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November 24, 1988

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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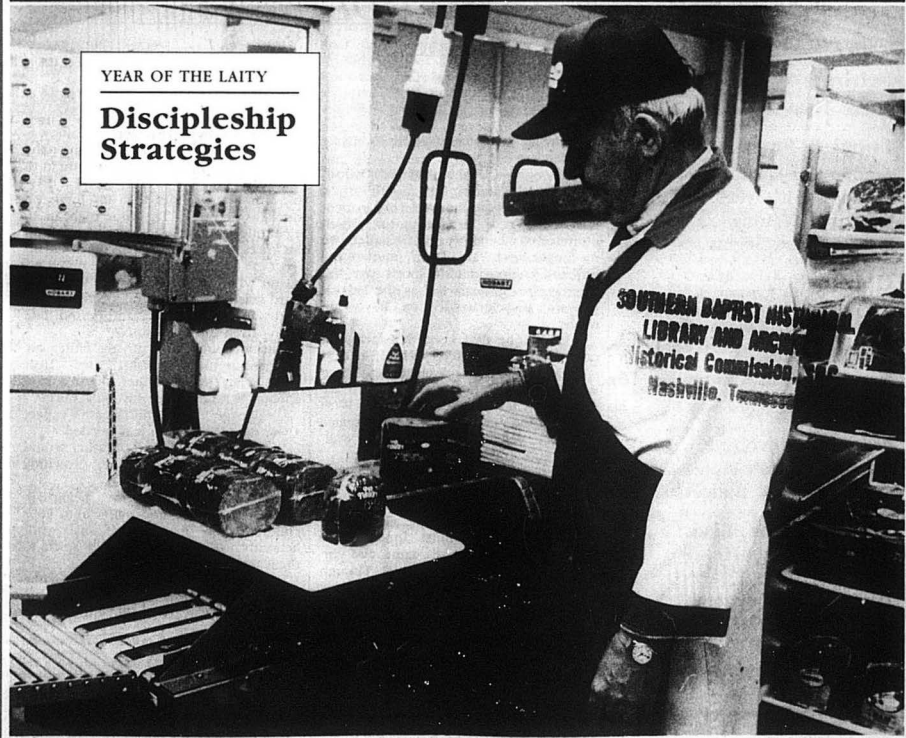
Working, Waiting

Arkansas Baptist

November 24, 1988

YEAR OF THE LAITY

**Discipleship
Strategies**



In This Issue

Cover Story



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Discipleship Strategies . . . 4

Being a disciple of Jesus in everyday life is the goal of the Year of the Laity discipleship strategies.

Editor's Page 3

Speak Up

Today's Issues 4

Letters to the Editor 5

Faith At Work

'More Than A Meal' 6

Local & State

Among the Jews 7

Arkansas All Over 8-9

Working, Waiting 10

Where Peace Begins 10

Helpline

Excitement and Effort . . . 13

The Benefits of Training . . 14

ABSC Updates 15

Next Month in Arkansas . . 16

Nation

Personally Involved 17

Double Dickens 18

Colorado Cuts Budget . . . 19

Lessons For Living . 20

World

Low Funds Threaten 21

The Price of Success 22

Faithful for 30 Years 23

Rumor Line Opened 24

IT'S UPLIFTING

Rescue Opens Doors

BAMAKO, Mali (BP)—Fire swept through a village in Mali, and missionaries Dick and Jeannette Smith from Missouri, went to the rescue, not knowing their action would open doors to share Christ.

The fire destroyed villagers' clothing, blankets, food and seeds for the approaching planting season. Stunned villagers huddled in silent groups.

That night, missionaries supplied blankets and drinking water. The next day, they took 30 sleeping mats, 200 pounds of millet and some water pots. For several days after the village fire, missionary vehicles brought bamboo and materials to rebuild straw roof homes. Neighboring villagers helped.

About 250 villagers, nearly all non-Christians, attended a celebration meal. They asked Smith to speak. He talked about

the Resurrection. "Someday, I would like to come and tell you about him."

Not long afterwards, villagers went to Smith's home and said they wanted to hear about Christ—not tomorrow or the next day, but today.

Pages of Their Minds

BUTARE, Rwanda—Lacking the printed Word, a Rwanda Baptist pastor is helping his people write Scriptures on the pages of their minds. The pastor of Mukoma church reads a passage twice to his people, then directs sections of the church to repeat one verse each, according to missionaries John and Sharon Pond of Virginia. Then each section repeats the whole passage. By that time the Rwandans, who memorize almost instantly, have learned the whole passage.

GOOD NEWS!

Call on Him By Name

Psalms 54:1-2

To invoke the name of God is to invoke his life-changing power.

God hears—"Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth" (v. 2).

Psychologists speak of "selective inattention." The new furnace motor, which bothered us when it was first installed, we no longer hear. "Yes, Dear," mutters the husband, engrossed in the sports page; but he never really hears her as she tells of Howard's bicycle accident or Cissy's A in math.

"Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:4). God is always tuned in to our entreaties. When we cry, "Forgive," he hears. When we shout, "I will not!" he understands. With gentle nudges God answers our impatience with love. We are not talking to the wall. Prayer is divine dialogue. God hears.

God judges—"Judge me by thy strength" (v. 1)

The psalmist's prayer is spoken to more than just a divine confidant. God is also our judge. The psalmist appealed for deliverance by the Lord's name, and vindication by the Lord's strength. Though God is our advocate in Christ, he will judge our case on its merits and dispense his judgments according to his wisdom.

God saves—"Save me, O God, by thy name" (v. 1).

How lightly we invoke the name of God! With little concern for his awesome majes-

ty, we bless or condemn our small concerns without regard to his holiness or his resplendent glory.

A large, former professional football player sits with his wife each Sunday in worship services. This gentle giant was once a helpless alcoholic who admitted he had drunk up a home and two good jobs. For years, he grew steadily worse, "driving through a tunnel with my lights on dim," as he put it. Then one night in an alcoholic rehabilitation center, he fell on his knees and surrendered his life to Christ. "Put me all the way under," he urged his pastor when he was baptized. "When the Lord saved me, he did the job right! All I said was 'God save me,' and he did. Life hasn't been the same since!"

The attributes of a loving father are summed up in the psalmist's plea: "Hear me." What loving father doesn't care enough to listen when his child hurts?

"Judge me." What child doesn't expect a just discipline when it is needed?

"Save me." What kind of father would look on while his child was drowning without offering to help?

God is our Father. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Lk. 11:13).

God wants to be your Father. Call on him by name. "They that know thy name will put their trust in thee" (Ps. 9:10).

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Get It Straight!

J. EVERETT SNEED

It is strange indeed that people are so much more willing to accept for truth bad news than good news. It is difficult to stop untruth whether it is connected with a person, a product or an institution. There are at least three rumors which need to be stopped immediately. In some instances those passing on these rumors could be prosecuted.

Some people can't stand to hear another complimented. When they hear a positive statement about someone, they respond, "Yes, but . . ." What follows is a comment designed to discredit that individual or a rumor that places him in a bad light. The sad thing is that innuendos, rumors, and lies are often remembered much longer than the actual achievements and good which an individual accomplishes.

One of the false rumors that has persisted for approximately a decade is that Madalyn Murray O'Hair is about to get religious broadcasting off the airways. This rumor has been discredited by this publication a number of times, but it continues. Good people have sent thousands of petitions to the Federal Communication Commission to protest this alleged action.

It is obvious that O'Hair is pleased with this rumor, although she insists that she has had nothing to do with it. It undoubtedly gives her a great deal of joy because it makes Christian people look so uninformed and foolish. When such rumors surface, they should be checked out with well-informed individuals.

Recently O'Hair's son has made a profession of faith and he alleges that his mother was involved in the fabrication of this rumor. If so, she is certainly pleased when Christians accept this rumor as being factual.

We have also been told that this rumor was started as a swindle. Those who fabricated the rumor indicated that Christians who wish to keep religious broadcasting on the airwaves must send them money to prevent O'Hair from excluding religious broadcasting. Whatever the source of the rumor, it is totally untrue, and Christians discredit themselves by accepting it.

A second rumor which has occurred is victimizing the SBC Foreign Mission Board. According to Bob Desbien, assistant vice-president for public relations, the rumor is that the board's current budget shortfall



will require 1,000 missionaries to return home next year, and that the board plans to abandon medical mission work and other human needs ministries.

Another rumor, according to Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, is that "extreme ultraconservatives" intend to purge missionaries and staff and drastically alter the board's direction. "I have said privately, publicly and in print this is not true," Parks said.

In an effort to counter such rumors, the board is opening a special telephone line. FMB AnswerLine—(804) 254-9403—will operate weekdays from Nov. 14 to Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST).

There are a number of reasons why it is important for Christians to not be involved in the propagation of such erroneous information. Among these are: (1) it destroys

our effectiveness when dealing with important moral issues; (2) legal action can be taken against those who participate in the dissemination of such rumors; (3) it takes energy that could be used in spreading the gospel or combating real threats to the moral fabric of our society; and (4) it is important for Christians to always maintain complete accuracy and integrity.

When Christians are involved in the spread of rumors, no matter how well intended we may be, we destroy our credibility. We become much like the little boy who cried, "Wolf, Wolf," when there was no wolf in sight. But when a wolf actually did attack the sheep, no one responded to the boy's cries.

There are legal recourses against people who formulate or pass on false stories concerning companies or individuals. If a person can prove defamation of character, or if a business can show loss of sales, those involved in the promoting or passing on of such rumors could face a variety of legal actions.

As Christians, we have an obligation to have our facts straight when we speak out on a subject. It is always in order to go to a prime source to determine the accuracy or inaccuracy of any rumor we hear. One should remember that just because an item appears in a church bulletin or is being passed in the form of a petition, does not mean that it is true.

It is important that we be accurate in our communications. We need to be sure of our facts. If there is a real threat to the moral fiber of our community, we do need to speak out. God blesses the intelligent, accurate, and courageous use of correct information.

Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 41

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BOB PARKER

Today's Issues



Spiritual Cannibalism

"The entire law is summed up in a single commandment: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other" (Ga. 5:14-15, NIV).

Christian love cannot be stressed enough in our words and actions toward God or one another. When people don't love, ugly things happen in their relationships. As indicated above, they sometimes start biting and devouring one another.

Cannibalism is awful, physically or otherwise. Such disgusting behavior is detestably wicked whether found in the home, work environment, local church or denominationally. When leaders in the last two do not prayerfully teach verbally and by example against such primitive behavior, the other institutions mentioned will be sadly infected. Pray that God will deliver you by the power of the Holy Spirit from practicing spiritual cannibalism in any area of life.

Other helpful scriptures about bad relationships with fellow Christians are as follows: abusiveness, II Timothy 3:2; arrogance, Proverbs 8:3; backbiting, Romans 1:31; brawling, Titus 3:2; complaining, Jude 16; contentions, Galatians 5:20; foolish controversies, Titus 3:9-10; disputing, Philippians 2:14; divisiveness, Titus 3:10; gossip, James 3:8; grudge bearing, I Peter 4:9; grumbling, James 5:9; being judgmental, Matthew 7:1; lying, Ephesians 4:25; malicious words, Ephesians 6:6; quarrelling, I Timothy 3:3; slander, I Corinthians 6:10; strife, I Timothy 6:4; deceitful tongue, I Peter 3:10; whispering, Romans 1:29.

