

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

4-7-1994

### April 7, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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



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

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "April 7, 1994" (1994). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 54.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_90-94/54](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/54)

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

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 7

April 7, 1994



**SUMMONED  
TO SERVE**

1994 Arkansas  
WMU Annual  
Meeting

**T**he Ron Greenwich family, Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil, and the Larry Lloyd family, members of University Church, Fayetteville, inaugurate Arkansas WMU's Family Link-up Prayer Strategy. Coverage of the 1994 annual meeting is on pages 6-9.

# Associational revival reaps harvest for Little River churches

Little River Association "reached out to the lost" recently during a unique associational crusade that reaped 24 professions of faith and bolstered church relationships in the association.

Director of missions Don Jones said the outward focus was intentional. "As we set out in the very early stages and selected the steering committee, we emphasized a crusade to win the lost instead of having an internal revival," he explained. "We hoped that would then be a springboard for later revivals in our churches."

David Blase, pastor of First Church, Nashville, said, "Most every thing we do is inward. We had a desire to try to reach out to the lost and we did reach some lost people. We had a packed house in Nashville and even non-Baptists came to the service."

The crusade differed from typical associational revival formats by holding the crusade in five host churches instead of one central location. The host churches included: First Church, Murfreesboro; First Church, Nashville; First Church, Lockesburg; First Church, Foreman; and First Church, Ashdown.

"It was the first time we tried it and I do not know when it has been tried in Arkansas before," said Jones. "We looked at our association and tried to divide it to involve the most churches."

"If you have a central church, you involve churches locally to a great degree," he noted, "but as you move out, you have less participation. So we moved it to the five locations and established a cluster of churches in each location."

Jones said each cluster of churches was responsible for its own counsel or training,

planning and revival choir. As a result, "We had 24 churches out of 27 directly involved in the revival."

The services were led by Angel Martinez, a vocational evangelist from Fort Smith. Jones said Martinez proved to be an effective crusade preacher. "Nashville videotaped the Sunday evening service and played it on the local access TV channel," he said. "We had reports from people aged eight to 80 watching Martinez on air who were saved. Three in the Texarkana area came and made professions of faith and were baptized there."

Blase said a Nashville restaurant owner "said he was saved while watching the service on TV. He told me, 'Right there in front of the TV I was won to the Lord.'"

Jones said the crusade was successful in its mission. "It did do what the steering committee wanted. Our pastors are sharing at this time that we have the sweetest, strongest fellowship among our churches and the crusade enhanced that."

"We had 24 professions of faith, 76 rededications recorded and numerous other ones unrecorded," Jones detailed.

Since the crusade, "we have had reports of others making a profession of faith as a direct result." As word of the successful associational revival format has spread, Jones said the association has already received queries into details about planning such a crusade.

And the credit for that success? "The churches had prayer sessions before the crusade," Jones said. "Every time you have churches praying together you are going to enhance the spiritual awareness of those involved. It pulls them closer together."

## Cover Story

ABN photo / Russ Dickey



### Arkansas WMU 6-9

Focusing on the theme "Summoned to Serve," more than 750 Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union members gathered March 18-19 for the 1994 state WMU annual meeting. Among the features of the event was the introduction of a Family Link-Up Prayer Strategy.

## Also inside

<b>Perspective</b>	
You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Letters to the Editor.....	5

<b>Arkansas Baptists</b>	
Arkansas All Over.....	10
Moral issues conference.....	11
Missionary notes.....	17

<b>Nation</b>	
Firing stirs controversy.....	12
Acting president named.....	12
Leavell plans retirement.....	13
Women's leadership consultation..	14
WMU accepts CBF gift.....	15
SBC presidential candidates.....	16
HMB budget cuts projected.....	20
Stewardship elects leader.....	21

<b>Lessons.....</b>	22-23
---------------------	-------

Next issue: April 21

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

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

Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor  
 Paige Cooper.....Accountant  
 Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. ....Editor Emeritus

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individual) \$6.26 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.08 per year (Group Plan). Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 93 • Number 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Greg Kirksey, Benton, president; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Lucie C. Hagins, Fordyce; Cliff Palmer, Rogers; Brenda Bruce, Newark; Mark Baber, Mariott; David McCormick, Dardanelle; James Preston, Stamps; and Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

# Huckabay inaugurated as WBC president

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

WALNUT RIDGE, AR—Describing Gary C. Huckabay as "a man of unique capabilities," Williams Baptist College trustee chairman R.W. Ross presented Huckabay with the college's presidential seal March 19, officially marking his inauguration as the college's fourth president.

Huckabay, unanimously elected by trustees last summer, began his service as president in August. He previously was dean of the College of Adult and Continuing Education at Dallas Baptist University.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by all three of Huckabay's successors, including H.E. Williams, who founded the Baptist college in 1941. WBC, which has been supported by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 1948, has been a senior college since 1984.

Calvin Miller, professor of communications at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, delivered the inaugural address. Describing education as "creating a hunger to learn," Miller noted, "Humility should be the forte of every educator and I know it is the forte of Gary Huckabay."

Challenging the new president to "live and operate in the Spirit of Christ," Miller added, "In the midst of exercising your vision, never quit being what I've always known you to be—a lover of people."

Among those bringing greetings during the ceremony, state convention executive director Don Moore remarked, "It is easy for me to speak with pride about Williams Baptist College."

Noting that the college "has gone forward on the wings of vision, faith, courage, sacrifice and determination," Moore said he is confident that Huckabay will continue those traits. "You can count on Arkansas Baptists to love you, to pray for you and to continue to support you."

Tommy Holland, mayor of Walnut Ridge, affirmed that "the backbone of any community is its educational system," adding that "words can never express our appreciation and how much Williams Baptist College means to Walnut Ridge."

Joseph Holloway, chairman of the Faculty Senate, said the college "stands on the pathway of history" which includes "a heritage of faith and commitment to Christian education."

Noting that the college's faculty members "are here for the sake of the lives of our students," Holloway affirmed their commitment "to convey to our students the love of learning, the thrill of discovery



Williams Baptist College president Gary Huckabay listens as Southwestern Seminary professor Calvin Miller speaks during Huckabay's March 19 inauguration.

and the delight of pursuing knowledge." He welcomed Huckabay as "a partner and leader in this wonderful task."

Eddie Allen, a graduate of the Walnut Ridge school, brought greetings on behalf of alumni. She emphasized that Williams is "an institution that strives for excellence and invests truly in the well-being of their students."

Shannon Byrd, president of WBC's Student Government Association, said Huckabay is "a man who commands respect," adding that "he seems to know a lot about just about everything."

Affirming that Huckabay "is a man who is an example to all of us," Byrd concluded, "Because of Dr. Huckabay, it is a good time to be a student at Williams Baptist College."

## Presidential response

Huckabay's inaugural response featured an interpretation of the college's "Century Plus Vision," a presidential report shared the previous day with college trustees.

Huckabay said the college's vision "to be an exemplary Christian college with an integrated curriculum of liberal arts and professional studies shaped by a caring people committed to biblical precepts and values" is apropos but "does not exactly roll off the tongue."

Affirming the need for a vision to be expressed through a tangible symbol, Huckabay said the call in Psalm 17:8 to be "the apple of God's eye" is a phrase that "captures a timeless quality for which we should strive as an institution, as a people, as alumni, as Christians."

Placing an apple on the podium, he

said the fruit symbolizes preciousness before God, education, teacher-student relationships, beauty, a wholesome lifestyle, fruitfulness and growth.

"Preciousness begins with a reality and philosophy built around Jesus Christ and the authority of His Word," Huckabay said. "To be the apple of His eye we must be able to give an account of the hope that is within us. We must have graduates who bring that hope to the world."

Emphasizing the need to "educate, equip and enrich for Christ," the new president said education must involve a lifelong effort to gain "not just knowledge, but wisdom." He said Williams must strive to be "an institution where faith and family are as important as facts and figures."

Huckabay said his goals for growth at Williams include "1,000 students, new academic programs for traditional students and adults, programs and resources emphasizing biblical family values" as well as "a new and growing beauty on the campus grounds both inwardly and outwardly."

"Most importantly," he continued, "I see graduates fully prepared to navigate troublesome waters with the Holy Spirit as their pilot and Christ as their lighthouse, leading them to peaceful harbors of wholesome families and eternal joys."

Declaring the apple "to be Williams' symbol of what is best and to be a constant benchmark for our endeavors," Huckabay challenged listeners to "catch the vision and be the apple of His eye with us at Williams and together we will plant seeds for eternity."

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

What a joy it is for me to go in and out amongst our people and see and feel the things that God is doing! From the mountain churches to some of our city churches there is a new spiritual breeze blowing. It is being manifest through packed worship services with some having to go to two services each Sunday morning; large numbers of people being saved who are falling under extraordinary conviction; baby boomer types demonstrating that they will make solid commitments; new buildings being erected; worship services that are alive with the presence of the Lord; and lots of talk from church folk who love their pastors and pastors who love their church folk. I am simply saying that God is at work.

We have a great tendency to try to copy the outward mechanics of things that God does and expect to get the same results. We all know that it is not the methods or materials that work but rather God who works. The most common thread throughout these churches where God is distinctly at work is their study of "Experiencing God." People are learning how to experience God. As they do so, He works mightily in their lives. Their witness, attitudes and influence become dynamic with God's life. Everyone who studies the material does not experience this. Everyone who experiences God as a result of the study is changed.

Please, please, dear church leaders, take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the materials God is using to change the face of Baptist life in Arkansas. We have an Institute through which you can learn about "Experiencing God," "Fresh Encounter," "Prayer Life," "The Mind of Christ" and "Master Life." Henry Blackaby and T.W. Hunt will be here to lead some of these. Whatever else you do for your people, you must help them find ways to walk with God in this world. These are the best helps available. The dates are May 9-12 at Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. (Take I-630 extended to Loyola and turn left.) These are tools that assist people to know and do the will of God.

DOROTHY JACKSON

## Woman's viewpoint

### A real horror story



As the Campers on Mission goulash simmered in the huge kettle, several ladies were engaged in conversation. Those speaking were widows and COM members, giving words of encouragement based on their experiences.

One "horror" story went something like this: The speaker and her husband were in their RV in the mountains, many miles from home. Suddenly he stopped the vehicle, said that he was sick and could not drive any further and that she would have to drive.

He was unable to give her any guidance as to what to push, pull or turn and she had never driven a motorhome. She readily gave credit to God for helping her drive the RV home.

Their "horror" stories made a believer out of me and I began, with the encouragement and support of my husband, to learn to drive our RV.

One of the "horror" stories in the Bible occurred when the disciples were in a ship when a storm came up and made them very fearful. They saw what looked like a ghost, but it was Jesus coming toward them, walking on water! He said, "It is I; be not afraid" (John 6:20).

I heard these words recently as I

was relieving my husband at the wheel of our motorhome. We were on our way to Texas where he was to preach a weekend mission revival and then attend the National COM Rally. I rounded a curve on the wide interstate when suddenly it seemed too narrow at an underpass. All I could see was the big concrete tunnel immediately before me. I was fearful, but Christ was there as I said, "Lord, help me!"....and He did.

I'm thankful for the good counsel my friends gave me. I'm thankful for a husband who wants me to share the driving responsibility as we use our RV, not only for pleasure, but also in mission work for the Lord. Most of all, I praise the Lord for Him "being there" at all times, especially when there is a fearful situation. Isn't that just like Christ, our dearest and closest friend?

Dorothy Jackson is vice president for student development at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. Her husband, Lendol, retired after 40 years in the ministry and is volunteer coordinator of Arkansas Campers on Mission (COM). She also is secretary/treasurer of COM and serves with her husband in various mission endeavors.

## Personal perspectives

"I can't read my Bible when I don't see the word 'go' and I can't see 'go' without saying, 'Here am I, send me.'"

—Kathy Dewbre, Southern Baptist missionary to Transkei

"If you are serious about Jesus being your role model, you must relinquish yourself and become a servant."

—Greg Kirksey, pastor, First Church, Benton

"Destroying someone to advance a larger purpose will in effect destroy that larger purpose, at least from a Christian perspective. Without Christ-like character, there is no credibility to anything we say."

—Guy Greenfield, keynote speaker, Arkansas Baptist Conference on Moral Issues

**Politics produce damage**

I am a 49-year-old Justice of the Peace and a third grade Sunday School teacher in First Baptist Church, Benton, who is concerned about the firing of Dr. Russell Dilday at Southwestern Seminary. Since I operate in the sphere of politics, I can recognize that political process in the action of the trustees. What I see them doing has nothing to do with the Lord's work and His plan and direction, but only with doing politics.

