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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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9-18-1997

### September 18, 1997

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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news magazine



# RACIAL RECONCILIATION IN ARKANSAS

— 40 years later —

# Baptist leaders mourn loss of Diana, Mother Teresa

**A**S THE WORLD mourned the deaths of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa, international Baptist leaders offered condolences to those most affected by the loss of the two admired women.

Diana, Princess of Wales, died Aug. 31 at age 36 from injuries received in a car crash in Paris. Less than a week later, Mother Teresa died of a heart attack in Calcutta, just days after her 87th birthday. Meeting in Albania, where Mother Teresa was born, leaders of the European Baptist Federation sent condolences to Roman Catholic archbishop Rrok Mirdita in Albania.

"We know that Mother Teresa is with the Lord, whom she loved so deeply as her Savior and in whose name she has served the poorest of the poor," said a message signed by EBF general secretary Karl Heinz Walter and members of the EBF Albania committee. "May God bless the memory of Mother Teresa, especially in the hearts of the Albanian people, so that they will feel encouraged to invest love in all the needs of this country and its people," the message added.

According to evangelist Billy Graham, "As Princess Diana was a queen of the hearts of millions of people, so Mother Teresa was a queen of the spiritual hearts of countless individuals on every continent. We admire both of them in different ways.

"Few people in our time exemplified so powerfully and yet simply the love and compassion of Christ as Mother Teresa," Graham added. "She was one of the most humble and sweetest of God's servants that I have ever know. Her life has taught Christians of all persuasions many lessons of humble sacrifice, vision and dedication to the Person of Christ. She has taught us the true meaning of love."

## Conference responds to grief

In a country devastated by the loss of Princess Diana, some 400 Christians from 16 nations met in Coventry, England, Sept. 1-7 to call for acts of reconciliation worldwide.

Delegates to the conference, entitled Reconciliation '97, gathered as the world mourned the death of Princess Diana. The conference was held at Coventry University and Coventry Cathedral, which was bombed during World War II and has become a center of reconciliation in the years since the war.

Initially, delegates were concerned Diana's death might cast a pall over the meeting. But in the end, organizers said they came to believe their presence in the nation was providential.

Throughout the conference, local residents and tourists flowed through the cathedral to sign books of condolence and to pray. Many paused to listen to conference testimonies and music. At least one woman made a profession of faith.

Frank Boyd, general secretary of the Southern Baptist Association in Southampton, England, said the country's response to Princess Diana's death represented the "deep spiritual hunger" in Britain.

"We are living in a post-Christian environment," he said. Requesting prayer for his nation, Boyd said, "For the past 20 years or so the message of the gospel has been falling on stone ground. We have a great need for reconciliation with God and each other."

Graham noted that Princess Diana "set a wonderful example for all of us by her concern for the poor, the oppressed, the hurting and the sick." He said her death "should remind us again of how fragile life is, and how we should each be ready to enter eternity and meet God at any moment."

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine



## Cover Story

### Race relations.....3

Forty years after the forced integration of Central High School in Little Rock, state and national leaders will gather Sept. 25 to evaluate the impact of racial reconciliation efforts in Arkansas and the nation.

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# Central High crisis leaves lasting impact

Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

**T**HE HISTORIC SCENE is etched in the minds of most Arkansans: federal troops escorting nine black students up the steps of Central High School in Little Rock on Sept. 25, 1957. Forty years later, President Bill Clinton, Gov. Mike Huckabee and other dignitaries will gather at Central High to commemorate the court-ordered integration which remains a benchmark in the nation's civil rights movement.

Beyond the 10 a.m. celebration marking the event's 40th anniversary and numerous other public gatherings throughout the week, what lasting progress has been made in racial reconciliation efforts over the past four decades?

According to Ernest Green, one of the former students who became known collectively as "The Little Rock Nine," the civil rights movement "expanded opportunities for whites as well as blacks." Affirming that "the region is better off," he acknowledged that "there are still large pockets of people who have not benefited from it."

Green, a former assistant secretary of labor during the Carter administration, is now managing director of an investment banking firm in Washington, D.C., and a member of the national board of the NAACP. Declaring that "the task of the future" is to expand assistance to poor, under-educated individuals and families, he said he hopes the current focus on race relations will help "impact young people today."

Green was the first black student to graduate from Central High, going on to earn a graduate degree at Michigan State University. Recalling the tension generated in Little Rock in 1957, Green noted, "We were all surprised by the force of the opposition. It took over three weeks to finally gain entrance into the school."

Citing "the support from President Eisenhower" who federalized the state's National Guard to protect the black students, Green said his graduation the following May "was a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of vindication — being able to achieve a goal you set for yourself."

"Those vehemently opposed to our being at Central at first boycotted school," he recalled. Once those students returned to school, "they really controlled the attitude," he added. "White students who tried to befriend us were ostracized — it was a reign of terror."

Amid those experiences, Green said, he learned "the ability to follow your convictions, the ability to complete a task and the satisfaction of widening opportunities for myself and my family by participating as one of the nine."

Voicing satisfaction over the opportunity to "play a small role in the civil rights movement," Green noted, "We all have been pleasantly surprised that Central High has stood as the central story of integration."

Gov. Huckabee, whose daughter, Sarah, is a sophomore this year at Central High, emphasized that "it's a whole different world she is living in than she would have 40 years ago."

Although "no one would say we're everywhere we need to be," Huckabee affirmed that Central High remains a fully integrated school that's providing his daughter and other students "an excellent education."

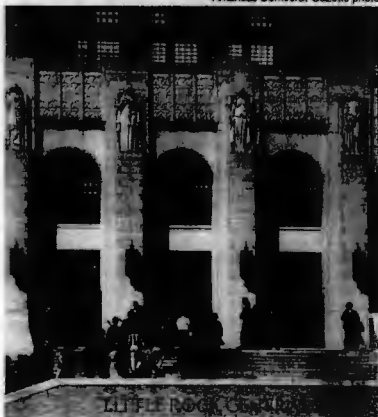
"Sadly, the events of 40 years ago had a major impact on what people thought of Little Rock and Arkansas," the governor remarked. He described the clash over integration as "a real stain on our state's otherwise noble history."

"We can try to ignore it or we can confront it in such a way that we grow from it and show people that those old attitudes and prejudices can die," Huckabee said. "It has been a miserable failure to try to sweep it under the rug."

Emphasizing the need to "confront the ghosts of our past," he declared, "Many government and church leaders in 1957 took the wrong position. Now government and church leaders have the opportunity to take the right position."

Huckabee, a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, called on church and government leaders to "openly and unapologetically declare that what happened in the past with bigotry was morally wrong." Noting that "racism was not only ignored but fostered from the pulpit," he added, "The right thing to do is stand for true justice and true reconciliation."

Huckabee's views echo a resolution on racial reconciliation adopted in 1995 by



Federal troops escort the first black students into Little Rock Central High School Sept. 25, 1957.

Southern Baptist Convention messengers. Acknowledging that "Southern Baptists failed, in many cases, to support, and in some cases opposed, legitimate initiatives to secure the civil rights of African-Americans," the resolution urged Southern Baptists to "unwaveringly denounce racism, in all its forms, as deplorable sin" and to "commit ourselves to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry."

One example of progress in Arkansas Baptist life was the election last year of Eddie Jones Sr., as the state convention's first black church planter strategist.

Calling historic struggles to integrate society "worth every effort," Jones said, "The challenges then and today are to bring us closer together and remind us we are still not there." He said the SBC's 1995 action is an indication that "there's nothing standing between those who are true Christians forgiving and going forward...The spirit of it has lifted any wedge or obstacle."

"I think we are beginning to try to listen to each other for the first time and trying to understand each other," he affirmed. "Those of us trying to reach people for Jesus and encourage racial harmony are going forward."

"We need the black and white piano keys to make beautiful music," Jones reflected. "We need the night and the day."

## PERSPECTIVE

### A Pastor's Heart



Emil Turner

ABCS Executive Director

**P**REACHER, can you take criticism?" It was my first conversation with Miss Lessie Crawford. Miss Lessie was elderly — a retired school teacher and the organist at my first church after seminary. God used her in my life.

She asked for the right to criticize my grammar. "You are a 'fair' preacher, but you'd be better if you used English correctly." I agreed to accept her grammar lessons. On Wednesday before church, she'd stop by the office and review my progress. I began to improve, and Miss Lessie encouraged me.

One day after a grammar review, she pressed some money into my hand and said, "Buy a new watch, Preacher, you

need one." She wasn't complaining about my length of sermons, she just saw that I needed a new watch. Another time, she said, "Preacher, if you could buy any set of books you wanted, what set would you get?" I told her, and she bought the books.

Miss Lessie taught me that critics and enemies are not necessarily the same people. Sometimes critics make you better. She also taught me the value of investing in people's lives.

Faster, your critics are not always your enemies. Church member, criticism is easy — investment in your pastor's life will touch others through him.