Robert A. Parker is the director of the Christian Life Council.

A SMILE OR TWO

It's Never A Mistake

- ... to say, "I don't know," if you really don't.
- ... ask the advice of an expert.
- ... to inquire about grandchildren.
- ... to take the time to put another person at ease.
- ... to listen politely to a child.

Discipleship Strategies

by Robert Holley
ABSC Church Training Dept.

The Year of the Laity has been described as "a strategy to awaken the laity to their call and giftedness; to deepen believers' personal relationship with Jesus Christ; to equip, develop and release more effective ministers and witnesses in the marketplace and in the church."

An emphasis on discipleship and the projects designed to undergird that emphasis, is vital to The Year of the Laity as well as the follow-up. The discipleship training aspect of The Year of the Laity undergirds, supports and continues the gains made through lay renewal and lay evangelism.

It is our prayer that those who are won to Christ and those who experience renewal during the emphasis should be led to see discipleship as a continuing, ongoing process that will continue beyond this emphasis.

There are six discipleship strategies that can help churches realize the objective of The Year of the Laity in 1988-89. These are described below along with a description of events that can help churches implement these strategies:

(1) **MasterLife**—a 26 session, in-depth discipleship training experience for adults. MasterLife is designed to help participants become mature disciples and make Christ Master of their lives. In The Year of the Laity, MasterLife will encourage spiritual renewal. It will also initiate, continue and preserve the fruits of lay renewal and evangelism training.

You may be certified as a MasterLife leader by attending one of the two MasterLife Workshops to be conducted in Arkansas this year: May 15-19 on the Ouachita/campus and Aug. 7-11 on the Southern Baptist College campus. Reservations must be made through the Church Training Department in advance.

(2) **DiscipleYouth**—a comprehensive discipleship-evangelism training course for youth, ages 12 through 17. DiscipleYouth offers an excellent opportunity to lead youth in a deeper spiritual relationship to Christ and to share the relationship with others. A DiscipleYouth Workshop will be offered May 19-20, 1989, on the Ouachita campus. DiscipleYouth I and II will be offered in two simultaneous workshops for pastors, youth ministers, and volunteer leaders.

(3) **LIFE (Lay Institute For Equipping)**—intensive, experiential courses that equip church members and leaders for discipleship, leadership, and ministry.

Courses include PrayerLife, DecisionTime, Parenting by Grace, Covenant Marriage, WiseCounsel, MasterBuilder, and MasterDesign. LIFE will be interpreted in all church and associational Church Training events throughout the year. The LIFE courses offer an excellent tool for implementing The Year of the Laity.

(4) **Orient New Church Members**—a plan for counselling with new converts and transfer members, introducing them to the Christian life and the life of the church through the New Christian Encourager Plan, Survival Kits and other resources for New Member Training. Training for new members is a vital aspect of the church's discipleship training program.

(5) **Baptist Doctrine Study '89**—the annual Doctrine Study for April 1989 will be valuable to experienced Christians as well as new converts and those who have recently experienced renewal. The book for each age group will set forth what Baptists believe about the basic doctrines of the Christian faith and the biblical basis for that belief. The Doctrines Baptists Believe will be the adult book. The annual Baptist Doctrine Study Preview will be offered on Monday evening, Jan. 30, following the afternoon session of the State Evangelism Conference at First Church, Little Rock. In addition, there will be a Doctrine Study Clinic on Wednesday morning, Feb. 1, for associational Baptist Doctrine Study leaders. These persons will be trained at the State Doctrine Study Clinic following the State Evangelism Conference.

(6) **Ingathering**—a strategy for reclaiming inactive church members. Over 20 percent of Southern Baptist resident members are inactive. Ingathering is designed to train a select group of church members to reclaim inactive, resident members and involve them again in the life and ministry of the church.

A select group of Ingathering consultants will be trained on Wednesday morning, Feb. 1, in preparation for church and associational Ingathering conferences. Henry Webb, author of the Ingathering materials, will lead these training sessions. These represent some of the strategies that can help a church implement The Year of the Laity. Whatever we call it, however we do it, we must accept the inescapable challenge to make disciples in the fullest meaning of the word. We must help our lay members discover, accept, develop and commit their gifts in ministry through the church. In so doing, we will fulfill the objectives of The Year of the Laity.

Letters to the Editor

High Note

The 135th session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention was very good. High points were the good preaching in the Pastor's Conference, the good Bible exposition by Dr. Fish, the uplifting music by the Music Men and the Brass, and the President's Message.

It was also encouraging to hear reports of advance in missions and formation of new churches. We have not accomplished

all that we may have wished, but have done more than if we had planned nothing.

The highest point of the session was the challenging message by Executive Secretary Don Moore. It would be good for future sessions to close with a stirring message of this nature, and thus close the convention on a high note. Our sessions should never close with discussions of business matters. This should be all taken care of as it was planned in the program by the committee, and let the messengers leave with the in-

spiration of a good sermon still fresh in mind, instead of reflections on a controversial discussion about some matter.

The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad!—Walter H. Watts, Fort Smith

Revival Needed

Pick up your newspaper or turn on your radio or TV. Advertising for alcohol, tobacco, cars, houses, etc. overpowers you like they are the most important things there are. Some of them are outright destructive. You do not see advertising of the gospel. The need to be born again. So people psychologically are trained that God is not important. Once a week there are one or two pages of church news stuck away somewhere that you can find if you are interested.

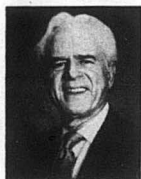
Every means of advertising should be shouting: God is important, you must be born again. The gospel message should be made clear and honorable. Churches should do it in their towns. State conventions should do it in statewide advertising. And the national convention should put it in into the national newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV. It could carry a lot of clout in the *Readers Digest*. If it is too expensive for one national group to do, then they should work with others. Isn't that the message of love? The message of the Savior?

This advertising could show the truth of abortion, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, wife abuse, and child abuse.

And prayer should go with each advertisement. Prayer from the ones sponsoring it and the people seeing it could reach hearts and lives for eternity. God is ready, our message and prayers will give him a place to bless our people and our country.

"A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning. We are beggared and bankrupt, but not broken or even bent" (from *Why Revival Tarries*, copyright 1959 by Leonard Ravenhill).

Will we pay, and pray for revival, now?—Russell L. Curry, Bentonville



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FAITH AT WORK

CAMP HAS DOUBLE PURPOSE

'More Than A Meal'

by Gary W. Griffith
Baptist Press

DRY CREEK, La. (BP)—Dry Creek Baptist Camp will prepare and serve more than 250,000 meals during 1988, up from 23,000 just four years ago. The almost 11-fold increase is attributed to a ministry that is believed to be unique among Southern Baptist encampment programs.

Dry Creek Manager Albert Hagan reports about 1,000 senior adults in three Louisiana parishes sit down to a lunch each week that is "more than just a meal—it's a ministry."

Dry Creek Nutrition Service, Inc., was launched in 1985 as a non-profit ministry, providing lunches to 500 Calcasieu Parish senior adults by contract with the Calcasieu Council on Aging.

"We feel like our food service is a ministry," Hagan says. "Our drivers deliver the meals, and many of them go into deplorable situations out there where this meal may be the only meal those people get all day long."

"We had never done anything like this, had never heard of another camp doing anything like this. But it looked like something that could be worked out."

The service also has contracts with councils on aging in Beauregard and Allen parishes. Ten drivers deliver lunches to about 350 homes and 17 community centers where senior adults meet each weekday. "The meal times (at the centers) are designed to be a social thing also, when the elderly gather and have fellowship together," Hagan says.

Participants in the program "must be 60 years or older, and they must be physically limited," he says. "The participants are asked to make a contribution. They are not required to pay for the meal, but that contribution goes back into the program and makes possible to have more meals."

Five cooks start preparing meals each day at about 2 a.m., says Henry Hebert, distribution and service coordinator. "It's a real challenge in the kitchen to pull it off when summer camps get underway," he notes.

But inactivity in the kitchen was what Hagan hoped to end when he considered the program four years ago. "We have this large kitchen sitting here nine months out of the year when summer camp is not going on. It is seldom used except for weekend retreats."

"It appeared to me it would be good stewardship to use our facilities more than just that limited amount of time."

The camp has not made money from the service, although certain benefits have

resulted, such as the camp being able to buy more kitchen equipment. Also, the camp's purchasing power has increased through volume purchases, and the service has created "some jobs for people in our community who desperately need jobs," Hagan says.

But the most important aspect of the food service remains ministry, he notes: "We get letters from people that are heartwarming. They tell us how much they appreciate that person bringing that meal by and giving them a friendly word or two. Maybe that fellow or lady bringing that meal to the door may be the only contact they have with somebody all day long. Some situations are really discouraging to see."

The service is the only thing standing between some of the shut-ins and a nursing home, Hebert says. "A lot of them cite the service as a factor in them not being institutionalized. Many of them would have to go to a nursing home because they don't have the ability to prepare a halfway decent meal for themselves."

The meals apparently meet the taste standards of the participants. "The program in Allen Parish was struggling for participation before we got the contract," Hagan says. "Now they are trying to figure out what they are going to do because they have so many participants that they don't have enough money to pay for it all."

"Word had gotten out on how good our meals are, and now they're serving about 70 more people a day than what they have budgeted for."

Driver Mel Creekmore offers more proof on the quality of the food. He reports only one negative response from a recent questionnaire sent to food service participants. "The lady just wanted more chicken each week," he says.

Such a ministry requires much organization and consistency, Hagan maintains: "Once you start this thing, you're in it. We do this every day of the week, except a few major holidays. It takes so much organization to keep it going, and there is always something to be done."

The ministry may not be a good idea for all Baptist camps, and that depends on the individual camp's situation, resources and personnel, he says. But camp managers should "look at opportunities to create revenue and to be good stewards of their equipment."

"I've tried to make sure it does not interfere with our other ministry, because our first priority is our camp and retreat ministry. But these senior adults need our services, too."

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SPREADING THE GOSPEL

Among the Jews

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

For the next year, John Anthony, missionary to Israel, will be serving as a missionary enlistment assistant for the Foreign Mission Board. His job is to locate, encourage, and assist pastors and others who are qualified for missionary appointment to consider God's call to a foreign field. The Anthonys, who are members of the University Church, Fayetteville, may be contacted at 2871 Stanton, Fayetteville, or by phone at 521-2435.

John Anthony grew up in Hope and his wife Connie in Mount Ida. As students at the University of Arkansas, they attended the University Church.

Dr. Anthony was the first person at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., to earn a doctor of ministries degree with emphasis in missions. The Anthonys have three children: Allison, a ninth grader; Tyler, a sixth grader; and Mark, a first grader. The Anthonys own a home in Fayetteville.

