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### September 7, 1995

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 18

September 7, 1995

# yes everyone!



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

State Missions  
Season of Prayer  
September 17-24

Dixie Jackson  
State Missions Offering  
Goal: \$725,000

## ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

# Swihart named new director of church leadership support

Bruce Swihart, pastor of East Side Church in Paragould, has been named the new director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department. He will succeed current department director L.B. Jordan who will retire at the end of September (see related article on page 7).



Swihart

Swihart, 58, was unanimously elected to the position by ABCS Executive Board members during their Aug. 22 meeting in Little Rock. According to the position job description, Swihart will seek to "plan a program of work to address the leadership needs of churches, pastors, staff members, deacons, church officers and church council." He also will work with churches in conflict and terminated ministers as well as assist single-staff churches and bivocational ministers.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention," Swihart affirmed. Noting that his goal is to "touch lives with pastors and staff," he added, "I see the tremendous opportunity of ministering to people who have ministry responsibilities."

Emphasizing that Jordan "has laid the foundation and done a magnificent job" in church leadership support, state convention executive director Don

Moore said Swihart "will bring some different background experiences that will enhance the work that has already been done."

Highlighting Swihart's extensive ministry experience as a church staff member as well as a pastor, Moore added, "His magnificent spirit will make him a real friend to the leaders of the churches throughout the state."

Swihart has served as pastor of East Side Church since 1991. During that time, the church has recorded 118 baptisms as well as having 12 young people make commitments to vocational Christian service.

Prior to his current pastorate, Swihart was pastor of First Baptist Church, Huffman, Texas, and First Church, Glenwood. He previously was minister of music for churches in Fort Worth and Nacogdoches, Texas, as well as minister of music and youth for four Texas Baptist congregations in Austin and Dallas.

Swihart holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin as well as master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His doctoral project focused on "Equipping the Church to Prey for Spiritual Awakening."

Swihart has served as a field supervisor for Southwestern Seminary's doctor of ministry program. He also has been active in associational mission work as well as ministerial alliance efforts.

He and his wife, Whanda, are the parents of two adult children, Timothy and Angela.

## Cover Story

# yes everyone!



## Yes, everyone! 10-11

Arkansas Baptists' 1995 Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering and Season of Prayer for State Missions challenges "everyone" to get involved in state missions efforts. The annual prayer emphasis is set for Sept. 17-24.

## Also inside

### Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5

### Arkansas Baptists

Churches at risk.....	6-7
Jordan retires from ABCS post.....	7
"Let Our Violence End".....	8
Summer missions '95.....	9
Arkansas All Over.....	12-13
New missionaries appointed.....	19

### Nation

HMB appointment debate.....	14
Texas proposes CP cut.....	15
Sunday work dispute settled.....	16

### Lessons..... 22-23

Next issue: Sept. 21

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# Board approves budget, ministry goals

## *Fund-raising proposal and structure study timetable prompt debate*

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Financial issues, ministry goals, a long-range structure study, extending two missions partnerships and electing a new staff member were among diverse topics addressed Aug. 22 in a full agenda for members of the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board.

Topping the financial agenda was the approval of a \$17.25 million Cooperative Program budget for 1996, including 41.77 for Southern Baptist CP causes. Jimmie Sheffield, Arkansas Baptist State Convention associate executive director, noted that the '96 CP goal is a 3.92 percent increase over the current budget goal. While that is a challenging goal, he added that the annual increase in CP receipts during the past five years has averaged 4.09 percent.

The budget proposal, which gained unanimous board approval, will be presented to state convention messengers Oct. 31 for their consideration.

### Financial campaign approved

A more controversial financial issue involved a recommendation by the board's finance committee to allow William Baptist College to conduct a two-year fund-raising campaign among Arkansas Baptist churches. The proposal also would permit Ouachita Baptist University to conduct a comparable campaign following Williams' effort.

The state convention's articles of incorporation prohibit Baptist agencies and institutions from directly soliciting churches without convention approval. Although occasional permission has been granted for such campaigns over the years, it is a funding option used very sparingly in Arkansas Baptist life.

During debate on the proposal, board members expressed concern about placing a financial strain on an already-tight CP budget. In addition to two years of direct solicitation by Williams fund raisers, the plan calls for a three-year budget commitment from participating churches. A subsequent solicitation process and budget request by Ouachita officials could lead to an overall timetable of 10 years for the two campaigns.

Tom Jones, Williams' vice president for institutional advancement, told board members the initial campaign's financial goals are to raise \$3.5 million, with 60 percent to be used for endowment, 39 percent for capital improvements and 1 percent for fund-raising costs.

"Some critical needs on campus need funding," Jones explained. "Our endowment is extremely low. These funds will go to fund critical needs at this point."

Another concern voiced during discussion was that a 19-page fund-raising proposal presented by Williams trustees to the Executive Board's financial liaison subcommittee in June was not made available to the full board until the morning of the Aug. 22 board meeting.

Former Executive Board chairman Rich Kincl, pastor of Central Church in Magnolia, proposed delaying a vote on the matter "until the Executive Board can be better informed about how this campaign will be conducted in our churches."

Following further discussion about the issue, board members voted 39-24 against delaying consideration of the proposal. They then voted 36-23 in favor of recommending the plan to convention messengers this fall.

Another proposal that sparked discussion was a recommendation to establish a steering committee and three subcommittees "to study and recommend a plan by which the Arkansas Baptist State Convention can most effectively meet the challenges of the 21st century."

State convention president Ronnie Rogers, a member of the board operating committee which presented the proposal, recommended that the study process be delayed until after a new executive director is elected. Rogers is on the search committee seeking a successor to executive director Don Moore who has announced plans to retire next February.

"When we began planning for this process, we were not in this transition," Rogers pointed out. "I believe it would be prudent if we could postpone the implementation of the process until a new executive director is in place and ready to take part in the process."

"I'd like to have the current executive's insights into the process," responded fellow board member Gearl Spicer, minister of education and administration at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. "I personally don't see any reason we need to delay the process."

Following further discussion, board members voted 37-29 against delaying the study process and then voted without opposition to approve the overall proposal.

Board members also approved a slate of committee members to conduct the study. Named by the board to lead the study are steering committee chairman Tim Reddin, pastor of Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village; institutions subcommittee

chairman Jerre Hassell, interim pastor of Carlisle First Church; agency subcommittee chairman Jeff Cheatham, director of missions for Arkansas River Valley Association; and Executive Board subcommittee chairman Jerry Wilson, pastor of West Side Church, El Dorado.

"I think the study will give us an opportunity to respond to trends in Baptist life and in society that may call for some changes in programming and structure," Moore said during an interview following the meeting. "It will also give us an opportunity to respond to the Southern Baptist Convention restructuring" which was approved by SBC messengers in June.

"I don't feel any constraints to try to mirror the SBC structure," Moore added, "but I would like for us to exercise initiative and creativity that would put us on the cutting edge of renewed effectiveness in our churches."

In other action, board members approved a recommendation to extend the current missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention an additional year, moving the completion date to December 1997. They also approved plans to extend the partnership with Iowa Baptists five years, concluding in 2001.

### Priority projects affirmed

Board members also approved 1996 priority projects in conjunction with the convention's emphasis on "Arkansas Awakening—Live the Word." Projects to be highlighted during the year are the State Evangelism Conference, Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference, Institute for Christian Discipleship, Spiritual Awakening Worship Workshop, Truth Alive student ministry project and Ministering to Children in Crisis Conference.

Additional action taken by board members included:

- Approving the executive director search committee's request for the current committee to remain intact until a new executive director is elected.

- Adopting a proposal for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries to conduct a study concerning the need for a senior adult ministry in the state.

- Amending current guidelines to allow increased funds to assist qualified ministers who experience forced termination. The adjustment allows the convention to provide financial aid of up to \$800 per month for four months. The previous maximum contribution was \$500 per month.

YOU'LL  
BE GLAD  
TO KNOW

By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

The early disciples were outnumbered. They were from the marginal elements of society. Fame, fortune and favor passed most of them by. Could they impact their world? The Lord seemed to think they could. History records that they did!

It is very natural to ask "Why?" and "How?" A few answers emerge as the New Testament is read. If we can identify these and any others that characterized the early church, we might find God moving in the life of our churches as He did in them.

First, people marveled at the commitment of the early church. Maligned, attacked, imprisoned and even murdered, early disciples would not give up their commitment to the living God. When we think of how little it takes for us to get mad and quit or fall in love with other things, we can readily see why today's disciples in general do not command a hearing. They obviously don't believe anything strong enough to live for it.

Second, people marveled at the message that energized Christ's followers. Their lives had been changed. They knew that others' lives could be changed also. In the worst of times, hope filled and sustained them. Believers throbbed with the conviction that in spite of appearances, they were on the winning side. The long faces and flippant attitudes reveal that most believers today have few dreams and little desire to assert themselves for Christ.

Third, people marveled at the simple approach the disciples took to life. He called, they followed. He commanded, they obeyed. The complexities of life today seem to have paralyzed our movement. Research, strategizing and mass marketing are viable disciplines. They may give a message to the average Christian that the Christian experience is too complex to be successfully followed or shared. The loss of confidence is enough to dull our spiritual senses and discourage our efforts.

I want to challenge us all to get back to the simple realities of our faith: Christ shared in the power of the Holy Spirit will always be effective, as will unquestioned commitment to Jesus and His church.

PEGGY SUTTON

## Woman's Viewpoint

## Are we losing the battle?

As a Bible teacher of children for 25 years, I feel a compulsion to sound an alarm to parents and to our churches.

Maybe every older generation feels this way, but it is my feeling that today's parents, more than ever before, are in the hardest battle for molding godly character in their children.

It is time for self-examination by parents, churches and Christian people who minister to children. Could it be that our failings stem from a lack of commitment from parents and churches to diligently teach God's Word? Time and emphasis are often placed on less important subjects. If Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." Nothing takes the place of God's true Word!

Christian parents, with the much-needed help of their church, have the responsibility of teaching God's character and His high standards of conduct to children. Deuteronomy 6 insists that children be taught and demonstrates how the Lord's commands can be "impressed upon" the next generation. How often do we teach, and how familiar are we with God's consequences when godly characteristics are absent in a life?

■ **Holiness** (Romans 12:1). Luke 12:12 says the absence of holy is evil. "Evil" seems a harsh word to associate with a child's innocence, but left untaught about God's holiness and the need for righteousness, people are evil. Parents, Sunday School teachers and

our Baptist family must link prayers so nothing will hinder our children from accepting Christ as Savior early in life.

■ **Wisdom** (Ephesians 5:15, Proverbs 4:7). Without wisdom there is ignorance. True wisdom is thinking God's way. Without Bible knowledge, parents cannot teach a child to make choices pleasing to God.

■ **Love, compassion and forgiveness** (Romans 12:12, Galatians 5:22, Ephesians 4:22). Without these characteristics envy, bitterness, resentment and cruelty have a fertile ground in which to grow. The worst pain parents can experience is watching their child, in later life, suffer consequences for something they failed to teach that child.