As a Sunday School teacher, I worry about each word and example I use so that the children cannot misunderstand the Lord's message. This concern for the young and tender ministerial minds at the seminary does not seem to have been considered by the trustees. Their methods were simply those of hatchet-men rather than Christian shepherds. God help them for the damage they have caused.

**Robert L. Herzfeld  
Benton, AR**

**No middle ground**

The March 24 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* is appallingly biased. The only items reported were those negative to the firing of seminary president Dilday, and harsh toward trustee chairman Pulley, quotes of liberal/moderates. You are entitled to your editorial or "perspective" expression but the rest was in no way objective journalism. Nor does it represent the denomination.

Southern Baptists were born of a need for evangelical conservatism at a time when mainline denominations were already drifting toward the liberal "enlightenment" Europe was already exporting to the rest of the world from her formal religions.... Enough of this moderate/liberalism! If Jehovah is God then serve Him and if Baal is God then serve him. How long halt you between two decisions? There is no moderate middle ground.

**John Silvey  
Belleville, AR**

**The courage to speak out**

I commend you for your factual and thoughtful editorial concerning the firing of Dr. Dilday at Southwestern Seminary.

I am concerned, however, that in your article "Arkansans voice mixed reactions to firing" you gave so much space to Dr. Ken Lilly. You quoted him as saying, "There are things that have needed to be done for a long time that we couldn't get done." Can you imagine anyone believing

**LETTERS  
TO THE  
EDITOR**

that Dr. Lilly knows better how to run Southwestern Seminary than Dr. Dilday, his staff and faculty and the advisory council?

My husband and I have worked within the SBC more than 50 years and given our tithes and offerings to support all our agencies and just cannot believe that by 1980 we did not have a single honorable man in charge of them so that the fundamentalists have found it necessary to remove the heads of three seminaries, the heads of the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Christian Life Commission and the Sunday School Board. Surely we couldn't have had such bad leadership that they would all have to be removed?

And, yet, where are the reasonable, conservative Christian men in the state of Arkansas that should have been saying, "Enough of this nonsense, I can no longer stand by silent while good men are maligned, disgraced and harassed out of places of leadership?"

I am aware that standing up has often resulted in being fired or labeled and shunned. And maybe I'm asking too much to expect that of our state and associational leaders and pastors, for it is true that I have nothing to lose. My heart goes out to those who would like to speak out but haven't found the courage.

**Wanda McLellan  
Fort Smith, AR**

**Elect Dilday president**

There is a troubling sameness about Russell H. Dilday and Sir Thomas More in 1535. At his mock trial More asked for the charges against him and they replied that they didn't need any for they had the power to do as they pleased. They asked him to recant and his reply was that his first loyalty was to God, not the king. It cost him his head.

My compliments for giving us the facts about the seminary board's actions. My first reaction was anger, then of shame that we preachers had let this happen to our Southern Baptist Convention. Every principle of common ethics was violated, much less the blatant violation to the ethics of our Lord.

What can we do about it? If the pastors who are graduates of our seminaries had

the courage to stand up in their pulpits and tell the people the truth of the last 10 years or so, then at the next Southern Baptist Convention elect Dr. Dilday as convention president, and fully support him, there might be hope for us.

**J. Lowell Ponder  
Farmington, AR**

**Denominational grief**

I grieve for my church. In 1948 I left another denomination and became a Southern Baptist. They opened the Bible and preached Jesus. They talked about missions and witnessing to lost people. They talked about God's love, and the gift of His Son. They talked about the security of the believer. I felt so happy and so free. We talked about the priesthood of the believer, about cooperation of churches.

But through the years we began to talk about numbers, big church buildings, big salaries and recreation. Then we became political. Our preachers got into a power struggle. Men who said they were called to preach the gospel got into politics. Were they just "set aside" until something else came along? There is no higher calling.

God has richly blessed Southern Baptists, but He will never allow the messenger to become more important than the message.

**Flo Cato  
Little Rock, AR**

**Who is for us?**

You really can't tell the players today without a program! We need to have a book that lists alphabetically those that are for us and those that are against us. It has become increasingly harder to tell by the spoken word and the style of life just who our teammates are.

In a recent issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* we read that 6,001 churches reported no baptisms last year. Then we read in the same issue that the president calls on churches to become more active in the fight against crime. This is the president who promotes the violent act of abortion while telling the nation that he is a Christian.

If we want to see more people come to Christ, people must see more Christ in us. The Bible tells us that if we are pleasing the world we are not pleasing God.

Let us unite and live daily the principles that God has called us to live! Let us not promote the issues that the president promotes lest we find ourselves promoting abortion and homosexuality.

**Melba Shoemaker  
Osceola, AR**



# State WMU members 'summoned to serve'

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

More than 750 participants were "Summoned to Serve" during the 105th annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union held March 18-19 at First Church, Benton. The meeting included missions highlights, testimonies from home and foreign missionaries, worship, Bible study and business.

The attendance represented the highest participation in an Arkansas WMU annual meeting since the organization's 1988 centennial celebration. The large number was reflected in a record magazine subscription offering and donations for children's ministries.

Julia Ketner, executive director of Arkansas WMU, said participants gave \$4,126, "the largest ever given," to purchase magazine subscriptions for missionaries with Arkansas ties.

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, an associate in the state WMU department, noted that participants also responded well to a mission action project calling for supplies for children's ministries. Participants donated more than 11,000 non-food items, including more than 3,800 pens and pencils, 168 writing pads or notebooks, 732 toothbrushes and 1,330 bars of soap.

Wisdom-Martin said she was "overwhelmingly surprised" at the amount of donations. They will be used for about 20 different mission projects, including Hope for Hurting Humanity projects at Girls in Action summer camp, distribution at migrant centers, back to school kits for underprivileged children, prison inmates and for homeless children in Houston.

Ketner also said she was surprised by the number of donations, "but I don't know why. I ought to know better. Our people have always responded well to missions needs in the past."

Members also elected state officers and board members, adopted the 1994 state missions offering goal and heard Ketner give the executive board report.

Members elected Barbara Wilkman, a former foreign missionary to India and a member of Fianna Hills Church in Fort Smith, as president. She succeeds Marjorie Grober, a former missionary to Brazil and member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, who served five one-year terms as president. Nadean Bell, a member of Bella Vista Church, Bella Vista, was elected vice president and Donna Fine, a member of Immanuel Church in Fort Smith, was elected recording secretary.

"I've come to this position only with a commitment to be used and to love and



Newly elected Arkansas WMU president Barbara Wilkman (left) of Fianna Hills Church, Fort Smith, and outgoing president Marjorie Grober of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, greet members at a March 18 reception during the WMU annual meeting.

with a willingness to serve missions," said Wilkman. "I have a husband and a family who are very supportive and willing to take on this responsibility. I look forward to getting acquainted with you and working with you as we continue to be summoned to missions."

"I don't believe anyone can fill Marjorie's shoes," Wilkman noted. "She has given total commitment to WMU."

"I think that I can say no greater compliment than she has served in Christ's name," Wilkman added as participants gave Grober a standing ovation.

## 'Excellent leadership'

"I'm excited about the new leadership," Ketner said. "Barbara is organized, is a good thinker and has a heart for missions. She will give excellent leadership."

Ketner shared both "good news and concerns" in her executive board report Saturday morning. She voiced concern for declining WMU membership in the state and a low 1993 state missions offering.

"Our membership is down," she said, "and membership represents people. Our base for support seems to be less and less. That number must increase. We need to look seriously at how we enlist."

She also noted a decline in the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering, which "fell short by more than \$20,000. While the number of churches increased, the amount decreased," she said, emphasizing that the offering is crucial because "the

Home Mission Board has made a 10 percent cut in its budget, which means a 7 percent cut in our missions department. In Iowa, that means \$50,000 less for their work."

Members adopted a 1994 Dixie Jackson Offering goal of \$650,000, which reflects no change from the 1993 goal. "It is still a challenging goal," said Ketner. She explained that the 1994 offering goal could be reached and the 7 percent Arkansas cut could be covered "if all of the churches that gave in 1993 gave the same amount and 200 of the churches that didn't give in 1993 gave only \$175 apiece."

She highlighted the "good news" from 1993, including a restructuring of WMU women's organizations. In 1995, Women on Mission, a new structure, will replace Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women. "Women on Mission will have fewer officers and greater flexibility," Ketner explained. "It is based around small groups to meet specific concerns, meeting times and interests among participants."

She warned that in implementing the new name and structure, "change is not always easy. We tend to have a built-in resistance to change. But change isn't new, we always have changed and we always will."

"I summon each of us to move forward when those changes come, not to be one of those who stand still and risk dying as a missions force," she said. "Names of organizations and titles of magazines are not sacred."

## Foreign, home missionaries share testimonies

Missionary testimonies punctuated the 1994 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, calling attention to home and foreign missions and the calls of those "summoned to serve."

Foreign missionaries Ron and Alana Greenwich recalled God's hand in their lives and in their ministry to Brazilians.

"All of us have been summoned to serve," noted Mrs. Greenwich. "We have been summoned to serve in Brazil and God just deals with us where we are."

Mrs. Greenwich, who is a church and home worker, told participants of a new ministry to "street children" they have recently started. "Brazil has millions and millions of children who live in the streets who come from broken homes or have no homes at all." She requested prayer for the ministry to the street children.

Greenwich's testimony described a home broken by alcoholism, growing up in the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes system and his call to missions. "I felt the call, but it took a couple of years to work through the call and go to Brazil," he said. He has operated the Friendship House ministry in Brazil for 10 years. He said Friendship House ministers to the poor in Brazil, where there is no welfare system. "Compared to being poor in Brazil, being poor in the U.S. is almost a blessing," Greenwich remarked.

Arkansas WMU president Marjorie Grober interviewed state volunteer literacy coordinator Gail Williams of Hot Springs and Doris Nash, director of The Pines multi-housing ministry in Little Rock.

Nash asked participants and their churches to become active in the ministry's youth groups, Backyard Bible Clubs and special events and to "pray and give food" for the ministry. "But the No. 1 need at the apartments is to pray. The devil is active

and there are people there who need to know that God loves them."

Williams called for literacy volunteers in two areas—conversational English and adult reading and writing. "There are 90 million adults in the United States over the age of 25 who do not read," she explained. "And 621,000 of those are in Arkansas."

"If you can read, write and speak English, you can teach it. If you've never had a ministry, you can do this," she said.

Steve and Kathy Dewbre, foreign missionaries to Transkei, expressed gratitude to Arkansas Baptists as they told of their work in the South African country.

"Thank you for the magazines," said Mrs. Dewbre, referring to subscriptions purchased by Arkansas Baptist WMU members for foreign missionaries.

She said she went to college with the "load of having to be a foreign missionary. I tried to see what God wanted me to be." She said "meeting missionary kids and missionaries who took time to explain missions" helped her in her call. "Now I can't read my Bible when I don't see the word 'go' and I can't see 'go' without saying, 'Here am I, send me.'"

### Vision for missions

Her husband shared how his vision for missions came from "growing up in a missions-oriented church," adding that God used Royal Ambassadors, RA camp and youth missions trips "to plant those seeds in my heart."

Dewbre said they work with the Baptist Union of Transkei, which consists of "150 churches and preaching points on a circuit system. Most of our time is spent in training local pastors to do the work of the church in Sunday School growth, leadership, outreach and discipleship ministries."

Fred Loper, the Home Mission Board's

medical ministries director, shared a unique perspective of the meeting's "Summoned to Serve" theme, describing a summons to jury duty and comparing service to serving tables in a restaurant.

"Summons is a pretty serious call," Loper emphasized, adding that Christians "are summoned in the most serious way of all to serve." Affirming the biblical mandate to spread the gospel, he said the summons of the Great Commission "is a command for all of us who follow Jesus."

Describing the role of restaurant servers, Loper compared their work to Christians "being called to serve the bread of life." He pointed out that successful servers must be friendly, efficient and cooperative, adding that they must "treat everybody in an equal fashion."

"You have to like what you do," he added, noting that those principles "apply to serving the gospel food too."

Participants also heard Army chaplain Clyde Van Worth, who described his summons to serve in Somalia. He spoke of how the sight of feeding efforts by Baptists and others benefited Somali children.