■ Have you read *Selling The Invisible* by Harry Beckwith? (Warner Press, 1997). This is a book on marketing. It contains truths with excellent applications to churches, preachers and sermons: "to broaden your appeal, narrow your position," "identify and polish your anchors," "say 'thank you' often."

**Executive director's schedule:**  
Sept. 21-24 Revival, FBC, Nashville  
Sept. 28 (a.m.) FBC, Danville  
(p.m.) Washington-Madison Assoc.  
Sept. 29 (a.m.) Pastors' Conference  
Washington-Madison Assoc.

For many years Mrs. Warnock battled substance abuse. More than 20 years ago she committed her life to Christ. With His power and the encouragement of compassionate people, she truly became an overcomer. For more than two decades she has lived her witness, shared Christ's grace and given hope to men and women with struggles similar to her own.

During the memorial service at Elliott Baptist Church, I looked across a packed auditorium at people who had been touched by the life of this woman from south Arkansas. She was never in the public eye, never wanted it. She was about the business of touching people for Christ as she had been touched.

I have already written that no one knows for certain the spiritual condition of another. This does not mean we're not 99 percent sure! Mrs. Warnock closed her eyes here to open them in heaven. Public opinion didn't make the difference, but a personal commitment to Christ did!

Heaven is talked about all the time people die. May we in our own homes and home state be diligent in our witness.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?" Yes, Lord.

**Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.**

### quotes

**"My heart grieves to see brothers who agree on Scripture and doctrine divided over how to elect trustees."**

— Emil Turner  
ABCS executive director

**"If I could remember, in advance, what it felt like the last time I sinned, I wouldn't do it."**

— Michael Brown  
ICN Ministries president

**"Sunday School is probably the most effective church growth tool in existence today."**

— Benny Grant  
ABCS Sunday School  
department Interim director

### President's Perspective



Rex Horne

ABCS president

**H**AVEN has been mentioned quite a bit on the news lately. Our eternal home has been alluded to in the context of Princess Diana's death. Much of the talk is sentimental, not biblical. How often do we hear phrases like "another angel is now in heaven" or "I know he (she) is smiling down from heaven."

Heaven is not assigned by the opinion of the public. The tragic accident of the young Diana coupled with some of her humanitarian efforts touched millions in the world. The world, however, does not determine one's eternal destiny. No one knows for sure her spiritual condition, except the One who died for her.

A few weeks earlier injuries related to a car accident claimed the life of my mother-in-law, Peggy Warnock. Mrs. Warnock was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She had been involved in "good works" for more than 20 years after God worked in her life.

## ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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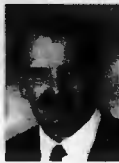
# Racial reconciliation revisited

**D**ECLARING that "the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place" in public education, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." That ruling was severely tested in Little Rock a few years later as federal troops were called in on Sept. 25, 1957, to enforce integration in Central High School.

Four decades later, race relations continues to be a primary topic of concern throughout our nation. While much progress has been made during the past 40 years, many attitudes and actions continue to harbor racial prejudice.

During Little Rock's integration battle in 1957, *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* editor Erwin McDonald posed the question: "Do we dare ask what Jesus would do in a crisis like that which now exists and has existed for several weeks in Little Rock over the question of racial integration at Central High School?" Emphasizing that Jesus "showed that His love knew no racial bounds," McDonald

**Straight  
from the  
Editor**



**Trennis Henderson**

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

added, "More than prayer will be required to resolve our difficulties, but we believe prayer must be the bedrock."

As state and national officials gather next week at Central High to commemorate 40 years of public school integration, much work remains to be done. The depth of the challenge was reflected during the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention when messengers adopted a resolution urging racial reconciliation. Denouncing racism as "deplorable sin," messengers pledged to

"eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry."

While some black Christian leaders have criticized the SBC action as too little, too late, many others have accepted the call to help strengthen racial harmony.

During a recent interview with the *Newsmagazine*, Gov. Mike Huckabee encouraged individuals to "look in the mirror and see that bigotry and racism are unfounded." On a practical level, that may range from personally befriending a person of another race to active involvement in ministry efforts between black and Anglo congregations.

According to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Hopefully, the 40th anniversary of Central High School's integration will serve as a timely reminder that Christ calls His followers to be reconcilers in a world that still desperately needs to hear the clear message of reconciliation.



## letters to the editor

### Doctrinal authority

Southern Baptists have been involved in an internal struggle concerning the authority of Scripture for many years. Numerous reasons are stated for how such could exist in our ranks. The oft-offered cause stated by fundamentalists (and I would classify myself among their ranks) is that it is a clear case of people who identify themselves totally with God's Word, and those who do not.

Most good Southern Baptists can cite scripture and verse concerning the admonitions in Scripture concerning adding to or subtracting from God's word. Most would state affirmatively to others that "no prophesy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation." Yet the strife continues.

As I read the letter from Jimmy Hull in the August 21 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, I thought back to my days as a young Christian and young married. When talking with a non-Baptist, I questioned their practice of infant sprinkling. He gave me a pamphlet which circled the issue, touching occasionally on scriptures such as Mark 10:14. I was sorely disappointed that any practice of any church would exist so apart from the clear teaching of Scripture.

Bro. Hull has touched on an issue which will no doubt spark loud refutation. I ask that all listen to the word of God on

the issue of "open" or "closed" communion. I find his statements and quotations quite accurate concerning what scripture has to say. Surely it is in keeping for any individual to determine that they will not participate in the observance of another church. It is incumbent upon any pastor to teach the importance and clarity of scriptural doctrine and the warning in God's Word to "examine himself" and that "he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself." But the concept of "closed" communion goes beyond the clear teaching of Scripture, and therefore must be questioned, if not rejected. Other practices of Baptists also follow dubious origins.

One wonders if the division within our ranks would be as deep if on every issue we truly placed doctrinal authority over denominational arrangement.

**Ed Eason**  
Conway, AR

### Thanks for partnership

When I think about the partnership of Arkansas Baptists and Iowa Baptists, I think of Paul and Barnabas. Paul was not readily accepted nor understood but Barnabas was willing to come alongside and be the encourager. I am in my eleventh year in Iowa after serving five years as a director of missions in Alabama

and I serve Metro Baptist Association and North Central Baptist Association as associational missionary/church starter strategist. Someone asked me not long ago, "Don't you ever get discouraged?" I answered yes, but that if we don't all get discouraged at the same time, we're going to make it. With Arkansas Baptists at our side and with our heavenly Father on the throne, we're going to make it.

Bro. Vernon Crowe came to Lacona, Iowa, and had ladies building and roofing a building that many would walk away from. I was in Lacona last Sunday and found myself admiring the work and remembering how the team slept on the concrete floor to show a community what Christian love is really about. In that building Sunday a young lad accepted Christ. The last time I preached there, his uncle trusted Christ as Lord and Savior.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for coming to survey, preach, sing, labor, teach in children's and youth camp, minister and encourage us. Thank you, church, association and state convention, for taking the risk to step alongside people you did not know very well but who want to share Christ with those who need Him. Many new churches are needed in this state. I know you will continue to stand with us. Thank you!

**William Spencer II**  
Ankeny, IA

# Reconciliation implementation

## Bylaw committee proposals address trustee selection process

Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

**S**EEKING TO PROVIDE guidelines to implement last year's "good faith" agreement between Arkansas Baptist messengers and Ouachita Baptist University trustees, the state convention's Charter and Bylaws Committee has developed a series of proposed amendments to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's governing documents. The proposed charter and bylaw changes, which require a two-thirds majority vote by messengers two consecutive years to gain approval, will be presented during the 1997 ABCS annual meeting Nov. 4-5 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

According to committee chairman David Napier, associate pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, "The most important thing for Arkansas Baptists to realize is that we're not assigned the task of evaluating the merit of the (1996) agreement. That has already been approved. Our task was to find a way to allow our charter and bylaws to reflect the spirit of the agreement."

Last year's agreement approved by convention messengers specifies how Ouachita's trustees will be nominated and elected each year. The agreement, endorsed last year by the state convention Executive Board, was drafted by a state convention Reconciliation Committee following dialogue with a representative group of OBU trustees. The reconciliation plan was adopted in response to an Oct. 10 vote by OBU trustees to resume responsibility for naming their own successors after the state convention's 1996 Nominating Committee declined to recommend any of the trustee suggestions submitted by OBU president Ben Elrod.

The reconciliation agreement, which specifies that "good faith and a spirit of cooperation and respect are essential for this plan to be followed," was approved last fall by a vote of 801-456.

### Convention retains authority

Emphasizing that the proposed charter and bylaw changes "still leave all the authority with the convention itself," Napier said a "key phrase" in the bylaw concerning the Nominating Committee process is: "unless provided for otherwise by convention action." He said that wording reaffirms that messengers retain the right "to make changes as we see

fit at future conventions."