■ **Gentleness, self-control and obedience** (Ephesians 6:1, 5:23). I have never known God to do a mighty work through a disobedient, self-centered person. Without learning gentleness, self-control and obedience, children can miss the greatest joy of the Christian life, that of being God's servant.

Although we cannot know what God intends for each child, we know it is the parents' and the church's responsibility to equip them. Diligently teaching God's Word holds the key to our victory in this battle for our children.

Peggy Sutton is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock where she teaches first graders. She is the wife of William H. "Buddy" Sutton, a Little Rock attorney and former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The Suttons have three children and four grandchildren.

## Personal perspectives

"Twenty years ago people never even considered suing a church. That is simply not a safe assumption anymore."

—Richard Hammar, keynote speaker for Risk Management Seminar

"Twenty-five new churches are needed in Arkansas each year in order to share the love of God with all of Arkansas."

—Jimmy Barrentine, ABCS missions department director.

# 'Yes, everyone!' means...everyone

When it comes to spreading the gospel of Christ throughout Arkansas, who should be directly involved? Is it merely the responsibility of pastors, church staff and Woman's Missionary Union members? What about deacons, Sunday School teachers and youth leaders? For that matter, how about teens and children themselves? And don't forget about senior adults with the variety of talents they have to offer. We also ought to include choir members, church committee members – and even the folks in the pews who only show up on Sunday mornings but still convincingly sing, "I Surrender All."

Have I left anyone out? If so, feel free to jot down your name in the margin. I think you get the point. When we talk about state missions as an ongoing effort to share the gospel message with everyone in Arkansas, every Arkansas Baptist has the responsibility – and the privilege – of being personally involved.

That responsibility is clearly communicated in this year's theme for the State Missions Season of Prayer and Dixie Jackson Offering which succinctly declares: "Yes, everyone!" Based on I Corinthians 3:9, which emphasizes that "we are laborers together with God," the 1995 theme offers a timely reminder that "we" is an inclusive term that encompasses every follower of Christ.

When applied to the challenge of state missions, "everyone" includes volunteers involved in food ministries to lower-income families, health clinics for migrant workers and after-school tutoring programs for needy kids as well as church planters and other missionaries reaching out to the state's growing ethnic population.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



Chaplaincy programs, interfaith witnessing efforts, resort ministries and leadership development programs are other state missions projects which require widespread involvement among concerned, committed Arkansas Baptists.

But the list doesn't stop there. Along with the hundreds of ministers and volunteers on the front line of state missions service, there are thousands of individuals who are actively involved through financial support. This year's Dixie Jackson goal of \$725,000 represents almost half of the state convention's total missions budget for the year. While \$725,000 is a significant goal, if each of Arkansas Baptists' 500,000 church members contributed a mere \$1.50 each, the offering goal would be easily surpassed. But how many church members must participate to turn such a scenario into reality? Yes, everyone!

In addition to direct personal involvement and financial support, the third key to the success of state missions is focused, faithful prayer. This year's Season of Prayer for State Missions is set for Sept. 17-24. With all the other activities on a

typical church calendar, as well as countless personal priorities, it is easy for an annual missions prayer emphasis to be taken for granted or quietly pushed aside.

In reality, of course, the time that Arkansas Baptists spend in specific prayer for state missions is one of the most significant investments that can be made in seeking to reach our state for Christ. And in order to make the 1995 prayer effort as powerful and productive as possible, who should be involved? Yes, everyone!

Even with the challenge to become personally involved in state missions through ministry projects, financial gifts and prayer, why should Arkansas Baptists bother to do so? Based on current statistics, there are more than 1 million people in Arkansas without a church home – and that total is increasing at a rate of 60,000 per year. Jimmy Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said Arkansas Baptists need to start at least 25 new churches a year to keep pace with the state's growing spiritual needs. Last year's total new churches in the state was only 13.

In addition to the statistical concerns, the primary reason for active support of state missions is to respond to God's call to be "laborers together" on behalf of His Kingdom. The basis of that commitment is found in I Corinthians 3:11 which declares that the foundation for our labor together is Jesus Christ.

What is our motivation for seeking to assure the success of state missions efforts? "We are laborers together with God." And who should be involved in praying, giving and going? "Yes, everyone!" – even you.

## State missions at work – a personal perspective

By Monty Parsons, DDS  
Member, First Church, Benton

The Arkansas Baptist state missions department organized a one-day medical/dental health clinic last summer as part of a weeklong outreach effort in the community of Pindall and the surrounding area. The home church was Searcy County Church in Marshall which sponsors a mission in Pindall. I joined with the medical team from First Church of Piggott at the Pindall mission, which doubles as the community's volunteer fire department.

I'm a general dentist and this was my first missions experience. I was quite concerned – fearful, to be honest – about performing extractions without routine dental equipment. After participating in

the clinic, I realized that what I went with was far more important than what I went without. I went with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; I went with angels that ministered for me; I went with the prayers of people I knew and the prayers of people I didn't know. I don't have the skill of an oral surgeon or the faith of a mature Christian, but the Lord didn't require either of me for that day.

The Arkansas National Guard gladly provided a mobile dental chair for the clinic. We saw 16 patients, including eight children and teenagers and eight adults. I removed a total of four teeth for three different patients. I also did some limited cleaning work for four patients.

The medical volunteers from Piggott were delightful people. One member of

their team, Linda Waterman, assisted me the whole day. She was caring and kind to the patients and a great comfort to me with her ever-helpful attitude.

I found the patients we worked with to be nice, friendly people and soon most of my nervousness was gone. I enjoyed visiting with them and helping them. By the end of the day, I felt great; it was a definite spiritual high point in my life. God used this experience in my life to show me that He is to be trusted.

I believe the combination of a health clinic with outreach and evangelism is a great state missions project. Medical and dental check-ups are a natural attraction for unchurched people. They can then discover that their neighbors love them and that Jesus loves them.

# Churches face liability risks

*Legal expert warns churches aren't immune to sexual misconduct suits*

By Russell N. Dillard

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Warning more than 300 Arkansas Baptists about the legal risks of sexual misconduct that churches face, church liability expert Richard Hammar emphasized, "We live in a different day today than in the past." Hammar, an attorney, accountant and author specializing in legal and tax issues affecting churches and clergy, was the featured speaker during the Risk Management Seminar, held Aug. 17 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

"Twenty years ago people never even considered suing a church," he explained. "That is simply not a safe assumption anymore. People are increasingly suing churches and we need to take affirmative steps to respond to those risks."

The seminar, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Annuity Board, was offered to pastors and church staff, as well as attorneys and insurance agents who work with churches.

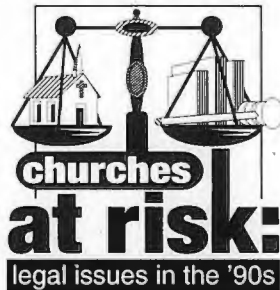
Hammar is the author of *Pastor, Church and Law and Church and Clergy Tax*. He also writes the *Church Law and Tax Report*, a bi-monthly newsletter reviewing significant legal and tax developments affecting churches and is editor of the *Church Treasurer Alert!*

Highlighting "three trends for the 1990s" in preparing to respond to church liability issues, Hammar said the most predominant issue is the "increase in litigation involving churches."

Noting an overall increase in litigation

in the United States, he said the main reason for the increase is the size of the nation's legal profession. "There are 865,000 legal attorneys," he said. "We have 27 times more attorneys per capita than Japan and 20 times of any country in the Western Hemisphere."

He cited increased regulation of churches by government as the second trend and an increase in child molestation as the third.



"The number one risk that we are going to be talking about today is child abuse and child molestation occurring in the church," he explained. "People ask me, 'Is this something that is just being reported more?' The answer to that is absolutely not. The numbers of children being molested today are significantly higher

than they have been in the past.

"The reason for that is it's a consequence of the breakdown of the American family," he continued. "What is unique today as opposed to any other time in our nation's history are the number of children who are being raised in homes with non-biological custodians."

"The incidence of child molestation is much higher among those relationships than it is among a biological parent and child relationship," he said.

Hammar shared data from a survey about sexual misconduct in churches of all sizes, denominations and locations.

The survey question, "How many churches have had an incident of sexual misconduct with an adult occur on their premises?" resulted in eight percent of churches answering yes, but an affirmative answer increased to 19 percent among churches with more than 1,000 in attendance, Hammar noted.

He also pointed out that only one out of three churches reported screening unpaid employees who work with minors and only 44 percent screen paid employees.

Reaffirming the survey results, he said, "The number one risk facing your church today is child molestation and the potential dollar money damages that can be assessed in these cases can be very significant."

"The frequency of cases is on the increase but generally given low priority in the life of the church because of low screening," he said. "So you have an atmosphere where this issue is denied, it is ignored and you are setting up a situation where child molesters can thrive. We need to transform the behavior of church leaders to address this risk."

Hammar identified "four distinct problems of sexual misconduct," including harassment. Sharing specific details about the other three problems, Hammar said:

■ **Pedophilia** — "Sexual contact with a pre-adolescent minor. With pedophilia, the perpetrator can be an adult male or female, adolescent male or female, with heterosexual or homosexual contact. A pedophile is a predator that has a promiscuous lifestyle that can range up to as many as 500 victims over the course of a lifetime."

■ **Ephedophilia** — "Sexual misconduct with a minor who is an adolescent," he said, usually between a male clergy member or Sunday School teacher and a female adolescent.

"There are two very important reasons to distinguish these first two kinds of conduct. Pedophilia is a promiscuous lifestyle, but that is not the case with this

## Be cautious, insurance executive urges

Be cautious when making decisions about purchasing insurance policies, participants at Arkansas Baptists' recent Risk Management Seminar were told.

Jack Kelley, vice president for Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Co., urged church leaders to closely read insurance documents prior to signing them.

Kelley detailed the importance of churches purchasing liability coverage for such areas of concern as sexual misconduct and other potential lawsuits. "This is a problem that you might not only be dealing with today but some 10 years down the road," he warned, noting that churches may be found liable for the actions of former staff members as well as current ones.

Kelley cited replacement-value property insurance and adequate

coverage for church-sponsored activities as other key areas of concern when purchasing insurance.

"Replacement of property is one of the most important items for consideration," he emphasized, noting that loss from fire is the biggest insurance claim among most churches. "I want to caution you not to talk about cash value, but rather current replacement values based on your insurance that has been formulated by a representative following a building tour and ministries study."

"You can be a part of the solution to escalating premium costs through awareness of potential problem areas, proper planning and conscientious implementation," he concluded. "A well-trained and informed staff, both paid and volunteer, will make a difference."

second kind of misconduct," he explained. "The best evidence shows that the pedophile is incurable.

"Screening is very effective with respect to the first type of child abuse, but it is of very little value as to the second. Supervision is the only effective way of dealing with the second type of child abuse."

■ Seduction — "The victim here is usually a counselee and the perpetrator typically is a male clergy," he said.

Hammar also addressed the history of litigation against churches and typical church responses. "It is unbelievable, but the first case in this country finding a church liable for sexual misconduct was not until 1983. This is a new development."