"I believe God sent out a call," he said with tears in his eyes. "Do you hear it? It is the tears of the children crying. People are alive today because of you people."

He recounted seeing "straw figures of humanity coming out of the bush" and "how the WMU reached out with hands of help." He also related stories of witnessing to military personnel in Somalia. "And you women were there," he said of Baptist giving and prayer for missionaries.

"You are making a difference," he said, "and if there is anyone in Baptist life keeping missions alive, it is you. There is an African proverb that says, 'A daughter of a lion is still a lion.' I thank you, daughters of the Lion of Judah."

## New WMU program links Arkansans with missionaries

Woman's Missionary Union members were "summoned to be prayer-ers" with missionaries as a part of a new Arkansas WMU prayer emphasis. The Family Link-Up Prayer Strategy will link Arkansas Baptist families with Southern Baptist foreign and home missionaries.

The Larry Lloyd family of University Church, Fayetteville, and the Ron Greenwich family of Brazil kicked off the strategy during the WMU annual meeting as they exchanged pledges to pray for each other.

Monica Keathley, an associate in the Arkansas WMU department, introduced the strategy. "The Lloyds have been summoned to serve and were looking for a more personal way to become involved in missions," she said. "The Greenwich family's summons to serve brought them to Brazil" where they serve as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.

"This is a one-year strategy linking up an Arkansas family with a missionary family with Arkansas ties," explained Keathley. She said it will include an exchange of "birthday greetings, prayer and letters."

"We are looking forward to this year's experience," said Lloyd. "We will commit to you that each night our family will lift your family in prayer." The Lloyds and their three children presented the Greenwiches with family photographs and Butterfinger candy bars—the missionary family's favorite candy.

The Greenwiches then gave the Lloyds a photo of their family. "Your willingness to pray is meaningful to us," responded Ron Greenwich. "We can feel the power of prayer." He then asked the Lloyds to "pray for my family," requesting specific prayer for "my children in their day by day activities and the experiences they face, their needs and their happiness."





## Bible studies review 'summons' for women

Andrea Mullins highlighted how five women in the Bible were "summoned to serve" during a series of Bible studies at the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. Mullins, Baptist Women specialist for the national WMU in Birmingham, Ala., focused on the lives of Esther, Dorcas, Mary, Lois and Eunice in interpreting the meeting's theme.

Mullins was assisted in the theme interpretation by The Group, a dramatic performance team from Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Each performance was written by Group member Bill Mabry, minister to single adults at Park Hill.

Sharing Queen Esther's summons to serve "for such a time as this," Mullins said, "There is a lack of awareness of suffering for such a time as this.

"Think about thrones," she said. "They remind me of the story of Queen Esther. I'm sure Esther had a throne and made decisions affecting many lives. Esther had power and she had wisdom and a kingdom at her beck and call, but she did not know her people, the Jews, were suffering. God sent her uncle Mordecai to show her.

"Isn't this how our lives are?" she asked. "We sit protected on our thrones, but it is not until it comes to our own door that we realize the hurt and suffering in our world."

Mullins said Esther was faced with an "important decision." For Esther to serve her people, she would have to "get off her throne and serve and risk her life. Do important decisions ever come easy? Esther alone could do nothing, but Esther and God could save a nation.

"We are all seated safely on our thrones," she pointed out. "And we hear our Father say, 'There are people perishing, rescue the perishing, rescue the dying.'" She said, though, that Christians often try to reason with God, giving excuses not to help.

"But the Father says, 'For such a time as this, and we climb off our thrones and humble ourselves and we look around' for ways to help others.

In the Friday afternoon session, Mullins recounted the life of Dorcas, a woman summoned to serve through ministry, and the biblical account of Peter raising her from the dead.

"Have you ever given every last thing you have to the Lord?" she asked. "Every cent, every thought, every ounce of your strength to the Lord every day?"

"This woman was abounding with deeds of love," Mullins noted. "Dorcas was no ordinary woman. Everything about her came together in good works" with the widows in her community. "When Peter heard that Dorcas was dead, he found not a woman being buried but a



Members of The Group, a dramatic performance group from Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, interpreted the Bible studies led by national WMU specialist Andrea Mullins during each session of the 1994 Arkansas WMU annual meeting.

woman waiting for a miracle."

Mullins said, "I'm sure Dorcas made the same kind of decisions as we do today. What will I do with my time? My money? She had to make decisions about the use of her skills. Dorcas chose to give all of her time, money and skills to help the widows.

"Dorcas was overflowing continually," she added, "doing acts of kindness and love. If I had a heart and soul desire, I would pour myself out to Him continually.

"Isn't your heart and soul desire to pour yourself out and give every cent, thought and moment in good deeds?" she asked. "And to hear it said of you, 'She was a woman abounding in deeds of love which she continually did?'"

### 'The hard places of life'

During the Friday evening session, Mullins affirmed the summons to serve through faith, highlighting the life of Mary, mother of Jesus.

"What kind of faith enables us to go to the hard places of life with Jesus?" she asked. "The kind of faith that Mary had."

She recounted Mary's pregnancy, the birth of Christ in a stable and fleeing the country to protect His life. "She also saw Jesus misunderstood and persecuted and stood at the cross, helpless, while He died. Mary went to the hard places of life.

Mullins shared Mary's responses to God's will in her life:

■ "When the angel told her of her pregnancy, she replied, 'Behold the bond

slave of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word.' Her faith enabled her to accept God's plan for her life. This kind of submission only comes from a life practicing obedience to the Lord."

■ "Not only had her faith enabled her to submit, but it brought her to one she trusted, who could affirm her; her cousin Elizabeth. We need affirmation and support going into the hard places of life."

■ "Another element we have to grasp is how Mary's faith rejoiced in what God would do in her life and in the world," said Mullins. "There is a big difference in resignation in God's plan and rejoicing in God's plan."

During the meeting's closing session, Mullins described how Lois and Eunice modeled servanthood to Timothy when they were summoned to serve through nurturing and teaching.

"Jesus took teaching and service and put them together in a package," she said. "As He washed the feet of the disciples, He taught them that servanthood passes the faith from one generation to the next."

She related how Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, passed on their faith to Timothy. "I don't think he got it by osmosis. From birth Timothy was nurtured by his mother and grandmother.

"The children of the world are our children and that kind of service can be intimidating, but it is not hard when you love," Mullins said. "Jesus set our example: 'Do to others what I have done for you.'"

## Pastor urges WMU to become servants

The Lord has given Christians a clear example of service, Greg Kirksey told Woman's Missionary Union participants during their annual meeting March 18-19 at First Church, Benton. Kirksey, pastor of First Church, said, "Need does not compel us to serve, but the example of the Lord does."

"Who did you dream of being when you grew up?" he asked. He related how as a boy, he wanted to copy the unusual batting style of baseball great Carl Yastremski. "You will do some rather bizarre things when your role model does that," he noted.

"I'm sure most of you would raise your hands if I asked you if Jesus is your role model," he said, "but I'm not sure we fully understand what it means when we say Jesus is our role model."

"If we are serious about that," he said, "it calls us to behave in what many would consider a bizarre fashion. For Jesus was a servant and that cuts against the grain of who we are."

Kirksey said in John 13 the disciples "stormed into the upper room because they were angry for what would be the final meal with their best friend. And as our Lord watched, it became painfully obvious to Him that these men, after three years, still did not have a clue as to what His kingdom was all about."

He said the disciples did not observe the courtesy of washing each others' feet that night. "It was obvious that the need did not compel them to serve each other."

"Need does not compel us today. Needs are all around us," he said. "But something did compel them to wash each others' feet. Jesus began to wash the dust from the feet of the disciples. While need did not compel them to serve one another, the example of our Lord did."

"He washed their feet for two reasons: Their feet were dirty and their hearts were proud," he said. "The Lord took care of their outside needs and then He took care of their inside needs. Jesus said, 'For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did.'"

He warned participants against "copying the copies instead of the model Himself," warning that "as the progression follows, we become less like our Lord as we copy the copies."

"If you are serious about Jesus being your role model," Kirksey concluded, "you must relinquish yourself and become a servant."

## Arkansans' testimonies offer inspiration, opportunities

Arkansas Baptists shared testimonies of how God has summoned them to serve in a variety of local and out-of-state ministries during the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting March 18-19 at First Church, Benton.

Andrea Ramage, a US-2 home missionary serving in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, shared her testimony and a synopsis of her work for the Mississippi River Ministry.

The MRM is a seven-state Southern Baptist partnership created to meet needs of people in the Mississippi River region through volunteer missions projects.

"The people in this region need our help as much as they do overseas," she noted. "Maybe today some of you have been summoned to serve and can't go to Somalia or other parts of world, but you can serve in Dixonville, Helena or Dumas."

Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director, explained the purpose of Bold Mission Prayer Thrust and its role in Southern Baptists' effort to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

"We as Southern Baptists have accepted the challenge to reach out to all the people of the world," said Sheffield.

He said there are 1 million unsaved people in Arkansas. "We have been called to be heralds and apostles today to reach the 1.2 billion people in the world who have not heard the gospel. Will you be part of God's plan to reach the world?"

Sheffield described the BMPT plan as "an emphasis to help your church in praying for God's purposes in your church and His kingdom." He said two goals of the plan are they every association in Arkansas and the Southern Baptist Convention will have a prayer network and an intercessory prayer ministry.

He said 30 of 42 associations in the state have elected BMPT coordinators and approximately one-third of the state's 1,313 Arkansas Baptist churches have indicated they have a prayer ministry.

Caroline Association WMU director Clemmie Edwards of Cabot spoke of her church's ministry to public school teachers through an appreciation luncheon. "We invited all of the WMU groups to be a part and we advertised in local cable TV and papers," she said. "And we coordinated and prepared food for three luncheon locations. Out of a possible 362 teachers, 300 came."

"We had many positive results from the luncheon," she said. "There was a form to check if they wanted to be remembered in prayer. Many said pray for us and one said,

'No one ever showed they cared for us.'"

Martha Dewbre of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock asked participants to "consider being involved in prison ministry."

Dewbre said she felt called to be active in a prison ministry when she was a resident of Tironza, "but with only a one-cell holdover jail house, I thought maybe it was just my imagination God could use me in prison ministry."

She said that through the following years, news of prison ministries "would become a meaningful part of my life. Park Hill now has become active in prison ministries" and gives personal items, writing tools and has "adopted" indigent inmates. She said her "personal mandate is that every new inmate will receive a Bible."

Steve Jenkins said he was summoned to serve with his wife at Park Hill when she became the church's WMU director.

He said it was by helping his wife that "God began to deal with me on what my service is. They tell us to be bondservants and go to where you are needed," he said. "She has taken a leadership role in my understanding missions and what being a bondservant is. When we are called to serve we're just supposed to say, 'Here am I, Lord, send me.'"

### Acteens testimonies

Members of the 1993-94 Arkansas WMU Acteens Advisory Council gave testimonies of the impact of Acteens on their lives.

Vanessa Atterbury, a member of Second Church in Cabot, said Acteens "is a major part of my life." Atterbury, who served on the state Activator team with flood relief efforts in Iowa, said she has "grown personally. At school sometimes I'm ridiculed as a Christian, but in Acteens I'm accepted for who I am."

Stephanie Edwards of Lonoke Church highlighted mission action projects "that reach out to people" and said Acteens provides "a bond between Christian young girls who love the Lord."

Melanie Neal of Calvary Church in Harrisburg said Acteens "provides me the opportunity to learn mission needs...And the greatest need is that the world accept Jesus Christ as Savior."

Holly Tidball, a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, said she "enjoys Acteens because I can share God's love with others." She told the audience that by serving at the mission center in Hope where she led a worship service and handed out health kits, "I learned I can be a missionary here in my community."

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Staff changes

**Bill Fuller** began serving as pastor of Blytheville First Church on April 3. Fuller previously was pastor of Woodland Hill Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. He is a graduate of Louisiana Baptist College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Dorothy, have two adult sons and two grandsons.

**James Freeman** began serving as pastor of Dardanelle First Church on March 27, coming there from Lee Chapel Church in Percy. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Julie, have two daughters, Jenny and Emily.

**Jerry Threat** has been called as pastor of Plumerville First Church. He and his wife, Viola, are coming from Old Hickory Church near Morrilton where he was serving as pastor. He is a graduate of Baptist Christian College in Shreveport, La., and Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Ala.