At the request of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, H. D. McCarty, pastor of the University Church, Fayetteville, presented the Anthonys a 15-year-service pin for their work in Israel. They were appointed by the board on July 10, 1973.

Dr. Anthony, who had been in Israel prior to his appointment, describes some of the changes that have taken place in

Israel. For almost 2,000 years the territory currently occupied by Israel had been almost a wasteland. The Negev desert, which occupies a large portion of the land territory in the state of Israel, had been almost valueless, as far as usage was concerned.

Since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, Ben Gurion University has been established on the Negev. As a result of the work of this university and other projects, the land is productive and blossoming.

Most of the Jews in Israel today are not religious. As many as 80 percent of those living in the country are agnostic. Others believe in God with varying degrees of fervor. They may celebrate the Passover, Yom Kippur, and Hanukkah but otherwise they reject most of the Jewish traditions, such as kosher dietary laws. Their synagogue attendance is sporadic at best.

To the mass of Jews, Israel is simply a modern nation which serves as a refuge for a people who were ravaged by Nazi atrocities during World War II. Many would say that the Bible is only a deed to the land which Israel now holds.

Prior to the Anthonys' appointment in 1973, there was uncertainty as to where they would serve in the Middle East. For a time it appeared that they would serve at the Hebrew University in Beirut, Lebanon. But eventually they were appointed to their first choice, which was Israel. Anthony says, "God was testing us to see if we really wanted to be missionaries or just wanted to go to Israel. When we said, 'Yes, we want to be missionaries' God then let us go to Israel."

Anthony has had various living situations in Israel. On the first term, the Anthonys studied Arabic and lived in Jerusalem and directed the Jerusalem House Student Center.

During the second term, the Anthonys continued to direct Jerusalem House but studied the Hebrew language.

During their third term, the Anthonys lived on the Israeli side of Jerusalem and continued to direct Jerusalem House. They have also developed a variety of ministries including a book store, a video ministry and a Bible study.

Currently they are in the process of obtaining 50 copies of the "Jesus" movie in Hebrew. Anthony said, "The Jews will rent Christian movies and take them home for viewing as long as others are unaware that they have the video."

Another area of Dr. and Mrs. Anthony's work is with the Narkis Street Church. This congregation has grown from 35, when the



John Anthony

Anthony's first knew it, to more than 350 last year. The church is mainly an international congregation, with a few Jews and Arab believers in attendance. For a number of years the congregation has baptized about 20 people each year. Since the retirement of Robert L. Lindsey, baptisms are somewhat down.

For some time, a Hebrew Christian congregation was meeting in Jerusalem House. It has moved out and purchased its own property. A new Hebrew congregation is being formed in Jerusalem House.

There are currently 30 Hebrew congregations scattered throughout Israel. Fifteen years ago there was only one Christian congregation. The missionaries are convinced that there are approximately 3,000 Jewish believers. The missionaries can account for approximately 1,500 Christians among the Jews. There are only about 600 of these who are active.

Many of the Jewish or Messianic believers are not anxious to reveal that they are Christians. This is to avoid the criticism that would come from other Jews. Messianic congregations have no affiliation with the U. S. based "Jews for Jesus" organization. Anthony said, "Jewish believers are influenced by various theological views, but the important thing is that they give evidence of having had a real experience with Jesus.

"We are encouraged," Anthony continued, "by the growing interest in the message of Christ among our Christian friends. We believe that, as we work and pray together, the gospel will spread among the Jews."

Classifieds

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ship service, noon luncheon, and an afternoon program. Pastor Daniel Kennedy and Lee Gwin, a former pastor, were speakers. The church recently closed a revival that resulted in two additions by letter. Gary Martin was evangelist.

James Fork Church at Mansfield recently celebrated payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service. Former pastor Clayburn Bratton and Johnnie Darr, director of missions for Buckner Association, were speakers. Special music was by Pat Gallimore and Linda Edwards. Glen Wagner is pastor.

Thornburg Church at Perryville has purchased a mobile home to be used as a parsonage for Pastor and Mrs. Frank Rosipal.

Wynne Church ordained Billy Garner to the deacon ministry Nov. 16.

Texarkana Calvary Church has launched a "Cup of Water Assistance Ministry" which is directed at actively ministering to the physical needs of people in the area.

Rock Springs Church at Eureka Springs observed mission emphasis night Nov. 19, featuring Kathleen Jones and Ruth Vandenberg, who have retired as missionaries to Indonesia following 30 years of service.

McRae First Church ordained Tommy Austin and Don Brewer to the deacon ministry Oct. 30.

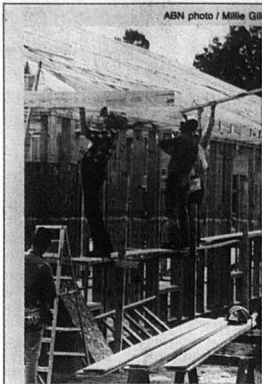
Lincoln First Church recently held a revival that resulted in 71 professions of faith and 15 rededications. Don Babin of Huffman, Texas, was evangelist and Ken Freeman of San Antonio, Texas, directed music. Earl Adams is pastor.

Hardy First Church burned a note Oct. 30 to celebrate payment of a \$190,000 indebtedness on its property and building. Wes Pruitt is pastor.

Pencil Bluff First Church will honor James and Jo Copeland Nov. 27 with an Appreciation Day in recognition of his retirement following 19 years of service as pastor.

Barton Church will celebrate its 99th anniversary of service Dec. 4 with Church Appreciation Day. Former pastor Jim Davis of Benton will be speaker. Activities will include Sunday morning services, a noon meal, and an afternoon musical program.

Viola Church ordained Pastor John Hodges to the preaching ministry Oct. 30. Charles Smith of Blytheville preached the ordination message. Elwin Wray, a deacon, presented the candidate a Bible from the congregation. Hodges, a native of the area, is the son of Gay Miller of Salem. He is a nephew of Isom Hodges, the founder and first president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.



Nailbenders at Congo Road

Nailbenders Assist Mission

Congo Road Mission, a mission of Trinity Church, Benton, recently was assisted by Arkansas' Nailbenders for Jesus in the construction of a 5,376 square foot building, which when completed will have a brick exterior and house a sanctuary, seven classrooms, a study, office, fellowship hall, and kitchen. Joe Lacy is serving as mission building committee chairman. Irene Holdcomb and Flora Kenner provided meals for the 32 volunteers. Pastor Jon Weygandt reported the building, estimated to cost approximately \$80,000, is being funded by individual gifts, an Arkansas Baptist State Convention \$15,000 loan, and a \$40,000 bank loan.

'Newborn King'

The birth of Jesus will be the focus of a new Christmas pageant being produced at the Shepherd of the Hills amphitheater near Branson.

"The Newborn King" will be presented each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening from Nov. 25 through Dec. 23. The one hour and 15 minute program will begin each evening at 6 p.m.

In addition to the open-air pageant, the Shepherd of the Hills will offer Christmas carols and gospel songs, Christmas crafts, a holiday comedy show, caroling, and a special Christmas tour of the Shepherd of the Hills homestead.

For more information, contact the Shepherd of

the Hills, Rt. 1 Box 770, Branson, MO 65616; telephone 417-334-4191.

Highlights To Be Aired

Highlights from the 1988 Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be aired on ACTS of Arkansas affiliates on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 4 p.m., and on Monday, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

The hour-long special will include interviews and clips from the convention activities and will feature a special presentation highlighting some of the work of ACTS of Arkansas affiliates in various parts of the state.

Broadcast times may vary. Consult local ACTS channels for exact schedules. For more information, contact local affiliates or ACTS of Arkansas at 501-774-3600.

'89 ABSC Date Changed

The 1989 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting will not be held as scheduled.

Messengers to the 1988 annual meeting Nov. 1-2 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock approved a recommendation from their Nominating Committee that the dates for the 1989 meeting be changed from those previously adopted because of a conflict with the 1989 general election date.

The 1989 annual meeting will be held Nov. 14-15 at First Baptist Church in Little Rock. These dates supersede those printed in the 1989 state convention diary.

The 1989 annual meeting previously was scheduled for Nov. 7-8, 1989.

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LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

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People

John R. Hensley Jr. has joined the staff of Morrilton First Church as minister of music and youth, coming there from First Church, Helena. He is married to the former Christine M. Dodge.

John Binkley has resigned as pastor of Lone Church, Booneville, to move to Poteau, Okla.

Harold Plunkett has announced his retirement as pastor of Hartford Church, effective Dec. 25, following 37 years of service. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he began pastoring churches in 1942, serving both in Arkansas and Oklahoma. He is married to the former Effie Nell People. They have four children, Ronnie and Bill Plunkett of Fort Smith, and Donna Walker, and Kathy Hester of Hartford.

Freddie Woodral of Bates is serving as pastor of Friendship Church, Black Fork.

Donal Elmore of Booneville is serving as pastor of Haw Creek Church, Waldron. He formerly served as pastor of Long Ridge Church.

Chuck Guilbert has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church, Beebe, to join the staff of Pleasant Grove Church, Texarkana.

Don Wright, pastor of Oregon Flat Church, was ordained to the preaching ministry Oct. 9 in Kansas City, Mo.

J. Lowell Ponder is serving as interim pastor of Ridgeview Church, Fayetteville.

Ralph Baker is serving Hardin Church of Pine Bluff as interim minister of music. He has served other churches in Clinton and Star City. Baker and his wife, Joyce, have a daughter, Stephanie, two.

Herbert Holly is serving Douglas Church, Gould, as interim pastor.

Bill Stricklin is serving Oak Grove Church of Jefferson as interim pastor.

A.W. Upchurch is serving Second Church of Pine Bluff as interim pastor.

Lawson Hatfield of Malvern is serving as interim pastor of First Church, Star City.

Milton A. Turman of Hot Springs died Nov. 1 at age 76. He was a former music director of Park Place Church of Hot Springs where he had been a member for many years. He also had served as music and education director at South Highland Church of Little Rock. Survivors are his wife, Helen Jackson Turman; three daughters, Lynn Rowe and Toni Knupps of Hot Springs, and Vicki Msall of Sherwood; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

John Holston has resigned as pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church near Batesville. He has pastored churches in Arkansas since 1948, serving several key congregations. He has served as associational moderator, as a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, and as a special worker for the ABSC Church Training Department. Holston now lives at 2305 Osage Drive in North Little Rock, AR 72116. His telephone number is (501) 835-1053.

Tona Wright, head coach of Ouachita Baptist University volleyball team, has been named Coach of the Year by the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference.

Jean Burns, Lisa Edwards, and Carissa Ross, students at Ouachita Baptist University, were recently recognized by the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference, receiving All-AIC honors.

Douglas Fisher, pastor of Bluffton Church, was ordained to the preaching ministry Nov. 13.

Don Mulford began serving Nov. 6 as pastor of East Point Church of Russellville, coming there from Pee Dee Church of Clinton.

A.D. Corder has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church of Timbo, but continues to serve there as interim pastor as the church seeks a pastor.

Briefly

Harlan Park Church at Conway closed a revival Oct. 30 that resulted in 50 professions of faith and 11 additions. Delton Dees was evangelist.