Pointing to the "vulnerability of churches" to suits, he described them as institutions of trust. When there are no screening procedures, there are many opportunities for child molestation, he added.

Noting the response of other charities to molestation cases, he said, many organizations have taken steps to reduce risks. Boy Scouts has been sued more than 1,700 times for child molestation since 1975.

"The result is that many pedophiles have left those organizations and come to see the church increasingly as a place where they have potential contacts with victims in an atmosphere of blind trust," he said. "What better situation could you have? A church that doesn't screen."

Hammar blamed a greater willingness to sue churches on "astronomical jury verdicts," therapy sessions where "many counselors tell victims to sue as a way to resolve" and media publicity.

The typical church response, he said, is "one of denial, one of minimalization and one of blame." He said that assessment is based on an interview with "the attorney who has sued more churches than any other attorney in the U.S."

He said most successful lawsuits against churches are for negligence, usually the "negligent selection or retention of a worker or supervision of the worker."

"Did you act reasonably?" he asked. "When you have a church that says, 'No, we didn't do anything to screen this person or did nothing to supervise them. We didn't think this was a problem,' you can see that you not only have established a case of negligence but potentially of recklessness or gross negligence."

The consequences of a single incident to the church — the publicity, money damages, the consequences to the victim and the victim's family are "enormous. The insurance industry cannot continue to insure churches when there is no attempt to respond to the risk," Hammar insisted.

"I can see in the future that coverage will depend on what steps a church has taken to respond to this risk."

## L.B. Jordan retires as church leadership support director

L.B. Jordan, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department since 1990, will retire from his position Sept. 30.

"I feel very positive about it," he said of his decision to retire, adding that health concerns were an important aspect.

"One of the things that influenced my decision was having a heart attack about two and a half years ago," he said. "That really hit me. I lost a lot of heart muscle and simply get tired more easily than I used to."

"My desire to serve and my drive to want to serve is still there, but my energy level is simply not there anymore. That's been frustrating to me the last 24 months."

"I came to the conclusion that I needed to move aside and let someone else come in here," he said. "The size of the job is so enormous that you have to have somebody really able to go."

For the past five years, Jordan has served as the state liaison to pastors, deacons, church councils, church officers and church committees. He noted that the job has not always been easy.

"This job has some tremendous emotional baggage that goes with it," he said. "I spend a good deal of my time dealing with churches that are impacted with misunderstandings and church fights, often resulting in the firing or termination of the pastor or staff."

"I get involved in the church and its hurts in trying to help them get healed on

one hand and on the other, trying to help the pastors and staff members involved to find a fresh start somewhere," he said.

Jordan's other responsibilities have included helping churches find pastors and staff members, training pastor and staff search committees and conducting the Church Leadership Institutes.

Jordan noted his assignment also has involved relating to bivocational pastors and smaller membership churches, which he said form "somewhere between 40 and 50 percent of the churches in Arkansas."

He said he was able to do many of his duties with the help of his wife. "One of the things that has helped me to do what I've done has been my wife, Nancy," he affirmed. "Nancy has played a valuable part in everything we've done."

Jordan said his background in church work also aided his position. He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has served as pastor of churches in Lamar, Heber Springs, Texarkana, Manning and Tichenor as well as Texas. Prior to serving the ASBC, he was director of missions for Red River Association.

He said he will stay active in church work after retiring. "The first day of my retirement I will begin serving as interim pastor of Mt. Olive Church in Crossett."

"I really anticipate staying close to this work," he added. "My training and everything I've done in my life relates to this office right here."

He pointed out that he also will "concentrate on the important things" — pointing to photos of his grandchildren — as well as "get caught up on my fishing."



L.B. Jordan

## Taylor new Mountain Home BSU director

"Finding my own niche," is how Nancy Townsend Taylor describes her new role

as volunteer Baptist Student Union director for the Arkansas State University at Mountain Home campus. She was approved Aug. 22 and will begin work immediately.

Taylor is a graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She also attended Southwest Mississippi Community College, where she was active

in BSU. She is married to James "Jay" Taylor, minister of youth and media at Mountain Home First Church. They are parents of a son, Jayme, 3.

"My husband and I have been working to find an area of ministry for me — it was exciting to see the Holy Spirit working in assuming the BSU role," Taylor said.

George Sims, an associate in the state student ministries department, noted, "The only way we have been able to extend BSU to the new campuses in the state has been by the use of volunteer BSU directors. God has led us to committed workers like Nancy who are highly motivated to minister to students. We believe she will provide a strong witness at ASU Mountain Home."



Nancy Taylor



# LOVE campaign seeks to curb escalating violence in society

By Russell N. Dillard

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

A campaign to curb violence through church intervention was unveiled in an Aug. 25-26 conference in Little Rock. More than 200 youth and adults attended the LOVE Conference, held at St. Mark Baptist Church and Second Church in Little Rock.

Participants at the conference attended sessions that addressed violence-related issues in communities, including rape, gangs, suicide, domestic violence and self-esteem. Many also organized into teams to take the campaign into schools, neighborhoods and businesses.

The Let Our Violence End (LOVE) campaign was initiated by Second Church member Robert Holt, who also serves as campaign director. "LOVE is a ministry that God has given us...to replace the violent actions that are going on in our community with loving actions," he explained.

Emphasizing that LOVE is multi-denominational, Holt noted, "We had 33 different churches represented at this conference this weekend."

Holt also voiced his hope that the campaign could grow into a "worldwide" effort. When asked how that would happen, he answered, "Only God knows that. God is continually changing this ministry. We're going to take this message to the streets through the churches, through our schools and through our communities in any avenue we can utilize."

Holt said the campaign's success will rely on Love Teams for adults and youth and Love Attract Teams for youth.

"Love Teams will be responsible for going out into the communities and finding areas where they can share the message of love," he said, "whether it is through organizing parent groups to talk about what their children are doing, going to the businesses and getting them to support it or going downtown."

"The Love Attract Teams," he added, "will be going into the schools to share the message of love."

Holt said that LOVE began with a youth class he taught at Second Church. "It started a year and a half ago with a youth Sunday School class I was teaching," he explained. "I was teaching about violence and I asked them what was the most important ingredient that was missing out of schools and families today."

"Most of them agreed it was love," he said. "So I wrote the word 'love' on the board and, at the end of class, it was like God slapped me upside the head with a

brick and I wrote, 'Let Our Violence End.'"

Holt and the Second Church youth group used the theme, logo and T-shirts successfully during a mission trip that summer and he then designed a conference around the concept.

Others also took notice of the catchy theme. "One of the most important confirmations came from the Sunday School Board," he said. "When we asked them if we could borrow their book on violence, they said, 'Yes. What are you doing?'"



"We sent them our logo and they asked us to come to Nashville," Holt recalled. "They had a board room full of people and they wanted to help us take this nationwide through the Sunday School Board."

He added, however, that LOVE leaders dropped Sunday School Board involvement in the program because of costs. "We had everything developed," he said, "then things happened. They wanted to charge a fee and we didn't want to charge a fee. It was a difficult decision."

Conference sessions highlighted identification and reaction to violent situations. Diane Swaim, a member of Second Church, led a Friday night joint session on "Date Rape."

"When most people think of rape, we think of stranger rape," she said. "We think about somebody who jumps out of the bushes and grabs a jogger and rapes her. But that is only one in five rapes."

Swaim pointed out that "acquaintance rape" is more prevalent. "Four out of five victims know their attacker. That's what we call an acquaintance rape. Date and rape are two words that should never be used together. When these two mix, a crime has been committed."

"Fifty percent of girls who reported a rape under the age of 18 were raped by boyfriends," she noted. "Acquaintance rape occurs when a victim knows her attacker, whether it is a friend, family

member, an acquaintance or their date.

"That's what we call the hidden rape because it is so seldom reported," she said. "In fact, one out of 10 of those are reported."

"Don't ever think it can't happen to you, because it can," she insisted. "In the first six months of this year, Arkansas saw over 450 rapes reported."

Participants also heard Steve Nawojczyk, who spoke at a session about gangs. Nawojczyk is a former Pulaski County coroner and now president of the Nawojczyk Group, which offers continuing education for educators, law enforcement and medical personnel.

Detailing the growing problems of gang involvement, he said, "What we have to do is figure out how we are going to fix this problem. Our country is sick and we all have to be a part of the team to fix it."

Nawojczyk shared insight into gang members' backgrounds, including the "three Rs of gangs: respect, reputation and retaliation."

"Retaliation is the most dangerous of those three," he said. "When you 'dis' somebody (street slang for disrespect)... that is when retaliation kicks in and almost all of the violence on the street is driven by another act of violence."

He also listed reasons that youth join gangs. He said prime recruits for gangs come from the "Five H Club," his term for children who are "homeless, helpless, hopeless, hungry and huggless."

The reasons that kids join gangs, he added, are for "identity, recognition, belonging, discipline, love and respect."

"This is where it gets simple," he added. "If we provide kids who come from the Five H Club a place to get these (values), we will be very successful in drying up the resource pool of recruits that are gravitating toward the violence."

Highlighting the gravity of his subject with graphic photos of dead or wounded gang members, Nawojczyk detailed identifiers of gang activity, including self-admission, obsession with certain colors and logos, new friends, secrecy, truancy and disregard for authority.

Despite a smaller conference attendance than anticipated, program leaders remain optimistic about the campaign's overall success.

"It is a blessing to see as many as are present tonight," affirmed Steve Arnold, pastor of St. Mark Church. "I'm a believer that you don't have to have a church full to do what this vision, this conference, is all about."

Steve Wiggins, pastor of Bountiful Blessing Baptist Church in Little Rock, added, "We expected more people than this. But I know God has a plan and He is always doing something; regardless of who's here and who's not, He always has a plan."

# Students and summer: a time of ministry

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Where would you find a student from the Ivory Coast who attends college in Arkansas teaching English to recent Asian immigrants in Iowa? On a Baptist Student Union-sponsored summer mission trip. Theiry Vodounou, from Ouachita Baptist University, was one of 114 BSU summer missionaries who served throughout the world.

"I had the chance to teach conversational English to some Vietnamese people who moved to America," Vodounou said, commenting on his trip to Des Moines, Iowa. "The text used were stories from the gospel of the Bible." His missions involvement fulfilled his dream for God to use him through the BSU summer missions program.

"Even students who are not able to serve can feel that they participate in missions," explained Diane Parker, an associate in the state student ministries department. "The financial support for the student missions budget comes through each BSU setting a missions goal — the students then give or raise that amount of money through the year.

"This is a student missions ministry supported by students — they feel like it's their ministry even if they don't go, because they've given toward it," she continued. "Each summer we also get to send two summer missionaries to Israel because of an endowment."

One of those summer missionaries was Brad Kinsey, a student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. While serving at the Baptist Village in Israel, Kinsey assisted with the first Hebrew-speaking camp at the facility. "Our hope was to glorify God in whatever we did," Kinsey affirmed.

"Our theme this year was 'Arkansas students making a global difference,'" Parker explained. "There were student who were in the Philippines, Israel and Australia. We also had students spanning the U.S. from Des Moines to El Paso and on both the east and west coasts. Eight students served here in Arkansas — it's part of the globe, too!"

