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March 26, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



Vol. 91, No. 7

March 26, 1992

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14 Iowa, Arkansas Baptists meet

Eight associational directors of missions, 10 members of the ABCS Executive Board staff, and Johnny Jackson, president of the Home Mission Board trustees, recently traveled to Des Moines to meet with Iowa Baptist leaders to plan for the Iowa-Arkansas Partnership for Kingdom Growth.

16 HMB elects officers

Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected new officers, approved plans to expand the size of a new headquarters building to be completed by 1995, and elected Ken Hemphill of Norfolk, Va., to a new position as director of church growth during their recent meeting in Atlanta.

FMB chief, Keith Parks, to retire

(The following story was posted by Erich Bridges of the Baptist Press foreign bureau as the ABN went to press.)

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks announced at the press conference following the March 19-20 retreat with board trustees in Bedford, Texas, that he plans to retire as president in October, when he will turn 65. He plans to officially notify trustees of his plans at their April meeting.

Parks said he felt God was leading him to retire. A statement released at the press conference stated in part:

"The trustees expressed that they felt and still feel a strong desire to the contrary. They emphatically urged that Dr. Parks continue in his leadership role, but submitted to his sense of God's leadership. The trustees acknowledged Dr. Parks' superior leadership as president since 1980, and expressed their concern for continuity in the ongoing mission enterprise. The trustees affirmed to the missionaries, the staff and to Southern Baptists their commitment to the historic principles which have characteristically guided Southern Baptist foreign mission work."

The statement was unanimously adopted by the 78 trustees present at the session, and affirmed by the 12 staff members present, including Parks.

In a telephone message to mission board staff, Parks said:

"I want you to know this expresses very accurately what has happened. There has been a genuine spirit and sense of the Lord's presence I felt a definite expression from the Lord during the prayer times that this was what the Lord was leading me to do. I wanted you to hear it directly from me. You know, I trust, my deep appreciation for you as staff and the joy I have in working with you. That will be one of the regrets, but I do feel the Lord leading me at this time to do this, and I'll trust your understanding and affirmation of the leadership."

Cover story

Photo: Jim Vaneman



One Message

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Southern Baptist churches will be observing Cooperative Program Day this year on Sunday, April 12. The 1992 theme is "ONE Message: Sharing the Bible in ALL Languages," based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17. On the cover, David Kim, pastor of the Korean congregation at Columbia Baptist Church of Falls Church, Va., talks about the Bible with Daep Kim, a member of the church.

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Believing the Bible

J. EVERETT SNEED

Sometime ago a young person asked, "Can I really believe the Bible?" There may be numbers of factors that cause doubt. But, as we answered the young woman, there is adequate and reliable proof that the Bible "has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter" (*The Baptist Faith and Message*).

Doubt of the Bible may arise in a number of ways. Doubts develop from personal tragedy. Or one may begin to question the validity of the Scripture as a result of something he has been taught in school.

To confront doubt, one needs to be aware of the massive body of evidence that we have to show that the Bible is totally reliable, both in its history and its doctrine, when rightly understood and interpreted.

First, the Bible is necessary because it is God's self disclosure of himself to man. Apart from the Scriptures, man cannot have an adequate understanding of God, his purpose and his movements in history. Since a loving God is the source of the Bible, it is logical to assume that God would reveal himself perfectly and accurately to man.

The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God. The writers of the Bible stated that they were speaking for God or that God was speaking through them. For example, the prophet Isaiah said, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken..." (Is. 1:2). Again Jeremiah said, "Then the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying..." (Jr. 1:4). The Apostle Paul declared, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Ti. 3:16).

The unity of the Bible, also, establishes its reliability. A single author of a book often must rewrite his materials in order to obtain unity and agreement. The Scriptures were written over a period of 1600 years by 30 or more authors. The writers came from many walks of life, including farmers, shepherds, fishermen, kings and peasants. There was, also, a wide diversity in the geographic areas from which they came. Some lived in Palestine, others in Rome or Babylon. Still others lived and wrote in the wilderness. Each of the writers wrote independently, yet, their writings contained a oneness. The only plausible explanation is that the entire Bible was produced under the guiding hand of God.

The content of the Bible also declares it



to be the Word of God. The Bible contains truths, prophecies, and a message to man which could not have been the mere product of human minds. The content of the Bible could never have been known if it had not been divinely revealed.

Another proof of the Bible's trustworthiness is the fact that Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Christ. Almost every major event in the Christ's earthly ministry was predicted hundreds of years before his birth. For example, the place of his birth, Bethlehem was predicted by Malachi (Ml. 5:2). The fact that he was to be born of a virgin was foretold by Isaiah (Is. 7:14). Had the Scriptures not been a divine product, it would not have been possible for these events to have been foretold.

The validity of the Old Testament is attested by Christ having quoted from virtually every Old Testament book. Had these books not been inspired of God, our Savior would not have validated them by quoting them to his followers. There is absolutely no indication of our Lord ever questioning any book that is contained in the Old Testament canon.

The apostles were commissioned by Christ, who promised them the super natural aid of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 10:6-8). They, also, gave attestation to the validity of their writings by the miracles which

God enabled them to perform (Mt. 10:10; 2 Co. 13:12).

The Scripture is further validated through scholarly writings and archaeological discoveries. Many of the events and places are corroborated by secular history. Further, archaeological discoveries have proven the historical accuracy of many of the Bible events. For example, some scholars of biblical criticism have maintained that the Old Testament was oral tradition because writing was unknown in early Old Testament history. Recent archaeological discoveries have provided proof that people could write in the ancient Old Testament period.

Perhaps the greatest proof of the validity of the Scripture is human experience. The Bible provides comfort and guidance that cannot be obtained from any other source. It is only in the Scripture that a person can discover with total accuracy how to find God through Christ.

The Bible, also, contains a relevant witness that cannot be found in any other book. Dr. A.T. Robertson, renowned scholar at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., for 50 years said, "I never pick up the Greek New Testament without finding something new." Each of us can enjoy the old, old story but we will find something new and exciting each time we read God's Holy Word.

When doubts of the Bible arise, these and other proofs should be called to mind. As a Christian grows, matures and studies the Bible, he will discover, as John R.W. Stott said, "A man who loves his wife, will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So, if we love the Lord Jesus we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of him."

Arkansas Baptist

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

I can never tell you what a joy it has been to have our Baptist people respond to my appeal to give matching funds for the Sileam Springs improvements. Anywhere from \$1 to \$5,000 has been given since the appeal in February. Though no church has been solicited, a number of churches have gotten the burden and have taken action to help with the cause. We are still \$125,000 away from the goal. All commitments need to be made by April 1.

Good news! Again this year the efforts of Arkansas Baptists to start new churches have resulted in outstanding results. Arkansas has started more churches for the number of resident church members than any state in the Southern Baptist convention. Most are anglo churches, but an unusually large number this year are Hispanic and black Southern Baptist churches. Our praise to God and thanks to you for making this possible through the Cooperative Program and the home and state mission offerings.

Speaking of the Cooperative Program, I am wondering if your church family knows what they are doing through the Cooperative Program. They need to know. They deserve to know. April 12 is the suggested day for Cooperative Program Sunday. We can provide excellent information and promotion material if you would like to lift up this biblical plan for world mission support. Call 376-4791, ext. 5103, to get your materials. If you can't do this on April 12, do it on another Sunday. As Arkansas Baptists are learning, they are doing a better job of mission support through the Cooperative Program.

Shirley and I thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy in recent days. After a 10-year burden and battle with human infirmity, the Lord relieved Shirley's mother by opening the door of death to mercifully and gloriously welcome her home. Nothing better could happen for Mamaw. Equally glorious has been the grace of God that has sustained the only child as she gave her best to meet the needs of both her father and mother. Thanks!

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



WILLIAM SUTTON

The President's Corner

Risk-free: no victory

Several months ago *U. S. News and World Report* did a special issue on the U. S. Congressional Medal of Honor. (One of the stories highlighted was that of Arkansan, "Footsie" Britt.) The medal was founded during the Civil War to recognize extraordinary courage. One of the criteria for eligibility is that the candidate for the medal must have had some alternative to the brave course of action taken which would not have subjected him to criticism. In other words, he must have acted heroically even when he had a good excuse not to.

This seems to me to be the circumstances of the church today. If we are so inclined, we can find a lot to do which is good, acceptable and risk-free. The problem is that not much has ever been accomplished that way.

Peter and the apostles had a "reasonable" alternative to preaching Jesus when called before the Counsel (see Acts 5:27-42). John Bunyan was offered a "reasonable" alternative to 12 years in prison. Yet, by declining the "reasonable" alternatives, Peter and the apostles "filled Jerusalem" with teaching and John Bunyan inspired the world with his great books, *Grace Abounding*

and *Pilgrim's Progress*.

As the 20th Century is closing down, many see a faltering church falling even in its ministry to traditional church families. Others see fields white with harvest even to the ends of the earth.

Whatever the vision, our times call for extraordinary action far beyond our ability to conceive or execute in our own strength.

It is a time for God's people to pray with great sobriety and earnestness remembering: "... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Ro. 8:26).

As we consider our awesome responsibilities toward our children, our families and our beloved country along with our opportunities and obligations to preach Jesus Christ throughout the world, may the Spirit intercede for us to produce extraordinary victories with his ordinary people.

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



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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SUNDAY APRIL 12

Why celebrate CP Day?

by James Austin
SBC Stewardship Commission

Southern Baptist churches will be observing Cooperative Program Day this year on Sunday, April 12. The 1992 theme is "ONE Message: Sharing the Bible in ALL Languages." It is based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The peoples of the United States are composed of more than 500 ethnic groupings. More than 100 million Americans have identified themselves as language-culture people. There are also thousands of languages and dialects spoken around the world. The challenge of communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ is great.