Dayton Church near Mansfield dedicated a building program Oct. 16 with a 2 p.m. service which featured special music by Melinda Whitledge and Becky Hardcastle. Building committee members recognized were Phillip King, Claude Yancey, and Carl Witcher Jr. Elton Pennington of Fort Smith, a former pastor, was dedication speaker. Vows of dedication were led by Johnnie Darr, director of missions for Buckner Association.

Huntington First Church recently concluded a revival that resulted in eight professions of faith and one addition by letter. Angel Martinez was evangelist. Lee Gwin is pastor.

Evening Shade First Church observed homecoming Nov. 6 with a morning wor-

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Where Peace Begins

Photos / George Sims



"Coming Together... Where Peace Begins" was the theme for the annual Baptist Student Union International Conference Nov. 11-12 at Camp Paron. The event drew 113 students from the 27 campuses in the state which have BSU ministries. Speakers for the program were Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., former national president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC (bottom right), and Rodger Murchison, associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga. The program included a student talent show (top right) and workshops dealing with events in the world news and language and cultural differences. International Conference helps promote understanding and develop relationships between college students studying in the United States from abroad and their American counterparts on campus. The event is sponsored annually by Arkansas Baptist Student Union.



Photo / Oleta Neal

'Holy Night' in Eureka Springs

A musical drama entitled, "The Holy Night," will be presented Dec. 2, 3, 9, and 10 on the set of the Great Passion Play® in Eureka Springs.

Written and directed by Passion Play Director Don Berrigan, the drama features Richard and Carolyn Buquet as Joseph and Mary. The Buquets are featured soloists of Thorn Crown Chapel in Eureka Springs.

The drama will begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

In addition to the musical drama, visitors can take in tours of the Great Passion Play® set, the Sacred Arts Center, Bible Museum, the Christ of the Ozarks statue, a Bethlehem craft fair, a mini-drama, and a special Christmas concert. Horse-drawn wagon and cart rides also are available.

The set of the Great Passion Play® will be decorated with 16,000 miniature white lights from dusk to midnight, Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day.



The Angel of the Lord appears to Mary during a scene from "The Holy Night," a musical drama to be presented Dec. 2, 3, 9, and 10 on the set of the Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs.

Working, Waiting

Mission Pastor 'Looking to the Lord' for Breakthrough

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

SPRINGDALE—The trailers are worn. The lots overgrown. The children playing in the street have the hungry, hopeful look always found in the eyes of the suffering.

You rent your trailer by the week. \$85 to \$105. But not for long. Few families stay long at City View Estates.

"We've got a high turnover rate here," explains John Smedley, who pastors Powell Street Baptist Mission, located in the heart of City View's 144 mobile homes. "About the time we are able to meet a family and cultivate a relationship, they move away."

Newcomers pay no deposit, and only one week's rent in advance. That means that, when the need arises, they move out very suddenly.

But it also means others move in quickly to take their places.

"We work the new move-ins. Eighteen in the last two weeks," says Smedley, who pastored bivocationally before retiring from Montgomery Ward two years ago. "In my previous ministries, I always prayed for prospects. Not here. This beats anything I've ever seen."

The Powell Street Mission in Springdale was launched on Easter Sunday 1988. It is one of 11 new congregations planted in mobile home parks across the state.

The mission worships in a mobile home belonging to the mission's sponsor, Northeast Church of Springdale, and converted to worship and educational space. A small steeple on top and a sign out front are all that set it apart from its neighbors.

There's something right about that, something that speaks of God becoming man and of a baby born in a stable. Housed in aluminum rather than bricks, the mission shares the good news of redemption in terms City View's residents understand.

There's something right about Smedley, too. He's a quiet, unassuming man whose friendly manner tells people he has the time to talk, time to listen, time to care.

When he drives his van into the park, the children come running. He and his wife, Alta, have been handing out balloons and suckers on Saturday afternoons. The children who don't know his name call him "the Balloon Man."

Smedley takes lots of time for the children. Together they eat hot dogs and pizza at the mission. Sunday evenings, there's always a treat. Recently, he has been taking them out to pick up aluminum cans. They can never wait to get back and spend the pocket change they earn.

"Things have been slow to develop, but they're coming along," says Smedley, who has pastored the mission since July. "We work with the kids and try to meet the parents. I do a lot of ministering at the door when I go visiting. Occasionally now someone invites me inside."

Developing trust and building relationships are difficult with the park's high turnover, he points out, but that just deepens his sense of urgency. "In other situations, people are pretty permanent. If you don't win them to Christ one time, maybe you'll win them the next.

"Here you may not have a next time. We have to get after them. If we don't, they're

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



John Smedley and a young friend

gone before you know it. I figure we can witness to some and win some, and for others we can be a warning."

They have made some progress. Two summer missionaries helped with a Vacation Bible School which enrolled 20 children. Two revivals—one in September, the other in October—heightened their visibility. The mission has baptized two persons and has another waiting. Three have been added by transfer of letter from other churches. Attendance is averaging 15, half of those adults.

The mission was launched by Frank Terry, bivocational minister of youth at Northeast who has since gone on to start another mobile home park mission in

Fayetteville. Two other adults from Northeast and a couple from Fayetteville's University Church are working in the mission. A woman from Springdale's Elm Dale Church plays the piano.

The mission pays its own utilities and tries to do some benevolence work in the park. Arkansas Baptist hunger funds and foodstuffs from the Arkansas Rice Depot allow them to meet requests for assistance, about \$100 a month.

Washington-Madison Association provides \$200 a month in support, and the Northeast Church sets aside 1 percent of its budget for the mission. Smedley recently began receiving Church Pastoral Aid from the state convention. The trailer park donates the space the mission occupies.

It's not a high overhead operation. The facilities aren't luxurious. The programs aren't lavish. But the mission is right at home in its community, and many of the residents would never darken the doors of a traditional church in another part of town.

"We are real pleased with the opportunity here," says Smedley, who has lived in the Springdale area for 25 years. "We wanted to get into mission work after we retired, but we didn't dream it would be this close to home.

"We've had some results, but we haven't broken through yet. We'll just keep working and looking to the Lord, waiting for it to happen."

Perhaps it will happen this week. Smedley is planning a communitywide Thanksgiving dinner at the mission. The menu? Brown beans and cornbread, of course.

Help Wanted: Mission Pastors

Arkansas Baptists are planning to start 45 new congregations during 1989, as part of the "Church Arkansas" effort to establish 370 new churches by the end of the century.

This challenging goal creates a need for retired or semi-retired pastors like John Smedley who are interested in helping launch these new works.

Retired pastors interested in leading new mission congregations are urged to contact Floyd Tidsworth at 376-4791 or Neal Stevens at 374-0319.

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- Traveling Shoes
- Rise Up Lazarus
- O Sacred Head
- God So Loved The World
- Jesus Is Sweet To My Soul
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- Tell It To Jesus
- Hallelujah, Christ Arose
- Exultate Justi
- Climbing Up the Mountain Children
- Amazing Grace
- Fill The World With Love
- Dry Bones
- Mercy Lord
- Praise Ye The Lord
- Ain't Got Time To Die
- Walk On For Jesus
- Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

"THANK GOD FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE"

- Jesus Gave The Water
- There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- His Grace Reaches Me
- Glory To God In The Highest
- Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing
- I Can Hear A Voice A-Prayin'
- Thank God For The Lighthouse
- Mountains Of Glory
- Nobody But My Lord
- He Touched Me
- We Are Going To See The King
- Thank God For Kids
- They Prayed, But The Prayer Was Too Late
- You're Drifting Too Far From The Shore
- We Shall See Jesus
- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- The Eyes Of All
- Beautiful Savior
- Atom Bomb
- I'll Have A New Body
- When I Found The Lord
- Resurrection
- The Welcoming Table
- I Will Thank Thee
- Peace In The Valley

"JESUS GAVE THE WATER"

- Praise The Lord
- It's Going To Rain
- Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
- To Be As Friends
- Ride In The Chariot
- He Has Gone To Calvary
- Little David Play On Your Harp
- I Want Jesus To Walk With Me
- Up Above My Head
- I Can Feel Him In My Soul
- Way Over In The Glory Land
- Jesus Gave The Water
- It's Been A Long, Long Journey
- Up Above My Head
- The Apostles Twelve
- I'll Rise Again
- Lo, What A Glorious Sight
- Seeking The Lost
- Praise The Lord, Ye Heav'n's Adore Him
- On Jordan's Stormy Banks
- The Walls Of Jericho
- Because He Lives
- Oh, My Lord
- Climbing The Upward Way
- Heavens Jubilee
- Precious Memories

"THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"

- The Old Rugged Cross
- Beyond The Sunset
- O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing
- Jesus Is The Answer
- There's Water In The Plan
- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- Fairest Lord Jesus
- How Great Thou Art
- We Are Going Home
- God's Family
- Sing And Make Music
- John The Revelator
- Shall I Crucify My Savior
- My God And I
- Peace Be Still
- A Mighty Fortress
- To Count Him As A Friend
- There's A Rainbow Of Love
- Born In Bethlehem
- Walking In Jerusalem Just Like John
- There's A Sweet, Sweet, Spirit
- When I Wake Up
- I Believe The Old, Old Story
- God Put A Rainbow In The Cloud
- I'm Proud To Be An American

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Excitement and Effort

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

How many ball games have been lost because the early excitement and effort decreased toward the end of the game? The opponent seized upon the opportunity to put forth a heroic effort while the opposing team was down. Many Christians start strong and finish weak. Many Christian leaders start strong and finish weak.



As 1988 begins to draw close to its conclusion, perhaps we need to remind ourselves that we should finish strong. With a slackening of regularly scheduled events such as revivals, high attendance days, anniversaries, etc., we could easily take a coasting attitude toward completion of the year. I beg you not to. Our opponent will take advantage of our "letting down" and gain some victories over us during this time.

Here is how! Establish some goals in special areas.

Witnessing could be reduced because church visitation is difficult during the holidays. Witnessing to family and friends will be a greater opportunity during the holidays.

Missions concentration can take place during this time of year. Get missionaries to visit and share in your services. Have a missions highlight in every worship service. Get WMU ladies to help with mission studies, even in December. Hold a missions fair or missions banquet. Push hard toward worthy Lottie Moon offering goals. The Foreign Mission Board has had to cut its operating budget for 1989 by 12 percent. This is the first budget decrease since the 1930s. Almost 50 percent of the Foreign Missions budget comes from the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The Lottie Moon goal has not been reached in six years. The last two years have fallen \$5 million short of the goal.

Help youth—During the month of December, special occasions and opportunities exist for helping young people. The Joy Explo '88 Youth Evangelism Conference to be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Dec. 29-30, is a major opportunity. Vans and buses need to roll. Drivers and sponsors need to volunteer. Churches need to provide financial assistance to make it happen. This is the final big statewide event for youth in 1988. Let's finish strong! It may be the last great

one for your church group. Don't miss the All State Band and All State Choir if you are into music.