One student serving in the Philippines felt at home in the family of God even though she was overseas. "The campus ministry center reminds me so much of home and my BSU," noted Erika Stuckey from Henderson State University. "I was able to share my testimony one day. God must have transcended any language barrier because four students were saved that day!"

Serving close to home at an Arkansas

## OBU team ministers in Australia

"Our job shouldn't be to park on one part of the world," insisted Ian Cosh, Baptist Student Union director for Ouachita Baptist University. Cosh's vision to take a student summer missions group to every continent was completed this summer when 52 students and three faculty members went to Australia. "We've now been to every continent except Antarctica," he remarked.

The summer missions group divided into two teams — one went to Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, and the other went to Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. Local churches provided host families, which provided the students additional cross-cultural exposure. In turn the missions teams provided worship leadership, worked with youth in the evenings and conducted special events. Some students were responsible for leading a retreat at a dude ranch, where they introduced DiscipleNow materials to Australia. "They liked the material, and it went very well," Cosh noted.

The teams also were permitted to enter public schools and talk to students. Because the nation is largely secular, the laws governing church and state

differ, which allowed team members more opportunities than they have in U.S. public schools. "Even school administrators who were not Christians felt our college young people and their Christian influence had a positive effect on their students," Cosh explained.

The mission team members also were introduced to innovative ministry methods, such as one church in Melbourne that converts a school gymnasium into a worship center every week. "They use curtains and carpet and really transform it," Cosh said. "The church office is in a shopping center — they want to use their money to get the word out, rather than on a building."

Assessing the three-week trip, Cosh noted, "Because the language barrier is not really a problem, the students felt at home very quickly and established warm relationships. The Australians were impressed with the maturity of our students."

What's next in summer missions for OBU students? "I want to keep the continents cycling before the students," Cosh said. He hopes to take a team to South Africa in 1996 and to Europe in 1997.

Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries emergency receiving home, Ouachita Baptist University student Amy Campbell had much the same reaction to the children she worked with in Judsonia. "I hope each one will come to know our God," she emphasized.

## "Our hope was to glorify God in whatever we did."

— Brad Kinsey  
BSU summer missionary

Heather Moon, who served at an inner-city mission in New Orleans, also wanted to impart spiritual knowledge to the youth in her care. "Getting close to the teenagers has really touched me," she noted. "It is surprising how much they know about life and how little they know about the Lord."

Students who want to be involved, but are unavailable for the whole summer can participate in summer missions through shorter projects. "We were able to include

some students through the short-term option who have to work or go to school," Parker explained. "One was a Mississippi River Ministry project in inner-city Memphis. There was a DiscipleNow ministry team who worked or went to school during the week and traveled with the team on weekends. Ouachita Baptist University took a team of more than 50 students to Australia for three weeks."

"Ten weeks is not the only thing out there," she emphasized. "A variety of opportunities exist."

"What I see each summer is that career missionaries and other staff people who have requested summer missionaries are really helped by the fresh energy and enthusiasm," Parker observed. "Also they are able to use the unique gifts and skills that the students have so that the ministry is broadened."

"There is no student who has ever said to me, 'Summer mission didn't change me or help me.' In fact, students often see missions or ministry in their future where they didn't before," she noted.

"They come back from summer missions with a broader perspective of the world and how missions is needed."

## Barrentine: State missions work is extensive, diverse

"What is state missions?" is a question I get asked a lot," said Jimmy Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department. "My answer is, 'State missions is many things.'

"State missions is Jesus Christ reaching into the community, speaking another language, starting new churches, helping associations, going where the church cannot go, teaching the believer and ministering in new and inventive ways."

State missions, he explained, involves church and community ministries. "Beyond Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night prayer meeting, churches are reaching out into the community with the message of Jesus Christ," he noted. "Churches are going beyond their four walls to reach those left behind."

How is this accomplished? "Through Arkansas Baptist churches offering after-school tutoring programs, free health clinics for migrants, providing food for the hungry and offering a listening ear to those in crisis," he answered.


State missions also is language missions and ministries, he said. "Buenos dias. Como esta usted?" This phrase and others like it are heard all across our state every day," he noted. "Each Sunday Koreans, Hispanics, Laotians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos worship in their own language in ethnic Baptist churches.

"Not only are ethnic groups reached through language missions, but ministries to the deaf and internationals are also supported," Barrentine added. "Language missions is Jesus Christ speaking another language."

Church extension is another integral part of state missions work in Arkansas, Barrentine explained.

"Twenty-five new churches are needed in Arkansas each year in order to share the love of God with all of Arkansas," he said. "Church extension helps new churches

yes  
everyone!



State Missions  
Season of Prayer  
September 17-24

Dixie Jackson  
State Missions  
Offering Goal:  
\$725,000

in their Great Commission task through church loans, grants and pastoral aid.

"Places for new missions are discovered through prayer and surveys and many sites use mobile chapels provided by state missions funds," he said.

Leadership development in associations and throughout the state, he added, is a less tangible but important part of the state missions effort.

"There are 42 associations in the state of Arkansas," he said. "Associational/state missions development helps promote association awareness, facilitate organizational development, train leaders and extend disaster or crisis assistance to each of those associations."

In addition, he emphasized, "this area of ministry seeks to keep missions on the hearts of Arkansas Baptists through conferences, semi-nars, and church visits."

Chaplaincy is a "big part" of state missions, said Barrentine, noting that one quarter of Dixie Jackson funds are allotted to that area of work.

"Chaplain minister in many places where the church cannot always reach," he explained. "This includes prisons, industries, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and police and fire departments.

"These are all areas where people in crisis need to hear about the love and peace only Jesus can bring," Barrentine added.

Continuing theological education can be attained in three forms in Arkansas and is pivotal to state missions by preparing ministers, he declared. "Opportunities abound in Arkansas for those seeking to further their education.

"Boyce Bible School has courses designed for those who have not had college work and many not have finished high school," he explained. "Seminary extension helps pastors and other church workers continue their education for ministry and the seminary studies program offers classes that apply towards a master's degree from Southwestern Seminary."

State missions also is missions ministries involving volunteers in such programs as clowning, state park ministries and interfaith witnessing, he said.

"Each year millions of people visit the resort and leisure areas of Arkansas where Baptists provide a Christian witness through outdoor worship, clowning, face painting and other special activities," Barrentine said. "Training in the beliefs, activities and how to witness to other faith groups in our state is also offered, as well as enlistment and promotion of volunteer mission service."

The most needed elements in state missions, he said, "are Arkansas Baptists."

"How does Jesus do state missions?" he asked. "Through you, the believer. Everyone is a part of state missions."

## Dixie Jackson was Arkansas missions support pioneer

Dixie Jackson, born on a Louisiana plantation, went on to become a leader in missions support among Arkansas Baptists in the early part of this century. Born Dixie Farrior in 1860, her family moved to Dardanelle when she was 12. There she met James Jackson and married at age 18.

James and Dixie had eight children. With such a large family, she had to do more than one thing at a time, yet she always found time to read and study the Bible. "You should have seen me using one foot to rock the cradle while I churned (butter) with one hand and held my Bible for study with the other," she recalled.

It was because of her Bible study and prayer that she changed her membership from the Methodist denomination to Baptist.

The Jacksons lived in Dardanelle 25 years before moving to

Little Rock in 1904. They joined Second Church there and became active in denominational activities. Dixie was named a member of the Central Committee (now Executive Board) of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union.

In 1914, she was asked to become the leader of Arkansas WMU. For 15 years, she was diligent in training WMU leadership, speaking in churches on behalf of missions, encouraging and providing opportunities for women to become actively involved in WMU work.

One of her most lasting contributions was establishing the annual Season of Prayer for state missions.

She died in 1929. In 1935, WMU members voted to name the state missions offering in her honor.

# For Arkansans, by Arkansans

*Ministry testimonies highlight variety of missions opportunities*

The Dixie Jackson Offering story is not limited to the need for funds for missions efforts in Arkansas. It also is the story of those who carry out the ministries funded by the offering.

The following three accounts highlight Dixie Jackson-funded ministries. The stories are as diverse as the ministries themselves, but all tell the story of the love of Arkansans by Arkansans.

## Ramirez leads three works

It was still dark outside when a teenage boy arose from his bed in the central part of Mexico. He was going into the mountains with his burro to cut wood for his family and to sell. A young missionary woman from North Carolina shared the gospel with the boy, Margarito Ramirez's father. He became a Christian.

Years later in 1981, Margarito Ramirez made his first work trip to the United States at the age of 18. He obtained a work permit and returned to the U.S. in 1986. His father told him, "Don't forget to study your Bible and go to church somewhere." He took his father's advice. He also became a Christian and found a church home at Iglesia San Juan Bautista, a Baptist mission in DeQueen.

Ramirez felt God's call to the ministry. In 1991, he began to lead Hispanic services in Wickes. While maintaining a full-time job as a worker in area chicken houses and preaching at Wickes, Ramirez also started Hispanic missions in Glenwood and Arkadelphia. He became the first Hispanic



*Margarito Ramirez greets members of the mission of First Church in Glenwood, one of three mission works he leads with assistance from state missions funds.*

minister ordained in Arkansas. At the age of 31, he continues to lead Hispanic missions in Glenwood, Arkadelphia and Hot Springs.

In addition to worship services, English as a Second Language classes are conducted. Ramirez ministers mostly to people who work in the poultry industry, construction, restaurants and as tree planters. He is supported by state missions funds and Red River and Central associations.

## New work is integrated effort

First Church in Nashville bought six acres in 1979 for a future church site. In January 1993, the church decided to sell the property. The missions committee studied the site and recommended the church keep the property. The church approved.

That May, a local pastor felt led to start

a multi-racial congregation. In June, pastor Bruce Short started the church in the Little River Association office. First Church gave the new congregation two and a half acres for their new mission. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, with Dixie Jackson funds, gave the new church a grant to purchase the remaining property.

The new work in Nashville is Maranatha Church. The congregation is reaching bi-racial and interracial families. The congregation is made up of Anglos, blacks and Hispanics.

Church-in-a-Day volunteers helped the congregation erect their first unit in 1994. Plans are under way for the next building addition. Their indebtedness for the property, building and furniture is less than \$30,000.

Since the beginning of the new work, 32 people have been baptized and more are waiting to be baptized. The average weekly Sunday School attendance is 70. "Give God the glory," Pastor Short urged.

## Ministry through medicine

Fianna Hills Church in Fort Smith is seeking ways to help hurting people. The church has developed a medical ministry in the Briarwood Apartment area. They not only seek to meet the physical needs of their neighbors, but also offer an outlet for sharing the gospel.