Extensive suggestions for planning and promoting this special day may be found in the booklet "Cooperative Program Day in Your Church" (CP-4). Look in the February 1992 issue of *The Baptist Program* for a copy of this guide. The same information can be found in the April-June issue of *Woman's Missionary Union's Dimension* magazine. Additional copies of "Cooperative Program Day in Your Church" may be ordered free from most state conventions' stewardship offices or from SBC Stewardship Services, 127 Ninth Avenue, Nashville, TN 37234; telephone 1-800-458-2772.

This planning guide is a joint product of the Stewardship Commission, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Woman's Missionary Union. Its primary objective is to involve as many lay persons as possible in the Cooperative Program Day activities.

Observing Cooperative Program Day in your church will bring your members to a clearer understanding of the work God is accomplishing through the Cooperative Program. Church members will be inspired by

past accomplishments that Southern Baptists working together have made possible. They will be challenged to greater personal participation through praying and giving as well as volunteering.

Cooperative Program Day is a time to in-

*"I was in a refugee camp and
you came unto me . . .
. . . through the
Cooperative Program.*



Cooperative Program Day
... in your church on
April 12, 1992

roduce the Cooperative Program to those who have little or no understanding of our Baptist cooperative way of supporting mission ministries.

Cooperative Program Day is a time to focus on the over-arching Cooperative Program emphasis for the 1990s, ONE for ALL, which strongly urges churches to direct their energies toward accomplishing the Bold Mission Thrust goal: "That every person in the world should have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ by the year 2000." It will help churches cooperatively and effectively witness to the lost world.

Cooperative Program Day answers the question, "What can I do to help change my world for Christ?"

First, commit yourself anew to his lordship revealed in the Great Commission.

Second, examine your own giving. Set a worthy goal and make plans to reach it.

Third, ask your church's stewardship and/or budget planning committee to study your church's Cooperative Program giving record.

Fourth, use every opportunity to study biblical truths of stewardship and missions.

Fifth, help your church decide to share an increasing percentage of its budget income through the Cooperative Program.

Sixth, pray for missionaries and ministries supported through the Cooperative Program.

Seventh, plan and participate in Cooperative Program Day.

It is never too late to observe Cooperative Program Day. Some churches may, because of scheduling, choose another Sunday for observance of this important event.

Plan to distribute copies of the 1992 Cooperative Program Day bulletin insert (NCP-11). Also use other appropriate leaflets such as "A Cram Course on the Cooperative Program" (CP-25), "Southern Baptists Working Together" (CP-22), or other tracts that are available free from most state stewardship/Cooperative Program Promotion offices.

By participating in a celebration on Cooperative Program Day, a church reflects its concern for accomplishing the Great Commission through Southern Baptists' way to the lost world. By supporting the ministries of state convention and SBC agencies through this cooperative system, a church is in partnership with thousands of other SBC churches and over 8,000 home and foreign missionaries.

You can make this year's Cooperative Program Day in your church the best ever.

Home missions and CP

by Larry Lewis

President, SBC Home Mission Board

Lifeflood. The glue that bonds Southern Baptists. The genius of Southern Baptist work.

All of these are descriptions of Southern Baptists' financial support system for home and foreign missions—the Cooperative Program.

And all are accurate definitions of one of the most respected missionary funding programs in the history of Christianity. The Cooperative Program truly is our lifeflood, our life support system. Financially speaking, the Cooperative Program is the sustainer of our home missions work—of all we do.

The Cooperative Program is the glue that bonds our 42,000 churches and church-type missions in 50 states, Canada, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Cooperatively, our churches pool their financial resources and undergird the Southern Baptist Convention's program of witnessing, teaching, healing and preaching. Southern Baptists' dollars through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Cooperative Program support more home missionaries.

From the rocky shores of eastern Maine, to the heartland of Texas and to sunny California. In Canada's vast lands, on the Pacific shores of American Samoa and the peaceful beaches of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Home missionaries are sharing the Good News and Christ's love.

The uses of Cooperative Program funds in America are as varied as the needs of our land.

Through Cooperative Program gifts, missionaries are:

- starting churches in Montana
- growing existing ones in Arizona.
- working with 98 language groups making us the most ethnically diverse denomination in America.
- helping America's youth who face an onslaught of teen pregnancy, drugs, peer pressures and gang violence in New Orleans and Los Angeles.
- feeding, clothing and sheltering the poor and homeless in New York and Oklahoma City.
- teaching youth, adults and internationals to read the Bible in Baltimore and North Carolina.
- welcoming tired seaman to Alabama's shores and introducing them to the Fisher of Men.
- helping Boston college and university students cope with academic pressures.
- beginning home Bible studies on Nebraskan ranches; in Chicago's yuppie highrises; in Kansas City, Missouri's blue collar apartments and Hollywood's wealthy suburban neighborhoods.
- reaching blacks in Florida suburbs, Iowa's colleges and universities, and Atlanta projects.
- giving hope to migrants who travel through Arkansas in route to seasonal jobs.
- sharing the gospel message on America's playgrounds, the ski slopes, seashores and theme parks.

—witnessing to people of other faiths and educating Baptists how to do likewise.

—comforting farmers facing economic crisis.

Gifts through the Cooperative Program extend Southern Baptists' witness to all these people in their myriad of cultures and lifestyles. The Cooperative Program is propelling us toward our mutual goal of Bold Mission Thrust—sharing the gospel with every person by the year 2,000.

The Cooperative Program is also supporting the Home Mission Board's goal of 50,000 congregations by the year 2000.

Lifeflood

*The glue that
bonds Southern
Baptists.*

*The genius of
Southern Baptist
work.*

The Cooperative Program is all these things. The Cooperative Program, vital and sustaining, makes us who we are. Southern Baptists—giving together, cooperatively. Giving... to the Cooperative Program.



and the
**Cooperative
Program**

Don't overlook gift annuities

Investors suffering from the slump in interest rates may want to explore possibilities that benefit Baptist work

by John Cloud

Special to the Arkansas Baptist

Lower interest rates may stimulate borrowing and boost housing starts, but they certainly don't do much for a person's investment income. If you are like many people, your income stream has suffered as interest rates on CDs and bonds remain in the doldrums. Low risk options for higher paying investments are few and far between.

If you are searching for a higher, risk-free income and could use a nice income tax deduction to boot, a gift annuity may be just the answer. When you invest in a gift annuity, you are guaranteed an annual income for life (or two lives for married couples) that is higher than most investment opportunities currently available. The payout percentage is based on age, so older folks receive a higher rate of return.

In addition to the guaranteed income, a gift annuity also generates an attractive income tax deduction based on the value passing to charity at the death of the donor or donors. Here's the icing on the cake: A portion of the annual income is considered return of principal, and thus is taxfree. You might like to know also that the annuity investment is not part of the donor's estate for probate or estate tax purposes.

When the tax benefits are factored

in, the real, or effective, rate of return to the donor jumps considerably. For example, a 70-year old person investing \$10,000 in a gift annuity with Ouachita Baptist University would be entitled to an annual income of \$780, or 7.8 percent. His or her income tax deduction would be \$4,271, saving about \$1,200 in cash in the 28 percent tax bracket. Almost one-half of the annual income would be taxfree. This person's actual rate of return would be

Photo / Jim Wenzman



The payout percentage on gift annuities is based on age, so older folks receive a bigger rate of return.

10.5 percent, a very respectable figure in today's market.

The last, and possibly most appealing, benefit is that the gift annuity principal is eventually available to Ouachita, Williams Baptist College, or other Baptist entity to use in an area designated by the donor. At Ouachita, many donors choose to endow scholarship funds to provide annual assistance to deserving students. Whatever your charitable goals, our office will be glad to provide information to you about gift annuities. We also offer computerized assistance covering all aspects of charitable and non-charitable planning, including estate conservation. Call 246-4531, ext. 169, or write Ouachita Baptist University Development Office, Box 3754, Arkadelphia, AR 71998.

John Cloud is director of planned giving at Ouachita Baptist University.

Looking Ahead March

- 26-27 Minister of Education Retreat, DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)
- 26-27 Youth Minister's Retreat, DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)
- 28 Volunteer/Pari-time Music Leader Retreat, Paris First Church (M)
- 28 Youth Evangelism Training Day, Jonesboro Central Church (Ev)
- 30 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Huntsville First Church (DT)
- 30 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Hope First Church (DT)
- 30 Money Management Conference, Jonesboro First Church (SA)
- 30 Cradle Roll Conference, Van Buren First Church (SS)
- 31 Cradle Roll Conference, Southwest Association Office, Texarkana (SS)
- 31 Money Management Conference, Van Buren First Church (SA)
- 31 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Hope First Church (DT)
- 31 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Booneville First Church (DT)
- 31 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Warren First Church (DT)

April

- 1 Money Management Conference, Arkadelphia First Church (SA)
- 2 Money Management Conference, Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock (SA)
- 2 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Jonesboro Central Church (DT)
- 2 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Mountain View First Church (DT)
- 2-3 Golden Age Evangelism Conference, Eureka Springs (Ev, M)
- 3 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, Little Rock Olive Church (DT)
- 3 Bible Drill/Speakers' Tournament, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (DT)
- 3-4 Acteens Encounter, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)
- 3-4 Multifamily Housing Conference, Little Rock (Ms)
- 4-5 Chaplains' Conference, DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (Mn)

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

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Timothy L. Richardson has joined the staff of Second Church of Clarksville as bivocational minister of youth. Richardson, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Boh Richardson of Atkins, is a student at Arkansas Tech. He is married to the former Marlena K. Bolner. They have a daughter, LaTasha Kay.