Affirm college students—Hundreds of our finest college young people are making a heroic effort to make a difference on our campuses. Most of them are being aided in their efforts by the Baptist Student Union (BSU). What an encouragement it would be to them if their home church gave them an opportunity to testify through a special Student Day at Christmas. They will not only be strengthened, but their example will inspire those who will be going to college after them to continue their Christian walk and to become involved with other Christian students through BSU.

Update stewardship—Many people have determined to give a certain amount each Sunday toward the work of the Lord. Their income may be seasonal or erratic and therefore unpredictable. At this time of year the degree to which "God has prospered you" (1 Cor. 16:2) should become apparent. No less than 10 percent of that increase has been earmarked by God. While it is all his, he has earmarked that for his special use in caring for his kingdom affairs. Finish strong! Go ahead. Figure out what you should give based on what he has already given you and finish the year out with complete obedience and a clear conscience.

Finalize goals for 1989—So much can be done during the concluding days of this year to prepare for a better next year. But, don't try to do it yourself. There are other believers, pastors, staff, deacons, and committees that can help. Where are you going to be in Sunday School growth, baptism, fellowship, membership, stewardship as you finish the year? You can pretty well tell by now. Did you plan to be where you are? Where will you be next year at this time? Your setting of goals and planning of actions to be at a different level next year needs to be finalized this year. Yes, it is late, but anything you can do to finish your plans will be well repaid by the concerted efforts of the people and the real achievements in the coming year.

Be prepared for one of history's big moments in Arkansas. When the Foreign Mission Board moves to Little Rock on the weekend of April 8, 1989, history will be in the making. Their board members will be coming from all over the nation to conduct the business of the Foreign Mission Board. The climatic event associated with this historic meeting will be an Appointment Service for new missionaries on April 11, 1989. Most of you will not have another opportunity to be a part of such an event.

We have been seven years in the making of this opportunity for you. We have 6,000 seats in the Convention Center and 1,000 seats in an overflow hall to accommodate you. If your church is represented well, you really need to begin your plans now.

Youth Issues Institute

What is This? It is an institute to equip all who work with young people to conduct effective basic sessions on the issues most threatening to our youth.

What Are Those Issues? Alcohol, drugs, pornography, premarital sex, and suicide.

When Will It Be? Saturday, April 8, 1989—10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Who Will Be Doing It? Five Arkansas youth ministers who have written the material will be briefing youth workers on how to help youth with these issues. Rick Caldwell will be the keynote speaker.

Why? Ninety percent of our churches have no trained or employed youth minister. This will equip Sunday School, Church Training, volunteer youth workers, pastors, associational camp workers, and others who work with youth to address these critical issues with confidence and effectiveness.

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HELPLINE

NOT 'JUST ANOTHER MEETING'

The Benefits of Training

by Terri Lackey

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE—A pastor who thinks a church training program is just another meeting added to an already hectic schedule should take a long look at the benefits of discipleship training, according to an associational church training director and a bivocational pastor.

A church training program develops more and stronger leaders, said Gerry Greene, church training director for the Morganton Association in Georgia. She recently served as a consultant for a statewide church training new start campaign sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Georgia Baptist convention.

"After the new start campaign here, our association became more aware of the leadership which comes from church training programs," she said. "Some felt they could not go into full-time church training programs because of the lack of leadership in their church."

In a new start campaign, volunteer consultants spend a week working with pastors whose churches do not have church training to design the type of program that would best benefit their church, said Steve Williams, growth consultant in the board's church training department. Only pastors who agree to the visits are consulted.

During the Georgia campaign in late August, 142 churches out of 303 contacted agreed to start church training programs, Williams said. Seventy-eight of the churches already had church training programs but were not reporting them on the Uniform Church Letter, consultants discovered.

One of the pastors contacted during the Georgia campaign was Winfred Casey, bivocational pastor of New Zion Church of

Calhoun.

Casey, owner and operator of Casey Auto Body Shop, gladly took on the task of starting a church training program and "was excited" to learn his church would receive \$75 worth of free church training literature from the board—a benefit all churches starting training programs receive.

"We are very useful of this (church training) in our church," Casey said. "I've found out people with a church training background will say, 'I'll take the job and do the best I can.' They feel better about leading people and standing up in front of the church."

"The more a person is aware and knowledgeable about church training and the Bible, the more they feel responsible to do," Casey added.

Waldo Woodcock, state church training director for the Georgia Baptist convention, said he hopes to continue the new start campaigns.

"Church training new start campaigns ought to be an ongoing part of the state convention objective in that we should pick out one association at a time and give

them consultants to go to the churches," Woodcock said.

"Fifty-four of our 92 associations responded to our invitation to participate in the new start campaign," he said. "So at least we have that many under our belt because of the campaign. It really created enthusiasm."

The Sunday School Board has co-sponsored campaigns with four state conventions since 1986 and three more are scheduled through 1990, according to Williams.

In August 1986, Alabama completed a new start campaign with 135 of 284 churches contacted agreeing to start church training. Thirty-six of the churches had church training but were not reporting their enrollment and attendance. In August 1987, 120 of the 240 churches contacted in South Carolina started a church training program; 56 had not been reporting participation.

In April of 1988, Tennessee completed the project with 160 of the 311 contacted starting a church training program. Seventy churches had church training, but were not reporting it.

Virginia and Kentucky will conduct new start campaigns in 1989, and Illinois will hold one in 1990, according to Williams.

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- THE BETHLEHEM FAIR — a craft fair by the churches of our area. Dec. 2-3 & Dec. 9-10; 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERTS — Dec. 2-3 & Dec. 9-10; 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

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Church Training

Baptist Doctrine Study Preview

The theme for Baptist Doctrine Study in 1989 is "The Doctrines Baptists Believe." Not one doctrine, but 10 doctrines are the focus for next year's study. The annual Baptist Doctrine Study Preview will be held in conjunction with the State Evangelism Conference on Jan. 30 at First Church in Little Rock. The leader of the preview study will be Glen Smith, consultant in the Church Training Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board. The preview study and the evening meal are scheduled between the afternoon and evening sessions on Monday of the Evangelism Conference.



Holley

The doctrines included in the 1989 Baptist Doctrine Study are at the very heart of the Christian faith. A serious study of them will strengthen, encourage and uplift Baptists, from the newest to the most experienced among us. The doctrines included in the study are: The Bible, God, Man, Christ, Atonement, Salvation, Christian Life, The Church and "Last Things".

The registration for the Baptist Doctrine Preview Study is \$7.50, which includes a copy of the book and the evening meal. The author of the book is Roy Edgemon, director of the Church Training Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Reservations should be made and paid in advance through the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—Robert Holley, director

Stewardship/Annuity

Extending Stewardship

Is stewardship complete once the church has adopted a spending plan for the next year? What does a church do after the members have approved the budget?

A church may do little but count the dollars after the vote is taken. More attention is needed to develop Christian stewards.

Stewardship, like Sunday School, evangelism, or any other church program, needs perennial promotion. A once-a-year painful prescription cannot cure all

stewardship ills. Stewardship growth isn't complete after the budget is presented and approved.

Stewardship education requires repetition. A five-unit Bible Study on stewardship is available on the literature order form from the Sunday School Board. Special stewardship Bible studies may be ordered from the Stewardship Services Catalog. Free tracts from your Stewardship Department are available for distribution.

Families can teach stewardship at home. Faithful examples and simple instructions make lasting impressions. Churches have an opportunity to assist their families by presenting Christian money management principles.

Make stewardship visible. Use attractive posters and streamers. Videos will stimulate discussion. Good films hold attention. Skits can make stewardship interesting.

The Stewardship Committee should propose monthly activities for church action. Regular and accurate financial reports keep members updated.

To grow Christian stewards it is essential that stewardship extend beyond three weeks of promotional effort in the fall. Stewardship, like life, requires daily attention.—James A. Walker, director

Brotherhood

Help for RA Counselors

In depth training for RA counselors is available. Unlock and develop the potential in your church.

May 25-28, 1989, is the date for Royal Ambassador University at Rhodes College, Memphis, TN.

Forty courses will be offered including: Lad chapter meetings, Crusaders chapter meetings, Pioneer chapter meetings, advancement personal development, missions activities, crafts, mission games, campcraft, team counseling, motivating RAs, chapter meeting settings that motivate, how to present mission stories, initiative games/adventure recreation, where to find help/resources, involving parents, and using music in the chapter meeting.

The emphasis will be "hands on" experiences in counseling, planning techniques, teaching, motivating and recruiting.

RA University is the most significant step in Royal Ambassador training ever planned.

Based on double occupancy room; meals, materials and the conference fee, all included, is \$110 per person.

A \$10 deposit should be sent for each person to: RA University, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104-2493.

Hurricane Gilbert left Jamaica in shambles. There is a need for seed, especially beans. We will collect seed here at the office.

Church buildings were destroyed or damaged. If you are a carpenter and could give as much as 6 to 10 days to go to Jamaica, please communicate with us now.—Glendon Grober, director

Church Administration

Career Assessment

"How can I best invest my life in the future to glorify God, bless mankind and find fulfillment for myself?" This is the question raised during a Career Assessment. The Career Assessment experience can help pastors and church staff members in their search for answers to this question and others just as critical.

A Career Assessment conference will be conducted Thursday-Friday, Dec. 1-2, led by Dr. Fred McGehee, career guidance specialist in the Church Administration Department, BSSB. The setting for the conference is the Plaza Hotel adjacent to the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday, the conference will conclude by 3 p.m. on Friday.

Registration for the conference is \$35. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend with no additional registration fee. Rooms are available for \$16 per person (double occupancy) or \$32 for a single. Registrations and room reservations must be made through our office.

Fred McGehee says that "Career Assessment takes Christian stewardship of life seriously. It helps you to make the most of your best and to more easily accept the rest. Self-evaluation and goal setting are tasks we all mean to get around to. They also seem to be two of the easiest things to put off. Maybe Career Assessment can help".

For additional information, call or write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 (376-4791).—Robert Holley, director

Take Note

Meeting Cancelled, Date Changed

The Laity Abroad Luncheon scheduled for Dec. 10 has been cancelled.

The Lay Renewal Fellowship in February has been rescheduled to Feb. 10-11. The fellowship will be held at Levy Church in North Little Rock.