Affirming that "it's a simple agreement to understand," Napier said his committee "made certain to give the convention as much control as possible over the agencies and institutions of the convention." He said the provisions specify that "agencies and institutions still have to conform to the principles and practices we believe in as Arkansas Baptists" and that "trustees agree to serve in full cooperation with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

State convention president Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, said he and the convention's Committee on Order of Business have agreed to adjust this year's convention schedule to allow the charter and bylaw proposals to be voted on prior to the 1998 Cooperative Program budget, which includes an allocation of \$2.5 million for Ouachita. He said the budget proposal will be moved to the convention's Wednesday morning session following the vote on the charter and bylaw changes.

Noting that the ABCS Executive Board discussed adjusting the schedule but did not take any official action to do so, Horne added, "I thought it was a reasonable thing to do. This is an effort to be absolutely fair to everybody. I think this will make the wishes of the convention more clear."

Seeking to clarify the issue facing messengers this fall, Horne pointed out that "we're not debating the reconciliation agreement. That was last year. What we're voting on is to make provisions in the charter and bylaws for the agreement to go forward."

Calling Horne's decision "very fair and gracious," state convention executive director Emil Turner remarked, "How ever the votes on the amendments go, the vote on the budget will give the convention one more opportunity to affirm or reject its relationship with Ouachita."

In addition to the proposals prepared by the Charter and Bylaws Committee, Turner is mailing a four-page letter this week to Arkansas Baptist leaders.

"When the convention voted so strongly last year to adopt this agreement, I found it necessary to become the interpreter of the agreement to the convention," Turner told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

"As I've seen the agreement work this year, I'm more convinced than ever that it's a biblical, practical approach to

solving our problem," he added.

Explaining that "the bylaw changes clarify the convention's rights and responsibilities as they relate to all of our institutions," he said, "All in all, the bylaw changes strengthen the convention's relationship to its institutions and agencies rather than grant liberty or license to those institutions and agencies."

Detailing 10 reasons why "the agreement with OBU should be affirmed," Turner's letter states, "My heart grieves to see brothers who agree on Scripture and doctrine divided over how to elect trustees."

### Baptist leaders endorse plan

A group of Arkansas Baptist ministers who support the plan also have mailed a letter to fellow pastors throughout the state. Acknowledging that "the events surrounding the Ouachita trustee issue have been difficult for every concerned Arkansas Baptist," the letter states, "Our hearts have been saddened by the division it has brought among us and we are anxious to find God's solutions to these problems."

Affirming that "it is our opinion that the agreement brought by the Reconciliation Committee and approved by our convention last fall is the best solution to these issues at this time," the letter writers noted that "Arkansas Baptists will still maintain the final authority of voting on and selecting the trustees nominated by the Nominating Committee."

According to Ouachita trustee Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, one purpose of the letter "is to illustrate this is not a conservative-moderate issue. Eleven pastors fairly well known as conservative in their convictions are saying to pastors in our state, 'We are supportive of this and are disturbed that it's being painted in a different way'" by opponents of the agreement. The letter urges Arkansas Baptists to "resist the temptation to embrace rumor, innuendo and unsubstantiated facts" about the issue.

Other Ouachita trustees who signed the letter are: Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville; Jack Hazelwood, an evangelist from Little Rock; and Bryan Smith, pastor of First Church, Van Buren. Elliff and Davis also served on the Reconciliation Committee.

Other ministers who endorsed the letter include Executive Board president Charles "Chuck" McAlister, pastor of

Second Church, Hot Springs, who also chaired the Reconciliation Committee and Executive Board member H.D. McCarty, pastor of University Church in Fayetteville. Also signing the letter were Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church, Springdale; Johnny Jackson, an evangelist from Little Rock; Jim Lagrone, pastor of First Southern Church, Bryant; Don Phillips, pastor of Calvary Church, Camden; and Faron Rogers, pastor of First Church, DeQueen.

Among opponents of the plan, Barry

King is serving as editor of an independent paper being published in an effort to defeat the proposed amendments. King, pastor of Tumbling Shoals Church in Heber Springs, was a member of last year's state convention Nominating Committee and also served on the Reconciliation Committee. He was the only committee member who voted against the reconciliation plan.

Ben Rowell, who recently announced his candidacy for state convention president, also has voiced his opposition

to implementing the reconciliation agreement. Rowell, pastor of First Church, Rogers, and vice president of the ABCS Executive Board, has been sharing his views in a series of speaking engagements throughout the state.

During a meeting with pastors last week in Little Rock, Rowell said his concern is over the idea of "compromise." Noting, however, that "it's not on my agenda" to actively oppose the plan, he added, "I'm going to go with whatever the convention says."

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

### Article VI. - The Executive Board

**Section 3.** The Executive Board of the Convention may temporarily authorize the withholding of Cooperative Program funds from any institution or agency pending approval of the Convention in the next annual session for the following reasons:

- (a) Failure to act in conformity with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws or its own Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- (b) Institutional promotion of views inconsistent with the Baptist Faith and Message.
- (c) Failure to maintain an environment consistent with accepted Christian and biblical principles of behavior.
- (d) Failure to utilize funds given the institution or agency by the Convention according to stipulations and conditions attached to those funds by the Convention.

### Article VII. - Trusteeships

**Section 5.** The Articles of Incorporation of each agency and institution solely possessed by this Convention shall contain the following provisions:

- (a) The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall elect the corporation's Board of Trustees which shall constitute its Board of Directors;
- (b) The corporation is organized exclusively for religious, educational, or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

**Section 8.** Unless provided otherwise by Convention action, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be the corporation's sole member, and the Articles of Incorporation of each agency and institution shall first be approved by the Convention and thereafter no amendment to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation shall be made without the prior consent of the Convention. No proposed amendment shall come before the Arkansas Baptist State Convention unless it has been reported to the Executive Board of the Convention

at least sixty (60) days prior to the first session of the Convention's annual meeting.

**Section 7.** All boards of trustees of incorporated agencies and institutions affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall institute and maintain their corporate charter and other documents controlling policy and operation in harmony with and conformity to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BYLAWS OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

### Article IV. - Trusteeships

**Section 1.** All trusteeships of this Convention will be sensitive to expressions of the Convention's will in all matters. All new trustees of agencies and institutions shall agree to the following Arkansas Baptist State Convention covenant of cooperation with trustees as follows:

Understanding a Christian ministry of this agency/institution as a part of Christ's ministry and strategy for winning the world, I covenant with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to keep this agency/institution Christian in its purpose, solid in its business practices, evangelistic in its ministry, and my judgments as near the mind of Christ as possible.

In making decisions, I pledge to be sensitive and attentive to the needs and concerns of the community in which this agency/institution ministers and to Baptists at large, including those expressed by individuals, congregations, associations, and particularly by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

### Article V. - Nominating Committee

**Section 1.** A nine-member rotating Nominating Committee, comprised of at least three lay persons, will place in nomination at each annual Convention names of persons to fill vacancies on all Convention boards and committees unless provided for otherwise by Convention action. Following each annual Convention, the President will appoint three people to a three-year term to replace the three people rotating off, plus filling any vacancies that may exist on the Committee at that time. The President shall also name the Chairman, who shall have served at least one year on the committee. Nominations for all boards from this Nominating Committee must be as equitably divided as possible between the eight existing districts of The State Convention.

NOTE: The proposed amendments are noted in bold and underlined.



# One mission

Proposed evangelism and church growth team members to focus on 'three tasks' to meet local church challenges



**“I believe merging Sunday School, Discipleship Training and evangelism into one team will enhance, not inhibit, the work of these three areas.”**

**SONNY TUCKER**  
Leader, proposed evangelism and church growth team

**T**HE RATIONALE for the proposed evangelism and church growth team is mathematical, according to Sonny Tucker, director of the Arkansas Baptist State

Convention evangelism department. Tucker, who is slated to lead the team if messengers to the ABSC annual meeting in November approve a convention restructuring plan, emphasized that the team will seek to answer "12 challenges of ABSC churches" through accomplishing "three tasks and one mission."

Tucker identified the challenges the team hopes to meet as understanding the nature of faith; avoiding the extremes of children's conversion; the purpose of Sunday School; the importance of discipleship; personal soul-winning; assimilating new members; church growth barriers; using various types of evangelism; reaching secular people; distinguishing between biblical principles and cultural preferences; and building effective church growth teams.

To meet those local church challenges, he said, the team will complete its work through the tasks of evangelism, Christian education and church growth, fusing the current ABSC evangelism, discipleship and family ministries, and Sunday School departments.

The new team would draw from current evangelism department members Tucker, Paul McClung and Randy Brantley, discipleship and family ministries department member Gerald Jackson and Sunday School department members Benny Grant and Janet Williams.

Tucker said he has found that the "quality" of the members of current departments who will join the new team will add to its effectiveness. "I must say that I am very pleased with the depth and quality of the team members," he noted. "Through each team member may have a specialized area, each team member will have knowledge and skills in evangelism, Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

"The possibility of the three departments merging to become the evangelism and church growth team is exciting," Tucker

added. "I believe merging Sunday School, Discipleship Training and evangelism into one team will enhance, not inhibit, the work of these three areas."