George Livermore is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Elkins while Pastor Doyle Downing is on sabbatical.

Doug Sarver has joined the staff of First Church of Springdale as minister of missions.

Danny Adams began serving March 8 as pastor of Faith Church in DeWitt. A native of Pascagoula, Miss., he has pastored churches in Alabama. Adams currently is a student at Mid-America Theological Seminary in Memphis. He and his wife, Cynthia, have a daughter, Jennifer.

Glen Schmucker, pastor of First Church in Siloam Springs, observed his 20th anniversary in the preaching ministry on March 5.

Jesse Holcomb began serving Feb. 16 as pastor of First Church of Social Hill.

Nora Frances Terrell of Smackover, widow of the Rev. Willie Terrell, died March 9 at age 77, following a lengthy illness. Her funeral services were held March 11 in First Church of Smackover where she was a member. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Don (Shirley) Moore, wife of ABSC Executive Director Don Moore, of Little Rock; two grandchildren, Cindy Spicer of Little Rock, and Jeff Moore of Searcy; a sister; and five great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Gideons International, P.O. Box 1562, El Dorado, AR 71731-1562.

Jim Clark has resigned as pastor of Faith Church, Camden.

Dwaine Draper is serving as pastor of Rock Creek Church, Mansfield.

Sonjia Smart began serving March 16 as nursery coordinator for First Church of Jacksonville.

Bessie Sue Anthony of Murfreesboro, a member of First Church of Murfreesboro, was honored March 17 by Ouachita Baptist University Association of Women

Students as one of the 1992 Ouachita Women of the Year, chosen for their recognizable and outstanding interests in the success of the educational program at Ouachita. Anthony was born in Amity, has served several terms on the OBU Board of Trustees and the OBU Development Council. She and her husband, Clarence, are donors of an endowed teaching chair in the division of religion and philosophy at Ouachita. She also is active in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, including being named a patron of the Siloam Springs renovation project.

Butch Booth has joined the staff of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith as youth minister.

Greg Keen has resigned as pastor of Hopewell Church, Corning.

John Pickens is serving as pastor of Sulphur Rock Church.

Jerry Wilson has joined the staff of First Church of Batesville as minister of music and education.

Mrs. A.R. (Ila) Colvin of Strong died Feb. 12 at age 87. She was the widow of Dr. A.R. Colvin. She was the last charter member

of First Church of Strong where she had been active in Woman's Missionary Union and served as a Sunday School teacher. Survivors include one daughter, Cora Parks; three granddaughters, Stacey Fairris, Donna DeFee, and Bonnie Shrewsbury; two great-grandsons, Steve DeFee and Chase Shrewsbury, and one sister, of Strong. Memorials may be made to Guscenci Water System in Honduras, c/o Dr. William Scarlock, 1305 Briarwood, El Dorado, AR 71710.

D.C. McAtee of Forrest City has completed his service as interim pastor of Midway Church, Palestine.

Ray Legg began serving March 15 as pastor of Midway Church, Palestine, coming there from Sardis, Miss.

Geraldine Patterson Hendricks of Arkadelphia, the widow of W.J. "Wimpy" Hendricks, died March 4 at age 80. She was a member of Riverside Church, Donaldson. Survivors include two sons, W.J. "Sonny" Hendricks of Chandler, Texas, and Larry Hendricks of Benton; two daughters, Marlam Buck of Arkadelphia, and Georgia Garrett of Waxahachie, Texas; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

ABSC photo / Glen Ennes



The 21st Annual Volunteer/Part time Music Leaders' Retreat at Camp Paron recorded a high attendance with 93 participants. Leaders included Bill Anderson, church music department, BSSB, pictured visiting with John Speer, music director of Betany Church, Norb Little Rock; William Trantham, organist, Ouachita Baptist University; Sheila Moore, pianist, Calvary Church, Benton; L.B. Jordan, ABSC Church Leadership Support; and ABSC Church Music Department personnel.

Susie Goodwin Seaberth of Moorefield near Batesville died March 8 at age 91. She was a member of Rehobeth Church, Moorefield, where she had served as a Sunday School teacher for 68 years and also was active in Woman's Missionary Union, having served as a leader in both Mission Friends and Girls in Action.

Mark Constant, pastor of Buffalo Chapel, Carzway, was ordained to the ministry Feb. 15 at Red Oak Church, Lepanto. Participants in the service included Randy Johnson, Jimmie Garner, director of missions for Trinity Association, Larry Deaten, Roy Kelems, Marvin Emmons, Larry Pendegraft, Herschel Kelton, James Collier, Willard Pollard, and W.D. Gann.

Billy West will begin serving in June as pastor of Cole Ridge Church near Blytheville, moving there from Warren.

Mark Vaughan, pastor of Whitton Church, was ordained to the ministry Jan. 19 by First Church of Blytheville. Participants in the service included Jim McDaniel, pastor of the Brinkley church, and Carl Fawcett, director of missions for Arkansas Valley Association.

Briefly

Clarksville Second Church has expanded its ministry in the young adult area with the addition of a Sunday morning Bible class taught by Robert Oden, who has 22 years experience in the ministry. Marvin E. James is pastor.

Powell Street Church of Fayetteville broke ground March 15 for the first step toward construction of a church building. The congregation currently is meeting in a triple-wide mobile chapel in City View Mobile Home Park.

Crow Mountain Church of Russellville organized a Brotherhood Feb. 22 with 12 men in attendance.

Rover Church recently voted to increase its mission giving with 10 percent going to the Cooperative Program and three percent to associational missions.

Riverside Church at Maumelle recently held a commissioning service for Dorothy

R. Holt who will be involved in ministry for several months in China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Bali. She has been attending discipleship training school at the University of the Nations in Hawaii in preparation for mission outreach. Pastor Bob Christian led the commissioning service.

Monticello Second Church has finalized plans for mission work May 31-June 6 with First Chapel in Jonesboro. The team will assist the chapel with vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs.

Park Hill Church of North Little Rock will host GLAD, a contemporary Christian music group, in concert March 28 at 7 p.m. Further information may be obtained by calling the church at 501-753-3413.

Heber Springs First Church youth choir will be in Branson, Mo., March 28 where they will present the musical "Forever" at the Skyline Church.

Ashley County Association women will hold a retreat April 24-25 at Beech Spring Camp, Smackover. Margie Grober, a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock and president of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, will be speaker.

Meridian Church at Crossett recently ordained Danny Jordan to the deacon ministry.

Mena First Church will ordain Huck VanScyoc and Bill Plunkett to the deacon ministry March 29.

Little Rock Immanuel Church music ministry will present the third annual "Living Cross" April 10 at 7 p.m. and April 11 and 12 at 4 and 7 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir will be accompanied by the church orchestra and assisted by the drama and banner ministries. Lynn Madden, minister of music, will direct the performances.

Armored Church dedicated a new educational building Feb. 26 that houses 11 classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, bathrooms, and a pastor's study. Roger Duffel is pastor.

Strawfloor Church at Jonesboro deacons presented Pastor Dennis Davis with a plaque Feb. 16, commemorating his five years of service.

Pangburn First Church held a revival March 8-12 that resulted in 32 professions of faith and 40 decisions for recommitment. Don Betts of Vandalia, Ohio was evangelist. Charles Christie is pastor. The Pangburn church has begun construction of a 2,000 square foot, four-bedroom parsonage to be completed by early June. One bedroom will be used as a study for visiting evangelists and will be dedicated as a memorial to Deacon Jack Snow.

Conway Log Cabin Democrat photo / Sonja Greenwith



Historic cornerstone—When historic Conway First Church burned on Jan. 4, members had no idea that the 1909 cornerstone contained a time capsule. When the cornerstone was removed as part of the sanctuary demolition, Pastor Dale Wicker Jr. and members found a hole carved in the limestone block. The items the cornerstone contained included a sealed envelope with a letter dated Dec. 9, 1910, written by Pastor John Jeter Hurt; two copies of the *Log Cabin Democrat*, dated 1908 and 1910, with articles on the construction of the church; a small yearbook dated 1910; a copy of the *Baptist Advance*, forerunner of the ABN; and a copy of the 1909 annual of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The cornerstone will be used in some way in the new building, perhaps as part of the sign.

Noteburnings



Fairfield Bay Church held a noteburning service Feb. 9, recognizing payment of a \$400,000 building indebtedness incurred in 1982. A \$75,000 indebtedness incurred in 1975 was paid for in five years. The church, launched in 1972 by Calvary, Little Red River, and North Central Associations, and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, had Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock as sponsoring church during both building programs. Participating in the service were Jeff Blackwell, treasurer, and Don Sbelton, trustee. A. Hilton Lane (center) is pastor.



Bella Vista Church held a noteburning service Feb. 16, noting the payment of a 1985 loan that was made on major education space and a 1990 loan made for the renovation of the auditorium and construction of additional education space. Participating in the service were Darwin Pierce, 1985 building committee chairman, and George Connell, 1990 building committee chairman. Others included Barbara Wylie, representing her late husband, Jerry Johnson, Jerry Campbell, and Burt Willoughby. George L. O'Neal is pastor.



Lonoke Church held a noteburning service Feb. 23, noting payment of the \$215,000 balance on its sanctuary built in 1988 at a cost of \$465,000. The church recently voted to remove a 1914 sanctuary and replace it with a multi-use building. Burning the note were (left to right) David Gannaway, chairman of the finance committee; Harry Buffalo, chairman of trustees; Quinton Hornsby, chairman of deacons; and Pastor Jimmy Wallace.