Next Month in Arkansas: December

December 4-11, Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (WMU)
December 8-9, Evangelism

Workshop, *Camp Paron (Ev)*
December 11, Foreign Missions Day in Sunday School
December 25, Student Day at

Christmas (Stu)
December 29-30, Joy Explo '88 Youth Evangelism Conference, *Hot Springs Convention Center (Ev)*

January

January 7, Baptist Men's Teleconference, *Sherwood First Church, Hot Springs Village Barcelona Road Church, Fort Smith Eastside Church, Mena First Church (Bbd)*
January 8, Witness Commitment Day (Ev)

January 14, RA Counselor Fellowship and Workshop, *North Little Rock Baring Cross Church (Bbd)*
January 22, Baptist Men's Day (Bbd)
January 23-24, State Church Media Library Conference *North Little Rock Central Church (CT)*

January 28, Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, *Little Rock (CLC)*
January 30, Baptist Doctrine Study Preview, *Little Rock First Church (CT)*
January 30-31, State Evangelism Conference, *Little Rock First Church (Ev)*

February

February 1-4, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Director Conference, *Nashville, Tenn. (M)*
February 6, State Vacation Bible School Clinic, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (SS)*
February 6-7, ASSIST Training, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (SS)*
* February 10-11, Lay Renewal

Fellowship, *North Little Rock Levy Church*
February 11, Bible Teaching Gathering for Small Sunday Schools, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (SS)*
February 12-18, Focus on WMU (WMU)
February 19-22, Home Mission

Study (WMU)
February 20-21, Pastoral Ministries Conference, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (CT)*
February 24-25, State Single Adult Conference, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (CT)*
February 24-25, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat, *Camp Paron*

March

March 1-3, DOM Retreat, *DeGray Lodge (Mn)*
March 3-4, State Handbell Festival, *Little Rock First Church (M)*
March 3-4, State Church Recreation Conference, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (CT)*
March 5-12, Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU)
March 7, Church Arkansas Rally, *Hope First Church (Mn)*
March 9, Church Arkansas Rally, *Benton First Church (Mn)*
March 10-11, HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bbd)*
March 13, Northwest Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Huntsville First Church (CT)*
March 13, Southwest Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Hope First*

Church (CT)
March 13-14, Statewide Pastors' Retreat, *Camp Paron (Ad)*
March 13-16, Handbell Leadership Seminar, *Nashville, Tenn. (M)*
March 13-16, Senior Adult Choir Leadership Seminar, *Nashville, Tenn.*
March 13-17, Church Building Tour (SS)
March 14, Westcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Booneville First Church (CT)*
March 14, Southeast Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Warren First Church (CT)*
March 16, Northcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Mountain View First Church (CT)*
March 16, Northeast Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Jonesboro Central Church (CT)*
March 17, Central Bible Drill and

Speaker's Tournament, *Little Rock Olivet (CT)*
March 17, Eastcentral Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament, *Wynne Church (CT)*
March 18, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat, *Murfreesboro First Church (M)*
March 21-22, WMU Annual Meeting, *Rogers First Church (WMU)*
March 24, State Youth Convention, *Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (CT)*
March 27-28, Here's Hope Association Steering Committee, *Camp Paron (Ev)*
March 30-31, Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat (CT)
March 31-April 2, BSU Leadership Training Conference, *Camp Paron (BSU)*

* Date change

Abbreviations: Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

Personally Involved

by Frank Wm. White
Baptist Sunday School Board

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)—Jesus Christ's mandate for evangelizing the world requires the personal involvement of all Christians, a Southern Baptist pastor told students from three states attending a weekend "vision conference" to develop personal long-range discipleship strategies.

Tom Wolf, pastor of the Church on Brady, a Southern Baptist congregation in downtown Los Angeles, challenged the students to consider career moves to major cities of the world to open doors of opportunity for personal involvement in worldwide evangelism.

Wolf was a featured speaker at the student ministry conference in Harrisburg, Pa., involving students from Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

Vision conferences which have been conducted across the nation since 1983 by the student ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, guide students in preparing a six-year personal evangelism strategy.

"In an age when everything is instant, the idea of a long-range preparation is unique," said Carolyn Teague, consultant for discipleship and Bible study in the student ministry department.

Wolf said involvement in world evangelization is a crucial responsibility for every church and individual Christian.

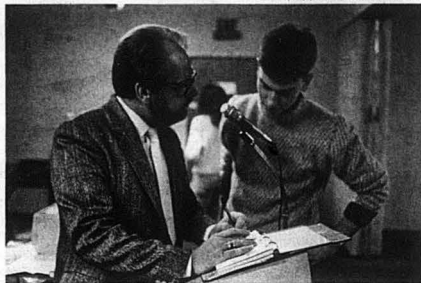
The church where Wolf has been pastor

for the past 19 years emphasizes worldwide evangelism in addition to its focus on inner-city ministry in Los Angeles. With an average Sunday morning attendance of 700, the church has more than 100 people trained to participate in foreign missions projects, Wolf said.

Foreign missions involvement of the church is coordinated through Southern Baptist missionaries and the convention's Foreign Mission Board. The church has focused on seven nations for its missions involvement and has planted churches in Belize, Mexico and the Philippines.

Reaching key urban centers throughout the world is crucial to Southern Baptist

(BP) photo / Frank Wm. White



Tom Wolf talks with a student about missions involvement.

world evangelization efforts because a majority of the world's population now lives in urban areas rather than rural areas, Wolf says.

He challenged the students to impact the nations of the world by seeking opportunities to live and work in the urban centers.

Students who attended the Harrisburg vi-

sion conference are pursuing degrees in political science, engineering, management, nursing, history, English and other areas. Many of those degrees will be useful in getting jobs in foreign countries, especially working for U.S. corporations with international interests, Wolf said.

Citing his inner-city church as an example, Wolf said the best approach to evangelism is to become involved in the daily lives of people by living and working with them.

A model that has worked in urban Los Angeles will work in urban centers throughout the world, he added.

Students who choose to undertake their careers in some of the world's major urban areas can be the best missionaries there or, in some cases, the only missionaries because of government restrictions on career missionaries, Wolf said.

Annuity Board Report Heard

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Annuity Board trustees, meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Dallas, learned about the continued growth of retirement plan contributions, approved the 1989 budget and heard reports of record benefits paid.

The trustees also took action to develop a succession plan following the retirement of President Darold H. Morgan, who will be 65 Aug. 5, 1989.

During July-September, \$40.2 million was contributed to members' retirement accounts, bringing contributions during the first nine months of 1988 to \$114.3 million. For all of 1987, contributions were \$132.2 million.

"We believe the strong growth this year reflects the successful implementation of the expanded features in the Church Annuity Plan," said Harold Richardson, the board's chief financial officer. "The program promotion by the member services division is successfully encouraging Southern Baptist pastors and employees to plan more effectively for retirement."

Earnings on all the board's investments for the first nine months trailed the same period of 1987 by 3.5 percent. But Richardson noted the 1987 figures were taken before the stock market collapse in October. "The equity and bond markets have had to rebound from the large loss and attitudes that followed after Oct. 19," he explained.

Retirement benefits paid through Sept. 30, 1988, totaled \$52.5 million, a 23.8 percent increase over the same period a year ago.

The trustees went into an executive, or closed-door, session to discuss the process of succession for Morgan.

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861 New Sunday Schools

by Frank Wm. White
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists started 861 new Sunday schools during the 1987-88 church year, for a three-year total of more than 2,600 new starts.

New Sunday schools for the year ending Sept. 31, 1988, represent an increase over the 826 new starts for 1986-87. And 944 new Sunday schools were started in the 1985-86 church year. The convention goal for 1985-90 is 8,000 new Sunday schools.

The emphasis for starting new Sunday schools supports the Southern Baptist Bold Mission Thrust goal of 50,000 churches by the year 2000.

New Sunday schools and churches are needed throughout the nation because the population is increasing at a faster rate than the number of churches, said Jim Fitch, manager of the pastor/staff section in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday school division.

Also, as metropolitan areas grow, new churches are needed to meet the needs of new communities, Fitch said. In traditional convention states, major metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Dallas, Orlando and Houston have been targeted for new Sunday school work.

With 273 new Sunday schools in 1987-88, Texas led the Southern Baptist Convention in new Sunday school starts. The previous year, Texas started 268 new Sunday schools.

Texas Baptists have started 2,554 new Sunday schools in the past 10 years and more than 3,100 since the state convention began a new-starts emphasis 12 years ago, said Richard Sims, new work consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The emphasis for new Sunday schools began in Texas after Houston and Dallas leaders identified more than 600 areas needing new work. Since then, locations needing new Sunday schools and churches have been identified throughout the state.

In the past two years, Outreach Bible Study, an eight-week Bible study plan for non-Christians developed by the Sunday School Board, has been used throughout the state to begin Bible study groups that later become Sunday schools, Sims said.

About 87 percent of the new Sunday schools started in Texas during the 12-year effort have become missions or churches.

Coming in after Texas in new Sunday school starts for 1987-88 were North Carolina, 80; Florida, 56; Kentucky, 41; California, 39; and Georgia, 29.

Completing the top 10 state conventions were New England, 25; Ohio, 24; South Carolina, 24; and Louisiana, 21.



Arkansans Doug (left) and Dean Dickens

Double Dickens

by Scott Collins
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—When it comes to similarities, Dean and Doug Dickens share more than looks.

Both were called into Christian ministry. Both graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and this fall, both are teaching at Southwestern.

Dean, a missionary to the Philippines, has joined Doug, professor of pastoral ministry, at the seminary. Dean is missionary guest professor.

"He (Doug) has probably been more of an influence on me than he knows," Dean said.

But the brothers guarded against influencing each other into the ministry.

"I thought a lot about both of us going into the ministry simply because we are twins," Dean said. "But we're not doing a twinly thing rather than a godly thing."

That doesn't stop the brothers from also doing "twinly" things.

When Dean was teaching at Southwestern in the early 1970s, Doug was working on his doctoral degree. Doug often used Dean's office, and when students came in for help, Doug offered assistance to the unsuspecting students.

One day Doug showed up at the room where Dean's class met. The students knew they'd been had.

At times, the brothers have combined twinly and godly things. They shared their first pastorate in Booneville, Ark. The two

would alternate preaching and song leading each week.

But doing the godly thing has meant separation.

In 1975, Dean and his wife, Karr La, were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to Clark Field Baptist Church in the Philippines. After six years at the church, Dean moved to a position at Philippine Baptist Seminary to teach preaching in 1981.

His involvement in cross-cultural preaching for seven years helped Dean gain an expertise. He has travelled to several countries leading seminars for pastors.

He has brought that knowledge to Southwestern Seminary this fall, where he is teaching classes in both preaching and missions. In the process, he provides guidance to students interested in foreign mission service.

"I tell them (students) that foreign mission work is not only exciting work, but the most underrated work," Dean said. "By its very dynamic, you can be in places of great response."

Dean admits that is a conclusion he was slow in making: "When the Lord called me into Christian service, we had an understanding he could call me as long as it wasn't overseas. But missions is such a fulfilling thing because once a person is on the field you're able to bite into more than you can chew."

For Dean, that has satisfied his appetite. "World missions gets into your blood," he said. "It's in mine."

Colorado Cuts Budget

by Marv Knox
Baptist Press

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (BP)—Colorado Southern Baptists trimmed their budget by cutting five staff positions during their annual meeting Nov. 1-3 in Grand Junction.

They also voted to shrink their financial burden by reducing both the money they give to worldwide Southern Baptist causes and the amount they put into employees' retirement accounts.

In an unprecedented move, they allowed the state Woman's Missionary Union—whose director was one of the eliminated staff members—to move from department to auxiliary-status. As a department of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, WMU is supported in the convention budget; as an auxiliary, it will raise its own funds.

Messengers to the meeting approved a 1989 convention budget of \$2,335,081. It will be \$71,956—or 2.99 percent—smaller than the 1988 budget.