He emphasized that other team members have "bought into the team approach. Our team philosophy of ministry will maintain balance among the work of our three areas. We view evangelism, Sunday School and Discipleship Training as being mutually interdependent, not mutually exclusive."

Sunday School department interim director Benny Grant said that Sunday School will be compatible in the new team because "Sunday School is probably the most effective church growth tool in existence today.

"The reason that it is not (compatible) in many churches is that we have left evangelism out of Sunday School and majored on fellowship. Fellowship is important, but the key to an effective Sunday School is evangelism and Sunday School is the most organized group for effective evangelism."

"I'm sure some may wonder if one area may be promoted to the exclusion of other areas, leaving some areas neglected," he observed. "But I believe that Arkansas Baptists will see a beautiful blending of these three departments. Joining these departments will make our work more effective and will produce a greater impact in the state."

Tucker said the new team will carry its work out most visibly through "12 statewide, high-impact conferences" and will "also try to do as much work on the associational and church level as possible."

## Mission statement:

The evangelism and church growth team will intentionally assist churches to lead more people to faith in Christ and baptize more...enroll more people in Bible study and involve more people in discipleship activities which, in turn, sends the disciplined into ministry and to build up the body of Christ

## Evangelism & church growth team duties

Members of the proposed evangelism and church growth team will have the responsibility to relate to Arkansas Baptist churches in a number of ways. According to team leader Sonny Tucker, those areas include:

**Team leader Sonny Tucker** will direct the work of team members and be responsible for impacting the state in all areas that involve evangelism, church growth and discipleship.

**Team member Randy Brantley** will focus on youth evangelism, discipleship and Sunday School."

**Team member Benny Grant** has specialized in adult Sunday School but also is effective in evangelism and church growth and has had much involvement in discipleship."

**Team member Gerald Jackson** has strengths in evangelism and Sunday School and will focus on discipleship."

**Team member Paul McClung** "will be a specialist in evangelism, Sunday School and discipleship."

**Team member Janet Williams** "will specialize in preschool and children's work" in the team's focal areas.

**A yet-to-be-named team member** "who has a strong background in Christian education, but also is strong in evangelism and church growth."

## Staff learn communication skills for new structure

**S**TAFF of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention gathered Sept. 2 and 4 to learn how to work in a team organizational structure and to better communicate with co-workers and Baptist constituencies.

The training was part of a larger training plan to help ABCS professional and support staff adjust to organizational changes that will be enacted in 1998 if a proposed conventionwide restructuring is approved by ABCS messengers in November. When that plan is initiated, staff will be restructured from 12 departments to seven ministry teams.

The two days of training focused on decision-making and communication, with an emphasis on the process of working with others in a team setting. It was led by Terry Toler, a corporate trainer and member of Second Church in Hot Springs.

Toler told staff during the Thursday training session that the greatest problem in communication "is not what we are saying, but that often what we are saying does not have the desired effect."

He also explained to participants that "the reason for the ABCS reorganizing into teams is that teams perform at higher levels of productivity."

Toler offered "five methods of decision-making" as examples during the seminar, held at the Baptist Building. They include dictatorships, democracies, unanimous consent, compromise and - "the best way for teams to make a decision" - consensus.

"Consensus is an opinion held by most or all," Toler explained. "It means that everyone is behind the decision, everyone feels their viewpoint was heard, everyone is committed to carrying out the decision and at least 70 percent can live with the decision."

He also challenged ABCS personnel to use "open and free communication" in their decision-making processes, warning them to "have realistic expecta-

tations about decision-making."

Included in realistic expectations are: "everyone will support the decision"; "conflict will occur"; "respect for others' opinions"; and "willingness to forgive."

Toler said he felt led to train staff members because "it's one thing to say, 'We're going to be a team,' and another to do it. What we're trying to do is get them to understand what a team is and how they operate, why teams work and how we can make them effective."

Toler is well-versed in the team training concept. As president of Success Dynamics, Inc., and National Cellular Consulting, Inc., he has provided sales training, management consulting, motivational speaking and seminars for Fortune 500 companies and other corporations for 14 years.

He is heard on many radio stations on his show, "Success for Today," and is the author of *How to Make MORE Than a Million Dollars*, which recently became a regional No. 1 best seller.

But he said that only 50 percent of his time is spent consulting with secular companies on success. The other 50 percent is spent talking to churches, youth organizations or in revivals, "emphasizing success in personal lives through Christ as president of a third organization, International Action Ministries."

Through IAM, Toler has spoken in more than 150 churches, leading seminars on "creating success in marriage, finances, children and personal health and fitness all centered around a relationship with Christ."

"He conducts IAM seminars including the ABCS training. Free of charge, he said, because God is blessed me. There are so many ministries out there that I am not being paid for. I do not want to be a hindrance to any ministry or to any church."



**“The reason for the ABCS reorganizing into teams is that teams perform at higher levels of productivity.”**

**TERRY TOLER**  
President,  
Success Dynamics, Inc.



## Baptist colleges experience big enrollment gains

**W**illiams Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University have both experienced large gains in enrollment, according to reports from both Arkansas Baptist institutions.

Williams reported an on-campus enrollment of 540 for the fall semester, an increase of 91, or 20.3 percent from last fall's figures. The numbers especially reflected an increase in first-time freshmen, up to 140 from last year's 106, a 32 percent increase.

"We could tell by the applications that we would see a nice increase, but it's hard to anticipate something of this magnitude," said Williams president Jerol Swaim, who attributed the enrollment gains to recruiting efforts, student retention, the addition of two new sports and growing name recognition.

"Ultimately, even taking all of these factors into account, you simply have to say the Lord has been very good to WBC this fall and we are extremely thankful for it," he emphasized.

Ouachita also continues to grow, according to president Ben Elrod. The 1,619 undergraduates enrolled this fall is the school's largest group ever in attendance, surpassing last year's record enrollment. The figure represents an increase of more than 35 percent over the past 10 years.

"The tremendous surge in enrollment at Ouachita has continued throughout the decade of the 1990s," said Elrod. "It is an endorsement of the strength of our programs and the direction in which Ouachita has been headed. Our twin emphasis on Christian and academic excellence seems to be one students and their parents welcome."

In related news, Ouachita was ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the best values among regional liberal arts colleges and universities in the south for the third consecutive year.

Ouachita was ranked fourth in the south in two categories, best value and operating efficiency. The former reflects the cost of attending an institution compared to its quality, while the magazine described the latter as a measure of "schools that provide a quality education while spending relatively less."

Elrod said that he is "pleased" with the *U.S. News* rankings. "This recognition illustrates what students, parents and alumni have been telling us for some time, that a Ouachita education is a good investment."

# people & places

COMPILED BY MILLIE GILL

## TRANSITIONS

**Charles Ed Simpson** will begin his ministry Sept. 28 as pastor of Calvary Church in Little Rock, coming there from First Church of Sheridan where he has served for seven years. He previously was pastor of Lonoke Church, Bellaire Church of Dermott and Friendship Church of Conway. He also has served churches in Louisiana and Texas. Simpson currently is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and a member of the Baptist Student Union area committee. He also is a professor for Boyce Bible School in Little Rock and a supervisor for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's D.Min. program in Little Rock. Simpson, who was commissioned in 1982 as a U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain, now has the rank of lieutenant colonel and is serving as command chaplain for the 460th Chemical Brigade in North Little Rock. He and his wife, Pamela, have three children.

**Charles Long** began serving Aug. 24 as pastor of Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village. He previously was pastor of Somerset Hills Church in Basking Ridge, N. J. Long also has served with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) as pastor of churches in Brussels, Belgium and Mannheim, Germany. While serving in Europe, Long was president of the European Baptist Convention and served as chairman of the English language division of the Billy Graham Crusade in Brussels. He and his wife, Sandra, have two children, Lisa, who is doing mission work in Ghana, and Chuck, who is a graduate student at Samford University.

**Danny L. Taylor** began his ministry Sept. 14 as pastor of Natural Steps Church of Roland, coming there from First Church of Tuckerman where he had been serving since 1993. He previously served Center Hill Church of Paragould and Lunsford Church. Taylor is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Luther Rice Seminary. He also has served as a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. He is married to the former Teresa Diane James of Jonesboro. They have two children, Jennifer Nicole and Jordan Christopher.

**Rodney Alexander** began serving Sept. 2 as pastor of First Church of Newport, coming there from First Church of Halls,

Tenn., where he had served for eight years. Alexander is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Staci, Joshua and Caleb.

**Burns A. Barr Jr.** has joined the staff of Cornerstone Church in Texarkana in his first ministry position as minister to students. He is a student at Texarkana College.

**Doug Porter** has resigned as minister of youth at Beech Street First Church of Texarkana, following 12 years of ministry. He has accepted a call to join the staff of Tennessee Church in Dillard, Ga., as associate pastor/youth.