Hermitage Church celebrated the retirement of a \$30,000 indebtedness on its fellowship hall with a noteburning service Feb. 23. Participating were (left to right) Lonnie Latham, director of missions for Bartolomeu Association; Randy York, trustee; Freddie McKinley, trustee; Nina Harrod, treasurer; Pastor Michael Husley; and Powers Graham, trustee.



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SBC, Arkansas stats

Statewide, receipts and music program show growth

NASHVILLE (BP)—The number of Southern Baptist churches topped 38,000 in 1991 as gains were posted in nine of 10 key denominational reporting areas.

With an increase of 247 churches—the largest since 1988 — the total number of churches stands at 38,221.

A 3 percent or 11,637 increase in baptisms marked the fourth consecutive year of gains. The 1991 baptism total was 396,668 compared to 385,031 the previous year.

Arkansas baptisms did not fair as well, showing a 4.88 percent or 635 decrease.

This represents the first time since the 1940s that baptisms have increased four straight years nationwide, according to Jim Lowry, denominational statistics specialist in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

Church membership, which topped 15 million last year, increased by 1.3 percent or 193,870 to 15,238,283 in 1991. This was the largest numerical increase since 1982.

Arkansas showed a similar trend in total membership, with a 1.31 percent or 3,448 increase.

Southern Baptists' largest church program organization, Sunday school, posted a 2.2 percent enrollment increase of 174,303, bringing the new total to 8,183,801. The increase was the largest since 1976.

Arkansas also gained in Sunday School, although not as much as national totals. Enrollment in Arkansas was up 1.29 percent, or 3,258.

SBC gains were registered in five other areas, including music ministry enrollment,

mission expenditures, ongoing Woman's Missionary Union enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment/participation and total tithes, offerings and special gifts.

In its second year of a new records system, discipleship training enrollment/participation, registered a negligible decrease of 3,725 or 0.17 percent. The new total is 2,202,527.

Arkansas discipleship training also showed a small decrease of 0.54 percent or 420.

In the SBC financial area, total tithes, offerings and special gifts posted a 3 percent gain of \$137,151,740 over 1990, for a total of \$4,704,986,720. The 1991 increase compares to gains of 6 percent in 1990, 4.4 percent in 1989 and 3 percent in 1988.

Arkansas also gained in total receipts, posting a total of \$3,137,251 over 1990, or an increase of 2.74 percent.

SBC mission expenditures increased by \$13,614,716 or 1.9 percent, for a total of \$732,090,078. The 1991 gain is larger than the 0.8 percent increase in 1990 but smaller than the 3.4 percent of 1989.

Ongoing SBC music ministry enrollment registered a 2.1 percent increase of 38,182, for the 26th consecutive gain. The new total is 1,875,610.

Arkansas also made strides in music ministry, with an increase of 1,131 participants, or 2.05 percent.

Brotherhood enrollment/participation showed an increase of 7,850 or 1.3 percent, for a total enrollment of 601,694.

Arkansas Brotherhood participation did not fare as well with a decrease of 1,207 or 9.21 percent.

Ongoing SBC WMU enrollment increased by 0.2 percent or 2,726, for a new total

of 1,200,713. The gain represents a turnaround after two years of decreases.

Arkansas WMU enrollment showed a slight decrease of 36 or 0.13 percent.

The SBC statistics were tallied from 37,400 Uniform Church Letters processed by the board's corporate planning and research department. Arkansas statistics were provided by the ABCS Computer Services Department.

Traylor's assigned to ISC

An Arkansas couple was among the 46 people assigned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work overseas through the International Service Corps (ISC).

Drury and Garnette Traylor, both of Brinkley, will serve in Belize, where he has been assigned to construction. She has been assigned to church and home outreach ministries. They were most recently Foreign Mission Board auxiliary personnel workers in Belize. The Traylor's current address is Route 2, Box 320, Brinkley, AR 72021.

Special ed VBS materials available

Curriculum adaptation materials for special education vacation Bible school, designed for use with mentally handicapped adults, are now available from the Baptist Sunday School Board. Based on the VBS Teacher's Guide for Use with Younger Children, a free copy of the new material can be obtained by writing Special Education Section, MSN 180, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Arkansas Baptist Statistical Summary 1990-91

	1990	1991	Change	%
Baptisms	13,023	12,368	-655	-4.88
Other additions	16,584	15,991	-593	-3.58
Resident membership	326,150	329,598	3,448	1.06
Total membership	488,054	494,429	6,375	1.31
Sunday School	253,144	256,402	3,258	1.29
Discipleship Training	77,319	76,899	-420	-0.54
WMU	27,745	27,709	-36	-0.13
Brotherhood	13,102	11,895	-1,207	-9.21
Church Music	55,051	56,182	1,131	2.05
Undesignated receipts	\$115,129,221	\$118,266,472	\$3,137,251	2.72
Total receipts	\$149,941,865	\$154,052,991	\$4,111,126	2.74
Cooperative Program	\$13,595,008	\$13,807,205	\$212,197	1.56
Missions	\$10,365,577	\$10,671,198	\$305,621	2.95

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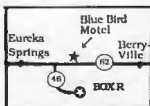


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Iowa, Arkansas Baptists meet

Eight directors of associational missions, 10 members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Executive Board staff and Johnny Jackson, president of the Home Mission Board, recently traveled to Des Moines to meet with Iowa Baptist leaders. The purpose of the meeting was prayer and planning for the Iowa-Arkansas Partnership for Kingdom Growth.



Arkansas and Iowa leaders meet to pray and plan.

O. Wyndell Jones, executive director of the Iowa Baptist Fellowship, and Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, led the representatives from both states to reaffirm that prayer, mutual caring and fellowship will be the guiding principles to govern and guide the Iowa-Arkansas Partnership. It was a commonly held commitment to those principles that first led Dr. Jones and Dr. Don Moore to believe God was drawing Iowa and Arkansas into partnership.

Richard Lamborn, state missions director for Iowa, stressed the expectations of Iowa Baptists regarding detailed planning, cooperation and coordination. He also challenged both Iowa and Arkansas to keep the partnership's priorities clearly focused. Those priorities are: (1) church starting and development, (2) student ministries, (3) evangelism, (4) construction, and (5) leadership training.

Jimmy Barrentine, state missions director for Arkansas, responded to Lamborn's challenge with the observation that Arkansas Baptists are risk takers by nature and are, as a consequence, not as prone to "cook by the recipe" as may be Iowans. However, he went on to stress the

cooperative spirit of Arkansas Baptists and their willingness to submit themselves to Iowa leadership and to the vision God has placed before them.

The heart of the Des Moines meeting came as small planning groups met and discussed future projects and developing relationships. The gentle and competent participation of directors of association missions, pastors, state program directors and lay persons in these small groups was used of the Lord to create an atmosphere of prayer, fellow ship and mutual trust.

If your church is interested in participating in the Iowa-Arkansas partnership, you need to know:

(1) The Arkansas role will be one of response. That is, Iowa Baptists will develop all projects and make project requests as they deem necessary and appropriate.

(2) By the April 27 State Associational Leadership Training, Arkansas directors of missions, associational moderators and missions development directors will have in hand the Iowa project requests that relate to their association. After that date churches will be able to receive current project requests from their associational

leadership.

(3) Projects for 1992 will be limited in number, but should be more numerous in the remaining years of the partnership.

(4) Nothing is needed more than prayer. Pray for Iowa. In particular, pray for the 55 Iowa counties without a Southern Baptist church, for the 62 constituted churches, for the 17 missions and 6 Bible-study fellowships.

College Digest

Williams Baptist College

Homecoming court—Angela Adams, a junior business administration major, recently was crowned WBC's 1992 homecoming queen at the college's 51st homecoming celebration. Adams is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Adams of Trumann. Selected by popular vote, her court included Amy Cox of Hardy, first alternate; Charlee Graham of Coldwater, Miss., second alternate; Angie Goucher of North Little Rock, third alternate; and Andi Reed of Pine Bluff, fourth alternate.

Hosts Special Olympics—Approximately 60 Area I Special Olympians competed in the district Special Olympics basketball tournament held recently at WBC. Six teams representing northeast Arkansas participated, with WBC students serving as referees, time keepers, score keepers and huggers.

Ouachita Baptist University

Doshier scholarship—The Wade and Susan Doshier Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established at Ouachita Baptist University with an initial gift of \$25,000. At the end of 1993, the fund will be endowed at \$100,000. The Doshiers reside in New York City.

Yearbook selected—The 1992 OBU yearbook has been selected as a National Marketing Sample book by Walsworth Publishing Company in Kansas City, Mo., which published the yearbook. The 1991 *Ouachitanian* was co-edited by Kim Byers Plinson of Nashville, Ark., and Kim Hare of Russellville. The assistant editor was Rachael Ward of Texarkana.

NATS winners—Ten OBU music students received honors at the Student Auditions by the Arkansas chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) held recently at Henderson State University. First place honorees included Anissa Harbison, Melanie Cicero, Wade Lewis, and Heather Floyd. A second place went to Andrea Holt, and a third place went to Bryan Bolton. Receiving semi-finalists honors were Jolene Zook, Tammy Northcutt, Karon Edge, and Leah Liberator.

MK Birthday Prayer Calendar: April

Missionary Kids Attending College in Arkansas

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 3 | Elizabeth Blackmon
(Freshman, Brazil) | OBU Box 3310
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001 |
| 19 | April Lee
(Freshman, Japan) | OBU Box 4527
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001 |
| 28 | Elda Hernandez
(Senior, Arkansas) | UCA Box 4007
Conway, AR 72032 |

Arkansas sixth in new church starts

For the third year in a row Arkansas has been in the top seven states in the nation in new anglo church starts. Recently at the Home Mission Board's Annual Church Extension Conference meeting in San Antonio, TX, Arkansas was listed as number six in the nation in the number of new starts. Arkansas was number one in the nation according to proportion of population to new starts. The Home Mission Board presented these figures to Church Extension Director, Jack Ramsey. It was also noted that Arkansas was the smallest of these seven states and had the smallest amount of population growth from 1980-1990. There were 24 new church starts in Arkansas in 1991.