They cut the amount they expect to contribute to their own budget even further. Receipts from Colorado churches are expected to be \$1,105,149. That is a drop of \$98,514—or 8.18 percent—from the current budget. Most of the balance of the budget is to be provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards.

Both the total budget and the amount expected from churches dropped to a six-year low. However, Colorado Baptists had no choice but to cut their budget, said convention Executive Director Charles Sharp.

The convention's business plan dictates that a budget's expected receipts from churches cannot be more than the amount the churches gave during the final six months of the previous year and the first six months of the current year, Sharp said. The ceiling for the new budget is about \$1.2 million, he added.

Colorado's bleak financial landscape has caused most of the convention's financial woes, he reported: "We've got a declining economy in Colorado. Over 1,200 jobs have been eliminated in Denver in the last six months."

But financial woes are not new to Colorado Baptists. A 1986 audit revealed the Colorado Baptist Foundation lost \$1.2 million between 1981 and 1985, due to poor "over-the-counter" investments. In 1987, designated funds intended to repay debts mistakenly were placed into an account that paid regular convention expenses.

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Convention Uniform

Accept God's Offer

by Jim Box, Central Church, Bald Knob

Basic passage: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Focal passage: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Central truth: Accept God's offer of a new covenant in Christ.

One of the great covenants of the Bible was made with David. This covenant anticipated the coming of King David's greater son, the Lord Jesus Christ, destined to be God's eternal king. The northern kingdom went into captivity in 722 B.C., but in the grace and goodness of God was promised restoration and inclusion in a new covenant.

There is a mistaken notion that the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom became "the lost 10 tribes." They were not lost, but were absorbed into the restored nation. Anna, who greeted the infant Christ in the temple, was a member of one of these tribes. When, in the New Testament usage, we speak of "the Jews," we acknowledge a nation representative of all Israel.

There is a human tendency, when disaster occurs, to seek a scapegoat, someone to blame other than ourselves. Both the southern and northern kingdoms paid heavily for their unfaithfulness and rebellion, both becoming the subjects of foreign conquest and exile. The meaning of sour grapes (v. 29) was that later generations were being made to pay the price for the sins of former generations.

In the old covenant, the family or community were often made to bear the penalty of one person's transgressions. The fate of Achan's family (Ja. 7) is an example of this concept of group guilt. Jeremiah gave new emphasis to the standing of the individual before God.

Jeremiah gave the proclamation of a new covenant, not made with the nation, but with "every man" and "his brother" (v. 34). We have the authority of Hebrews 8 for believing that Jeremiah's words had fulfillment in the coming and mission of the Lord Jesus, "the mediator of a better covenant" (v. 6). The failure of the old covenant called for a new covenant from God. The old covenant was one of law and the new covenant was of grace.

The New Testament events would be necessary to make the fulfillment of this covenant, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the atoning death of our Lord. Of the new covenant, God said he would write his law in their hearts.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Withstanding Opposition

by Stephen Pate, Second Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 14:8-23; 2 Corinthians 4:5-15

Focal passage: Acts 14:19-22; 2 Corinthians 4:8-14

Central truth: Faithfulness to the gospel requires us to exhibit courage and perseverance in the face of opposition and difficulty.

There are situations in which opposition arises because of our determination of being faithful to Christ. Jews from Iconium and Antioch came to Lystra disgusted with Paul's successful ministry there. After arriving they persuaded the crowd to stone Paul. After the Jews thought Paul was dead they dragged him out of the city and left him. For us opposition for being faithful most likely will not take the form of physical abuse. But it does take forms in the '80s such as losing friends and the possibility of losing a job.

Paul, after suffering the physical abuse of stoning, departed the next day with Barnabas to Derbe to preach the gospel. Following that he returned to Lystra where he had just been stoned and also went on to Iconium and Antioch where the Jews had come from who instructed the crowd in Lystra to stone him.

Paul's courage which is so very evident in Acts 14:20-22 shows us another way that opposition and difficult situations can strengthen our faith. Paul wasn't stoned again. He was able to preach and many accepted Christ as their Lord.

Faithfulness to God's command is essential to the growth. In 1 Corinthians 4:8-12, Paul reveals how suffering for Jesus' sake can produce faith and spiritual growth. Paul describes it this way: (1) Troubled on every side but not distressed. Though we may be surrounded, God will provide a way out. (2) Perplexed but not in despair. In times of confusion God will clear things up. (3) Persecuted but not forsaken. God will never abandon us. (4) Cast down but not destroyed. Being defeated is not in God's vocabulary. God will reign.

Finally, withstanding opposition and difficult situations produces power. We are never alone. God is always with us accompanying with his power. Struggles and difficult situations in which we find ourselves can be overpowered when we hook up with God (2 Co. 4:13-14).

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Bible Book

Social Justice Guidelines

by Bradley A. Rogge, Forest Tower Church, Hensley

Basic passage: Exodus 22-24

Focal passage: Exodus 22:22-27a; 23:6-9, 27-30; 24:3-4a

Central truth: Before we can share the gospel we may need to share hope, food, and friendship.

On the table was the turkey cooked to a golden brown. The pumpkin pie was still a little warm just begging for whipped cream. The homemade bread mom had made caused the air to feel very much like home. It was good to have the family in. After dinner the football game would be on. The cool outside air made the fire in the fireplace very inviting. It was sure good to be alive today.

The cold wind cut through his thin coat. The cold seemed to find its way to the bottom of his shoes where there were more holes than sole. The rescue mission had run out of food, today, of all days. It would get colder tonight. Maybe he would break out a store window, at least it was warm in jail and he could get a meal. Some times he wished he wasn't alive.

"Oh God," a mother prayed, "I do not know why my man up and left me, but he did. Lord, I got four babies I gotta feed somehow. Lord, today of all days I am out of milk and money. The rent's due and I can't pay the gas bill. I called a church the other day but they said they were out of money to help folks like me. Lord, please don't let my babies go hungry. Lord, don't let us get cold. Not today Lord, I don't think I can live like this much longer."

As we enjoy our holiday season let us not forget that many will find this time of the year very hard. Our lesson points out that we have a social ministry to perform. I do not believe God wants us to feel guilty because we have, but I do believe our lesson says that we need to actively provide for the have nots.

Maybe a Sunday School class could put on a food drive for the local soup kitchen. Maybe our churches could open part of the church to warm the bodies of those who are cold. Maybe more money could be found for our work.

I heard it said that if you give a man a fish he has a meal, but if you teach him to fish he will have several meals. Maybe the churches could help in finding jobs for those who need them.

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Low Funds Threaten Children's Vaccinations

by Irma Duke

SBC Foreign Mission Board

JIBLA, Yemen (BP)—More than 45,000 children in 300 Yemen villages received vaccinations last year through a Jibla Baptist Hospital mobile vaccination program.

But that program will come to a halt if relief giving through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board does not increase soon, missionaries predict.

The Expanded Programme of Immunization, begun by the Jibla hospital in 1982, emphasizes vaccinations for preschoolers

but also refers patients to the hospital for treatment. Martha Myers, the Southern Baptist physician who travels most often with the Yemeni immunization team, often finds cases of malnutrition, tuberculosis and malaria in the villages of the ancient Middle East nation.

The Yemeni government ministry of health and Ibb Province health authorities sponsor the program, in cooperation with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the World Health Organization. Southern Baptists provided

personnel, vehicles and gasoline expenses last year for 45,000 vaccinations against tuberculosis; diphtheria; pertussis; tetanus, for mothers and children; polio; and measles.

The Baptist hospital's involvement has been financed by several contributions from the Foreign Mission Board general relief fund: \$75,000 in 1984 and \$84,000 in 1987. Southern Baptist representative Bill Koehn the hospital's administrator, estimates current funds will last only through next spring. Southern Baptist work with Yemeni people is limited to the hospital's ministries.

The vaccination program aims to decrease deaths among children, primarily those under one year old. The current infant mortality rate in Yemen, about 162 per 1,000 births, is the fifth-highest in the world, according to World Health Organization figures.

Another priority is to provide continuing vaccinations through primary health-care workers being trained throughout the country. Five members of the Baptist hospital team already have received training as vaccinators. One has been trained as a local birth attendant.

Family planning, home birth training and prenatal care also are part of the effort. The Yemeni Swedish Clinic in Ibb uses the hospital's facilities to train local birth attendants.

Myers, from Montgomery, Ala., admits vaccinations are available at the hospital, but she says most people have difficulty getting them there.

"They really don't understand preventive kinds of things so they don't take off from work and hire a taxi to come in," Myers explains. And many cannot take time from work in any case. In addition, some of the vaccines require three doses, calling for multiple trips to the hospital.

But once the mobile vaccination Land-Cruiser rolls into a village, mothers, fathers and grandparents come from every direction with their children. The Baptist hospital team—usually five Yemenis and Myers—unfolds a plastic picnic table, unloads medicine from atop the truck and starts work as people gather.

Myers and team supervisor Mohammed Amiin Sabour sit on suitcases in the shade and register children while the other team members start the vaccinations. Hours later, the team packs up its medicine and equipment and heads to another village over steep, rocky paths that test even fourwheel drive vehicles.

If funds are supplied to continue the Baptist hospital's involvement in the program, Myers hopes to concentrate full time on the mobile vaccination work.

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FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Price of Success

by Eric Miller

SCB Foreign Mission Board

It took a tough missionary to work in Brazil in 1881. It still does.

Back then, Southern Baptist missionaries faced yellow fever and persecution. Now, they struggle with a sick Brazilian economy and shortfalls in mission budgets.

But year after year, Brazil is among the countries with the highest number of reported baptisms. Also, Brazilian Baptists support their own foreign missionaries—about 100 in 16 countries—and they have about 400 home missionaries.

Brazilian Baptists are organized much like Southern Baptists in the United States. They have national and state conventions, associations, Woman's Missionary Union organizations, Brotherhood, Royal Ambassadors, seminars, camps, children's homes, bookstores, a radio and television commission, a publishing house, a World Mission Board (since 1907) and a Home Mission Board.

All of this progress came with a price, not only through Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts, but through missionary blood, sweat and tears.

Yellow fever took the lives of a few early Southern Baptist missionaries. Later, some died in private airplane crashes and others in ships lost at sea. Missionary wives sometimes spent three months apart from husbands who rode muleback on preaching circuits.

Southern Baptist missionary Arthur Beriah Deter sold all of his furniture in 1901 to save the Baptist Publishing House in Rio de Janeiro from being closed by city officials who declared the building unsafe.

Deter's furniture sale paid for moving heavy equipment and a printing press from a decrepit second floor to a ground floor, said retired missionary Edith Deter Oliver, 86, his daughter.

"As a child, I remember sitting on the floor, eating my lunch on an orange crate," Oliver said, looking back at how the family managed without furniture. "Mother made a picnic of it."

It was tough women like Deter's wife, May Scrymgeour Deter, who persevered and contributed to the opening of work in the pioneer days of Southern Baptist work, especially in the midst of persecution by Roman Catholics.

Holding a loaded revolver in her lap, May Deter once sat in a rocking chair waiting for a man banging on her front door. The man planned to hurt her and her children as a part of Catholic persecution of Protestants. "The maid was under the bed

praying to Virgin Mary, and I was on the bed, hugging my little brother," Oliver recalled. Finally, the man left, and no one was hurt.

