security. John says those who believe have life—eternal life "in His name" (v. 31b). This same John writes in I John 5:13 that we can "know" that we have eternal life. That security comes from believing what the Scripture says about our resurrected Lord.

■ Service. He instructs those who believe in Him to continue His ministry (v. 21). But His ministry requires His power and His presence if it is to succeed. Jesus met this need with the gift of His Holy Spirit (v. 22). Jesus still empowers believers with this same Holy Spirit.

Christians who refuse to serve Jesus and perform ministry in His name are without excuse. Non-Christians who refuse to believe are also without excuse. He has met the need.

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Convention Uniform

The Spirit and the flesh

By Norman L. Lewis, DOM,
Black River Baptist Association
Basic passage: Romans 8:1-11
Focal passage: Romans 8:1-2
Central truth: Deliverance from sin and death comes from the Spirit who makes us free.

Romans 8 begins with a powerful statement of freedom affirming that those who are in Christ are not condemned. Paul then described how this freedom occurs and why. God provided freedom from the sinful nature by sending His Son in the flesh (Heb. 2:16-17) to conquer the flesh forever. He paints striking contrasts between the old life of the flesh and the new life of the Spirit. Because of these contrasts, Christians are under obligation not to live according to the flesh but to live in the power of the Spirit.

There are more references to the Holy Spirit in this chapter than in any other chapter of Paul's letters. Paul's discussion of these 11 verses on the new life of the Spirit would be described as "deliverance." The new life of the Spirit brings deliverance from an old bondage to sin and death. This portion is a mighty declaration of freedom.

Note the phrases that denote the importance of the Holy Spirit in verses 1-11: "Walk after the Spirit"; "The law of the Spirit"; "But after the Spirit"; "They that are after the Spirit"; "The things of the Spirit"; "But in the Spirit"; "If so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you"; "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His"; "But the Spirit is life because of righteousness"; "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you"; "Shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit and to do so is life and peace. They are indwelt by the Spirit of God and this certifies that they belong to Christ. Their bodies are dead because of sin but the Spirit, who is life, imparts life to them because they have been justified. There is an assured hope for the future based on the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The lives of the redeemed of God should reflect daily that we have been set free by the Spirit.

Life and Work

A fresh encounter

By Richard Avey, pastor,
Zion Hill Church, Cabot
Basic passage: Luke 24:13-35
Focal passage: Luke 24:13-35
Central truth: A fresh encounter with Jesus brings revival.

Have you ever felt down in the dumps spiritually? Perhaps you can identify with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It would have been interesting to have eavesdropped on their conversation with one another. Bewitched, bothered and bewildered they were. They were leaving Jerusalem and going back home.

When you feel like throwing in the towel:

- Recognize that Jesus is alive and with us (vv. 14-15). These two were so pre-occupied with their own grief, fears and frustrations they did not respond to His presence. Jesus walks beside us and within us, waiting to be recognized. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

- Reflect upon experiences with Jesus. It was only after they recognized Jesus that these disciples recalled how their "hearts burned within" (v. 32). God was present and active with them on the road that day, but they needed to reflect back in order to realize the revelation.

- Replenish spiritual energy through prayer and Bible study (v. 32). The word "burned" translates into a word meaning "to glow with warmth." The warm glow was due to the gradual return of understanding, joy and hope that came not only by Jesus being with them, but by what He taught them from the Scriptures.

Jesus is the great illuminator. He sheds light in the darkness of heartache, disappointment and bewilderment. He is able to make sense of things. The teaching ministry of Jesus continues in the present. The risen Christ continues to illuminate the minds of those who call Him Lord.

Note that it was in the intimacy and fellowship at the dinner table that they finally came to recognize their encounter with the living Lord. By spending time with Him they were able to see Him for who He is.

The difference the resurrection makes is evident from this experience of two followers of Jesus. It also shows us how the days between His resurrection and His return to heaven provided time for renewal of the disciples' relationship with Jesus.

Bible Book

Released from bondage

By John T. Evans, pastor,
Yarbro Church, Chathamville
Basic passage: John 11:1-57
Focal passage: John 11:43-44
Central truth: Jesus came to release us from bondage.

Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead by praying (v. 41-42). Then He ordered Lazarus to "come forth" out of the tomb (v. 43). But there was a problem: Lazarus was alive and yet, for all practical purposes, he was dead. He couldn't do much because he was bound hand and foot and even his face was covered with grave clothes (v. 44).

The Jewish custom was to wrap the body of the deceased in linen cloth coated with about 100 pounds of aromatic spices mixed together to form a gummy substance. These grave clothes effectively incapacitated Lazarus. The miracle wasn't complete until Lazarus was freed from the bondage of the grave clothes.