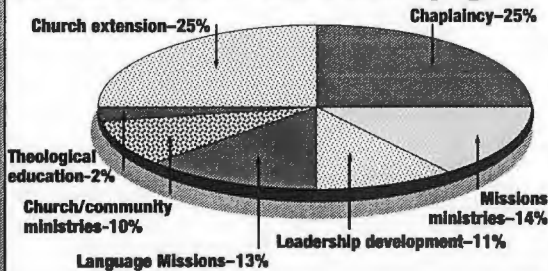
Fianna Hills Church Medical Clinic is located at the Peppermint Child Development Center. When a family arrives at the clinic, they register and a nurse takes vital signs and fills out the child's health history. Then they visit the doctor for a medical exam.

Next, they meet with a social worker to assess the needs of the family, then they go to the pharmacy in the clinic and pick up their filled prescription at no charge.

The medical clinic has been open for three years. More than 600 children have been treated. The church family and local community have supported the clinic from the beginning. Parents are thankful for the clinic because it helps them stretch their budget dollars. All services and medication are free of charge.

"Our clinic has been a positive and productive ministry for our church," clinic director Linda Musgraves said. "It was a prayer in the beginning, but has turned out to be a very accepted reality. It is a great feeling to know you are helping a sick child get well. Children are a very special gift that God has given to us."

## The Dixie Jackson Offering: Where does the money go?



## Church news

**Hampton First Church** recently sent a 12-member mission team to Pueblo, Colo., to conduct a Vacation Bible School that had an average attendance of 116. The team also led evening revival services with pastor David Spraggins serving as evangelist and Brian Nutt directing music.

**Immanuel Church** in Little Rock's youth mission team worked in inner-city Houston July 30-Aug. 5 leading backyard Bible clubs and bagging and distributing food to adults in the community, as well as assisting with light construction work. The team's efforts resulted in 15 professions of faith.

**Geyer Springs First Church** in Little Rock recently sent a mission team to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, to lead three Vacation Bible Schools for more than 250 children, construct a two-room house for a family of four, work in an orphanage and conduct two medical clinics. Team efforts led to 18 professions of faith.

**Central Church** in Jonesboro will host a ladies fall renewal conference beginning Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. with registration, followed by 6 p.m. workshops. A fashion show will conclude the evening session. Saturday morning activities will begin with a fellowship coffee, followed by a special ministries choir and workshops. A luncheon and 1:45 p.m. session will conclude the weekend conference. Marcy Carter of El Dorado will be the featured speaker.

**Stamps First Church** held a deacon recognition service July 30, presenting plaques to E.L. Harris, A.O. Smith and James Landes for more than 50 years of service.

**Northside Church** of Monticello will observe homecoming Sept. 17 with a morning worship service with former pastor Eddie Erod as the speaker. A potluck luncheon will be served at noon and will be followed by a 2 p.m. service, featuring the Kinsmen Quartet and former pastors. Steve Harrelson is pastor.

**New Hope Fellowship** is a new work that was launched Aug. 13 in the Holiday Inn in Springdale with 105 in attendance. Plans have been made to start home Bible study cell groups after Labor Day. Cliff Jenkins is pastor, Loren Hancock is worship leader and Gary Burney is assistant to the pastor.

**Second Church** of Little Rock recently honored U.S. senator David Pryor with its 1995 Brooks Hays Memorial Christian Citizenship Award. Pryor, who has served in the U.S. Senate since 1978, was selected for the award based on his character as a public leader and his lifestyle of public service. Ray Higgins is pastor of Second Church.



**Nashville First Church** recently honored minister of music and education Don Hall for five years of ministry. He and his wife, Jaree, and three sons were honored with a reception and presented with a money tree.

**Trinity Church** in Fort Smith observed Rita Sue Rogers Day Aug. 27 in recognition of 35 years of service as church organist. She was honored with a fellowship following the evening worship service.

**North Arkansas Association** Brotherhood recently replaced the roof on Snowball Church where Glen Griffin serves as pastor. The project was coordinated by Dale 'Gamer, associational Brotherhood director. Churches participating in the project were Northvale, Woodland Heights, Union, Zion Lights and Snowball. Meals were served by women of the church during the four-day project.

her parents, William "Lonnie" and Drew Willis of Little Rock; a sister, Kim Willis of Little Rock; two brothers, William Scott Willis, Arkansas Baptist Student Union director at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, and Jeffrey A. Willis of Little Rock; a niece; and two nephews.

**Jimmy Earl Power** of Nashville died Aug. 15 at age 50. His funeral service was held Aug. 17 at First Church in Nashville where he was chairman of the audio and video committee and was active in the church's KNVL television ministry. Power, a pharmacist, was an active lieutenant colonel and state pharmacy officer for the Arkansas Army National Guard. Survivors are his wife, Cheryl Hardin Power; a son, Jimmy E. Power Jr.; and a daughter, Jenny Marie Power, all of Nashville; three brothers, Glen Power Jr. of Nashville, Bobby Power of Bentonville and Danny Power of Jacksonville, N.C.; and a sister, Mary Ann Power of Nashville. Memorials may be made to the video ministry of First Church, P.O. Box 339, Nashville, AR 37182.

## Staff changes

**Jack Woodard** is serving as pastor of Calvary Church in Blytheville, coming there from full-time evangelism work in Lebanon, Mo. He and his wife, Clara, have two children, Scott and Ginger.

**David L. Montgomery Jr.** is pastor of Center Point Church near Gurdon where he was serving as interim pastor. He previously served Whelen Springs Church and also has served churches in New York

## Obituaries

**Stacy Willis**, 28, of Little Rock died Aug. 19. A member of Calvary Church in Little Rock, she was a caseworker for the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission. She also was chairman of the disabilities support group at the Oasis Renewal Center and a member of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Survivors are



*Westside Church of Warren recently broke ground to reconstruct worship and educational facilities destroyed by fire Jan. 18. Completion of the new facilities is scheduled for November. Lonnie Latham, director of missions for Bartholomew Association, and Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, were speakers for the service. Breaking ground were (left to right) Latham, Mickey Tucker, L.V. Mills, Ted Herring, Rusty Rowell, pastor Wally Ferguson, J.W. Hardin, Bob Clayton, Eddie Stiles and Sheffield.*

and Utah. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University and has taken classes through the Southern Seminary extension program. He and his wife, Sheri, have two children, Christopher and Meghann.

**William E. Borré** has joined the staff of Markham Street Church in Little Rock as minister to students. He previously has served churches in North Carolina and Tennessee. He is a graduate of Aquinas Junior College of Milton, Mass., and Middle Tennessee State University of Murfreesboro. He and his wife, Sharon, moved to Little Rock from Wake Forest, N.C., where he graduated in May from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Clyde D. Jones** has announced his retirement as pastor of East Side Church in Pine Bluff, effective Sept. 10. Jones, who has served as a minister for more than 41 years, has served East Side Church for approximately 20 years. He previously was pastor of churches in Crosscut, El Dorado and DeWitt as well as churches in Michigan and Tennessee. He also has served two terms as moderator of Harmony Association. Jones and his wife, Belva, will continue to live in Pine Bluff. He will be available for pulpit supply and to preach revivals and may be contacted at 2710 Colonial, Pine Bluff, AR 71601; phone 501-536-1637 or 501-536-0990.

**John David Blase** began serving Aug. 27 as pastor of First Church in Stephens after completing a chaplain intern program at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. Blase is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served as a chaplain at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, as pastor of Corinth Church in Decatur, Texas, and as music director for Central Church in Mineral Springs. He is married to the former Meredith Lee Fairhead, a graduate of Dallas Baptist University.

**Chester Carlisle** has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church near Harrisburg to become pastor of a church in Enterprise, Miss. Carlisle had been actively involved in the program of Trinity Association, serving as moderator and youth director.

**Jamie Powell** resigned Aug. 9 as associate pastor of youth and family at Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs to begin serving Aug. 20 as pastor of First Church in Chattanooga, Okla. He previously was pastor of Twin Lakes Chapel, a mission of Grand Avenue. He and his wife, Traci, have a daughter, Katie.

**Eddie G. Anderson, Jr.** has accepted the call to join the staff of Dallas Avenue Church in Mena as minister of music and education. He has been on the staff of First Church of



*Calvary Church of Monticello recently broke ground for a 32,000-square-foot family life/worship center that will house a worship area and gymnasium, 14 classrooms, an exercise room, two offices, a choir room, restrooms, laundry room and a reception area. The new facility will be utilized during the week as a full-time Christian day care. Participants in the groundbreaking ceremony were (left to right) planning/building committee members Gene Kemp, chairman; Randy Paul McCone, Cherry Cotham, Kay McAnally and Chuck Hoover; pastor Buddy Carter; deacon and bond steering committee chairman Chad Russell; interim minister of music Joe Burgess; and Bartholomew Association director of missions Lonnie Latham.*

Norphlet for seven years. Anderson is a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Patricia, have two adult children and one grandson.

**Carolyn Sanders** joined the staff of First Church in Blytheville Aug. 14 as day care director. A native of Dell, she is a graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

**Roy Lewis** is serving as interim pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Benton. He previously has served as pastor of Arkansas churches and as associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Lewis and his wife, Betty, live in the Sardis community.

**Mark Magis** of Searcy joined the staff of Sylvan Hills First Church of North Little Rock Aug. 6 as part-time minister to singles. A professional counselor, Magis is a graduate of Loyola University in Chicago, and Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

**Danny and Donna Peebles** are serving Runyan First Church in North Little Rock as youth directors, coming there from Bethel Church in Jacksonville. They have three children, Dana, Danielle and Janet.

**Richard Young** began serving Aug. 13 as pastor of First Church in Stamps. He previously served in Huttig. A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Amy, have a son, Richard Jr.

**Ronnie Lowery** began serving Aug. 13 as pastor of Grace Church in Camden, coming there from Mineral Springs Church in Lockhart, Texas. Lowery is a graduate of Criswell College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Deborah, have three children.

**Paul Brewster** resigned July 30 as pastor of Immanuel Church in Clinton. He previously was pastor of Midland Church. Brewster is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Debbie, have four children, Les, Anne, Rebekah and Caleb.

**Chris Floyd** joined the staff of Northside Church in Monticello Aug. 6 as minister to youth. He is a music major at the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he is a member of the Baptist Student Union.

**Todd Parr** is serving as student minister for First Church of DeWitt, coming there from Providence Church in Houston, Texas. He previously has served other Arkansas churches. Parr is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

**Chuck LaMar** has resigned as associate pastor and minister to youth at North Main Church in Sheridan and is residing in Little Rock.

**Michael Brown** has resigned as minister of music for First Church in Clarksville to join the staff of Mount Vernon Church in Columbus, Miss.

## Trustee seeks to block Mohler protestors from home missionary appointments

HOUSTON (ABP) — Students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who oppose seminary president Albert Mohler may have a hard time getting appointed as Southern Baptist home missionaries, if trustee Walter Carpenter gets his way.

"At the Home Mission Board missionary personnel committee, we find out if any candidate who has just graduated from Southern participated in the protests against the president," said Carpenter, a Houston attorney and member of the committee. "If one ever has or does, he (or) she will not be considered."

"We agree with Mohler that students are there only to learn, not to participate

in management or politics," wrote Carpenter in a recent issue of the *Texas Baptist*, a conservative paper he edits.