**Jim Tiley** has resigned as pastor of Eastside Southern Church in Cave City, following more than 15 years of service. He is available for pulpit supply, interim work, Bible studies and revivals. Tiley may be contacted at 15 Redbud Drive, Batesville, AR 72501; phone 870-793-7951.

## OBITUARIES

**Elizabeth Brame** of North Little Rock died Aug. 26 at age 95. She was retired from the Arkansas State Library and was a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Survivors are a sister, Cecilia Whitley of Little Rock; two nieces; two nephews; one great-niece; and two great-nephews. Memorials may be made to Park Hill Church.

**Elma Cobb** of Little Rock, a life member of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board and a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, died Sept. 1 at age 88. A native of Keo, she was employed from 1934-1943 by Arkansas WMU as an office assistant. She also served as president of Arkansas WMU, president of Arkansas Baptist Business Women's Circles, a member of the national WMU Executive Board, WMU Margaret Fund chairman and WMU Training School trustee. Cobb was Baptist Student Union director of the School of Nursing of Arkansas Baptist Hospital from 1943 to 1951. She served on the board of trustees for Ouachita Baptist University and Baptist Medical System Foundation. Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) designated her a Distinguished Baptist Lady of Arkansas in 1962 and OBU recognized her in 1972 as a Distinguished Alumna. Cobb served Keo Church and

Immanuel Church as a Sunday School teacher and Baptist Women president. She also was actively involved in the North American Baptist Women's Union and Baptist World Alliance. A graduate of OBU and WMU Training School in Louisville, Ky., Cobb also attended Draughton's School of Business in Little Rock. She is survived by a nephew, two nieces, two great-nieces and one great-great-niece.

## MILESTONES

**George "Nick" Nichols** recently was recognized by Rosa Church of Luxora for 35 years of service as a bivocational pastor. Nichols, who has retired following 48 years as an employee of Blytheville drug stores, was presented with a love offering. In addition to serving Rosa Church, he has served churches in Illinois and is volunteer chaplain for Parkview Nursing Home in Blytheville. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University in Greenville, S. C., and Tri State Baptist Bible College in Evansville, Ind. Nichols and his wife, Shirley, have a daughter, Cindy Enos, and one grandson, Chase Norris.

**Don Bingham** was honored Sept. 7 by First Church of Little Rock with a church-wide reception in recognition of 10 years of service as director of food services and his resignation from that position to become administrator of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion for Gov. Mike Huckabee.

## CHURCH LIFE

**Berry Street Church** of Springdale will observe its 45th anniversary Sept. 21, beginning with a 10 a.m. worship service for which pastor Richard Perry will be speaker. A 1 p.m. celebration service will follow a noon meal. Former pastors and interim pastors will be speakers for the afternoon service which will include special music. Former members and friends of the church have been invited as special guests.

**Pleasant Hill Church** of Rogers celebrated its 145th anniversary Sept. 12-14, beginning with a Friday birthday celebration for Dovie "Granny" Andrews who was observing her 99th birthday. Saturday activities included a Saturday breakfast served by men of the church and an evening program, featuring music and messages from former pastors. A 9 a.m. fellowship launched Sunday activities that also included morning worship, a noon meal and an afternoon program. Jack D. Bedford is pastor.

# Men's rally highlights racial unity

**A** CHRISTIAN MEN'S GROUP in the state hosted a Promise Keepers-style men's conference focusing on racial reconciliation Sept. 6 at Barton Coliseum in Little Rock. More than 4,500 attended the all-day Celebration of Unity Conference, which featured praise and worship, prayer and nationally-known speakers.

Ken Palmquist, president of Central Arkansas Men of Integrity and the event's program manager, said the conference "achieved its purpose. Our goal was to change men's lives and we had 90 decisions made, most for salvation and some for redemption."

Palmquist, a support staff member at Geyer Springs First Church, also said he "felt good about how the program promoted unity. During lunch, I saw groups of men sitting down and eating lunch together. These were brothers celebrating unity and getting together."

Palmquist noted that the event was attended and supported by many Southern Baptists, including ABSB Brotherhood director Harry Black. He said he "would love to hear from Baptist Men" about the rally, which was endorsed by the state Brotherhood.

The program was styled after popular Promise Keepers events, which Palmquist said "have been a magnet for men who are seeking to strengthen their walk with the Lord." Promise Keepers is the popular Christian Men's movement founded by Bill McCartney, former head football coach for the University of Colorado.

The program showcased a variety of black and white speakers, including E. V. Hill, senior pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles; Paul Holderfield, pastor of Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene in North Little Rock; Crawford Loritts Jr., national director of Legacy Ministry of Union City, Ga.; Michael Brown, president of ICN Ministries in Brownsville, Fla.; Robert Smith, director of Word of Outreach Christian Center in Little Rock; and John Trent, president of Encouraging Words in Phoenix, Ariz. In addition to the conference speakers, the event included a youth program led by Rick Caldwell,



More than 4,500 Arkansas men gathered Sept. 6 at Barton Coliseum in Little Rock for the "Celebration of Unity" racial reconciliation conference. Hosted by Central Arkansas Men of Integrity, it featured worship, prayer and speakers in a Promise Keepers-style event.

director of Rick Caldwell Ministries in Benton.

During his address, Brown emphasized the need to live pure lives, specifically attacking adultery, pornography, alcohol and cigarettes.

Brown, a Jewish believer, warned participants that if they don't "see the end result" of sin, they would never begin.

"If I could remember, in advance, what it felt like the last time I sinned, I wouldn't do it," he said. "But the purpose of the world is to take your eyes off the consequences of sin. Some of us here are strong enough to to keep the front door shut, but the Enemy comes in the back door."

The answer to sin, he said, "is Jesus' holiness. He is the one who sets you free. His holiness is a habit where sin is the exception rather than the rule."

Preaching from II Corinthians 5:17, Smith spoke of the "revelation of reconciliation" and urged participants to be "down-loading" Christians.

There are three categories of racial reconcilers, he explained. "A front-loading person has the theological grip on the truth, but in the midst of communication, contradictions occur. A back-loading person doesn't have the theology, but has a desire to see reconciliation accomplished. A down-loading person has the theological perspective and the desire, but wants it to become demonstration.

"Why does the church have so many problems with dealing with reconciliation?" he asked. "Because God never

intended for black people to get along with white people, for Hispanics to get along with native Americans. God knew that if man would self-unify, he would become his own god. Satan's first goal is to separate man from God, then unify men without God.

"Then why did God do it? So that they might seek after the Lord," he answered. "He intended to abolish white folk, abolish black folk, abolish rich folk, abolish poor folk - he is a new creature."

Hill told the men that before racial reconciliation can occur, man must first be reconciled to God. "There is nothing greater than for God and me to be reconciled."

As a boy, he admitted, "There was nobody that hated white people more than E.V. Hill. Then I was saved. Now my critics call me a white man's nigger," he joked.

He also cited three areas of reconciliation needed by men. Men must first be reconciled with Christ, then they must be reconciled with their families and third, "we must be reconciled with people we are unreconciled with," he said, especially those of other races.

Edmond Gilbert Jr., a member of Word of Outreach, said he found the event "a unique gathering when you can get men who are born-again believers together for the purpose of...dealing with the unity, the oneness we share as believers."

He noted that the rally spoke to him that "we must do away with that which separates and causes problems in the church fellowship and the body of Christ dealing with color and class. I've gotten a clearer vision and a fuller understanding of my...responsibility as a believer, not as a black man or a white man."





# start something new

## 1997 Season of State Missions

*Week of Prayer  
for State Missions  
September 21-28*

*Dixie Jackson Offering  
for State Missions  
Goal: \$750,000*

## A vision for missions Barrentine urges support for statewide ministries, new work and missionaries

**J**IMMY BARRENTINE looks more than a little uncomfortable. Responding to a question about the need for the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions, he admits his discomfort.

"It's a little difficult to begin with the budget because I think most of us who are a part of missions like to feel what we are about is much more than money. We ought to be about the work," he said. "But, the truth is, that last year we did not meet our state missions budget. It is \$750,000 this year and that comprises 46 percent of the state missions budget."

The state missions budget is funded by multiple sources, noted Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, including the Dixie Jackson Offering and Cooperative Program and North American Mission Board funding.

"The biggest single source of funding is by Dixie Jackson," explained Barrentine. "That money goes directly to starting new churches, undergirding missions that have already been started and starting and developing new missions ministries."

Barrentine added, though, that money is secondary to vision. "It may be that what is needed more urgently than money at this point is that God's people need a renewed vision for state missions...and for missions at every level.

"God has literally brought the world to us," he said. "People of every nation are among our own communities and that needs to be part of the vision: Arkansas is a mission field and over 1 million people don't have a church home. That's out of a population of 2.4 million.

"They are as culturally separated from the gospel as any other population in the world," he explained. "What goes on in a church is a mystery to them."