There is a spiritual analogy here. Many Christians today, who have been gloriously saved and given eternal life by Jesus Christ, are wandering around like mummies — bound with grave clothes! These grave clothes hinder our witness for Christ and our joy in the life that He has given us. Consider several examples of grave clothes.

- Anxiety. We worry about our health, our money, our families, our jobs, etc. Jesus has freed us by saying, "Be anxious for nothing..." (Phil. 4:6).

- Negative attitudes. We tell ourselves that we are unable to witness or to teach a Sunday School class or do some other work for Christ's kingdom. But Jesus enables and equips for service.

- Sinful habits. We often allow our fleshly nature to bind us and make us slaves to sin rather than servants of Christ. Jesus came to free us from the bondage of sin and empower us to stand fast in liberty for Him. (Gal. 5:1).

This list could go on forever, but the point has been made: Jesus came to free us from bondage. Therefore, we should not be dead in Christ. He intended for His followers to live victorious and joyful, not defeated and discouraged lives. To all those who are bound with grave clothes of worry, anxiety, insecurity, uncertainty and fear, Jesus says, "Be loosed and set free" (v. 44) and "...you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36b).

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NEWS DIGEST

Religious persecution in China threatens U.S. relations

WASHINGTON (ABP) — China's aggressive campaign of religious persecution must not go unchecked by the United States, two U.S. congressmen said during a March 9 subcommittee hearing.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., reported about religious persecution in China to a House foreign affairs subcommittee holding its second in a series of hearings on religious freedom worldwide.

China renewed its crackdown on religious freedom through two new executive orders on Jan. 31, Smith said. The orders prohibit foreigners from proselytizing and regulate management of places of worship.

Chairman Tom Lantos, D-Calif., said that "it is imperative that we send a clear signal to the Chinese leadership that religious persecution is not acceptable under any circumstances." Lantos said the Chinese government would clean up its act if it believed the United States would not renew China's top trade status.

Survey notes what pastors wish their churches knew

BURLINGTON, ND (BP)—Pastors need some time with their families. That was the response most pastors gave in a recent survey conducted by Tammy Kraft, a member of Burlington (N.D.) Baptist Church.

The top response in the survey of pastors expressed "a desire for their churches to understand their need for time to spend with their families."

Kraft said other oft-mentioned responses included: "We need our churches to realize pastors are human and sometimes need ministered to by their congregations" and "many pastors are living far away from their families and sometimes need to be included in non-church fun things."

Letter-writing effort urged to help 'Christy' succeed

LOS ANGELES (BP)—"I think we have the power to make this show work," veteran actor Tom Lester said of the boost Baptists and other evangelicals can give to the Easter night premier of "Christy" on CBS.

Christians should write letters to CBS voicing appreciation for the show and encouraging Hollywood to offer more family entertainment, said Lester, whose most memorable role was "Eb" on "Green Acres." Lester is a member of Shepherd of the Hills Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Porter Ranch, Calif.

"Christy" is based on the best-selling novel with the same name penned by the late Christian author Catherine Marshall. Its premier will be a two-hour movie following "60 Minutes" Sunday, April 3. Six one-hour "Christy" episodes will be aired on subsequent Thursday evenings. Letters of appreciation may be addressed to: Jeff Sagansky, President, CBS Entertainment, c/o CBS TV CITY, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Music leader, hymnal editor Forbis sets early retirement

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Wesley L. Forbis, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department and editor of "The Baptist Hymnal," 1991 edition, has announced his intention to take early retirement effective June 1.

Forbis, who came to the board in 1981, said he is choosing to retire to continue his career in other areas and to accept opportunities as a conductor and clinician. During Forbis' tenure, the church music program increased in enrollment from 1.5 million in 1981 to 1.9 million in 1993. In addition to the publication of the 1991 hymnal, which has sold 2.5 million units in three years, Forbis developed "Musicians on Mission."

A native of Oklahoma, Forbis is a graduate of the University of Tulsa, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. He previously was professor of music and chairman of the music department of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. Earlier, he worked in music ministry positions for churches in Tennessee, Texas and Oklahoma.

Texas Baptist congregation wins property-tax dispute

WASHINGTON (ABP)—First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, has won its legal battle to keep two parking lots it leases to a real estate firm off county tax rolls.

The church prevailed March 7 when the U.S. Supreme Court, without comment, left standing a lower-court's ruling that exempting the two lots from property tax does not violate the federal or Texas constitutions. The church, which owns four parking lots, leases two that are not adjacent to its sanctuary. The church has use of the lots after 5 p.m. on weekdays, as well as Sundays and occasional holidays.

The property at issue in the dispute, the lower court noted, "is being used primarily for religious purposes" and is "reasonably necessary" for engaging in worship.