Another time, she recalled, her father happened upon a man holding a dagger in the hallway of the Deter home. Deter, a wrestler in college, grabbed the man and threw him out into the street so hard his face hit the dirt. Deter handed the man his dagger and said, "I didn't come here to be your enemy." Tears on his cheeks, the man said, "I was sent (by the Catholics)."

With Indians attacking passengers on trains, the missionaries in the early days had to travel by riverboat and horseback in some parts of Brazil.

As in the Old West in the United States, "the Colt 45 (revolver) was the law" in places where her father traveled, Oliver said. So, Deter sometimes traveled with a big, strong Brazilian pastor, Pedro Sebastiao Barbosa, who was like a favorite uncle to the Deter family.

In 1910, Deter rented an old movie theater in a lawless town and announced in the street he would be preaching soon. As a small crowd gathered for the service, he posted Barbosa at the door to keep out trouble-makers. They weren't far into the service when a man tried to ride his horse into the auditorium. Barbosa knocked the man off the horse and sat on his chest, pinning him to the floor until Deter finished preaching.

Deter and his wife were on the mission field from 1901 to 1940, the first of three

generations of missionaries in Brazil. The third generation is Bruce and Margaret Oliver, who work in Itaporanga, Brazil. Oliver is director of the Living Water Project, a \$3 million hunger relief project that provides irrigation, agriculture technical assistance and social ministries in a drought-stricken area.

Bruce Oliver was a missionary pilot for 15 years, transporting sick and dying Brazilians from rural areas to hospitals and flying over areas where his father and grandfather had once trailed on muleback.

Long travel and hardships were a way of life for missionary Benjamin Oliver, 84, father of Bruce Oliver. The retired missionary had 252 tick bites after riding a horse all day through tall grass. Gunmen affiliated with Catholics once fired on a group he was traveling with, hitting the steering wheel, radiator and a tire of their car and wounding two passengers.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil today are still willing to face challenges to share the gospel. Baptists in Brazil's largest state, Sao Paulo, for example, hope to start 1,000 churches by 1992.

Missionary David Campbell, who helps coordinate the project, said it's challenging working in Sao Paulo, a city of 16 million. Not only does it take hours to drive between churches in and around Sao Paulo, but he's been knocked down and robbed on the street three times. He has equipped his car with a burglar alarm system.

Missionaries in Brazil are still a tough breed. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds today support more than 350 Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil.

FMB photo / Don Rutledge



Missionaries Bruce and Margaret Oliver

Faithful for 30 Years

by Eric Miller
SBC Foreign Mission Board

Thirty years is a long time for a missionary to spend anywhere — especially without air conditioners in the hottest state capital in Brazil.

Southern Baptist missionaries Don and Betty Spiegel have spent three decades in Teresina, the capital of Piaui, leading people to Christ, starting new churches, and helping them grow.

Not far from the equator, they have regularly sweated through 104-degree Fahrenheit days and watched dust collect on furniture just hours after cleaning. Their house has never had an air conditioner. In fact, electricity was rationed for five years, and they had to survive many days and nights without fans.

Although window screens didn't exist, fans were good for blowing away mosquitoes. But when the electricity was off at night, "you'd just lie there and let the mosquitoes eat you," Spiegel remembers, laughing.

Roads were rough, unpaved and dusty, but that didn't keep Spiegel and an evangelist friend from visiting preaching points and areas of new church work. They bounced along for hours, occasionally stopping so his passenger could recover from carsickness.

Another hardship was being separated from family during crises. Spiegel was in Brazil when both of his parents died and had to miss their funerals.

The Spiegels say much patience was necessary to work in Teresina and Piaui, the poorest state in Brazil. Even now, Don Spiegel is pastor of a church where only three members earn more than minimum wage, and some in the congregation cannot read.

"I think the Lord sent us to Teresina because we have patience," Spiegel said. "We don't have to see a lot of big things happening to know we're accomplishing something."

But big things did happen in the communities where the Spiegels worked. They realized children who couldn't attend school would grow up to be illiterate adults who couldn't study the Bible and share the gospel effectively. So, using foreign mission funds, they helped start 10 Baptist schools, which ranged from 50 to 100 students per school. Eventually, government schools replaced the Baptist schools.

But the schools proved ideal for starting churches. The Spiegels usually conducted church services at the schools on Wednesday and Saturday nights and Sundays. Even now, he translates hymns, writes them on

flipcharts and points to the words while his congregation sings. The process helps illiterate church members learn to read.

"Most of our work began by having schools," Spiegel said. Services grew into missions and then into churches. Twenty-five of the 30 Baptist congregations in Piaui have church buildings, thanks to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds. Most began with a pastor whose salary had to be supplemented because members were too poor to support a pastor.

The Spiegels have direct and indirect ties with the starting of 10 churches in the Teresina area.

Early on, Brazilians began seeing the dedication and generosity of the Spiegels, who have loaned money to many Brazilians, even when they knew they probably wouldn't be repaid.

The Spiegels used large chunks from their paychecks to help a church member convert his house into a store and to help a woman build a beauty salon. Aside from helping the individuals, this meant more money would go into church offering plates because the individuals were tithers.

The Spiegels are "as frugal as they are generous," said Southern Baptist missionary Larry York, who worked with the couple for three years.

Spiegel "never throws anything away," York said, adding that the former auto mechanic is quite a handyman. "If he can't fix something, he saves it and uses it to fix something else."

To save money, Spiegel cuts his own hair and re-soles his shoes when they wear out. He carries tools in his car and has never been stranded. When the backyard water pump used to give trouble, he fixed it himself, rather than call a plumber. He upholsters his furniture and repairs his home appliances.

Spiegel has helped lay tile roofs and has installed electrical wiring, lights and ceiling fans in churches, said Genesio Campelo, 72, a Brazilian Baptist. He also has been the organ and piano repairman and tuning expert for churches.

While serving as pastor of churches throughout his career, Spiegel also has been executive secretary for the state convention for 10 years, director of Baptist schools, director of the state Baptist camp, president of the state Baptist board for 10 years, president of the mission for three terms, chairman of the mission finance committee, chairman of the state convention committee for reforming the convention constitution and teacher in a layman's Bible institute.

Betty Spiegel has served as state presi-



Missionary Don Spiegel

dent of the Woman's Missionary Union in Piaui, state Girls in Action leader, Sunday School teacher for all ages, choir director, treasurer at church and for the missionary station, chairman of the finance committee of the state Baptist convention board, director of camps for women and girls at the state Baptist camp and off-and-on director of the Peggy Pemble Baptist Clinic in Teresina.

But she still takes time to listen to people with problems, said long-time Brazilian friend, Didi Rocha. This "special gift for listening" has calmed many a troubled heart, she added.

Campelo has watched the Spiegels come and go on furlough for nearly 30 years and each time felt homesickness when they left, he said. It's a nostalgic homesickness "that only a Brazilian can feel," the aging man said. He and others are feeling that homesickness already, knowing the Spiegels will leave Brazil in August 1989 to retire.

But at least they are leaving behind a missionary son, Campelo noted. David and his wife, Laura, are Southern Baptist missionaries in Campinas, Brazil. The Spiegels' daughter, Martha, is a seminary student in the United States.

And when churches need someone to paint, install lights or make pews, they can call upon Moises Ferreira da Costa, a Baptist handyman whom Spiegel trained.

"The Spiegels' work here for 30 years shows how much they love God and how they have been so persevering," Rocha said. "The Piaui people have been blessed by having someone so faithful for 30 years."

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WORLD

Cuban Baptists Transfer

by Phyllis Thompson
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HAVANA (BP)—The Baptist Convention of Western Cuba has passed the mantle of Southern Baptist mission relationship from the U.S. convention's Home Mission Board to its Foreign Mission Board.

An Oct. 26-27 celebration included a reception at the seminary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, transition services at Calvary Baptist Church in Havana and a luncheon.

Officially, the Foreign Mission Board will begin overseeing the Cuban Baptist work in January 1989. Southern Baptists in the United States have maintained relationships with Cuban Baptists through the Home Mission Board since 1886.

Southern Baptist missionaries left Cuba in 1965, following a military revolution led by Fidel Castro, a member of the Communist Party.

Participants arrived as much as two hours early for the transfer celebration services at Calvary Baptist Church, a century-old historical monument refurbished through efforts of the Home Mission Board and the Cuban military. Eventually more than 1,500 people filled the auditorium, its balconies, aisles and the yard outside.

Leoncio Veguilla, vice president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, told the audience of the historical significance surrounding the service. He explained that through the efforts of home missionaries such as Herbert and Marjorie Caudill, strong music and religious education programs remained a part of Cuban Baptist life.

Veguilla reflected on the dark times following the missionaries' departure: "Those were difficult days for us, but because of the efforts of the Home Mission Board, we were prepared to take up the leadership ourselves. We have remained strong and united."

Veguilla specifically credited Cuban Baptist strength to the leadership of Oscar Romo, Home Mission Board language missions division director and overseer of Cuban Baptist work for 25 years.

"He has been our friend and our leader," Veguilla said, "so much so that we constitute the last 25 years as 'The Romo Years,' for he is the father of Cuban Baptists.

"When it was said that Cuba was closed, he came to us. When we were without money, he came. When we needed glasses, he came. When we needed medicine, books, hymnals, Bibles, whenever we had a need, he came. We owe a great debt to Oscar Romo and the Home Mission Board."

Foreign Mission Board President Keith R.

Parks assured Cuban Baptists his agency would follow the course set by the Home Mission Board 102 years ago.

"It is important that Cuban Baptists realize that the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board are really the same," he said. "We are the channels through which Southern Baptists seek to share the gospel with everyone in the world.

"The same Southern Baptists who prayed for you will continue to pray for you. The same Southern Baptists who supported your work will continue to support your work. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we come to work hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart with you."

Romo, who gave the evening's main address, urged Baptists to broaden their horizons, always looking for ways to witness and minister to people around them.

"The future depends on you," Romo explained. "It can be just as much or just as little as you make it. The next chapter for Cuban Baptists is in your heart."

Rumor Line Opened

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is opening a special telephone line to counter "misinformation and rumors" about its work.

FMB AnswerLine—(804) 254-9403—will be manned by mission board administrators weekdays from Nov. 14 to Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.

"We are trying to provide a straightforward response to any questions or concerns Southern Baptists have," explained FMB President R. Keith Parks. Ongoing tensions in the Southern Baptist Convention have eroded "the level of trust in and credibility of some of our missions efforts," he said.

Because of budget constraints, a regular long-distance call will be needed for FMB AnswerLine.

One example of rumors circulating among Southern Baptists is that the Foreign Mission Board's current budget shortfall will require 1,000 missionaries to return home next year, board officials noted. Another rumor is that the board plans to abandon medical mission work and other human needs ministries, they said.

Both rumors are false, said Bob Desbien, assistant vice president for public relations.

FMB AnswerLine will not replace the board's toll-free PrayerLine, which relays global prayer concerns seven days a week, 24 hours per day.

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