**Craig Fry** has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Markham Street Church in Little Rock beginning April 3. He formerly was pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn. He is a graduate of Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., Luther Rice Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and currently is a doctoral candidate at Moody Graduate School.

**Sonny Simpson** recently resigned as pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock to accept the pastorate of Willow Point Baptist Church in Shreveport, La. He had served the church for two years. He and his wife, Marilee, have two sons, Jonathan and Joel.

**Bill Lewis**, retired director of missions for Harmony Association, has accepted the pastorate of South Pinewood Church in Pine Bluff on a limited basis. He will continue to conduct up to one revival a month and will take a four-month leave later in the year to participate in the Arkansas-European Partnership.

**Mark Griffith** has been called as interim pastor of Joiner Church. He and his wife, Monica, have two children. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

**Mark Vaughan** is serving as family life minister at Brinkley First Church. He recently served as pastor of Whitten Church.

**Ricky Blackwell Sr.** is serving as pastor of Etowah Church. He and his wife Nancy have two children, Ricky Jr., and Christy.

**Tim Prock** is serving as pastor of Paris First Church. He came there from Concord Church in Van Buren. He is a graduate of Westark Community College, Oklahoma Baptist University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Lori, are the parents of two sons, David and Daniel.

**Tom Robinson** is serving as interim pastor of Trinity Church in Blytheville. A former pastor of the church, he commutes from Jackson, Tenn.

**Scott Goodman** has accepted the position of youth and music minister at Trinity Church in Blytheville, coming from the same position at Amorel Church. He currently is a student at Williams Baptist College.

**R. Wilbur Herring** will finish his second interim pastorate with Blytheville First Church on April 10. This is his tenth interim pastorate since his retirement from the pastorate of Central Church in Jonesboro.

**Norma Taylor** has retired as director of the Children's Center of Malvern First Church after six years of service. The Children's Center is a preschool ministry of the church.

## Ordinations

Northside Church in Batesville recently ordained Lonnie Tourney as a deacon.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock ordained Robert Austin, Mike Davis, Jim Ewing and David Jones to the deacon ministry on March 13.

Calvary Church in Little Rock recently ordained Archie McMillan, Jeff Showalter, Dale Kenney III and Jonathan Mast to the deacon ministry.

## Church news

Stamps First Church held revival services March 6-9. The revival resulted in 118 decision and average attendance was 138. Rich Kincl, pastor of Magnolia Central Church, was the revival preacher. He was joined by Central Church's minister of education Art Horne, who led the music for the revival. James Preston is pastor.

Owensville Church will hold revival services April 17-20. The evangelist will be Clarence Shell. Music will be led by Clarence Hill. Services begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock will host "Comic Belief," a Christian comedy presentation April 15 at 7:30 p.m. The event will feature comedians Mark Lowry, Chonda Pierce and Mark Steele.



Ironton Church in Little Rock held a noteburning ceremony March 6 upon the liquidation of a 10-year note on the church auditorium. Building committee members participating in the ceremony are (left to right) Homer Perry, Jerral Hult, Shirley Maus, Geneva Horton, Sam Hawkins, Bill Tubbs, Bud Dawson and Derrell Dreher. Bob Shaddox is pastor.

# Moral issues conference pinpoints concerns

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Focusing on such volatile topics as AIDS, gambling, pornography and violence, a group of 60 Arkansas Baptists gathered March 25-26 for a statewide conference on moral issues.

Conference convenor Gerald Jackson, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, said the event "is different than anything our convention has ever done before."

The conference, which had been in the planning stages for three years, was part of the "Strengthen Families" emphasis in Arkansas Baptists' five-year focus on "Building God's Family." The event was coordinated by a 12-member Family Ministry Task Force chaired by Billy White, former pastor of Second Church, Little Rock.

Describing the conference as a "good effort and a needed effort," Jackson acknowledged disappointment with the low attendance. "We wish we could have trained more people," he explained. On the positive side, he added, "I think those who attended left with some practical handles that will help their churches minister to specific needs in their communities."

Keynote speakers for the conference were Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and Guy Greenfield, pastor of Eastern Hills Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., and a former professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Quoting Paul's challenge in Ephesians 5:16 to "redeem the time, because the days are evil," Land emphasized that "we are indeed facing a crisis in the family in America."

Urging Arkansas Baptists to "redeem the time—seize the opportune moment—because the days are evil," Land said, "Our world is wracked by evil, by demonic activity....The days are aggressively evil....We face an appalling crisis of the mind, of the heart, of the spirit."

"Things are bad enough but they are not yet so bad that we are paralyzed into inactivity," he continued. Citing the success of Southern Baptists' "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence emphasis for teenagers, he said today's young people "have seen the refugees of the sexual revolution" and are ready to make positive moral commitments.

Affirming President Clinton's observation that "far too much of what we do



CLC leader Richard Land warned that America is facing "a crisis of character."

around here is secular," the CLC leader added, "We are in a window of opportunity and it's a window we must seize while it is still open."

Outlining major areas of crisis and concern, Land said, "The devastation that has been heaped upon our society by wrong-headed and wrong-hearted world views is a menace. Nowhere has that devastation been more profound than on our families."

Voicing concern over "pagan parental behavior," Land declared, "The family has all but ceased to function in a nurturing, moralizing way in major segments of American culture." He said today's moral crisis reaches every part of society, from inner-city gang members to affluent "mall orphans," adding that Americans "have encouraged and subsidized promiscuity and self-satisfaction."

"The crisis facing our nation is not one of material poverty," he insisted. "It is more serious. It is spiritual poverty. What we have is a crisis of character and a crisis of values."

Although "we have failed utterly as a generation of Americans to obey the commandment to raise our children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord and not provoke them to wrath," Land added, "I believe there is still time." He said the answer is found in the church "reaching out and invading with the gospel, with the transforming power of Jesus Christ."

Presenting the conference's closing message, Greenfield outlined "the biblical mandate for involvement in moral issues."

Although many Christians today focus on narrow, short-range objectives related

to moral issues, Greenfield added, "There are those among us who have the larger picture of God's redemptive plan for humanity." Affirming the goal of "winning the war, not merely some immediate skirmish with the forces of evil," he said "the larger picture" involves "the reign of God in the hearts of people, in our churches, our nation and our world."

Greenfield said Jesus, Paul, Peter and other New Testament leaders "never focused on the family" although they had some important things to say on the subject. "Rather," he explained, "they focused on the kingdom of God."

While the family is a vital part of God's overall interest, he said, "The larger picture is the kingdom, not the family....Being a faithful disciple of Christ is much more important than being a fine parent or mate, or being a respectful and obedient son or daughter."

Greenfield said Christians can "exalt kingdom interests over all other aspects of life" by being "salt" and "light" as Christ instructed in Matthew 5:13-16. "As salt suggests 'being,' light suggests 'doing,'" he remarked, adding that "both being and doing are needed to fulfill this larger kingdom vision."

Warning against using "secular political methods" to advance God's kingdom, Greenfield said, "Destroying someone to advance a larger purpose will in effect destroy that larger purpose, at least from a Christian perspective." As an example, he noted, "You can't honestly claim to be pro-life if you kill an abortionist doctor to make your point." He cautioned that "without Christ-like character, there is no credibility to anything we say."

Greenfield said appropriate Christian action is to "penetrate every nook and cranny of our society where people struggle with moral issues that impact life and family." He urged participants to "bring the light of Christ to banish the moral darkness in which people are trying to find their way."

Emphasizing that "the real test of who we are will be: do we really care?" Greenfield concluded, "The message of the Bible is that God cares, and so should we."

Nine workshop topics ranged from adolescent sexuality to child and spouse abuse. Pulaski County coroner Steve Nawojczyk, addressing the problems of teen violence and gang activity, warned that "we all are to blame for what is happening here." He urged churches to "get involved" by offering positive, productive alternatives which demonstrate "somebody cares."

# Dilday firing continues to stir controversy

Reactions to the firing of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president Russell H. Dilday have continued to mount since his March 9 dismissal by seminary trustees. Among the major developments related to the incident are:

■ **Trustees issue statement:** Trustees hardened their stance against Dilday in a second statement released March 21. After citing "irreconcilable differences" two days after the firing, trustee leaders announced 10 days later that Dilday was fired "because of mismanagement of the institution, and doctrinal and policy differences that caused gridlock between him, the trustees and Southern Baptist Convention leadership." The press release also accused Dilday of insubordination and cited a decline in enrollment of 1,000 students in less than 10 years.

Trustee officers also are mailing a four-page letter to all Southern Baptist pastors and directors of missions at a cost of \$11,000. Seeking to decrease "the shock of the dismissal," the officers offered Southern Baptists an apology "for the appearance of abruptness." The letter then goes on to recount the trustees' "philosophical differences" with Dilday.

Dilday responded that every charge in the trustees' statement and letter is false. "All of these concerns would have been legitimate concerns to be raised at every (annual) personal review. But this is the first time I have seen these," Dilday noted. "This is a group that took action precipitously and now they are trying to find reasons" for the firing. Acknowledging

the concern over enrollment decline, Dilday said all six SBC seminaries have suffered about a 20 percent enrollment decline since 1985-86.

Trustee Wayne Allen called the March 21 list of charges "a cover-up to explain away the actions" taken by fellow trustees. He said the release was the first suggestion of mismanagement, adding that "even the trustees who voted to fire him said he was an excellent manager."

Allen, who initially called for an SBC Executive Committee investigation of the trustees' actions and an emergency meeting of trustees to consider reinstating Dilday as president, met with six other trustees March 29. He said he still disagrees with the trustees' action and methods but accepts their apology as sincere and now believes an SBC investigation "would only bring greater damage to the seminary, to the SBC and the Kingdom's work."

■ **Accrediting agency rebukes:** James L. Waits, executive director of the Association of Theological Schools, issued a written rebuke of the trustees' actions. "We view with utmost seriousness the dismissal of Russell Dilday from the presidency of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary," Waits wrote. "Such precipitous action on the part of any board of trustees is a clear violation of accepted governance practices and places in jeopardy the vitality and basic integrity of the institution. I urge the trustees immediately to reconsider their action."

Waits said a decision will be made whether to convene ATS' Commission on

Accrediting to "raise the question of whether there should be any further inquiry into this matter," adding that the trustee action came without notice and without due process. All six SBC seminaries are accredited by ATS.

Trustee chairman Ralph Pulley said the seminary's relationship with ATS is not threatened. "We are confident that relationship will remain strong when they receive significant information about the situation from us," Pulley noted.

■ **Faculty, students oppose firing:** Southwestern faculty members unanimously approved a letter to trustees which said, "We do not concur with either the action taken by the (board) with regard to our president, nor the manner in which the action was carried out."

The seminary's school of theology released a statement March 23 affirming Dilday as an "excellent administrator" whose doctrinal stance is "completely consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message statement." The theology faculty affirmed Dilday "for leading the seminary with a spirit of Christlikeness and a desire to be inclusive with regard to the finest theological and biblical perspectives represented in the SBC. We deeply regret his firing as president of the seminary."

More than 600 students condemned the firing and asked the trustees to repent of their "un-Christian behaviors" and reverse the action. The resolution charged that the trustees' actions "betray the principles of Christian love and reflect a motivation contrary to the trustees' given

## Southwestern's Tolar named acting president

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—William B. Tolar, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named the school's acting president.

The announcement came March 29 at a press conference called by trustees. Tolar's appointment was made by the executive committee of the seminary's board of trustees, according to trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr.

Pulley, a Dallas attorney, in a written release called Tolar, 65, "a man of impeccable character and unusual qualifications to fill this interim position. He gives a sense of security and his stability and expertise will move the seminary in the right direction."

Tolar said his acceptance of the acting president should not be considered as an endorsement of the trustees' March 9 firing of former president Russell H. Dilday. "My acceptance of these responsibilities does not mean that I concur with the action of dismissing Dr. Dilday nor the manner in which it was done. He is a cherished friend of 46 years and a great leader. It would please me beyond all words if a reconciliation could be made between him and the board of trustees," Tolar said.

Dilday told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in an interview that Tolar is the "best option" to bring order and calm in the chaos among the faculty and students.

Tolar said his goal is to help faculty, students and staff "redeem the remainder of the semester" and to allow the seminary to continue its academic excellence. He said he also is committed to maintaining academic freedom at Southwestern.