Bold Mission Prayer Thrust

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; bold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more."

(Ps. 39:12-13)

Answered Prayer Report:

God continues to move upon the hearts of people in the former Soviet Union. Keep praying!

"Hope for the Home" Rallies are off to a good start in Arkansas associations. Thanks for the prayers.

Thank God that we had a significant increase in the number of persons attending the annual Church and Community Ministry's "Have a Heart Like Jesus Workshop."

Prayer Requests:

Pray for those who work in Media Services for the ABSC: Jan Kelley and Sue Weaver.

Pray for Richard Lamborn, state missions director for Iowa.

Pray that God will lead the Las Vacas Mission in Guatemala to the land and building they need.

Pray for spiritual awakening in our state, nation and world.

Each morning for a month, pray for your church staff members by name. The next month take two each morning to pray for their wives and children by name.

Pray daily that the lost might be saved. Speak to the Father the names of the peo-

ple you know personally who have not taken Jesus as their Savior.

Pray for the State Acteen Activator Team that will be serving in Keokuk, Iowa, June 20-27. They will conduct Backyard Bible Clubs, puppet and clowning ministries, and survey work.

Pray for Bob and Amy Little. Bob pastors Bethany Baptist Chapel in Keokuk, Iowa, a town of 15,000 people.

Pray for the missionaries and volunteers who work with migrant/seasonal farmworkers across Arkansas. Each year there are between 7,000-10,000 migrants working in our state.

Pray for the Convocation on the Mississippi River Ministry scheduled for Aug. 7-8 at Eudora Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Pray that we will be successful in getting 400 lay people, pastors and missions leaders from the seven states along the lower Mississippi River to the convocation for training and inspiration to "provide ministries, evangelization, strengthening of existing churches and starting of new churches. . . so that persons may be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Forty-two eastern Arkansas counties are included in the targeted area for this new Southern Baptist ministry.

Pastor/Deacon Retreat

Churches which have strong deacon ministry programs are blessed. In these churches, great ministries are happening and usually the pastors and deacons are happier and more fulfilled in their roles in the church.

There are signs that many deacons in Arkansas are looking for "handles" on how to do their tasks. Many simply indicate that they do not fully understand what the churches and pastors expect of them. Many, perhaps most, of our churches have no organized program that enables deacons to "buy-in" to something structured and meaningful.

Our state Pastor/Deacon Retreat will enable the pastors and deacons to give some meaningful structure to their ministries. Also, there will be a strong emphasis on how to have healthy, God-pleasing relationships among our people. Problem-solving skills will be a focus this year since pastors and deacons are looked to as problem solvers. Robert Sheffield, consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board and author of *The Ministry of Baptist Deacons*, will be our conference leader this year.

The quality and scope of deacon

ministry helps that are provided by our Sunday School Board have never been as great as they are now. Much of this material will be available at the conference.

This year's conference will be held at Camp Paron beginning with supper at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 1, and ending with lunch on Saturday, May 2. The cost is \$32 per person and will cover the cost of room, meals, and some materials. Other resource pieces will be available at the Baptist Book Store display area. For further information please look for the April 9 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and the April/May issue of *Vision* or call 376-4791. Ext. 5148.—L.B. Jordan, director, ABSC Church Leadership Support

Missionary Notes

Paul and Cynthia Howard, missionaries to Swaziland, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 1655, Mbabane, Swaziland). He is a native of Florida, and she, the former Cynthia Bennett, was born in Texarkana. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1990.

Charles and Laura McKenzie, missionaries to Spain, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of missionary service (address: Antigua 1, Bloque 8, 1-D, 41007 Sevilla, Spain). He was born in Dermott, and she is the former Laura Roper of South Carolina. They were appointed in 1991.

Debbie Moore, missionary to Liberia, is on the field (address: Southern Baptist Mission, P.O. Box 10-1416, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia). A native of Hope, she was appointed in 1982.

Gary and Pamela Nipper, missionaries to Senegal, are on the field (address: BF 8417-YOFF, Dakar, Senegal). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Clarendon and considers Beebe his hometown. The former Pamela Stark, she considers Heber Springs her hometown. They were appointed in 1987.

Mel and Nancy Skinner, Baptist representatives to Eastern Europe, are on field (address: Eastern Europe Division, F. Dommayergasse 7/16, A-1130 Vienna, Austria). He is a native of Missouri. The former Nancy Pelley, she considers Mena her hometown.

HMB elects officers

Names Hemphill church growth director

by Jim Newton
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected new officers, approved plans to expand the size of a new headquarters building to be completed by 1995, and elected Ken Hemphill of Norfolk, Va., to a new position as director of church growth.

Board members also elected a director of the board's human resources division, an associate in the new church extension division, and a national manager for Mega Focus Cities, the HMB's coordinated strategy planning process for missions work in 44 major cities in America.

Daniel Garcia, a human resource management consultant with 15 years experience in the field, was elected director of the human resources division. Gerald S. Raynor, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Flagstaff, Ariz., was named associate director of field servicing for the new church extension division. M. Eugene Wilson, director of missions for Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association in Riverside, Calif., was elected national manager of Mega Focus Cities.

Hemphill, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, would coordinate church growth efforts by the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, contingent upon approval by the Sunday School Board.

The newly-created position will be jointly funded by the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, upon approval from both boards. Hemphill would report directly to President Larry Lewis of the HMB and President James T. Draper Jr. of the SSB.

Brad Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Duncan, Okla., recommended Hemphill's election effective July 16 on behalf of the HMB administrative committee. Allen said the new position was being created "to give high visibility to church growth and measurably impact the life of the Southern Baptist Convention and nation. This is a great new step toward reaching our goal of 75 percent of SBC churches growing by the end of this decade," Allen said.

Lewis pointed out that research had revealed about two-thirds of all Southern Baptist churches are either plateaued or declining, and church growth is one of the four priority emphases of the HMB.

"This is an exciting new venture with the Sunday School Board," Lewis said. "We felt it would be best to have one director serving both agencies, correlating and coor-

inating a total program across agency lines."

He added Hemphill would be able to coordinate church growth efforts within each agency, since he will report directly to the president of each agency and will work across the entire organizational structure.

Draper issued a statement in Nashville saying he is "excited" to work out details with the HMB and present the matter through the appropriate channels at the Sunday School Board for Hemphill to work jointly with the two boards.

While financial details have not been finalized, Draper said he would work with Lewis "to divide the costs of the project."

"There is a tremendous need to say positively to Southern Baptists that we are coordinating the church growth emphasis in the SBC," Draper said. "Ken Hemphill will be the quarterback, working to avoid duplication and overlap."

A native of North Carolina, Hemphill has been pastor of First Baptist Norfolk for the past 11 years. He previously was pastor of churches in Galax, Va.; Louisville and Battletown, Ky.; Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Little Stukeley, England. He earned the Ph.D degree from Cambridge University in Cambridge, England; and the D.Min. and M.Div. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

HMB directors also voted to expand the plans previously approved to construct a 150,000 square-foot headquarters building in Alpharetta, Ga., a suburb in northeast Atlanta, to include a 30,000 square-foot warehouse and video production studio. The additional cost, estimated at about \$2 million, would be funded from working capital.

Elected new chairman of the board was Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hixson, Tenn., and current president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Phillips succeeds Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, Ark., who rotates off the board this year.

Other officers elected by the board included Allen from Duncan, Okla., first vice chairman; Bob F. Curtis, pastor of Ballwin (Mo.) Baptist Church, second vice chairman; Alice W. Sanders of Bamberg, S.C., secretary; and Linda S. Pringle of Brandenburg, Ky., assistant secretary.

Directors appointed 19 new missionaries, voted to increase the 1992 HMB budget by \$963,349 to an adjusted total of \$85.7 million, and restructured the HMB language church extension division by combining the language church development and ethnic resource correlation departments.

Jose A. Hernandez was elected director of the combined ethnic resource and development department, and Moises C. Rodriguez was named associate director. Both had previously had been with the language church extension division in other roles.

Running Out Of Time



Only a short time remains! The April 10 deadline for receiving the \$295,000 challenge grant from the Maybee Foundation of Tulsa is fast approaching. We are approximately \$121,860 short of our goal.

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

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

REMEMBER April 10 will be here before you know it.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Declines action on Freemasonry

by David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Home Mission Board declined a request from the Southern Baptist Convention to study the teachings of Masonic lodges, referring the issue back to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

"We feel like no agency has a right to pass judgment on personal behavior choices like this," said Johnny Jackson, chairman of the HMB's board of directors after its March meeting.

Last year, a motion presented at the SBC in Atlanta asked the HMB's interfaith witness department to compare Masonic teachings with Christian doctrine. The motion was referred by the convention's committee on order of business to the Home Mission Board for consideration.

The vote by the HMB board of directors at its March meeting takes no action on the requested study and asks members to address the potentially divisive matter at this year's convention in Indianapolis.

Some Southern Baptists contend Masonic teachings, or Freemasonry, are contrary to Christian doctrine.

But many Baptists are Masons and some board members said condemning Masonic membership would cause strife within the convention.

"It would be such a divisive issue," said Wade Armstrong, a board member from Credo, W.Va. "Either way you go, you lose."

The Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department issues position papers on religions, sects and cults. But that department's job is to study established religions, not fraternal organizations, said department head Gary Leazer.