Barrentine highlighted three areas where Arkansas Baptists are making strides in reaching Arkansans with the gospel through state missions offering-supported ministries. They include:

■ **Missions ministries.** "That's a term for any needs-based effort to reach people for Christ," he noted. "They include resort ministries, Christian social ministries, volunteer ministries — anything we do outside of the walls of the church to meet needs as long as there is an evangelistic need met."

In supporting missions ministries, he said, Arkansas Baptists are also helping fringe publics. "Especially for the poor or foreigners, it is difficult for them to believe that they need a church or that the church would want them."

Barrentine said literacy missions "may be the most effective ministry tool" supported by the offering. "Time and time again we discover one thing county and state inmates have in common: They do not know how to read and write.

"Literacy missions keeps people out of hell and out of jail," he said. "About 75 percent of those who are taught to read and write by Christians tend to become Christians. That's a remarkably high rate."

### ■ **New church starts.**

"Arkansas Baptists look and see that we have over 1,300 churches in the state, but so long as there are people who do not fit or see themselves as fitting in existing churches, there will be a need for new churches. We work hard to develop and strengthen existing churches at the same time there are a lot of people in our state that need new churches."

Barrentine also noted "two special church-starting challenges" in the state. "Nationwide, only about 4 percent of people who live in apartments go to church and just over 1 percent who live in trailer parks go to church. There is a desperate need for churches to be started in apartments and mobile home parks."

■ **State missionaries.** "Arkansas missionaries really need to be supported, valued and affirmed as missionaries," he urged. "I often hurt for state missionaries with whom I work. They are as prepared, committed and diligent as foreign missionaries and they need to be supported like our foreign missionaries.

"Our state missionaries must not feel that their investment is at a lower level," he said. "Their call of God is just as valid. It's just as important that the people to whom they minister receive Jesus."

Barrentine added that state missionaries "are engaged in direct missions. Every state missionary is engaged in ministry, evangelism and church starts.

"We are here to help churches, to resource churches, so that they can fulfill their biblical missions assignment," Barrentine said. "We understand that the Great Commission is not to the missions department, but to the church."



## Missionaries 'Start Something New' in state

**E**CHOING the 1997 Season of State Missions theme, "Start Something New," Arkansas Baptist State Convention missionaries are reporting new works, new ministries and new ways of reaching unsaved Arkansans this year.

Following last year's banner 41 new work starts, missions department members are reporting a good year again in 1997, with 24 starts already in progress. Those new works include 13 Anglo congregations, four black works and 7 language works.

New church extension associate Jack Ramsey said the strong two-year showing has resulted in a current total of 147 mission-type works in the state.

Ramsey highlighted the need for new churches, explaining that "we have over a million people in Arkansas who are lost and there is no county in the U.S. that has as many or more people in Protestant churches than they had 10 years ago.

"That suggests we are falling behind," he explained, adding that nationwide, "Protestants are losing 75 churches each day, but only starting 24."

Language associate Jim Hausler said language works are growing from the use of several strategies in that area. "Part of what we're trying to do is multiple church starts - not just traditional churches, but starting congregations that may fall short



Mission churches such as Congo Road Church in Benton are among the 147 mission-type works in Arkansas reaching Anglo, Black or language audiences with the gospel.

of that, including multicongregational churches with one building."

Hausler noted that Hispanics make up the largest number of language works in the state followed by Koreans, Laotians and Vietnamese, with a total number of about 60 language works in state.

Black church associate Eddie Jones Sr. noted that four new black churches have already been started in 1997. "One of the things we're trying to do is to help associations and churches be aware that there are opportunities to start an African American ministry. The main thing is to... help Anglo churches be aware that they can be partners with a church, identifying a need, then be willing to sponsor it."

New works are only part of the missions picture in Arkansas. That picture includes chaplaincy and ministry.

"Our biggest emphasis is in the area of volunteer jail chaplains," said chaplaincy associate Marion Reynolds. "About half of the sheriffs have reported they have jail ministries... and Southern Baptists are involved in about half.

"My goal is to work toward having a viable jail chaplaincy ministry in every county jail in the state," he said. "The sheriffs are basically cooperative, allowing me

to work with them to establish a jail chaplain's role, identifying volunteers and establishing needed training."

Volunteerism is the key for missions ministries in the state.

"Right now we are developing a state network of volunteer coordinators," said church and community ministries associate Tommy Goode. "and we will continue to involve people in missions projects, World Changers, Church in a Day, Nail-benders, Mississippi River Ministry, Campers on Mission, Senior Partners and disaster relief. Those groups have become strong and have a unique way of reaching more volunteers.

"Here in Arkansas we have lots of projects that have become ongoing and that means we're getting consistency and...that means churches are reaching local communities in new and innovative ways."

CCM associate Sandy Wisdom-Martin listed "three specific areas where we want to see growth - literacy missions, resort missions and multihousing missions."

Wisdom-Martin said welfare reform also "has become a big issue, moving families from dependency to sufficiency as an avenue to introducing that family to the church family."

Missions department director Jimmy Barrentine said no overview of state missions would be complete "without looking at the Hope Migrant Mission Center. Besides providing the message of the gospel, it is a center where they can have their needs met. About a third of the 60,000 migrants who come through the state use the center.

"The center is to Arkansas what Baptist hospitals are on foreign fields," he said. "It gives credibility and it's an entry port. The majority of those who come through expect it to be there."

## State missionary prayer needs

ABSC missions department director Jimmy Barrentine urged Arkansas Baptists to pray during the Season of Prayer for State Missions Sept. 21-28 for the following state missionaries supported in large part by the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Jimmy Barrentine, director  
Tommy Goode, associate  
church & community ministries  
Jim Hausler, associate  
language missions  
Eddie Jones, associate  
black church extension  
Jack Ramsey, associate  
new church extension  
Marion Reynolds, associate  
chaplaincy ministries associate  
Sandy Wisdom-Martin, consultant  
church & community ministries  
Diane Lewis, part-time consultant  
church & community ministries

Paul Roaten, director  
Hope Migrant Center  
Dan Clevenger, chaplain  
Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center  
Chris Copeland, chaplain  
Human Development Center  
Bennie McCracken, chaplain  
ADC Diagnostic Unit  
Ruby Swanigan, chaplain  
Tucker Women's Unit, ADC  
Ruth Eckhardt, missions staff  
Diane Moss, missions staff  
Olene Raines, missions staff  
Judy Spencer, missions staff

## MISSIONS

# IMB trustees affirm agency's vision, organization for 2001

**O**N THEIR KNEES in prayer surrounding 14 new overseas regional leaders, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board signaled unanimous support for the final stage of an overseas operations revitalization begun earlier this year.

In the hours preceding the prayer session, the new regional leaders described their vision to take the gospel to the entire world. They also reviewed plans to implement creative ministries and approaches on every continent.

Following their Sept. 4-5 meeting in Dallas, International Mission Board trustees participated in a Sunday evening service at First Baptist Church in which 58 new missionaries were appointed for overseas service. The group included Amy and David Jarboe of Del City, Okla., daughter and son-in-law of Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff.

The board's reorganization expands the number of overseas administrative units from 10 to 14, covering every

population group outside North America. In many places — particularly in areas where Cooperative Services International, the former relief/development arm of the board, and former geographic areas overlapped — personnel who have

never worked together are being combined into new team configurations.

Avery Willis, the IMB's senior vice president for overseas operations, said the regional leaders' presentation to trustees marked the beginning of a major new advance in Southern Baptist international missions. The presentation reflected the agency's shift from focusing on 194 countries to targeting 12,862 people groups in the world. DALLAS (BP)

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## Baptist Book Store opens new facility Sept. 11

**B**OB BARNETT moves excitedly down the wide aisles of the newly-opened Baptist Book Store, pointing to the store's modernized racks, audio section and display lighting.

"It's been wild," he explains of the move, which took the store from its 15-year location on Markham Street in Little Rock to its new location at 11600 Chenal Parkway near Barnes & Noble Book-sellers and The Purple Cow restaurant.

"The move's gone real well. We closed our doors on the night of Sept. 6 and reopened the 11th," he said, admitting, though, that "we've still got a lot of organizing to do. Customers ask for something and we say, 'Okay' and go look around for it. We know what category it's in and eventually find it."

The store is the only full-service Baptist Book Store in Arkansas and is part of a chain of about 70 stores operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

While the new facility still will not mail dated curriculum such as Sunday School literature (which is mailed from BSSB warehouses in Nashville, Tenn.) Barnett said the store stocks "supplemental literature, such as those dealing with leadership are here."

Barnett noted that it is those types of materials that make the business more of a ministry than a book store.

"The Sunday School Board has done



Baptist Book Store manager Bob Barnett stands in front of the new 12,400-square-foot store location at 11600 Chenal Parkway in West Little Rock. The store opened its doors Sept. 11 following a move from their 15-year location on Markham Street in Little Rock.

a good job on those things and, evidently, they've hit a need," he said. "If you look at various titles here, you can see they go for the personal needs of people. A lot of people with a lot of needs come here."