Student protests, including a two-week sit-in and public rallies, erupted on the Southern campus in Louisville, Ky., last March after Mohler fired Diana Garland, dean of the seminary's social work school.

The HMB has 4,913 missionaries under appointment. Members of the trustees' missionary personnel committee do not interview the candidates personally but act on recommendations from the staff.

Both Everett Geis, chairman of the

committee, and Dan Garcia, director of the HMB's human resources division, said the official criteria for appointment and the board's screening process do not address the Southern protests.

"It really hasn't come up, and I'm a little surprised by (Carpenter's) comment," said Garcia. "It's not a criterion."

"It is not policy and I regret any implication that it is," Carpenter acknowledged in an interview Aug. 17. But, he added, "I am going to ask the question" of future Southern graduates seeking appointment.

Garland said the protests are being misinterpreted. "There were no protests against Dr. Mohler," she said, but only students showing support for the social work school.



### UPDATE

Arkansas/European Baptist Partnership

We have received great reports and appreciation from Europe regarding the following recent teams:

- Emmitt & Dorothy Pipkins, Hot Springs, completed six months as interim pastor in Grafenwoehr, Germany.
- Angela Lowe, ABSC, led a group of Acleens to Germany to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs, clowning, etc.
- Stuttgart First Church sent a team, led by Glindall Green, to conduct VBS at Stuttgart, Germany.
- Bryant First Southern Church, a team of 23, led by pastor Jim Lagrone, conducted a VBS and other activities at Hoensbroek, Netherlands.
- Harry & Ivetta Black led Backyard Bible Clubs at a British Military Base in Celle, Germany.
- Immanuel Church, Little Rock, sent a team to Frankfurt, Germany, to renovate the church and other activities.
- John & Nan Ashcraft, Little Rock, have just departed to serve as interim pastor in Celle, Germany.

#### Needs:

- ★ Arkansas churches to be partners with English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe at: Athens, Greece; Naples, Italy; Little Stukeley, England; and in Germany -- Augsburg, Ansbach, Grafenwoehr, Bremen.
- ★ Pastors to serve in Europe from four months to three years.

Please contact the ABSC Brotherhood Dept., Doyné Plummer or Harry Black, 501-376-4791, ext. 5190, for more info.

## Migrant Missions Workshop

for Church and Associational Missions Leaders and Volunteers

Saturday, October 7

First Baptist Church

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wilson

- Identify ministry needs and community resources
- Network church ministries and community services
- Celebrate Baptist Migrant Missions ministries
- Develop effective ministry strategies and partnerships
- Mobilize local church volunteers

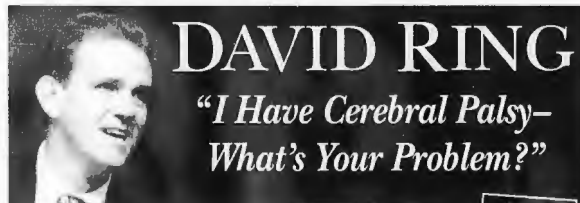
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## Texas Baptist proposal would cut SBC gifts by \$1.5 million

DALLAS (BP)—In order to launch 1,400 new Texas Baptist churches in the next five years, a reduction of approximately \$1.5 million in giving to Southern Baptist Convention ministries is being proposed by Texas Baptist leaders.

Under a proposal to be considered by the Baptist General Convention of Texas' executive board Sept. 12, the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts for Southern Baptist causes would decrease from the current 35.5 percent to 33 percent in the 1996 budget, while Texas Baptist funding would increase to 67 percent.

Final approval for the change in Texas Baptist CP distribution would be voted during the BGCT annual meeting in November. The plan is being widely criticized by SBC leaders.

"This move is an extreme departure from the historic tradition of cooperation in worldwide mission support that the Baptist General Convention of Texas has had for years with the Southern Baptist Convention," declared SBC Executive Committee chairman Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale.

Floyd, a member of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee, noted that "the larger state conventions were encouraged in the report to take initiative in assessing more financial responsibility in their own states of doing mission work, without sacrificing world mission dollars. Let me make clear, our long-term objective in this was to free up more money for missions around the world; never was it to take money away from world missions."

According to Texas Baptist executive director William M. Pinson Jr., however, "Texas Baptist have always been supportive of foreign and home missions and give more than any other state Baptist body to these causes. There is no change in this commitment. Last year over \$41 million went to worldwide Baptist causes, the vast majority for the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. Next year we pray this amount will increase and it will as churches continue to give generously through the Cooperative Program and missions offerings."

### Plan targets unchurched Texans

The proposal — already approved by the BGCT administrative committee — originated with the BGCT/Home Mission Board Study Committee, which was established to study how Texas Baptists and the HMB could work together to reach more than 8 million unchurched Texans.

After months of meetings, including sessions with HMB staff and others, the committee concluded that at least 300 new Texas Baptist churches a year must be started to reach the state's growing population, said BGCT associate executive director Ed Schmeltekopf.

The study committee concluded that the situation in Texas has changed greatly since the arrangements were first agreed to and that new considerations are in order. Through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and CP, Texas Baptists contribute about \$10 million a year to the HMB and receive back about \$1 million.

"Certainly, we consider Texas a challenging mission field, applaud their goal of establishing 300 new churches a year and want to assist them in any way possible," noted HMB president Larry Lewis. "However, Southern Baptists have identified 20,000 locations across the U.S. where new churches are needed to reach the estimated 185 million lost people in America.

"This is no time for any individuals, church or convention to reduce home missions support," Lewis insisted.

FMB president Jerry Rankin voiced regret that the "support of our missionaries serving overseas — more of them coming from Texas than any other state — will be weakened by this new proposal."

"Some churches have already justified weak support of global missions on the basis of the need to have a strong home base," declared Rankin. "We already spend far more on the 'home base' than on global missions. The current Texas proposal only makes the situation worse."

However, BGCT officials contend FMB work won't necessarily be harmed by the shift in CP funding.

BGCT president Jerold McBride, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Angelo, said FMB funding could actually increase if the state's CP goal is surpassed.

"Starting new churches takes money," McBride acknowledged. "But the bottom line is that more churches will mean an increase in dollars going to home and foreign missions. We don't start churches to raise offerings, but as we expand our mission base and Christian stewardship develops, it will mean an increase in giving for all missions causes."

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## Former Wal-Mart employee wins Sunday dispute

BOLIVAR, MO (BF)—Scott Hamby, a 23-year-old Southern Baptist, has won a religious discrimination settlement against Wal-Mart, the nation's largest retailer. As part of the settlement, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is under a court order to train managers of its 2,200 stores to avoid religious discrimination against employees.

Hamby, a member of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Bolivar, is a 1994 graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar. In spring 1993, he was working part-time at the Bolivar Wal-Mart when the county's repeal of Missouri's "blue laws" allowed the store to open for business on Sundays. Although he told his supervisors he did not want to work on Sundays for religious reasons, he was put on the schedule to work the first Sunday the store opened.

Hamby said his supervisor later showed him a written document from a district manager stating every employee must be available to work Sundays. "At that time, I didn't know the legal ramifications of what was being put in front of me," Hamby said. "I just knew it was wrong."

By then, he said, he had worked several Sundays and was feeling troubled about it. "I knew that I was going to have to choose God and my convictions, or...my job."

Hamby offered to work one Sunday a month to keep his job. He said his supervisor agreed, but then he was scheduled a second Sunday the same month.

The person doing the scheduling told him she was unaware of the agreement, Hamby said, and she later testified the manager had told her, "Schedule Scott on Sunday until he quits."

In November 1993, Hamby filed a \$5 million suit against Wal-Mart. The settlement reached July 28 called for the company to pay Hamby an undisclosed amount.

The dismissal order states Wal-Mart denies any liability or wrongdoing in the case. Spokesman Jane Bockholt said the company agreed to a settlement because its local store manager had made a mistake. Bockholt said the corporation is complying with the settlement by providing training in religious discrimination this fall.

Hamby's attorney, Jay Kirksey, noted that Title VII of the federal civil rights laws states if a person has a religious conviction pertaining to some aspect of work, an employer must reasonably accommodate the employee's needs if it can be done without undue hardship to the employer.

The *Wall Street Journal* predicted the case "could have far-reaching implications for other companies...."

## RA Leadership Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 7 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

First Baptist Church, North Little Rock

Conference fee: \$5

### RA Statewide Fellowship Supper

Monday night

Nov. 6

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

All-you-can-eat pizza, fun and fellowship • Cost: \$4

Registration is required for both events.

For more information, contact the

Brotherhood office at 376-4791, ext. 5158.



The workshop will feature conferences for RA leaders (grades 1-6); Challenger leaders (grades 7-12); Creative Ministries - Mission in the Marketplace; World Changers (youth construction ministry); and a Brotherhood conference for church and associational leaders.



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**Part-time youth minister** — Opportunity for part-time youth minister at First Baptist Church in Dardanelle, AR. Hours average 20 per week during school year and 30 per week during summer. For more information, please contact Pastor Jim Freeman at (501) 229-3727 or Jerry Lynch at (501) 229-3315.

**Needed** — Part-time or bi-vocational music director. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Runyan FBC, 10611 Jacksonville Cato Rd., NLR, AR 72120.

**Music/education minister** — Trinity, Aurora, CO seeks full-time Music and Education Minister. Send resume to Search Committee, Trinity Baptist Church, 15555 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, CO 80015, phone (303) 699-9761.

**Two positions** — Otter Creek First Baptist is accepting applications for two positions: part-time music and youth ministers. Send resumes to 13000 Quail Run, Little Rock, AR 72209, by Oct. 1, 1995.

**Needed** — Pianist for small church. Call (501) 835-4208, 985-1703 or 982-4741.

**Accepting resumes** — for full-time pastor. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 88, Harrisburg, AR 72432.

**Two staff positions** — First Baptist Church of Hot Springs is seeking two full-time staff members: Minister of Education and Outreach, and Minister to Students and Young Singles. If interested please send a resume to John McCallum, 2350 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired.

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**Calvin and Margaret Fox**, missionaries to India, are on the field (address: c/o Dr. Satyananda Patra, 15 Bhumanager, Unit 4, Bhubaneswar, Orissa 751 00, India). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Gentry, and she is the former Margaret Cotton of Paris. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

**Donald and Elise Brown**, Baptist representatives to Israel, are in the States (address: Rt. 2, Box 403, Holly Springs, MS 38635). He was born in El Dorado, and considers Vivian, La., his hometown. The former Elsie Word, she is a native of Mississippi. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1987.

**James and Sammie Crawford**, missionaries to Venezuela, are in the States (address: 5804 Fresno, Fort Smith, AR 72903). They are natives of Oklahoma. She is the former Sammie Henson. They were appointed in 1969.

**Lloyd and Betty Farmer**, missionaries to Malawi, are on the field (address: Box 139, Mzuzu, Malawi). He is a native of Crossett. The former Betty Christilles, she considers Texarkana her hometown. They were appointed in 1990.

**Jim and Louise Brillhart**, missionaries to Togo, are in the States (address: 601 South Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72205). Both consider Little Rock their hometown. She is the former Louise Bowen. They were appointed as FMB missionaries in 1986.