This was the second time the Home Mission Board voted against investigating the fraternal order.

In 1985, a messenger to the annual convention proposed a four-page resolution blasting Masons as a "spiritually devastating and ungodly brotherhood of satanic darkness."

The resolution was referred to the Home Mission Board which, in turn, authorized a study by its interfaith witness department.

As a result, the board simply concluded "Freemasonry does not fall within the scope of assigned responsibility of the Home Mission Board."

Chairman Jackson said he thinks most Southern Baptists don't care about Freemasonry.

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A visit to Eureka Springs just isn't complete without a day and night at Pine Mountain Jamboree Entertainment Complex.

During the day, admission is free to Pine Mountain Jamboree Village for shopping, dining, snacks and Ozark craftsmen demonstrating their skills in the Village Backwoods.

At 8 p.m., it's showtime at Pine Mountain Jamboree, Arkansas' original live country music and comedy show. Country. Bluegrass. Gospel. Pop. Professional performances, comedy zingers and lots of good, clean fun and family-style entertainment.

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COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Missions, scholarships planned

by David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship proposed a \$2.5 million missions budget and a \$30,000 scholarship fund for 1993 during the group's coordinating council meeting March 12-14 in Atlanta.

Recently elected coordinator Cecil Sherman told members of the group's coordinating council the fellowship needs 100 churches willing to designate \$1,000 a month towards Fellowship missions projects in Europe.

Recruiting those churches to raise \$1.2 million annually will be his first priority when he officially takes office in April, he said.

European projects, including support for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, comprise about half of the moderate group's mission budget.

Moderator John Hewett added that missions will be a two-way street with European Baptist Unions, meaning Europe may

also send missionaries to America.

"That's the new world order for Christian missions," said Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C.

Concerning scholarships, the coordinating council backed a plan to give \$30,000 for the 1992-93 school year.

The money would be distributed as follows:

— \$15,000 to students at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

— \$5,000 to students enrolled in the Southern Baptist curriculum at Candier School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

— \$5,000 to students enrolled in the Southern Baptist curriculum at the theology school at Duke University.

— And five \$1,000 scholarships to Southern Baptist students involved in entry-level theological education at any other school of theology except those supported by the SBC.

Both the missions and scholarship budgets will go before the general assembly at the Fellowship's annual meeting in Fort

Worth, April 30-May 2.

The missions and scholarship budgets are part of a projected budget of \$6.7 million during the 1992-93 fiscal year.

Less than a quarter of that, however, is budgeted to Fellowship programs. About \$5.1 million, or 76 percent, is earmarked for state conventions and SBC programs.

"I think five years from now that 76 percent will have decreased dramatically," said Hewett. "There's a great time lag between the time that we approve a funding plan and money begins to flow."

Hewett said he will work to get more churches giving to the Fellowship's Vision 2000 fund, which designates 65 percent to Fellowship projects.

"This is a permanent organization," he said. "We're not just standing around waiting for something to happen so we can ease back into the SBC."

Jimmy Allen, a member of the Fellowship's global missions group, agreed.

"Up 'til now, so much of it has been just, 'I don't want it to be done that way,'" he said. "Now we've got another way that they want it to be done."

The coordinating council also announced the Fellowship's 1993 meeting will be May 13-15, in Atlanta, Ga.

Paid Advertisement

April 10, 7:00 p.m., Second Baptist Church, Little Rock

An invitation to all Arkansas Baptists—

Hear Two Outstanding, Long-Time Southern Baptist Leaders



Dr. Grady Cothen
President Emeritus
Baptist Sunday School Board
President 1975-84



Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler
Executive-Director
Woman's Missionary Union, SBC
1974-89

- Grady Cothen will speak on the subject, "Where We Are and How We Got There."
- Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler's theme is "The Present Shape of Global Missions."
- Following their presentations there will be time for questions and discussion.
- Come, bring your church members.

April 10, 7:00 p.m., Second Baptist Church, Little Rock

—Sponsored by Arkansas Fellowship of Concerned Southern Baptists

Across the Country

Texas college president dies of heart attack

MARSHALL, Texas—Robert E. Craig, who recently announced his retirement as president of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, died March 4 of a heart attack.

Craig, 65, was president of ETBU for the past six years. He had surgery for the removal of his gall bladder the previous week and was recuperating at his home on the campus. A memorial service on campus; interment will be in Mena, Ark., where he was born.

Allen named chaplain of Georgia mountain community

ATLANTA—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen has been named chaplain of an interdenominational chapel in the North Georgia mountain community of Big Canoe, about 55 miles north of Atlanta.

Allen said he will preach "about three Sundays a month" at the chapel, which also has a pastor who handles other ministerial duties.

Georgia executive director announces retirement

ATLANTA—James N. Griffith, 66, executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention since 1981, has announced his intention to retire from that office effective March 15, 1993.

Griffith's unexpected announcement was made before the GBC executive committee, assembled for its regular spring meeting. Executive Committee chairman Napp N. Granade was empowered to name a search committee.

Hinson to leave Louisville seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Glenn Hinson, church history professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has announced plans to accept a teaching position at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

Hinson, 60, long perceived as "liberal" by Southern Baptist conservatives, was recently issued a "warning" by Southern's academic personnel committee.

Another church history professor, Loyd Allen, has announced plans to accept an offer to become chairman of the religion department at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.

Ballenger nominated to Richmond seminary faculty

RICHMOND, Va.—The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond will recommend Isam Ballenger to a new post as professor of missions and world religions.

Ballenger, 56, formerly the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, will begin teaching this fall if approved by seminary trustees April 6-7 in Richmond, Va. Ballenger took early retirement from the FMB in protest of the defunding of Switzerland's Ruschlikon Seminary.

Texas conservatives to launch new publication

DALLAS—Citing their desire to provide a "balanced and objective" news source for Southern Baptists in Texas, leaders of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship plan to launch the first issue of a statewide newsletter within the next week.

The *Texas Baptist Conservative Newsletter* will be published "monthly officially, but unofficially we aspire to publish twice a month," said Perry Ellis, executive editor of the newsletter and executive director of the conservative fellowship. Ellis, a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, stopped short of saying the newsletter is in direct competition with the *Texas Baptist Standard*, the newsjournal of Texas Baptists.

SSB cites national economy in convocation cancellation

NASHVILLE—The nation's economy was cited by officials of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as a primary factor in a decision to cancel the National Convocation on the Bible planned for April 21-23 in Nashville, Tenn.

Registration totals by early March remained well below the 8,000 goal planners had for the three-day event which was to include a riverfront gospel singing, Bible preaching and teaching, more than 125 seminars and teacher recognition.

IRS Auction—March 31, 9:00 A.M., Porter Industrial Rd., Clarksville, Arkansas (near Exit 58 off Interstate 40). The following property will be sold at auction: 5 ft. church pews, 10 ft. church pews, 15 ft. church pews, 10 ft. altars, 15 ft. altars, communion table, chime speakers, Bell industries chimes, mural lights, collection plates, pulpit, hymnals (3 boxes) and other items too numerous to mention. Property will be offered as separate items and in the aggregate. For additional information contact Tom Beasley at 501-324-7301. 325

Needed—Part-time music director. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91, Plumerville, AR 72127. 40

Position Available—Mission Pastor (full-time). Send resume to Tim Prock, Pastor or Missions Committee, Concord Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Box 503, Van Buren, AR 72956. 40

Easter Special—Plastic eggs complete with toys. 250 ct./case at .15 per egg. 501-279-2493. 40

Seeking—Full-time person to develop and co-ordinate youth/children ministries and activities. Send resume to Valley Baptist Church, Search Committee, P. O. Box 593, Searcy, AR 72143. 49

Needed—Part-time music and youth director. Salary plus house. Send resume to Koo Baptist Church, P.O. Box 87, Koo, AR 72083. Resumes must be received by April 1. 423

Needed—Music and Youth Director. If interested send resume to Personnel Committee, Pickles Gap Baptist Church, #2 Pickles Gap Road, Conway, AR 72032. 423

INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION PACKAGES—Hotel accommodations, shuttle, transfers and more. Roundtrip airfare from Little Rock from \$115. Christian Travelers 1-800-624-2947. 325

For Sale—Used choir chairs. Upholstered with wooden frame. \$10 each. Call Second Baptist Church of Conway 327-6565. 325

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

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ARBN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 50 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ARBN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ARBN is implied.

1992 INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION

Housing still available

by Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—More than 6,000 rooms have been reserved for the 1992 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Indianapolis but rooms are still available, according to the convention manager.

"We have been assured by the Indianapolis people that there are plenty of rooms still available for the convention," Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr. said. Rosenbaum is vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee. More than 5,000 requests for room were received on Oct. 1, 1991, Rosenbaum said, and processing of those requests was not completed until Christmas time.

Rosenbaum also announced a shuttle bus system for conventiongoers.

Christian Travelers of Des Plaines, Ill., will offer an hourly shuttle service to and from the Hoosier Dome, site of the annual meeting, to outlying hotels beginning Sunday through Thursday. The company, operated by Charles Cooper, an Illinois bivocational pastor, also will offer a service from the Indianapolis airport to the messenger's hotel, Rosenbaum said.

People having made early reservations for hotels in Indianapolis should be receiving their confirmations now from the convention bureau, Rosenbaum said.

"If you have reserved more than one room and do not intend to use others you have reserved, please turn in the extra reservations," Rosenbaum urged.

Rosenbaum said about 400 people are on waiting lists, some asking to stay longer

than the regular convention time of Sunday through Thursday. Some may have to take hotels/motels in a perimeter area but none of the hotels are more than 45 minutes from the downtown area, he said.