"I'm committed to that as an academic person and cannot continue in the present position if I feel that academic freedom is threatened," he said. "This would be one of my high commitments — that these professors be allowed to research, study and present different views with our commitment known that we are committed to the Scriptures, and to God, to the Christian faith, no apology there, but that we do have the opportunity to explore and examine and look at different issues."

Bruce Corley, dean of the school of theology, read a statement issued by the faculty and administrative staff of the seminary. The statement endorsed Tolar as "the best person to lead the seminary now through these troubled days."

"Our sense of direction, commitment to our student body and eagerness to do God's work are strengthened by his choice, but we reiterate the resolution approved by the faculty on March 10 that we do not concur with either the action taken by the board of trustees with regard to (Dilday), or the manner in which the action was carried out."

responsibilities to hold the seminary in trust."

■ **Financial impact:** President Dilday's firing has cost Southwestern Seminary at least \$15 million in gifts and pledges, according to a memorandum sent to the seminary's 114-member Southwestern Council. The memo from council chairman John McNaughton and past chairman Jerry Yowell said 20 to 25 members of the council have resigned and "more resignations are coming daily."

"It is definite that at least \$15 million in gifts and pledges have been cancelled in total at the seminary and it is expected that the total will continue to rise as individuals, institutions and foundations cancel their gifts and pledges," they reported.

Pulley said he cannot gauge what impact the loss of pledges will have on the seminary. He said the decision to dismiss Dilday was not made "on a basis of whether we're going to lose dollars or not lose dollars. It's a whole lot deeper than that."

In a related development, Mississippi pastor Frank Pollard, chairman of the seminary's Vision for Excellence fundraising campaign, said he cannot "in good conscience" be involved in raising money for the school at the present time. Pollard said he is "not stomping out forever" but feels "it is not a good time to be asking for money from Southwestern alumni." He said he is "personally hurting because a friend I loved has been wronged, the seminary abused and the denomination once again embarrassed."

■ **Texas pastors meet:** Texas Baptists outraged by Dilday's dismissal met March 26 with leaders of the state Baptist convention to discuss ways to voice their displeasure. The consensus, according to participants, was to work through established denominational channels and not pursue radical measures. Some Texas Baptists are calling for the convention to reduce the portion of contributions passed on to the national Cooperative Program in protest of the trustee action.

■ **Trustees evaluate methods:** An "overabundance of caution" and "business world protocol" prompted trustees to order the lock changed on Dilday's office and his computer access code erased, according to trustee spokesmen. If they had it to do over again, said trustee search committee chairman Miles Seaborn, they might have done it differently, possibly sending someone with Dilday to get his belongings rather than locking him out.

Insisting that the action was not meant to "rub salt into the wounds," Seaborn added, "When we look back, all of us think it might have been over-cautious on our part, an overabundance of caution. But misguided as it might have been, it was for his (Dilday's) protection."

## New Orleans trustees approve Leavell's retirement plans

NEW ORLEANS (ABP/BP) — Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will retire by the end of 1996 but leave the presidency to become chancellor before then.

Leavell, 67, reached an agreement with the school's trustees to retire when he turns 70 in December 1996. The trustees unanimously approved the agreement during their March 15-16 meeting.

Chairman Ed Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ocala, Fla., said Leavell will move to the chancellor's post to assist the school in fund-raising. Leavell will choose when to make the move, Johnson said, adding, "He did not give us a time when he expected that to happen."

He noted that Leavell "did not feel any pressure from our board" to schedule his retirement.

Leavell agreed. "In fact, they had a committee talk with me (several years ago) and told me to think in terms of 70, then to go year by year," he said. "It's been real loose."

While other Baptist seminary presidents have had contentious relationships with their trustees, Leavell and New

Orleans' board have been spared any major flare-ups over the years.

"There has been no pressure on me to compromise any conviction I've got," the president said.

A resolution from the board of trustees, who expressed "unanimous and sincere appreciation" to Leavell "for his dynamic and creative leadership," added that "the entirety of his service has been characterized by faithfulness and integrity," and "his spirit of cooperation has fostered unity and love within our trustee board."

Trustees also presented a resolution for the seminary's administration, faculty and staff, expressing "heartfelt thanks and appreciation for an outstanding job."

Three faculty additions were approved: Charles L. Register as assistant professor of evangelism in the division of pastoral ministries; Francis X. Kimmitt as assistant professor of general studies in the School of Christian Training; and Allen Jackson as assistant professor of youth education in the division of Christian education ministries.

Trustees also approved a budget of \$8.3 million, 9 percent over the current fiscal year.

## SEBTS evangelism chair endowed, trustees okay curriculum changes

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP) — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, during their annual spring meeting, March 14-15, voted to establish a professorial chair of evangelism, approved curriculum changes adopted by the seminary's faculty and formed a committee to study the feasibility of offering undergraduate courses at the seminary.

Board chairman Ned Mathews, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., read a letter from the donors whose gift will sustain the chair of evangelism. The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, expressed gratitude for Southeastern's evangelistic emphasis and commitment to the authority of Scripture.

Trustees voted to establish the chair in response to the \$1 million commitment and in honor of Southern Baptist evangelist Bailey Smith, a former Southern Baptist Convention president.

Trustees in a unanimous vote accepted faculty-approved changes to

Southeastern's current master of divinity degree program. In his report to trustees and during subsequent discussion, seminary president Paige Patterson said the curriculum revision will "have a stronger emphasis upon the biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew, should more adequately equip God's ministers for the pastorate and for church growth and will reflect a return to classical theological education." He said the new curriculum will be available to students as early as the fall 1994 semester.

Trustees established an ad hoc committee which will study the possibility of offering upper-level undergraduate courses at the seminary.

"What we envision is a curriculum which would offer up to 70 hours toward the completion of a B.A. in biblical and theological studies," Patterson said.

In other actions, trustees increased matriculation and housing fees and formed a committee to study whether Southeastern should continue granting tenure to its professors.

# Women's leaders discuss ministry strategies

By Debbie Moore

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Southern Baptist women's ministry leaders heard representatives from Woman's Missionary Union, Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board discuss new initiatives during the recent Women's Leadership Consultation IV and "Lord, Change Me" women's rally at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Fourteen speakers addressed the fourth annual event, with the theme of "Think Globally, Act Locally."

"Missions is our reason for being," Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, told the meeting of women's ministry leaders. In the wake of recent major changes in women's ministry programs at both the Woman's Missionary Union and the Baptist Sunday School Board, O'Brien said, "Having the opportunity to meet and learn from women leaders throughout the Southern Baptist Convention has been beneficial in promoting mutual understanding, sharing resources and cooperative ventures."

Betty Jo Lewis, wife of Home Mission

Board president Larry Lewis, emphasized, "Missions education is our link to the past and our lifeline to the future."

Women will fulfill their search for significance as they obey and fulfill the Great Commission, Lewis said. "That will last," she declared. "That is significant stuff."

## Targeting 'unique needs'

Denise George, women's enrichment ministry specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board, presented the BSSB's new vision statement for women's ministries: "We help churches begin and build ministries that meet the unique needs of women, reach women for Christ, disciple women in Christ and equip women to reach out to others through resources, training and enrichment events, consulting and networking."

Hundreds of women's ministries are springing up in churches all over the United States, said George, who assumed her newly created position at the BSSB four months ago. The BSSB's new approach to women's ministry "has been met by overwhelming enthusiasm, she said. "I want this ministry to women to begin at

the foot of the cross and stay there."

Keynote speaker Lee Ezell spoke about an idea she called the "Cinderella Syndrome," a tendency women have to wait for "some day."

"The difficulties in your life will not magically go away," Ezell said. "You can find happiness and contentment right where you are... Happiness isn't in getting what you want; it's in enjoying what you've got."

Chuck Kelley, associate professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary, presented statistics about change, baby boomers, baby busters and correlations to today's church. For instance, baby boomers, unlike their grandparents and parents, are "a generation that doesn't ask if there is an SBC church in the neighborhood" when they move to a new location, he said. "Relationships, a place where they feel a connection, is more important than a denomination" for baby boomers.

"Women's ministry is a priority in the recovery of the church," Kelley said, citing statistics showing the plateau and decline of many churches today. "We'll never turn it around without women's ministry."

young musicians camp

1994

Jesus  
IS THE  
Song

June 27-30

Ouachita Baptist University

See your Music Ministry Handbook  
for details or call 376-4791 ext. 5121

A Cooperative Program Ministry of  
Church Music Ministries,  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

## FOUR CHOIRS & FOUR MUSICALS & FOUR DIRECTORS

### CHOIR I

50th Annual Polk County Picnic.....Ladonna Williamson

### CHOIR II

A Technicolor Promise..... Judy Rogers

### CHOIR III

Paul & Co. ....Glenda Riddle

### CHOIR IV

Good Kings Come in Small Packages.....Cyndy Hewell

Drama Emphasis & Peanut Olympics

& Talent Show & Swimming

& Daily Worship & Music Activities

## FEES

	BY	AFTER
Postmarked	May 31	May 31
Camper	\$60	\$70
Counselor	\$60	\$70
Camper without Counselor		
Additional	\$5	\$15

Teach someone to speak English!

Learn how at the

## Conversational English Workshops

(Teaching English as a Second Language)

April 7-10 • Blytheville FBC

• Contact Beth Reynolds  
at 762-2516

April 28-30 • Grady FBC •

Contact Raymond H. Reed  
at 479-3617

Cost: \$18

Workshop leader: Gail Williams,  
Literacy Coordinator.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

To schedule Conversational English and  
Adult Reading & Writing Workshops,  
contact Gail Williams at 922-4236.

### THE ARK

CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER

15 MILES TO EUREKA • 30 BRANSON  
ACCESS TO TABLE ROCK LAKE • MAIN BUILDING FOR MEETINGS  
16 ROOM (2 HANDICAPPED) 2 DOUBLE BEDS & BATH  
GAME ROOM • FULL SIZE GRM • EQUIPPED KITCHEN  
BOX 152 EAGLE ROCK, MO 63641  
(417) 271-4530 / (417) 442-3496



Quality  
VAN Sales

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



## imperial

PEWS—PULPITS  
STAINED GLASS

Manufacturer Serving the Nation, Since 1960

1-800-234-6624

## Health Insurance Unaffordable?

Call All Sains  
1-800-259-0095

This scriptural concept  
of burden sharing is  
the alternative to  
expensive insurance.

- People helping people.
- Pay only \$300 + 20%  
of first \$5000.
- \$122 per mo. average  
family burden share.
- Assistance with  
maternity expenses.

## NATION

# WMU reaffirms '93 board action, accepts \$100,000 gift from CBF

By Susan Doyle

SBC Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board unanimously has reaffirmed its January 1993 decision to accept contributions to be used for WMU and related missions needs and has accepted a one-time gift of \$100,000 from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The CBF coordinating council approved the no-strings-attached gift at its February meeting in appreciation for WMU's contribution to world evangelization. WMU did not request and was not aware of the donation prior to the decision.

Although some SBC leaders, including Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin, had suggested WMU not accept the gift, WMU joins the ranks of other Southern Baptist entities to receive money through CBF channels.

In the last three years, more than \$8.5 million has been given by Southern Baptists through the CBF to agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, including more than \$4.7 million to the Foreign Mission Board.

The SBC Executive Committee approved a motion at its February meeting for its officers and staff to study the impact of CBF funds received by SBC entities and recommend "the acceptance or rejection of said funds" at the Executive Committee's June meeting just prior to the annual SBC meeting in Orlando.

"It is significant to us that the money which has been given to WMU has come from Southern Baptists," said Carolyn Miller, national WMU president.

"WMU does not receive money from Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program as do Southern Baptist Con-

vention agencies," she noted. "However, WMU does receive annual gifts of appreciation from the Home and Foreign Mission boards. Anytime we receive a gift in appreciation for our contribution in missions it is especially meaningful."

Rankin, who had expressed concern about the gift during a meeting of the SBC Missions Education Council, voiced gratitude "for all the WMU does as a partner in missions education and promotion of prayer and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering." He added, however, "At a time when we are seeing record missionary appointments and unprecedented response overseas, we regret that WMU is being put in a position of divided loyalty."

### WMU loyalty defended

Deliana O'Brien, WMU executive director, responded, "There is no divided loyalty. We've always been and continue to be loyal to Southern Baptists and to our missions cause.