While "Baptist" is part of the store's name, Barnett said it serves "more than just SBC church members. It runs the full gamut of who's in the area and we know that people of all denominations come through."

Barnett is excited about the new facility, part of a BSSB-wide strategy to upgrade its stores.

"Obviously, the fact that we have increased space enables us to feature our

materials where they are more attractive, more accessible and where people can see them better," he said. "I think the overall atmosphere of comfort in this store, too — from the push chairs to the wide aisles — is designed to offer the customer convenience and security."

Barnett pointed out other features of the new facility, including "a huge VCR screen in the back in the children's area" and an expanded gift area offering merchandise "from the inexpensive to the expensive. Christian gifts in our industry have changed to where they are beautifully done and can compete anywhere."

Highlighting the store's audio area, he said, "We have any range of music that has a Christian message and relating to various ranges of tastes. We have two listening booths where you can go in and sing with an accompaniment tape and CD players where they can listen to music before making their choice."

Barnett said the book store has more to offer than new products and a pleasing facility. "People can trust our material in here," he emphasized. "We work hard to make sure it's trustworthy. There are some authors we don't stock here."

For example, he said, "The Sunday School Board edits children's material and makes sure it's all very accurate. Some children's material from other sources can look good, but can teach the wrong things. You can trust the material that's here."

While the store has opened, Barnett said as part of its grand opening the public may attend a book signing Sept. 27 from noon to 2 p.m. featuring Gov. Mike Huckabee signing his new release, *Character Is the Issue*, and a Grand Opening Celebration Oct. 1 at 9 a.m.

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## Early reservations advised for '98 SBC in Utah

**S**OUTHERN BAPTIST Convention messengers are being advised to make hotel reservations early for the 1998 SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City, according to convention manager Jack R. Wilkerson.

The city's hotels are not as large as those in other cities where the SBC has met, explained Wilkerson, vice president

for business and finance at the SBC Executive Committee. He said each official convention-related hotel will have fewer rooms available for messengers attending the meeting.

SBC hotel registration will begin Oct. 1. The SBC housing guide and request form is now available at state Baptist convention offices and the Executive

Committee in Nashville, Tenn. It also is in the September issue of *SBC Life*, the Executive Committee's monthly journal.

Beginning Oct. 1, reservations may be made by calling the Salt Lake City Convention and Visitors Bureau/SBC Housing Bureau at 1-800-217-0002 or 801-521-9025. Completed forms also may be faxed to 801-355-0250.

Forms sent by mail must be post-marked Oct. 1 or after and addressed to SLCVB/SBC Housing Bureau, 90 S. West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101.

A shuttle service will operate in both the downtown and airport areas to transport messengers to the SBC sessions. Most convention-related hotels also will provide free airport shuttle service.

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)

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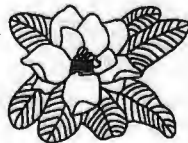
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## MINISTRY

# Immanuel WMU showers babies with God's love

**A** CHURCH IS not an unusual place to hold a baby shower. "Usually we give a baby shower for someone who has grown up in the church, to show love for the baby and concern for it throughout its life," noted Donna Fine, Woman's Missionary Union director for Immanuel Church in Fort Smith. But this summer, Immanuel's WMU threw a baby shower of a different kind, for young ladies they had never met who live hundreds of miles away on a Nebraska Indian reservation.

"It started at the WMU annual meeting in the spring," Fine explained. "Two or three times during the meeting, Alpha Goombi talked about the work they were doing with Native Americans." Goombi is a Southern Baptist North American missionary who serves in Omaha.

Goombi's mother-in-law's church friends gave her a shower for her first child—even though they didn't know her. Their action became a seed for a ministry where Goombi gives showers for expectant mothers, regardless of their situation.

"At the end of her talk," she just mentioned that some of us might want to throw a shower for those young women," Fine said. "I thought, 'Why not?' This is one way to show God's love—reaching out and showing love for the child." So the idea was born for a churchwide baby shower to benefit Goombi's ministry.

WMU leaders corresponded with Goombi, who provided them with photographs and a written testimony about her work. The women went to work publicizing the shower, even posting it on the church marquee. "The shower took the place of a Sunday night service," Fine explained. "We asked that the gifts be unwrapped, so everyone could see them."

When the shower was over, the women packed up the decorations and wrapping paper to send along with the gifts, resulting in a total of nine boxes, which were recently shipped to Goombi. Everything that an infant could need—from bottles to diapers—was included.

"It's not just a one-time event," Fine explained. "We had such good attendance that we've scheduled it again next year."

Denny Neff, pastor of Immanuel, affirmed the importance of the event. "The reason we were so supportive of the shower is because of our commitment to life," he emphasized. "They will know that somebody loves them and is praying for them—as well as providing much-needed materials there."



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## Baptist secretaries' meetings to be held Oct. 27-28

**T**WO EVENTS designed to benefit secretaries will be held at Central Church in North Little Rock Oct. 27-28: The Arkansas Church/Denominational Secretaries Workshop will be held Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning and the annual meeting of the Association of Arkansas Baptist Secretaries, will be held during a Tuesday luncheon and afternoon session.

The workshop program will feature Janice Holcomb, an author and secretarial consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Topics will include "First Impressions...Do They Really Count?"; "First Impressions...Impressions Less Thought About!"; and "First Impressions...You Call This Ministry?"

The AABS program will include business during the

luncheon and the afternoon workshops, "Time Management," led by Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and "Health, Nutrition and Meal Planning" led by Betty Oliver of Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Services.

The cost for the workshop is \$7.50 per person and includes materials. The cost for the AABS meeting and workshop also is \$7.50 per person and includes the luncheon. Participants must provide their own lodging.

For more information, contact Gerald Jackson at the ABSB discipleship and family ministry department toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5160 or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791.

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**Seeking resumes** - part-time or bivocational music minister. Send to: Personnel Committee, Graves Memorial Baptist Church, 4611 Oak Grove Rd., North Little Rock, AR 72118.

**Accepting resumes** - for full-time minister of youth. Send resumes: First Baptist Church, PO Box 565, Trumann, AR 72472.

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. Classified ads shall be restricted to church-related subject matter.

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## NATION

# Georgia leaders, Mercer study new relationship

**T**HE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Georgia Baptist Convention voted 77-7 to approve a proposal to modify yet maintain the convention's relationship with Mercer University.

Following the meeting, the proposal was also narrowly endorsed on a 5-4 vote by the executive committee of Mercer's trustees. For the proposal to take effect, Mercer officials said it must be approved by the 45-member board of trustees.

Provisions of the proposal include:

■ Agreement by present Mercer trustees to have three conservative ministers and two conservative laypersons nominated as trustees by the 1997 convention nominating committee.

■ Creation of a joint liaison committee consisting of Mercer and convention officials to annually nominate six trustees for the Mercer board, beginning in 1998. The liaison committee also would discuss any issues that arise in the relationship between the convention and the school.

■ Commitment by the board of trustees to "convey to its successors" that the Baptist Faith and Message should be a part of the criteria in selecting future university presidents.

■ An invitation for the executive director of the state convention to attend and participate in Mercer trustee meetings, assist in the orientation of new Mercer trustees and take part in any future searches for a university president.

■ Formal acknowledgement by the convention executive committee of the ministry and financial support Mercer gives to Baptist students and churches.

The proposal came from the Mercer Relationship Study Committee appointed by the convention executive committee last year following the publication of the controversial book, *When We Talk About God...Let's Be Honest*, by Mercer University president R. Kirby Godsey.

A related committee concluded that Godsey's views "dramatically deviate from orthodoxy. That being true, it is our opinion that it is punctuated with heresy." Committee chairman Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., has called for Godsey's resignation.

David Hudson, chairman of the Mercer trustees' executive committee and an attorney from Augusta, Ga., said the trustee group had voted 9-0 to reaffirm Mercer's commitment to academic freedom, Godsey's leadership and his right to publish the book. ATLANTA (BP)

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*Politics Is My Parish*, Dr. Dunn

Saturday, Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m. - Dinner

Saturday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

*If Jesus Tarries: American Religion in a New Century*,  
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## Baptist representatives' son narrowly escapes bomb blast

**O**NE MONTH after a pair of suicide bombs killed 15 people in a crowded Jerusalem market, another series of explosions killed seven more people in a similar setting.

Mark Anthony, 15-year-old son of Southern Baptist representatives John and Connie Anthony, walked into the crowded Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem just seconds after two bombs exploded there Sept. 4. He saw the third bomb go off shortly afterward as he found himself in a street full of bloodied victims.

Dazed by the explosion, Anthony slipped on the bloody street and became disoriented. A classmate found him 10 to 15 minutes later just outside the area, dazed and stiff. They walked together to the Anglican International School, where both are students.

Avoiding terrorism has become a way of life for the Anthonys, as it has for other residents of Jerusalem. So it is something of a mystery to Connie Anthony that her son walked into the chaos, while others with him instinctively ran the other way.