**Gilbert and Deane Nichols**, missionaries to Paraguay, are in the States (address: 211 E. B. St., North Little Rock, AR 72116). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Mountain View, and she is the former Deane Marshall of Cabot. They were appointed in 1958.

**Thomas and Sharon Nowlin**, missionaries to Japan, are on the field (address: 2-15-12 Yayoi-cho, Izumi City 594, Japan). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Brinkley and considers Marion his hometown. The former Sharon Kinsey, she was born in Stuttgart and considers West Memphis her hometown. They were appointed in 1990.

**Steve and Kathy Dewbre**, missionaries to South Africa, are moving from Umata to Kimberley (address: #30 Heregracht, Kimberley 8301, South Africa). They are both natives of Arkansas.

## Something For Singles

### A Single Adult Conference with Harold Ivan Smith

Dr. Harold Ivan Smith, a nationally known author and conference speaker on single adult issues will be the featured speaker at a singles conference, September 29-30 at Parkway Place Baptist Church, 300 Parkway Place, Little Rock.

The conference will feature two very different and distinct sessions. The Friday evening conference is for single adults of all ages and will focus on successful single living. Friday evening's theme is CELEBRATING THE SINGLE SEASON. Dr. Smith, himself a single adult, has written extensively on single adult related issues. He will be sharing major aspects of his latest book, 51 GOOD THINGS TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR THE RIGHT ONE TO COME ALONG (Broadman). Warning: This session involves a lot of laughter.

The Saturday conference will focus on issues related to separation and divorce. Dr. Smith will be sharing from his new innovative nine-week divorce recovery program, A TIME FOR HEALING: COMING TO TERMS WITH YOUR DIVORCE (LifeWay Press).

For information or registration, call or write: Singles Department, Parkway Place Baptist Church, 300 Parkway Place, Little Rock, AR 72211 or call (501) 224-3003.



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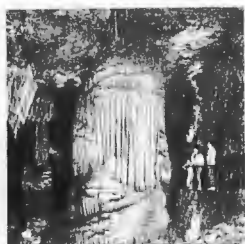
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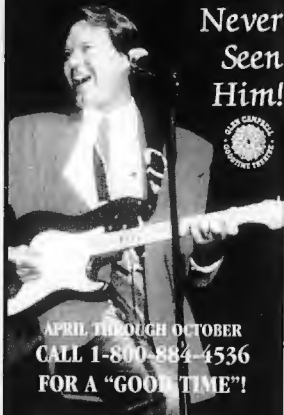
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**NATION**

**Arkansans commissioned as foreign missionaries follow parents' example**

Following in their parents' footsteps as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, Carlos Ichter and Robert Pinkston were among 77 Southern Baptist Baptist missionaries appointed for service Aug. 17 by the Foreign Mission Board.

Ichter and his wife, Shannon, were reappointed for missionary service in Germany. His parents, Bill and Jerry Ichter, are retired from FMB service in Brazil. Pinkston and his wife, Sharon, will serve in Mali. He is the son of Edwin and Greta Pinkston, missionaries to Ivory Coast.

The appointment service held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center was the FMB's largest appointment service since 1983. The new appointments bring the SBC's total foreign missionary force to 4,139, including 3,520 career and associate missionaries and 610 two-year workers.

The Ichtters, formerly missionaries in Brazil, have most recently served at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock where he was minister of music. His assignment in Germany will involve promoting music in churches there.

Ichter, who was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, a native of Texas, both consider El Dorado their hometown and Immanuel Church their home church.

Mrs. Ichter is a graduate of Dallas Baptist



*Carlos and Shannon Ichter*



*Robert and Sharon Pinkston*

University. She also attended OBU and Southwestern Seminary. She is the daughter of Anne Weedman of El Dorado and David Bowen of Michigan.

The Ichtters have two children: Leslyn Elizabeth and Christian O'Neal.

The Pinkstons' ministry in Mali will begin following a seven-week orientation. The former Baptist Student Union director at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, he will work with students in Magnolia.

The Pinkstons are members of Central Church, Magnolia. He considers Harrison his hometown and her hometown is Hot Springs, where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smith, live.

Pinkston is a graduate of Ouachita and Southwestern Seminary; Mrs. Pinkston is also a Ouachita graduate. His past ministry experience includes serving as the BSU outreach coordinator at Ouachita.

The Pinkstons have two children: Zachary Alan and Lindsey Nicole.

**1995 Associational  
Sunday School  
Conventions**

**Dates and Locations**

**September 16**

- First, Marianna
- First, Ozark
- First, Perryville
- First, Pine Bluff
- First, Clinton
- First, Rogers
- Beech St. First, Texarkana
- First, Flippin

**September 18**

- Mount Olive, Crossett
- First, Greenwood
- First, Corning
- Lake Village
- Park Place, Hot Springs
- Walnut St., Jonesboro
- First, Harrison
- First, Cherokee Village

**September 19**

- First, Monticello
- First, Walnut Ridge
- First, Almyra
- First, Benton
- Calvary, Batesville
- Calvary, Blytheville
- First, Mena
- Sang Ave., Fayetteville

**September 21**

- First, Russellville
- Spring River, Hardy
- First, Glenwood
- Trinity, Searcy
- First, Fordyce
- Second, Conway
- Tumbling Shoals
- First, Marked Tree



**September 23**

- First, Lonoke
- East Side, Paragould
- First, El Dorado
- First, Lockesburg
- Central, North Little Rock
- Beech St., Gordon
- Second, Forrest City

**September 25**

- First, Waldron

**September 29-30**

- Markham St., Little Rock

## MARRIAGE

### Romance is theme of marriage festival

Couples will have the opportunity to focus on issues "Regarding Romance" during the Fall Festival of Marriage Oct. 27-29 at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs.

The festival is sponsored jointly by the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department. It is one of 27 fall retreats scheduled across the United States in 1995.

Discipleship department associate Gerald Jackson said he hopes for a repeat of the success of last year's Hot Springs festival. "It was better than our wildest dreams. We had hoped for 100 couples and had more than 250 couples."

He said the festival theme, "Regarding Romance," will focus on an important part of marriage.

"If you've been married two years or you've been married 40 years, romance is something we need to stay in touch with," he said. "This is a chance to take a fresh look at being romantic and experiencing romanticism with the most significant person in your life."

Jackson said the festival will feature conference leaders Otis and Deigie Andrews "who will share out of their own experience and help us identify in our own marriages where we are."

"They have experience in marriage enrichment not only in leading small groups and couples, but also in their ability to work with a large group," Jackson said. "Of all the couples doing this, they are probably the best we have on the fall festival circuit."

"Another highlight for me is always the drama," he said. "The drama team sets the stage with vignettes to help us identify what is going on in marriage that you can't do another way." Serving as the drama team for the festival will be Wesley and Lisa Edmondson, actors with the A.D. Players, a Houston-based drama group.

The festival also will feature conferences exploring the theme, including topics such as: romance, encouragement, communication, dating, recreation, sex, emotions, prayer, conflict resolution, stress, money management and in-law relationships.

The cost for the festival is \$100 per couple and includes program, book and two continental breakfasts. Couples may save \$15 by registering and paying their fee in full at least 30 days prior to the event. Participants must arrange for their own lodging and meals.

For more information, contact Jackson at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5160. To register by credit card, contact the Baptist Sunday School Board at 615-252-2294.

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# 'Spectacular' to celebrate 25 years of GAS

Girls in Action and their leaders are urged to "attend the biggest birthday party Arkansas WMU has ever seen," according to Sandy Wisdom-Martin. The party will be part of the GA Missions Spectacular Oct. 14 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

"The GA organization is 25 years old," explained Wisdom-Martin, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Woman's Missionary Union department. "So make plans to attend and celebrate with hundreds of GAS and leaders from across the state."

She said the event is for girls in grades 1-6, GA leaders and adults interested in

missions. Activities will include singing, hearing about state, home, foreign and partnership missions and playing international games. The program will begin at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The Spectacular, which had been dropped from the Arkansas GA calendar, is "back by popular demand," said Wisdom-Martin. "Many have begged and pleaded for the return of this event."

She said the Spectacular will also feature a GA store. "It will have the new GA Guides and new GA member pieces. We will not sell T-shirts, though, since everyone will receive one."

Because of the number of participants expected, participating missionaries will "sign" autographs through photocopying.

"In the past we have had difficulty allowing GAS to get autographs because of the number of people involved in the meeting," she noted. "This year we plan to get all the missionaries' autographs before the meeting and photocopy enough for everyone to have a copy. The autograph pages will be the size to fit into GA autograph books."

The cost for the event is \$12 per person and will include a T-shirt and lunch. Registration fees are due by Sept. 29 to the state WMU office at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. For more information, contact Wisdom-Martin at 501-376-4791, ext. 5137.

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## Convention Uniform

### *Christ's power to save*

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association

Basic passage: Acts 3:1-4:31

Focal passage: Acts 4:1-12

Central truth: The power of Christ to save a person from the depths of sin and make him a new creation was shown frequently as the history of the early church unfolded.

■ **Healing brings arrest.** As Peter and John were going into the temple at the hour of prayer, they were confronted by a man who had been crippled from birth. This man was begging for money. Peter told the cripple he had no money to give, but commanded him to stand and walk. Through the power of the risen Lord the man was miraculously healed.

Others coming into the temple were astonished and came running to Peter and John. Peter immediately began to preach the good news of Christ to them. Many of the people who heard believed and found Christ's power to save was a definite reality.

The religious leaders, especially the Sadducees, were greatly disturbed and arrested Peter and John. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead and did not want it taught.

■ **Arrest brings opportunity.** When Peter and John were brought before the religious leaders they were asked by what power they had healed the man. Peter's response under the guidance of the Holy Spirit was that the power of Jesus Christ had brought healing to the cripple. Further, he branded them with the responsibility of the crucifixion, because they had clamored for His death. Regardless of their crime, God had raised Him from the dead and the power of the Lord had made the man whole. A further indictment accused them of rejecting Christ, but God made Him the cornerstone and Lord over all.

Then Peter unequivocally stated that Jesus is the only avenue of salvation that man will ever have for salvation. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross paid the price for our sin and only His blood can wash it all away. This ran completely counter to the beliefs of these religious leaders, for they taught salvation by works. They, therefore, tried to force the apostles to stop preaching Jesus, but they firmly said they could not help it. They must report what they had seen and heard.

Christ not only has the power to save. He is the only one who can free us from our sin.

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## Life and Work

### *God is so good!*

By David Napier, associate pastor, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Romans 5:1-11

Focal passage: Romans 5:3-4

Central truth: No matter what our circumstances, we are blessed by our justification with God.

Have you ever noticed how some Christians seem to always wear a smile and stay on an even keel no matter what happens? In this passage, Paul reminded us that we should have such a countenance because of the blessings we have received through our justification in Christ.