"I fail to see where we can be accused of being disloyal," she said, "when we have simply accepted a one-time gift of \$100,000 from a group of Southern Baptists who have contributed out of their loyalty to Southern Baptist missionaries to give significant amounts to the Home and Foreign Mission boards. In just this past year alone, they have given almost \$2 million to the two mission boards."

O'Brien reiterated WMU loyalty from the standpoint that it promotes only the offerings of the HMB and FMB; produces ongoing missions education materials, exclusively for the two boards; and seeks to train children and youth to be missions leaders of tomorrow.

"Missions has been and always will be WMU's only purpose for existence," O'Brien emphasized.

## Last Chance! Henry Blackaby

5-NIGHT CRUISE  
"Experiencing God" "Fresh Encounter"  
As low as \$649 per person  
Alaska Cruise 1335  
Mediterranean (Paths of Paul) 1495  
Christian Singles 545  
Walk Thru The Bible 495

Call Celebration Tours  
1-800-99 TOURS  
(1-800-998-6877)

## ASC

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
SIGNALING SYSTEMS  
CONTRACTOR

### Arkansas Sound Corporation

7000 Remount Road  
North Little Rock, AR 72118  
Serving Arkansas since 1977

For All Your COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

Ask for our church sales rep. David Dillard has 25 years experience in music ministry and is here to assist you in selecting the right sound system for your needs.

STATEWIDE SALES AND SERVICE

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE SURVEY  
(501) 753-5674 AR WATTS 1-800-441-1272



# Henry joins Wolfe in race for SBC presidency

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., ended speculation about his candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention with an announcement March 27 of his church that he will be nominated but "not have a structured campaign effort."

"After much prayer, thought and counsel, I believe it to be God's will that I offer myself as a candidate (for president)," Henry told his congregation in a prepared statement following the morning worship service.

Instead of a "structured campaign effort," Henry told the church he will "trust the Holy Spirit to speak to the hearts and minds of my brothers and sisters in Christ as they choose their leadership for the near future. In that process and in the sovereignty of God I have complete trust."

The announcement assures messengers to the June 14-16 annual meeting of the SBC in Orlando of at least a two-person ballot. Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., also is an announced candidate.

Wolfe was publicly endorsed Feb. 8 by two former SBC presidents, Jerry Vines and Charles Stanley, at a ministers' Bible conference at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. Vines is co-pastor of the Jacksonville church and Stanley is pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta.

After reading his statement to the church, Henry said he did not equate God's leadership in his candidacy "necessarily with victory," nor did he want the congregation to pray for his victory.

"I have complete peace that I will be in God's will, win or lose," he said. And, he added, he hopes following the election the SBC will become a unified people.

## High-profile pastors

Both Henry and Wolfe are high-profile pastors who are friends; Wolfe once nominated Henry for president of the SBC Pastors' Conference. Both are considered conservatives among Southern Baptists. Both are 56 and have held their current pastorates for a long time. Henry has been at Orlando for more than 16 years and Wolfe has been at Mobile for 23 years.

Neither has indicated who will bring nominating speeches at the June meeting. Wolfe has received the backing of a group of 60 to 70 conservatives who meet periodically, including with Wolfe after the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, Tenn., in February.

There has been speculation Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, would nominate Henry. However, Graham told Baptist Press March 28 that it was Henry's decision and it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the matter. He said he is praying about the matter, has spoken to

Henry once recently, and suggested there were a number of people who would be willing to nominate the Florida pastor.

Apparently, Wolfe will have the backing of many of the former SBC presidents while Henry's supporters say he can bridge a growing split among conservatives in the SBC. Southern Baptists opposed to the recent firing of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary may use Henry's candidacy as a way to express their displeasure with the current SBC leadership.

Henry told his congregation he would like to focus on the future and "build community and fellowship and love in this body." Anyone who believes in the inerrancy of the Bible and sees evangelism as the "heartbeat" of the SBC should be welcomed, Henry said.

Henry's church led the entire SBC in giving to the Cooperative Program in 1991 and '92. According to the March 28 issue of *The Orlando Sentinel*, the Orlando church gave \$896,983 in 1993 or 14 percent while Wolfe's church gave \$199,681 or about 5 percent of its regular undesignated offerings in 1993. Wolfe, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, said last year he would lead his church to raise its CP giving by half a percent each year until it reaches 10 percent.

Wolfe told the *Sentinel* he was not disappointed Henry decided to run. He expects the race to be close.

## VINEYARD WORKERS

are needed in those parts of God's vineyard known as the Baptist Children's Home and the Baptist Boys Ranch. Come and plant seeds of belief, love and hope in the lives of children and youth. Help us bring about forgiveness and restoration. Laborers (houseparents) are needed. Prayerfully consider becoming a member of our ministry family. Call Royce Aston at 367-5358 at "the Home" or Clint Morrison, 741-4362, at "the Ranch."

## You know what makes your church special. Does your insurance company?

Over 6,600 Southern Baptist churches know that Church Mutual does. Church Mutual believes that a free, on-site insurance inspection is the only way to provide a policy tailored to the needs of each Southern Baptist church...including yours.

This free, on-site inspection is only the start of Church Mutual's personalized service. It continues with fast, fair handling of claims. To request your free insurance inspection, call Church Mutual's Arkansas office toll-free today at 1 800 451-3354.

Discover personalized protection  
from *The Specialist*:  
Church Mutual.



© 1994 Church Mutual Insurance Company

## MISSIONARY NOTES

**Charles and Mary Barham**, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 906 E. 32nd St., Bryan, TX 77803). He was born in Prescott. She is the former Mary Kveton of Texas. They began serving with the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

**Randy and Anita Jordan**, missionaries to South Korea, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Yeo Eul Do, P.O. Box 165, Seoul 150-601, Korea). He was born in Fort Smith. She is the former Anita Couch of Oklahoma. They were appointed in 1993.

**James and Kathryn Ingram**, missionaries to France, are on the field (address: Lieu Dit Grange Neuve, 38550 Auberives Sur Varceze, France). He is a native of Virginia. The former Kathryn Wadley, she was born in Paragould and considers Searcy her hometown. They were appointed in 1989.

**Guy and Elena Key**, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Rua Dr. Joao Keating 55, Jardim Novo Voltafofo, 13070-230 Campinas, SP, Brazil). Both are children of missionaries. He considers Rio de

Janeiro, Brazil, and North Little Rock, his hometowns. The former Elena Cowser, she considers Goiania, Boias, Brazil, and North Little Rock, her hometowns. They were appointed in 1984.

**Orville and Edith Jenkins**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field (address: Box No. 47834, Nairobi, Kenya). He grew up in Texas. She is the former Edith McSwain of Ethel. They were appointed in 1975.

**Sam and Bonnie Turner**, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 30405, Nairobi, Kenya). He is a native of Van Buren. The former Bonnie Sherman, she grew up in Ohio and Pennsylvania. They were appointed in 1970.

### Classifieds

**Part-time youth minister needed**—Send resumes to Baugh Chapel Baptist Church, Rt. 2 Box 528, Austin, AR 72007.

**Music/youth minister**—Northside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3, Monticello, AR 71655, accepting resumes for this bi-vocational part-time position.

**Youth minister search**—Casas Adobes Baptist Church announces search for a youth minister for grades 9-12. Our current Sr. High Sunday School enrollment is approximately 530. Call Rhonda Sprunger at 602-297-7238 or write 2131 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ. 85741-2699 for additional information.

**35 used choir chairs for sale**—theatre-style, lift seats, blue, good condition. FBC, Brinkley (501)734-2571.

**Work when you can from your home**—marketing video Sunday School tapes to churches in your area. Good commission! 800-222-9344.

**Orlando Convention Arrangements**—Choice accommodations/shuttle service. Disney-Convention combination packages. Discount airfares. CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS 1-800-972-8952.

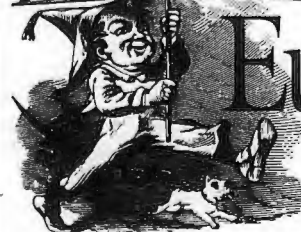
Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

Are your Seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an Aisle, Raised Roof & Electric Step. Call Trinity Transportation Today!



1-800-330-3822 • (817) 458-4844  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

INSPIRING.  
EXCITING.  
FUN.



# Eureka!



Inn of the Ozarks has a plan for a great group outing in Eureka Springs: a money-saving package that includes INNcomparable lodging plus visits to The Great Passion Play, Eureka Springs Gardens and other famous Eureka Springs attractions.

Have you toured beautiful Thorncroft Chapel? The Christ of the Ozarks Statue? Historic St. Elizabeth's Church? Visit those landmarks also as part of the package—plus take in one of Eureka's famous country music shows—and enjoy dinners and breakfasts at Myrtle Mae's Restaurant plus other perks.

Can't get a group together? Ask about our Spring and Fall Family Days Special.

### Spring & Fall Special\*

3 Days, 2 Nights - 4 to a room  
April 28-June 9 & Aug. 14-Sept. 8 - \$101  
June 10-Aug. 13 & Sept. 9-Sept. 30 - \$111  
Oct. 1-Oct. 31 - \$115

\*Sunday & Wednesday arrivals subject to 10% discount.  
All rates apply to groups of 20 or more.

**INN OF THE OZARKS**  
Resort & Conference Center  
P.O. Box 431 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632 • (501) 253-9768

# EUREKA SPRINGS

"Over 100 Years in the Making"

## SONSHINE INN

(Open All Year)

- Ideal for Small Groups or Families
- Large Meeting/Living Room
- Four Large Bedrooms
- 2 Baths and Kitchen Fully Furnished
- Group Rate - \$12 Per Person

Rt. 1, Box 459 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
(Next to Ozark Mountain Hoe-Down)

501-253-6095

## THE OUTPOST

Everybody's  
One Stop  
Convenience Store

- Delicious Sandwiches Made to Order
- Grocery Deli
- Fishing Supplies
- Gas
- Ice

Open 5:00 a.m. Till After the Passion Play  
(with the Coffee Pot On)

Hwy. 62 West

Between Berryville & Eureka Springs

Wayne & Robbie Giles  
Owners

423-2236

## OZARK



### HERITAGE CRAFT VILLAGE

THE OZARKS' FAVORITE  
HANDMADE GIFT SHOP

- Woodcarving shop
- One of the Ozarks' largest craft inventories
- Hundreds of different items from over 200 crafters
- Handmade quilts • Pottery
- Walnut crafts • Hams, jams, jellies & other fine Arkansas food products
- Soft toys
- Cedar chests • White oak baskets
- Pecan sculptures, country rockers & chairs

Located on Scenic Highway 7

Exit 81 off I-40 • Russellville • 968-3941



# THE 1876 INN



Where You're a Stranger Only Once



- Clean
  - Comfortable
  - Secure
  - Friendly
  - Helpful
  - Professional
- TOLL FREE  
RESERVATIONS  
800/643-3030**

THE 1876 INN  
Route 6, Box 247  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
501/253-7183



1876  
RESTAURANT

◆◆◆ AWARD



EUREKA SPRINGS,  
ARKANSAS



We're  
Not  
No. 1...  
YOU ARE!





**OZARKA LODGE**  
Your Natural Choice In Eureka Springs!



- **LOCATION** – Junction Highways 62E and 23S, Heart of The Attraction District
- **QUALITY** – Sparkling clean accommodations, nonsmoking rooms available
- **SERVICE** – Friendly, attentive staff
- **EXTRAS** – Great views, outdoor pool, HBO, complimentary a.m. coffee and tea

"We enjoy having you as our guest"  
Ozarka Lodge, Rt. 6, Box 8  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
Ask about Value Day Rates  
Reservations: 1-800-321-8992  
Information: (501) 253-8992




**Dixie LODGE**

**Reasonable Rates**  
**1-800-643-2233**

Located Within Walking Distance  
of Pine Mountain Jamboree



The Best For Less  
**Traveler's Inn**

- Family owned & operated
- Sixty clean comfortable rooms
- Remote control TVs
- Large Pool & Picnic Area
- In Room Phones
- Perfect Location -  
Walk to Pine Mountain Jamboree,  
10-Restaurants & Gift Shops
- Golf available (private course)
- **Trolley Stop**
- Reservations made free to all attractions
- Group discounts available



**TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS**  
**1-800-643-5566**  
Rt. 1 Box 269, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Church Groups of 12 to 160 People:  
For the Best (\$12.50) Seats  
at the Great Passion Play

Reserve now at  
Keller's Clean Comfortable  
**Country Dorm Resort**



RL 4, Box 554, Eureka Springs, AR

**Super-Economical \$30 Package**  
now includes Best Tickets (first 18 rows),  
swimming, air-conditioned lodging & meals!  
(EXTRA night's lodging just \$10 ea.)  
Call 501/253-8418 for Reservations

ARKANSAS #1 MUSIC & COMEDY SHOW!