One of the problems with housing in Indianapolis, Rosenbaum explained, is the largest hotel, the new Westin across the street from the convention center, is not available. It was inadvertently booked for another convention by the hotel's national office while in the construction stage.

"We are trying our best to be objective and fair to the greatest number of Southern Baptists regarding housing for the annual meeting," Rosenbaum said. "Unfortunately, because of the limited number of rooms in Indianapolis, some people may not be happy with their reservation."

Rosenbaum said the Hoosier dome is by far the best facility "we've been in, in terms of arena seating, exhibit space, support services and food concessions, both inside and in the food courts nearby."

And parking spaces near the convention

center will be ample, unlike in Atlanta last year, Rosenbaum said.

The shuttle service should be helpful for those staying in perimeter areas. The shuttle buses will make six routes, to 90 percent of the outlying hotels, which should allow messengers to catch a ride easily to the convention meeting. The hourly service can be purchased in advance by calling 1-800-972-8952.

The passes will range from \$10 to \$25, depending on distance from the convention center, and will be effective Sunday through Thursday.

Christian Travelers also will provide a transfer service from the airport to various hotels. The cost is \$12 for service with a reservation, or \$15 upon arrival in Indianapolis. To order by mail: Christian Travelers, 501 West Golf Road, Des Plaines, Ill., 60016 or call 1-800-972-8952.

For those arriving in recreational vehicles and self-contained campers, space is available. For information contact Duane Floro, the local transportation subcommittee chairman, at (317) 841-9770.

Rosenbaum said there also will be adequate special parking at the convention center for physically disabled persons.

1992 GA Mini-Camps

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chaperones

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P.O. Box 1315
Marshall, Texas 75671
Tel. (903) 935-5231
FAX (903) 935-2533

Convention Uniform

The greatest commandment

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 12:28-37

Focal passage: Mark 12:29-31

Central truth: Our basic responsibility is to love God as revealed by Jesus.

Three questions reveal the classic form of human error: (1) What must I do? That is legalism. (2) What makes sense? That is rationalism. You can't go by reason if you are ignorant. You can't reason what you don't understand. (3) What is the greatest good? That is ethicalism. There isn't anything good if the heart is not right.

The ultimate question is what do you think of Christ? Mark says in 12:37 that the common people heard him gladly.

Jesus was asked the question regarding the greatest commandment during the last week of his public ministry. "And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, which is the first commandment of all" (Mk. 12:28). Jesus' answer is startling and filled with insight and simplicity. He says simply you are to love the Lord your God and the second is like unto it, love your neighbor as yourself.

We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This is to be Spirit filled. We are to love him because he first loved us. Romans 5:8 declares, "In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He died for us, not because we are lovely, but because he is love.

We are created for fellowship with him. We find our lives as we lose them for his sake. This is the foundation of the Old Testament. The sum of the first four of the Ten Commandments is that we are to love God. Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 6:4-5 in this passage of Mark. It is central in the New Testament. See 1 John 4:7, Romans 12, and 1 Corinthians 13.

As the creation of God, our first responsibility is to love him as he has revealed himself in Jesus. This is not doing and saying things for God, but learning to sit at the feet of Jesus as Mary in Luke 10:38-42. This is where we gain the mind of Christ and become filled with his Spirit.

As we learn to love him then we become channels of his grace for his love to flow through us and touch the lives of others.

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Life and Work

Assured of victory

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

Basic passage: Matthew 26:1-2,17-19, 26-32

Focal passage: Matthew 26:26-29

Central truth: The death and resurrection of Jesus gives us assurance that we will participate in God's victorious kingdom.

In one respect, Jesus taught us how to live by the way he died. The next three lessons focus on the passion of Christ, that is, his death, burial, and resurrection. After he had taken the Passover meal with the disciples, Jesus took the bread and the cup and taught his followers some eternal truths. As Baptists, we remember this event in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Jesus commanded us to think of him when we eat the bread and drink from the cup. "And he took the bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." (Lk. 22:19). Consider three "things to remember" the next time you take the Lord's Supper.

First, we see the victory of our Lord in looking back. The Passover meal focused upon God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus changed the meaning of the meal when he challenged his followers to look, not at God's provision during the time of Egyptian bondage, but at God's provision of salvation as seen in the death of Christ on the cross. We look back at the cross as our assurance of deliverance from sin and death.

Second, we see the victory of our Lord in looking forward. Our ultimate victory is grounded both in the past event of the cross and the promise of Christ's return in the future. The Lord's Supper is a pledge to us, reminding us that God's kingdom will be established for eternity and that we will have a place in it.

Third, we must recognize the fact that victory is inseparable from suffering. Remember, the bread and the cup represent his physical and spiritual suffering. As Jesus foretold his suffering, we must be willing to suffer for his kingdom. Our Lord promised his followers victory, but he also promised them a path that would include suffering. In our day, when a gospel of prosperity is sometimes all we hear, we need to remember that God has called us to endure suffering and trials for his sake.

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Bible Book

Becoming comforters

by Dennis M. Dodson, First Church, Monticello

Basic passage: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Central truth: Suffering can be discipleship training for the minister of comfort or encouragement.

To understand and explain human suffering is difficult. I believe that there is reason to conclude that sometimes people suffer because of their own decisions and deeds and the circumstances of life. Paul understood some spiritual reasons for suffering. He believed that Christians can suffer for Christ's sake (Ph. 1:29; 2 Co. 4:8-11; 6:4-5; 11:23-28), to be kept from sinning (2 Co. 12:7), and for spiritual development (Ro. 5:1-5; He. 12:1-11).

One of the reasons Paul wrote 2 Corinthians was to help believers understand that suffering prepared them for the ministry of comfort. He used his own suffering to illustrate this.

Paul's reason for praising God (vs. 3-4, 8-10): Paul's sentence of death and despair of life drove him to God for deliverance. That experience caused him to set his hope for all deliverance in God. It caused him to praise God for comfort that makes the comforted able to comfort others (vv. 3,4). Truly, God is the Father (originator) of all mercies and the God of all comfort. For our comfort, he has provided his Spirit (Jn. 14:16-18; Ac. 9:11), his Word (Ro. 15:4; 1 Th. 4:18), and other believers (2 Co. 7:6-7).

Paul's reason for prayer (v. 11): Paul regarded prayer, especially the prayer of other believers, as a help in suffering (Ro. 15:30-32; Ep. 6:18-19; Ph. 1:19; Co. 4:3; 1 Th. 5:25; 2 Th. 3:1; Ps. 22). James agreed! (Ja. 6:16). The phrase "joining in helping us" is a translation of a Greek word, made up of the words "with," "under," and "work." It pictures laborers working together under a burden to accomplish a task. This stresses fellow believers sharing burdens through prayer.

Sufferers who know the deliverance of God are prepared for the ministry of comfort. Through being comforted, they can learn how to comfort and encourage others. Thus, suffering is changed from a burden to a channel of blessing. Suffering can cause us to build barriers and be isolated from others in misery. God would rather it cause us to build bridges and be involved in ministry.

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Lesson
Date: _____
April 12

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

The murder of Jesus

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: Mark 15:22-39

Focal passage: Mark 15:22-24

Central truth: Every unbeliever was involved in the crucifixion of Jesus.

The crucifixion of Jesus is the climax of redemptive history. The crucifixion is the focal point of God's plan of salvation. God's redeeming work culminates in the cross and resurrection.

It also is at the cross that man's wickedness reaches its apex. The execution of Jesus was the vilest expression of evil in all history. It is insidious, but a revelation of the wickedness of human hearts that we crucified in the cruelest form of death the one who walked among us as the perfect embodiment of God's holy love.

Four groups are described at the cross:

The callous soldiers—the men who actually carried out the crucifixion. In preparation for the crucifixion, they made public sport of Jesus by scourging him. They were totally indifferent to Jesus. While Jesus was dying on the cross they gambled for his clothing. They were calloused, ignorant unbelievers.

The cruel thieves—the two robbers crucified with Jesus. They were cruel bandits who had tormented, abused, and killed their victims. They rallied at Jesus. His righteousness convicted them of their wickedness. They fired insults at the Son of God while facing their death. ". . . Ah, thou that destroyed the temple, and buldest it in three days" (Mk. 15:29). They were knowledgeable unbelievers.

The fickle crowd—those passing by. Many of them praised Jesus the week before as he entered into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey to celebrate the Passover. Now they rally at him. The world is full of "passersby," those who were reared in the church, but no longer have time for Jesus. They are fickle unbelievers.

The hypocritical leaders—the ones who instigated the crucifixion. They had much to do with religion, but nothing to do with God. "Likewise the chief priests mocking said. . . 'He saved others himself he cannot save.'" (Mk. 15:31) They are religious unbelievers.

Every unbeliever, regardless of when he lived, is guilty of the crucifixion. Yet, Jesus died to redeem those very ones!

Life and Work

Partners in victory

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

Basic passage: Matthew 26:63-66; 27:39-42,46,54

Focal passage: Matthew 27:46,54

Central truth: Jesus died for the sins of the world.

The focal point of Scripture is found in today's lesson: Jesus died on the cross for our sins. One of the greatest joys is to see people accept Christ as Savior when they are confronted with the claims of our Lord. Jesus is the answer to life's ultimate questions. He is the solution to our toughest problems. Three questions and their answers can help people see their need for Christ.

First, why do we need a Savior? The answer is simple: we are separated from God by sin (Ro. 3:23; 1 Ti. 2:5). Sin is a small, single word, but it is many things. Sin is anything we do, say, or think that is contrary to what God would have us to do. Sin can be a treacherous act or a bad attitude. It is a state of mind as well as a way of life. And what's more, sin leads to death and separation from God (2 Th. 1:8-9).