We can all smile, no matter what life brings, because of some specific blessings God gives us. The first gift Paul mentions is peace. In a noisy, confusing world filled with wickedness, the Christian can find refuge in peace through Christ. We also have direct access to God (v. 2). Unlike the Jews who were separated from God by the veil in the temple and the Gentiles who were separated by the outer wall, we can have an audience with the heavenly Father anytime and anywhere. Verse 2 speaks of the powerful gift of hope that God makes available to us as believers. We should never feel defeated or hopeless, because our eternity is secure in Christ. There is always a hopeful future for the Christian.

Some people think that if God really wanted to bless us, He would keep our lives free of difficulty. But Paul reminds us in verses 3 and 4 that just because we are justified, it doesn't mean that we escape the trials of life. Even in our tribulations we can find reason for celebration and hope because those trials help develop the gift of Christian character. No amount of suffering can separate us from God. If we allow our trials to bring us closer to the Lord, we will be made more like Him. Our sufferings should work for us, not against us. Through them, we are tempered.

What about our future with God? How can we know that our salvation is permanent? Paul addresses this question in verses 7-10. He points out that God came to men while we were sinners without justification. If His love is great enough to do that, how much greater is His concern for us now that we have been reconciled through the death of His Son! And if Christ has done so much through His death, how much more will He do in life as He intercedes on our behalf before the Father? This life and our future are secure!

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## Bible Book

### *A vision: things to come*

By Marty Watson, pastor, Baring

Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Daniel 7:1-8:27

Focal passage: Daniel 7:1-28

Central truth: No matter how difficult world situations become, God will ultimately be victorious.

Chapter 7 marks the transition from the historical section of Daniel to the prophetic section. God addresses the hopelessness of Israel, as He reveals through Daniel the future of things to come. It is a somber revelation that is tempered by the ultimate victory of God over the forces of evil.

The vision of the four beasts reveals the rise to power of four kings (Dan. 7:17). The first was like a lion with eagle's wings, the second was like a bear, the third was like a leopard and the fourth was "dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth, it was devouring, breaking in pieces and trampling the residue with its feet....It had 10 horns" (v. 7). Among the 10 horns there arose another horn displacing three of the original horns and "there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking pompous words" (v. 8).

After the appearance of the four beasts, there is the appearance of the "Ancient of Days" (v. 9). "His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire" (v. 9). As Daniel watched, the fourth beast was slain and given to the burning flame while the other beasts had their dominions taken away and were spared for a "season and a time" (vv. 11-12). As the vision continued, Daniel watched as "One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of Heaven" appeared. "He came to the Ancient of Days and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away" (vv. 13-14).

The message for the people of Israel was significant. In a state of hopelessness, God affirms that evil kingdoms will continue to arise. He affirms that suffering and persecution will be the rule, not the exception. He also affirms that ultimately He will defeat the evil kingdoms and Israel will be preserved. He also affirms the coming of the Messiah who will have all dominion and power. Be faithful! God is triumphant!

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## Convention Uniform

### *Boldness to obey*

By Tommy Robertson, director of Missions, Liberty Association  
**Basic passage:** Acts 4:32-5:42  
**Focal passage:** Acts 5:12-29, 40-42  
**Central truth:** Boldness to proclaim the gospel should be characteristic of the Christian.

The apostles are well known for their bravery under pressure. This courage is so striking, some wonder what steered them for their task. Others wonder whether they could stand so true if called upon.

■ *Obedience prompted by command.* The high priest and Sadducees were overwhelmed by jealousy as they saw the people gathering around Peter and the apostles. Luke recorded that they brought their sick and possessed and were healed.

The rulers again arrested the apostles and put them in jail, intending to try them the following day. Frustrating their plans, the Lord sent His angel who opened the jail doors and brought them out. The command through the messenger was to "Go, stand in the temple courts and tell the people the full message of this new life."

At daybreak they entered the temple and taught the people. Knowing this was a dangerous venture and another arrest and severe punishment were likely, they boldly obeyed God. These men were so captivated by their risen Lord, no power on earth could stop them, short of death.

■ *Obedience in spite of threats.* The apostles were brought before the leaders after their arrest. Reminding them that strict orders were given that they not teach in Jesus' name, they continued to do so. Unwittingly, a compliment was paid God's men, for they admitted Jerusalem had been filled with this good news of Jesus Christ. Undoubtedly people were talking everywhere about what was happening through the apostles.

With guilt seething in their bodies, the leaders accused the apostles of being determined to make them guilty of causing the death of Jesus. From the human standpoint they were as responsible as men could be for they did everything they could to cause that crucifixion.

The defense of the apostles was that they must obey God rather than men. With further threats they were released, but "they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." What boldness, what courage.

We must also have boldness. We can if we walk with our Lord every day.

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## Life and Work

### *Slaves of righteousness*

By David Napier, associate pastor, Immanuel Church, Little Rock  
**Basic passage:** Romans 6:12-23  
**Focal passage:** Romans 6:18  
**Central truth:** Freedom from the law is not a license to sin, but a call to obedience.

I once knew a young ministerial student who said that he could do as he pleased because he was "free in Jesus." He was referring to Paul's assertion that Christ has freed us from the law. However, the man's conclusion that this freedom gives license to ignore God's call to moral standards is absurd. In this passage, Paul emphasized that Christians' slavery to sin has died and we have become servants of righteousness.

In verses 12 and 13 Paul encouraged us to present ourselves as instruments of righteousness before God rather than letting ourselves fall victims to mortal lust. There is a spiritual battle between good and evil going on around us all the time. There are many Christians who allow themselves to become servants of sin in this world. If sin reigns in us we give our hands, feet, eyes and minds over to the lusts of this world. Paul reminds us that a Christian who is dedicated to God should be aware that every activity and thought should be given to serving Him. This means that if we are to be instruments of righteousness in this world, we have to be careful about what we watch, say, read and do. Does this mean we have a pious, "holier than thou" attitude? Absolutely not! That attitude is a result of inflated ego, another worldly sin. It means that we have to be on guard against all temptations.

Some people erroneously believe that a true Christian will not be tempted to sin. Perhaps an effective Christian will find himself confronted with inordinate temptation. Perhaps Satan strikes hardest at those who are most effective in their service to Christ. Look at the lives of David, Joseph, Sampson and Jesus. All faced tremendous temptations. The quality of their service to God was a measure of their ability to deal with those temptations. In Christ we are freed from the bondage of sin, but never removed from its presence. A man once said that he wanted to be "as good a saint as he was a sinner." That is the message Paul brings to us. We were once servants to sin, enjoying the things of this world, but as Christians we should now be even more dedicated servants of Christ who has set us free.

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## Bible Book

### *A prayer of intercession*

By Marty Watson, pastor, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock  
**Basic passage:** Daniel 9:1-12:13  
**Focal passage:** Daniel 9:1-19  
**Central truth:** God always responds to the prayers of His people.

In the "first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus," while studying the writings of Jeremiah, Daniel became increasingly aware of the time frame of Israel's exile (Dan. 9:1). His understanding of God's purpose in the exile reached a new level. So overwhelmed by the pending conclusion to the exile and the continued sinfulness of the people, Daniel poured out his heart to the Lord.

The attitude and pattern of his prayer is well worth noting as an example of intense intercessory prayer. He proclaimed, "I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (v. 3). Notice the intensity and sincerity of his prayer.

Daniel began with praise concerning the worthiness of the Lord God. "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him and with those who keep His commandments" (v. 4). He recognized the faithfulness of God in keeping His Word and sets the stage for his confession of Israel's unfaithfulness in keeping theirs.

Daniel was specific in acknowledging their rebellion of God's "precepts and judgments" and their unwillingness to "heed Your servants and prophets, who spoke Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land" (vv. 5-6). He declared that Israel should be ashamed of their sin that continued even in exile (v. 7).

His petition was for God to "let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem" (v. 16). He asked, "for the Lord's sake, cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate" (v. 17). He pleaded: "O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations... O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your Name" (vv. 18-19).

God responded by affirming Jeremiah, revealing more things to come and affirming His ultimate deliverance. Herein lies the lesson. God hears and answers our petitions. We must accept His answers because we know He is trustworthy.

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## Four Moroccans jailed for proselytism are released

TANGIER, MOROCCO (BP)—Four Moroccan Christians arrested in early August for proselytism were released after a trial Aug. 17 in Tangier, Morocco.

The Christians include Mehdi Ksara, 88, who holds dual Moroccan and U.S. citizenship; Fouad Jaafar, 27; Samir Benali, 24; and Mohcen Ibrahim Belhaj, 20. Police in the northern Morocco seaport of Tangier arrested them Aug. 5.

Despite their release, it remains unclear whether there are still any charges pending against them, according to a report from News Network International. One source indicated they were questioned at a police station in Tangier after the trial.

Some people pushing for the Christians' release see this as a landmark case because it could bring more religious tolerance in Morocco, sources said. Morocco's constitution officially guarantees freedom of worship, but it is illegal to try to entice someone to change religions.

## CBS documentary explores Christian faith and politics

NEW YORK (CBS) — An in-depth look at conservative Christians' growing influence in secular politics will air Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. on CBS. The one-hour documentary, "Faith & Politics: The Christian Right," will feature news anchor Dan Rather.

The show will highlight such stories as a Kentucky pastor's pilgrimage from pulpit to politics; two New Hampshire families with differing views about home schooling vs. public education; a Washington gubernatorial candidate's call for a return to biblical basics; and an analysis of a local school board controlled by Christian conservatives.

"Faith & Politics" is the 11th broadcast in the CBS Reports documentary series which began in 1993.

## Colleges interested in Southern's social work school

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP) — At least two Baptist colleges have expressed interest in obtaining the Carver School of Church Social Work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A committee of seminary trustees currently is studying the future of the social work school. The trustee committee was formed last spring after president Albert Mohler fired Diana Garland as Carver School dean. Options the committee may consider are to retain the school in some form, close it entirely or transfer the school's assets to another institution.

Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., both have expressed interest in obtaining the Carver School, officials confirmed. Other institutions reportedly have been in conversation with the trustee committee as well.

## NOBTS starts school year with Bible reading marathon

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary began its 78th academic year with a Bible reading marathon. More than 95 people from both the seminary family and the community participated in the four-day, three-night vigil to read the Bible through nonstop in the seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel during the week before classes began.

Starting at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 16, participants, beginning with New Orleans Seminary interim president Landrum P. Leavell II, took turns standing behind the chapel pulpit to read through the Bible in 15-minute intervals. The last passage was read at 7 p.m. Aug. 19, to conclude the marathon in a total of 74 and a half hours. The finale of the event was a praise service in the chapel.

## Vines: Calvinism vs. Arminianism is empty argument

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP)—Assessing the debate between those who call themselves Calvinists and Arminians, former Southern Baptist Convention president Jerry Vines warned it is easy for a believer's personal theology to become man-centered instead of God-centered.

He told the students, gathered for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's fall convocation service, it is possible to seemingly be educated beyond one's own intelligence — "absolutely smarter than God."

Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., asked, "Are you a Calvinist or are you an Arminian?"

"If you are either, you are a religious humanist because that is a man-centered theology instead of a God-centered theology. I could care less what Calvin believed and I could care less what Arminius believed — I want to know what the revealed Word of God has to say."