**NOW YOU'RE HAVIN' FUN!**

Showtime 8 p.m.  
Reservations:  
(501) 253-9156

The Drennon's  
**Pine Mountain Jamboree**



Highway 62 East, Rt. 1, Box 283 • Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

**WORLD**

## Killing leaves Mexico in shock

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico felt the nation's shock March 24 in the wake of Mexico's first political assassination since 1928.

Luis Donaldo Colosio, expected to become Mexico's next president, was shot in the head and abdomen March 23 while campaigning in Tijuana, just across the U.S.-Mexico border from San Diego. Colosio, presidential candidate of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, died three hours later while undergoing emergency surgery. A 23-year-old Mexican confessed to the killing.

Mexico's President Carlos Salinas de Gortari declared a national day of mourning March 24, urging Mexicans to maintain unity and calm. Salinas had chosen Colosio as his party's presidential candidate for the Aug. 21 election.

"We're seeing people in shock," said Larry Gay, Southern Baptist representative in Mexico City, in a phone interview March 24. "As two (Mexicans) said to me this morning, 'My whole world seems to be crumbling down around me right now.'"

No Southern Baptist workers feel directly threatened by the violence, but "some people will look over their shoulder a little more than they did in the past," said Gay. "They'll feel disoriented because things just aren't the same.

"We're affected, not to the same degree, but in the same way any Mexican is affected," he said. "It's a direct violation of our stability and security, the political process, everything that goes into the well-being of the country."

The Colosio assassination came on the heels of a January uprising in Mexico's Chiapas state. That violence – led by guerrillas of the self-proclaimed Zapatista National Liberation Army – marked the country's first armed conflict since the 1970s.

Despite the latest violence, Gay doesn't think Mexico is plunging into political and social anarchy. "Granted, that always can happen. But I don't think that's where we're headed," he said, adding that much of Mexico's unrest stems from economic conditions.

Gay called on Southern Baptists to pray for peace in Mexico. "Pray that we and our Mexican Baptist brothers will be instruments of that peace."

Baptists in Mexico are trying to help do that through relief work among Indians who fled their homes after recent rebel violence in Chiapas. More than 200 Mexican Baptist volunteers have helped feed hundreds of refugees in relief kitchens near the combat zone.

## Decreased income for HMB means reduced projects, personnel in '95

ATLANTA (BP)—The Home Mission Board is projecting a 1995 budget that is 6 percent less than this year's budget, requiring reductions in missions projects and personnel, officials said.

"The revenue flow has just not caught up with the costs," said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance.

The estimated income from all sources in 1995 is \$4.1 million less than 1994's total budgeted income, Kelley said. Much of the reduction reflects a decrease in surplus funds carried over from previous years, he said.

President Larry Lewis said the cuts must come both at the Atlanta office and in cooperative missions funding with state Baptist conventions. "We're all going to have to bear that burden."

Reductions initially will target unfilled positions and projects that are low on the priority list, Lewis said. "To me, taking money from missionaries and congregational support funds will be my absolute last choice."

Nevertheless, HMB officials said they are not optimistic all cuts can be made without eliminating some positions which are currently filled.

Veryl Henderson, director of missions for the Hawaii Baptist Convention, said the cuts will negatively impact missions work there.

"We will need to pull back on some of the pledges that we made two years ago," he said. A silver lining, he added: "We may get more laypeople involved, which would be a nice change anyway."

Lewis said all options will be explored and HMB planners will negotiate the reductions with state officials. "Nothing will be done unilaterally from Atlanta. Everything will be done cooperatively."

He repeated his call for Southern Baptists to redouble their efforts in support of the 1994 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. "If the home missions offering this year is significantly above our projections, we can considerably reduce the impact of these budget reductions for next year."

### A.B. Culbertson and Company

invites your indication of interest to:  
**FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS**

EARN UP TO: **8.75%**

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed Culbertson IRA. Transfers and rollovers accept, in most cases.

Interest Payable Semiannually by Check

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

### A.B. Culbertson and Company

Financial Services Since 1954



1250 Continental Plaza  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102



Member: Midwest Stock Exchange

For more complete information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at a face value plus accrued interest, subject to prior sale.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Marlin Northern, Branch Manager Call:

P.O. Box 1302 (800) 466-3007

Benton, AR 72015 (501) 778-5700

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Bonds currently being offered by A. B. Culbertson and Company.

## Steeple & Baptistries



From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

- Steeples
- Bells
- Towers
- Towers
- Towers
- Towers

- Kinnegart
- Windows
- Baptistries
- Towers
- Towers
- Towers

1400 2nd Street  
P.O. Box 100  
Henderson, TN 38550-1000



FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

Mark Lowry  
PRESENTS  
**COMIC belief**

Chonda Pierce  
Mark Lowry  
Mark Steele

Friday, April 15, 1994  
7:30 p.m.  
Park Hill Baptist Church  
JFK at "C" • North Little Rock • 753-3413  
Tickets — \$7.00 In Advance, \$8.00 At the Door

The Finest in Christian Comedy!

A Symbol To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett  
Healy & Roth  
Little Rock

Forest Hills  
Memorial Park  
Little Rock

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills  
LITTLE ROCK MEMORIAL PARK • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

GROSS  
FUNERAL HOME  
1944 Spring

PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

## The Arkansas Baptist's

# CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

### Baptistries/Steeple

Construction Sales Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 1049  
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049  
1-800-526-9663 FAX: 501-234-6475  
Also Laminated wood arches, beams and decking.

### Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)  
9101 W. Markham -  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
501-225-8009

### Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning  
1612 Park Avenue  
Stuttgart, AR 72160  
673-2081

### Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Almco Wholesale  
10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
228-0608

### Puppety

House of Puppety  
P.O. Box 190055/ 78 Westminister Dr.  
Little Rock, AR 72219  
Fredda Hicks  
501-566-7769  
Puppets and Puppet Supplies

### Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1719  
Ruston, LA 71273  
Edwards, Young & Blake, Owners  
318-251-0290 FAX: 318-255-3363  
Audio system and acoustic design-installation-rental.

### MP Productions, Inc.

6301 Murray St.  
Little Rock, AR 72209  
Ken E. Newberry, Contracting Manager  
501-562-7425 FAX: 562-7521  
System design, installation, and service.

**For a listing call the ARB  
at 376-4791, ext. 5155**

## NATION

# Stewardship elects Chandler, evaluates financial downturn

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Ronald E. Chandler became president-elect of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission the same afternoon commission members were told the agency could be gripped by financial crisis within three years.

Chandler, 61, director of stewardship for the California Southern Baptist Convention the past 20 years, was elected on a 2-23 secret ballot vote March 24 to succeed A.R. Fagan, who has led the SBC agency the past 20 years.

Commissioners approved the launch of "a long-range strategic planning process" to involve an outside professional consultant working with a committee of commissioner members and staff and state Baptist convention executives and stewardship leaders.

Chandler, in a question-and-answer session with commissioners prior to the vote, said he was aware of the agency's financial struggle, but not of the specific financial declines presented earlier in the afternoon by commission member Allen Watson of Dickson, Tenn., who also was elected commission chairman March 24.

"I am conynced," Chandler told commissioners, "we can turn this thing

around." He noted, "If we do not do a better job, it's not going to get better, but worse for all the (SBC) agencies."

Chandler also said he was aware of SBC "hall talk" of possibly closing the commission and assigning its functions to other SBC entities. He said he hopes that doesn't happen "because I think the Stewardship Commission is needed" and is best equipped to advance the cause of Christian stewardship in the SBC. He said the Stewardship Commission must be active in convincing churches the SBC Cooperative Program remains "the best way of supporting missions."

Watson, a member of a committee assigned to study the need for long-range planning at the Stewardship Commission, reported on economic trends at the agency, which have involved losses of about \$20,000 a month the last three years, for a total of \$764,790. He said reserve funds, which are down to \$765,000, could be depleted within three years.

Commissioners adopted a 1994-95 budget of \$1.93 million, compared to \$2.19 million for the current year.

Chandler, who will join the Stewardship Commission staff July 1 as president-elect, will work alongside Fagan until Fagan's retirement Sept. 30.

Prior to 1974 Chandler was director of missions for Mid-Valley Southern Baptist Association in the Fresno area.

### Missions with Integrity

Indonesia Crusades - June 22 - July 8  
3rd Crusades to Russia - Aug. 4-18  
4th South Africa Crusades - Nov. 12-Dec. 2  
14th Annual India Crusades - Feb. 3-20, 1995

For complete information contact: Tom Cox World Ministry, P.O. Box 2, Mountainburg, AR 72946; office 501-369-4260 Fax 501-369-4039.

AUTHORIZED  
**Konica**  
COPIERS • FAX



Ralph Croy and Associates Inc.  
701 W. Capitol, Little Rock • 378-0109  
1540 E. Grand Ave., Hot Springs • 623-7392  
1022 W. 6th, Pine Bluff • 534-8811

Since 1973  
Churches/Residential



P.O. Box 600  
North Little Rock, AR 72115  
**758-8641**

STAINED GLASS

## BIG 12TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN SOUTHERN GOSPEL SINGING

Friday, August 5, 1994 through Saturday, August 13, 1994

Lester Flatt Memorial Park - Vilonia, AR

**TALENT:** Wendy Bagwell and The Sunliters, Nelsons, Bishops, Florida Boys, Perfect Heart, Palmetto State Quartet, Primitive Quartet, Gov. Jimmie Davis, Dixie Melody Boys, Countrymen Quartet, Free Spirit Singers, McKethens, Happy Rhythms, Sounds of Life, Scrap Iron Quartet, plus more groups to come!

**TICKETS:** Admission adults all-9 days \$30.00, Saturday \$8.00, daily \$7.00 and children 6-10 half price. Camping \$6.00 per day with festival tickets, all other days \$12.00. Call days-501-835-2451 or nights-501-796-2030. Fishing, swimming and paddle boats. Hot and cold showers available. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs. Absolutely NO alcohol or drugs. Sunday morning preaching and potluck dinner on the ground. Plenty of watermelons. Bring your ice cream freezer. If you need a free flyer, write to Lester Flatt Memorial Park, #50 Lester Flatt Drive, Vilonia, AR 72173.

## Convention Uniform

### *A call to commitment*

By Norman L. Lewis, DOM,  
Black River Association  
Basic passage: Romans 12:1-21  
Focal passage: Romans 12:1-2  
Central truth: Christians must realize that the righteousness they have received by faith is to be demonstrated in daily living.

We will divide this study of Romans 12 into the following:

■ Sacrifice of the believer (v. 1): bodily, holy and living. The only response worthy of what God has done for us is total commitment. Christians are to present or dedicate their total beings to God, a living sacrifice.

■ Separation of the believer (v. 2). God's standards, not the world's, must determine our lifestyles and actions. We must be changed persons resulting from the renewing of the mind from within by the power of the Holy Spirit.

■ Service of the believer (vv. 3-8). Three ways of thinking are set forth in these scriptures: over thinking - "more highly," under thinking - "let no man despise thee" and proper or wise thinking - "but to think soberly." Paul warned of the dangers of self-conceit.

Spiritual gifts of individual Christians arise from God's grace. They are neither earned nor deserved. Paul mentions the following gifts, endowments given to Christians for the purpose of building up the church: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, administration and showing mercy.

■ Sincerity of the believer (vv. 9-16). Paul considered love to be the motive for the exercising of all the spiritual gifts in the body of Christ. The word for love here was "agape." It is unrestricted caring for another, exercised without pretense or hypocrisy. The love which church members express for each other should be the kind found in a loving family. We are not to be slothful in our Christian service. The key to hope and steadfast patience is constant, urgent prayer.

■ Social life of the believer (vv. 17-21). As Christians, we must apply the principle of love even to those who disagree with us. This love must even be extended to those who wrong us. We must do all in our power to achieve peace. Avoid vengeance. God will handle it. Overcome evil with good. It is the mightiest and the most practical way to overcome evil.