Second, what did Jesus do for us that we could not do for ourselves? He died on the cross for our sins. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. . ." (1 P. 3:18). He endured six hours (Mk. 15:25, 33) of suffering and separation in order that we might be free. His was no ordinary death. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" God was there, reconciling the world to himself. But the one who knew no sin was bearing the sin of the world.

Third, how can we respond to what Jesus accomplished? Each person must individually decide to receive Christ (Re. 3:20). We receive Christ when we pray (talk to God) and ask him to come into our lives, forgive our sins, and give us the gift of eternal life. We can also reject Christ. We can hear the truth of the gospel and say "no." Sin can blind us and keep us from being open to the gospel. Another response is to consider a decision to commit one's life to Jesus. The tragedy of this response is that people fool themselves into thinking that they can remain neutral about their relationship with God. We can accept him, reject him, or consider him. Where do you stand?

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Bible Book

Conscientious concern

by Dennis M. Dodson, First Church, Monticello

Basic passage: 2 Corinthians 1:12-16; 2:1-4, 14-16

Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 1:12-16; 2:1-4, 14-16

Central truth: A conscientious concern for others is essential for a right relationship which believers ought to have.

2 Corinthians is the result of Paul's concern for his relationship with the Corinthians. The concerns manifested in the letter seem to indicate criticism by some of the Corinthians about the manner and the motives of his conduct and correspondence with them. This distressed Paul greatly and prompted him to try to correct their misunderstandings and bring about reconciliation.

Paul's behavior was always a matter of conscience for him (Ac. 24:1-6).

Paul explains the postponement of his visit with them. His change in plans appears to have been one of the reasons the Corinthians criticized the reliability of his word and his regard for them. He wanted them to know that he had not visited them because he did not want to cause them any sorrow. Having hurt them before, he wouldn't do it again if possible. The Corinthians were a source of joy to him. Making them sad would make him sad. In a previous letter, which was very difficult to write, he had tried to make them aware of his abundant love for all of them. He felt, this love being mutual, they would understand his concern and share his feelings.

The exclamation of thanksgiving for what God was doing in Christ (2:14-17) was probably prompted by the report of Titus that the Corinthians were reconciled with him (7:6-7). Paul pictured God as triumphantly marching through history like a Roman general's triumphant procession into Rome. The fragrance of flowers and incense were a part of such processions. Thus, Paul regarded believers as the sweet aroma of knowledge of God. This spiritual fragrance that pleases God, however, does not please all men. For some it is the smell of life, but for others it is the smell of death (Jn. 3:16,36; 5:24). The awesomeness of the believer having such an effect upon others made Paul wonder who was adequate for such a responsibility. His resolution of this concern is given in 3:4-6.

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ABORTION

Opponents argue extent of bill

by Tom Strode

SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—House of Representatives members and witnesses disagreed on the effect of a controversial abortion bill as it took its first step toward what is expected to be an election-year showdown on the divisive social issue.

The Freedom of Choice Act (House of Representatives and Senate Bill 25) will only enact the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legislatively, supporters of the bill said in a recent hearing. Opponents said the bill will go beyond *Roe* and prohibit restrictions, such as parental notice for minors, now allowed by the Court.

The Justice Department "strongly opposes" the bill, said Timothy Flanigan, acting assistant attorney general. It "would impose a regime of abortion on demand on states," Flanigan said in testimony before the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee.

A 23-page memorandum outlining the Justice Department's opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act was released shortly before the hearing. Not only would the bill go beyond *Roe v. Wade*, it would enable Congress to usurp powers normally granted to the states, the memorandum said.

Congress has "ample constitutional credentials" to enact the legislation, Har-

vard University Law School professor Laurence Tribe told the subcommittee.

After the expected reversal of *Roe*, the disparity among states concerning abortion restrictions will financially burden states with liberal laws and will cause more third-trimester abortions because of a lack of counseling for women in states with restrictive laws, Tribe said. It is false to say provisions such as parental notice will not be allowed under FOCA, he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union, a supporter of FOCA, disagrees with his assessment, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., told Tribe. In a recent document, the ACLU said the bill would prohibit "spousal consent requirements, waiting periods, parental notification and consent, and requirements that all abortions be performed in hospitals."

Hyde also quoted chief sponsor and subcommittee chairman Don Edwards, D-Calif., who said in 1990 the bill "provides for no exceptions — no exceptions whatsoever. It is a classic one-sentence statute that says a state may not restrict the right of a woman to terminate a pregnancy — and that is for any reason."

The quotes were taken out of context, Edwards said at the hearing. FOCA was "written to track" the language of *Roe*, he said.

"This is abortion with a vengeance,"

Hyde said.

"I think that it's clear by the people who are supporting it that its intent is to not only codify *Roe* but to expand it," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, "and by federal fiat to take away from the people of the various states any opportunity to limit abortion for any reason."

"It must be stopped. I would call on every Southern Baptist who is concerned about this to call his or her congressman and senators immediately," Land said.

A subcommittee vote on the bill is expected soon. The hearing was held on March 4.

SOUTHEASTERN

Trustees approve Drummond package

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a retirement package for President Lewis A. Drummond, OK'd a \$6.1 million budget for 1992-93 and struggled with "shared governance" in three major seminary documents.

Meeting for their regular March 9-10 meeting on the Wake Forest campus, trustees spent most of the first day hammering out a financial package for Drummond. Drummond, 65, will retire June 30 after four years as president.

Drummond will receive a \$107,250 cash gift in "gratitude," as well as a car and \$27,000 worth of furnishings from the seminary's presidential residence. Trustees said the \$27,000 was equal to his contributions in the remodeling and enlarging of the home.

He also will receive a Medicare supplement, a \$20,000 life insurance policy, lifetime health center services and up to 22 days of vacation in base salary on June 30. Trustees also added Drummond's name to the new Center for Great Commission Studies.

In other action, the trustees approved a 1992-93 budget of \$6,150,000 which is \$113,545 or 1.8 percent less than this year's budget. Declining SBC Cooperative Program receipts were cited in the cutback.

"Shared governance" and definitions of the phrase dominated trustee discussion on a statement of purpose, faculty selection process and a faculty profile. Because the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools placed the seminary on probation in December, citing trustees with being too involved in some faculty governing areas among other things, trustees were sensitive to having faculty review the three documents before finally approving them.

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Daylight witness counters dark-of-night terror in Kenya

by Craig Bird

SBC Foreign Mission Board

KERICHO, Kenya (BP)—The warning arrived in the dead of night: "We don't want to hurt you. You are free to go back where you belong."

The unwritten threat: "If you stay, we'll burn you out. If you fight back, we'll attack."

But the gospel, and humanitarian aid accompanying it, arrived in bright sunshine for 150 families in the Kericho District of western Kenya. They had stayed but not fought back when raiders came to burn their village. Although unharmed, they owned only the clothes they wore and a handful of items they had hidden in the woods.

They are just a few of more than 20,000 people displaced in the past year by ethnic clashes over land. The trouble exploded in late 1991 when tribes indigenous to Kenya's Rift Valley began demanding that other ethnic groups in their areas get out.

The government (run by the Kenya African National Union or KANU) and newly legalized opposition parties blame each other for the trouble. KANU says tribal tensions are the natural result of allowing multiple parties as each ethnic group forms its own power base. The opposition, led by the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, insists KANU is fomenting unrest to scare people into keeping the current government in power.

But political debate won't keep off the cold night winds that patrol the hills of Kericho District, and charges and counter-charges don't fill the empty stomachs of refugees.

So when Samson Kisla, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, got word from a Baptist pastor that the village of Kepkelion had been burned out, he contacted Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya. The missionaries agreed to help provide relief supplies, then asked Kisla to handle the distribution.

Each of the 150 families received blankets, cornmeal (the basic food for Kenyans), cooking oil, plates and cups.

"We felt that would meet the immediate needs and we knew if any other aid did come it likely would be just cornmeal," Kisla said. "This way they had something to cook in, something to eat from and blankets to keep warm." The project cost about \$3,000.

But Kisla, the local Baptist pastor and missionary Ben Hess had even more to give

away: a testimony to the saving power of Jesus Christ and a witness of Christian love being impartial.

Almost all of the 150 families belonged either to the local Baptist church or a sect that considers itself Christian but teaches exclusion of groups outside its own fellowship. The Baptist church had been spared a torching but the sect's building had been razed, probably "because they sing and preach and worship in Kikuyu (their tribal language) and all members are Kikuyu while the Baptist church services are in Swahili (the national language) and the membership includes several tribes," Kisla said.

The white-turbaned sect members were pleased but skeptical when Kisla announced the relief assistance would not be limited to Baptists. But the sect's pastor stood beside the Baptist pastor during the aid distribution to verify that each family being helped had indeed been burned out and was from the area. It was impossible to say which had more impact — the sermons the Baptist pastors preached or the fairness in distribution of the aid.

*'If you stay,
we'll burn you out.
If you fight back,
we'll attack.'*

"We handed out everything in the open where anyone could see it," Kisla explained. "Kenyan Baptists believe Jesus' commandment to take care of the needy doesn't leave room for including needy Baptists and leaving other people out. Of course it was pretty clear who the food and blankets were coming from."

Kisla spent the night with one local pastor who had not been burned out. "When we got to his house it was empty," he said. "They had hidden everything they had in the woods and were even sleeping in the woods. They expected the raiders to come every night." Some families had even removed the thatch roofs from their houses and hidden them.

The Baptist leader suggested the household goods be brought back inside, "and then let's pray for God's protection." The wife was obviously touched, Kisla reported, "and we all had a really good night's sleep too."