## Life and Work

### *Friends in the gospel*

By Richard Avey, pastor,  
Zion Hill Church, Cabot  
Basic passage: Philippians 1:1-11  
Focal passage: Philippians 1:1-11  
Central truth: Our relationships in Christ are a special blessing of salvation.

How many pastors today can look back on previous churches served and say with Paul, "I thank my God every time I remember you?" Even Paul did not say this about all the churches he served. Our text teaches several helps for us as we relate to one another in the body of Christ.

We are related, so be grateful (v. 3). Paul's remembrance went back several years to the time he first came to Philippi. He no doubt remembered those early converts. Not only did they receive the gospel, but they continued to actively support his ministry after Paul moved on. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could worship and serve with one another always and say from the depth of our hearts, "I thank God for you."

Be prayerful (v. 4, 9-11). Paul never failed to pray for the churches he planted. It was a joy to do it. We are to be mighty intercessors on behalf of the church. Always take time to pray for God's people.

Pray for full lives. An empty Christian is a tragedy. Pray we will be full of love. We need abounding love - love for God and love for God's people. We need knowledgeable love. Someone has said, "Ignorant love is dangerous; insightful love is edifying." We need discerning love; the ability to choose the excellent above the merely good.

Pray that we will be faithful in our walk. Pray for fruitfulness in Christian service. Paul's prayer in verses 9-11 is a prayer for Christian maturity.

Have confidence (v. 6). What God initiates, He always completes. Our salvation is all of God. He initiates it, continues it, and will one day bring it to consummation. Since the church is God's work, we are confident that God is at work in the life of the believer bringing about His best.

Love one another (v. 7). How important it is that every believer have one another in their heart. We belong to one another in the body; a mixed group of people bound by love. It is indeed a special blessing of our salvation that we are related to one another in the church.

## Bible Book

### *How to respond to Jesus*

By John T. Evans, pastor,  
Yarbro Church, Blytheville  
Basic passage: John 12:1-50  
Focal passage: John 12:1-11; 37-43  
Central truth: It should be obvious whether or not a person has been saved by Jesus.

The Christian lifestyle should be obvious. This chapter in the gospel of John highlights both proper and improper Christian characteristics.

■ Right responses to Jesus: Christians should serve Jesus as Martha did (v. 2), fellowship with Jesus as Lazarus did (v. 2), worship Jesus as did Mary (v. 3) and those who cheered His entry into Jerusalem (vv. 12-13). All too often, we serve ourselves, fellowship with the world and worship everything but Jesus.

We also should live in a way that attracts others to Jesus. People were attracted to Jesus because of the drastic change that He had made in the life of Lazarus (v. 9). The change that Jesus makes in our lives may be less dramatic but it should still be noticeable to others. Lazarus suffered persecution because he was set apart and attracted others to Jesus (vv. 10-11). It should be similar for us; those who reject Jesus should reject His children as well.

■ Wrong responses to Jesus: Verse 37 indicates that in spite of all the signs and miracles that Jesus had done, some still chose not to believe in Him. No matter how many times we demonstrate His love and share His gospel message, some will still choose not to receive Him and be saved. Do not be discouraged, for they rejected Jesus Himself.

Perhaps worse than this unbelief is the denial of Jesus by some believers who loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (vv. 42-43). So many today are just like these. They are Christians on Sunday and act like they are ashamed of Jesus the rest of the week. Many who call themselves "Christians" deny the power of the gospel with the way they live. This often results in turning lost people away from Jesus rather than toward Him.

According to an old saying there are only two reasons why a person isn't a Christian. Either he does not know a Christian or he does know a Christian! Think about the lost people you know. Why aren't they Christians?

## Convention Uniform

### Christian relationships

By Norman L. Lewis, DOM,

Black River Association

Basic passage: Romans 14:1-23

Focal passage: Romans 14:13

Central truth: Christians should develop positive, encouraging relationships with fellow believers even though their views differ.

There are four areas Paul covers in this chapter on the believer: his relation to the weak in faith; his example and influence; his judgment of his Christian brother; and being a stumbling block to others.

The church at Rome was troubled by several crucial issues. The two groups Paul addressed in the church were the weak and the strong. Both groups needed to realize that their actions affected others.

A minority group in the church at Rome felt that it was wrong to eat meat and that the Sabbath was superior to other days. The drinking of wine was also involved. To avoid eating meat that may have been offered to idols, they became vegetarians. Paul admonishes the church to receive "him that is weak in the faith." He urges both groups to refrain from judging the other. He insists that matters of conscience are to be settled in relationship to God.

The Christian must decide right and wrong on the basis of his personal accountability to God. Whatever one does he must do it with regard to the Lord. No one lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. The Christian belongs to the Lord.

Paul says we are to watch our influence. We must not do damage to a weaker brother. We cannot exercise our freedom to the hurt of others, becoming a stumbling block. The moral welfare of a fellow Christian or any fellow man must be considered with respect to every course of action, every personal habit. It is a matter of inner righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

He urged us to practice self-denial in behalf of others. It would be better to give up meat forever than to hinder God's work of grace in another person's life. Intoxicating drink of any kind, even with moderation can never be justified, because it has a damning influence on others and what it does to the person who drinks it. If there is doubt, let one refrain. To go against the conscience enlightened by faith is sin.

## Life and Work

### Putting Christ first

By Richard Avey, pastor,

Zion Hill Church, Cabot

Basic passage: Philippians 1:12-26

Focal passage: Philippians 1:12-26

Central truth: Putting Christ first means victory in life circumstances.

As a teenager I remember singing the chorus, "Christ For Me." As I study our text I imagine Paul singing the same chorus. Christ was the sum total of Paul's existence. No matter what the circumstance, Paul was Christ-centered. He put Christ first and as a result the gospel was advanced.

When Jesus is the center of our lives it makes a difference.

■ Trials are turned into triumphs (vv. 12-15). Paul had the opportunity to witness to several thousand soldiers as a result of his imprisonment. Many of these were won to Christ. They in turn would go to other regions in their service of Rome and take the gospel with them.

A lost world will listen when we proclaim Jesus as Lord, even in the testing times of our lives.

■ Others are encouraged to speak out (v. 14). One might think that due to Paul's imprisonment the believers might have been frightened into silence, but instead they were moved to share their faith with greater boldness. Standing up for Jesus can be contagious.

■ We can rejoice in proclamation (vv. 15-18). The proclamation of Christ was the passion of Paul's life. He was able to praise God even when Christ was proclaimed out of jealousy, partisanship and rivalry. He rejoiced even more when Christ was proclaimed from a motive of love and goodwill.

The motive of our proclamation cannot be overlooked, but we do need to recognize that the gospel of Jesus Christ has power no matter the motive or character of the proclaimer.

■ We are able to face life and death. (vv. 19-26) No circumstance will overcome us. Each and every circumstance is turned into an opportunity to magnify Christ and win souls.

We may not have any control over our circumstances, but we never need to be under them. Real meaning in life is found in Christ. He must be first.

## Bible Book

### Foot washing

By John T. Evans, pastor,

Yarbro Church, Blytheville

Basic passage: John 13:1-30

Focal passage: John 13:1-17

Central truth: Foot washing is not and should not be an ordinance.

Jesus told His disciples that by washing their feet He was giving them an example of the way that they should serve each other (vv. 14-15). Some have mistakenly taken from this that foot washing should be an ordinance. There are two biblical reasons why foot washing is not an ordinance.

#### ■ The Doctrinal Reason:

The symbolism connected with foot washing is not symbolic of Christ's redemptive or saving work. Foot washing is a symbolic example of the way that Christians should humble themselves in service (vv. 13-16). Foot washing is also symbolic of the fact that Christians need to be in fellowship daily with Jesus. Even though we should have been washed from our sins and cannot lose our salvation, we should daily seek His forgiveness and cleansing.

The true ordinances, on the other hand, symbolize Christ's redemptive work. Baptism is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, the believer's death to sin, burial of the old life and resurrection to live a new life in Christ and our faith in the final resurrection of the dead. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the Lord's death on Calvary and a reminder of the promise of His second coming. Foot washing contains none of this symbolism.

#### ■ The Historical/Biblical Reason:

Nowhere in the book of Acts or anywhere else in the New Testament for that matter is foot washing practiced as an act of public worship. The true ordinances, however, are repeated (Acts 2:41-42). The disciples apparently took Jesus' words in verses 14-15 as a figurative instruction to humbly serve each other and not as a literal command to practice foot washing. In either case, there is no evidence that they practiced foot washing as an ordinance or as an act of public worship. Neither should we.



## Subscriber Services

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

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

A **Group Plan** (formerly called the

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.	
P.O. Box 552	
Little Rock, AR 72203	
CAR-RT S0RT	**CR39
017557 COMP	2230
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	
901 COMMERCIAL ST. STE 400	
NASHVILLE TN 37203	

Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church. Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

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

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

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

## NEWS DIGEST

### U.S. airmen pay tribute to fallen comrades in Kenya

MOMBASA, KENYA (BP)—March 20 was a typical Sunday morning for most people in Mombasa, Kenya. But for 250 American servicemen standing on the tarmac in front of a massive C-130 aircraft, it was the morning they said goodbye to eight comrades who died March 14 when their plane crashed during a flight to Somalia.

"This wasn't a mandatory event," explained Gene Pugh, a Southern Baptist missionary from Decatur, Ga., who helped lead the memorial service. He has been preaching at chapel services for U.S. military personnel in Mombasa since January.

"Most men in the front row were from the crews of other C-130s here doing the same duty the crashed plane was doing," he explained.

"We all know our job takes us into dangerous places," one speaker said. "It's a high-risk, high-reward affair. Men have died before us; others will die after us. It's a price we're willing to pay. But we miss our friends who have left us."

### National Prayer Conference rescheduled for June 1995

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The National Prayer Conference scheduled for June 9-10 in Orlando, Fla., has been rescheduled to precede the 1995 Atlanta convention, according to Garry Insko, chairman of the SBC Bold Mission Thrust Planning Team.

Three members of the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Planning Team are retiring during 1994: Minette Drumwright, Foreign Mission Board; T.W. Hunt, Baptist Sunday School Board; and Mickey Martin, Woman's Missionary Union. Avery Willis has moved from the Sunday School Board to the Foreign Mission Board and the role of Henry Blackaby has expanded beyond the Home Mission Board, to include the FMB and BSB.

In light of this restructuring and the many pre-convention events related to the 1994 Orlando convention, Insko said attention is shifting to a major prayer event preceding Southern Baptist's sesquicentennial year convention in Atlanta and launching the last five years of Bold Mission Thrust.

### Harry Piland to join staff of First Baptist Church, Dallas

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Harry Piland, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division, will become associate pastor/minister of education at the 25,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas beginning May 29.

Piland, 65, will conclude his duties as division director April 30. During Piland's tenure, enrollment in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools has increased by more than 900,000, from 7.3 million to 8.2 million.

Piland joined the board in 1978 after serving five years as minister of education at First Baptist Church of Houston. He previously held similar positions in other Texas Baptist churches. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

### Church's departure from SBC affirmed by state court

KINGSTON, TN (BP)—A recent ruling in Roane County Chancery Court in Tennessee has rejected the effort of a minority membership of Clax Gap Baptist Church to keep the church within the Southern Baptist fold.

Court Chancellor Frank V. Williams III ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, involving a majority group and pastor Gary Hensley, who had persuaded members to withdraw relationship from the Southern Baptist Convention. The church, in Hariman, Tenn., now is "independent," having cut all Southern Baptist ties.

The ruling noted the church is autonomous and is to be controlled by the majority vote of its members. The ruling said termination of Cooperative Program giving and use of independent teaching materials, does not constitute "radical departure from established fundamental practices and beliefs."

### College's refusal to play games on Sunday prompts suit

BUIES CREEK, NC (ABP)—A North Carolina Baptist college is being sued for pulling out of its athletic conference to avoid playing basketball games on Sundays.

The Big South Conference — which includes two other Baptist schools — is suing Campbell University for \$300,000 in an attempt to force the Buies Creek, N.C., school to remain in the conference until June 30, 1996, fulfilling a conference requirement that member schools give two years' notice before resigning.

Campbell, a charter member of the 11-year-old conference, says its participation has always been conditional on the understanding that, because of religious convictions, the school would not play games on Sundays. A May 1993 decision to schedule the conference basketball championships on Sunday beginning in 1995, therefore, had the effect of excluding Campbell from participation, school officials maintain.