"When I asked Mark why he went into it all, he said he pulled his cross on a chain out from under his shirt and was going to go help the people and thought, 'If they saw my cross and knew I was a Christian, maybe some of them would believe in Jesus,'" his mother recalled.

"That was what came from inside. But then the grimness and gruesomeness must have overwhelmed him."

Mark's father, John, who was in the States at the time of the attack, encouraged Southern Baptists to pray for his family and others who were affected by the bombings. Anthony, who is pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, is a native of Arkansas.

The seven people killed in the attack included the three terrorists, who blew themselves up. The four Israelis killed were identified as two 12-year-old girls, a 14-year-old girl and a 20-year-old man.

The attack was linked to the militant Hamas Islamic terrorist group, which opposes peace talks between Palestinian and Israeli government leaders. Nearly 200 people were wounded in the attack.

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### Family Bible How can we succeed?

By Randy Maxwell, pastor,  
Mount Olive Church, Crossett

**Basic passage:**  
Zechariah 4

**Focal passage:**  
Zechariah 4:1-14

**Central truth:**  
When God calls us to a task,  
we can succeed only through  
the strength the Holy Spirit  
offers us.

It is so easy to fall into the trap of thinking that size is the only measure of God's blessings on ministry. Sometimes it is, but often it is not. Zechariah reminds us that God can be involved in even "small things." The key to our success is not the size of the ministry, but the amount of the ministry we allow God to control.

About two months after Haggai sounded God's call to work on the temple, God sent another prophet, Zechariah, to provide additional encouragement. God's messages through Zechariah came to him through mystical visions. In this text, we find one of these marvelous visions.

The vision centered around the Jewish menorah, or lampstand. It also contained a bowl containing the oil for the lamps and two olive trees, one on each side, supplying the oil to the bowl.

The message through the vision was especially for Zerubbabel, the governor of the little colony of returned exiles. The governor

may have been wondering if they could ever finish the job of rebuilding the temple. The message was plain: They would not finish the job by their own might or power, but they would complete it through God's Spirit.

Even as Zechariah saw a great mountain become level ground, so we can turn our mountains into molehills, succeeding in spite of life's obstacles. We too must lean on the Lord and His might. It requires our willingness and His strength to accomplish His task. Jesus told His disciples, "Apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Ancient Israel was small compared to Babylon, Rome, etc., but God used that little fragment to bless this entire world through His Messiah. We may feel that we cannot do much or that our church is small, but remember that "little is much" when you allow God to work through you to give light to this dark and dying world. When we keep focused on Him, He will give us the success life desires.

### Life and Work The one and only gospel

By Brett Cooper,  
director of public relations,  
Williams Baptist College

**Basic passage:**  
Acts 17:16-34

**Focal passage:**  
Acts 17:16-19, 22-28, 30-34

**Central truth:**  
Christians have a  
responsibility to spread the  
gospel message wisely  
and effectively.

They call it marketing. What it amounts to is taking those products we see every day and making them as appealing as possible. It's not as easy a task as one might imagine. Simply to get the consumer's attention in today's marketplace is quite a chore.

We as Christians are called to do some marketing ourselves. We are called to spread the one and only gospel. It is our solemn duty to let a lost and dying world know of the love, sacrifice and redeeming grace of Jesus Christ.

Paul gives us a textbook example of how to market the gospel in Acts 17. His task in this chapter is to reach the people of Athens. The savvy he shows in getting his audience to consider the gospel can be held up today as a shining example for all of us.

When it comes to marketing a religious message, a marketplace doesn't get much more crowded than the Athens of Paul's day. To say the city was multi-cultural, particularly in matters of religion, is a notable understatement. In

spreading the good news of Christ in Athens, Paul encountered a group of people who exposed themselves to any and all religious arguments.

Note what Paul does and does not do. Rather than browbeat that crowd of people in front of the Areopagus, Paul shrewdly decides to play on their own turf. Rather than condemn them for their many idols, he uses the situation as an opening for the gospel. He pointed out an altar dedicated to an unknown god, and began telling of His God. He found just a bit of common ground and worked from there.

The results were predictable. Even after Paul's brilliant argument, some in the audience openly scoffed at him. But, the key point is that some became believers.

Today, we are entrusted with that same gospel message. We must be to wise stewards as we seek out ways to market the greatest gift of all time. By taking Paul's lead, we can see that finding that common ground may be the key to reaching the lost for Christ.

### Explore the Bible Sibling rivalry

By Ken Shaddox, pastor,  
First Church, Fordyce

**Basic passage:**  
Genesis 4-5

**Focal passage:**  
Genesis 4:3-12

**Central truth:**  
Sin carries a heavy and  
destructive price.

Does the Bible say anything about interpersonal relationships? To answer this question in a single word, "Yes!" In Genesis 4, we find an unfolding story of the first two brothers. Unfortunately, the relationship between Cain and Abel quickly became negative. Tension, strain and resentment marked the relationship between these siblings. Strained relationships are very much a part of our day as well. The soured relationship that existed between Cain and Abel spawns a question: "Are most of your relationships with others characterized as functional or dysfunctional?"

In studying Genesis 4, the source of the conflict seems to be centered around an offering that was brought to the Lord. Cain was a farmer who was accustomed to working the soil. Abel was a shepherd who tended a flock. Each man brought an offering to the Lord. The biblical record tells us that God accepted Abel's offering but Cain's offering was not looked on favorably by the Lord (Gen. 4:6). Many suggestions have

been proposed about why God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's. The answer to why God accepted one offering and rejected the other lies in the condition of the two men's hearts. As you and I enter into times of worship and praise we need to remember that God looks on our hearts (1 Sam. 16:7).

In verse 8, Cain lashed out in a premeditated act and killed his brother. Because Cain refused to deal correctly with his anger, it grew into murder. What began as an evil attitude became a violent action. Furthermore, Cain seemed to show no remorse for his sin when confronted by God in verse 9.

God was intimately acquainted with Cain's crime. While Cain tried to cover up his action, the blood of his brother Abel cried out. God heard such a cry. God punished Cain. Cain was forced to live a life of a wanderer on the earth (Gen. 4:12). When we sin, it never draws us into a closer fellowship to God; just the opposite is true. Sin carries a heavy price tag.

When Nebuchadnezzar and his army besieged Jerusalem and forced King Jehoiakim to surrender, only a few captives were taken away. Among them were four brave and faithful young men, who realized that although they were now dwelling in a foreign land, they still had a responsibility to obey God.

Obviously Nebuchadnezzar meant to take the best and brightest young men and make them into highly trained and loyal Babylonians. These young men would have the finest Babylon food to offer, including its richest foods and drinks.

The food included meat that was not permitted under Hebrew law, and the wine was that which was used in pagan worship. The Hebrew foursome refused the rich food and drink and offered a sensible proposal. Give them 10 days to eat their own kind of food and the guards could judge whether or not their diet was unhealthy. Of course, the result was decisive. After 10 days, Daniel and his friends were in better condition than the young men who ate the royal food.

In a family, a real family, no one hurts alone. If someone else in your family is suffering, you suffer with them, simply because you care for them. You don't literally feel the pain, physical, emotional or otherwise, but you hurt for them just the same.

The kind of church family Paul writes about in II Corinthians should have these feelings, as well. They should be so closely bound that if one suffers, they all suffer together.

Paul begins this letter by telling the church of his steadfast hope for them. He has heard of the way God has been working in their midst, and he knows the results will be glorious.

Paul seems to tell the church in II Corinthians 1:6 that they feel the incredible suffering he has recently endured because he is a part of their family. And if they do not feel those things, they should. It's what families do.

What sets this Christian family apart from other families is the way it feels the influence of God. The works and the will of the Father are to

As a result, they were allowed to eat food according to their law for the three years of their course of study. They were eager to bring credit to their God. They had committed their circumstances to God, and He was with them. In fact they were 10 times better than all the magicians and enchanters in the entire kingdom.

These young heroes had a choice to make when confronted with temptation. It is clear that we also have choices. If we choose to go against God's will, it is because we have chosen to do just that. God tells us that we are to "resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). And He promises us that no temptation will be too powerful to overcome (I Cor. 10:13).

Daniel and his three friends knew God's Word was true, and they were committed to following it. "By constant use" of God's Word, we need to be "trained...to distinguish good from evil" (Heb. 5:14). Having made the distinction, we too need to choose the good.

Be woven all through this fabric, which is what gave the early Christians the comfort they so desperately needed.

In our focal passage, Paul refers to the Father as "Paraclete," or "comforter." More commonly used in the New Testament in reference to the Holy Spirit, in this case "Paraclete" brings to our attention the caring nature of God the Father.

Paul implies that this comfort from above should also flow freely between the members of the church body. If God were working through the Corinthian church, they should demonstrate the same comforting spirit toward one another.

The lesson of this focal passage is every bit as applicable today as when it was written. Our fellow church members endure trials, pain and suffering. They need our comfort.

As a church, we are not merely individuals who get together for worship services. We are a family, woven together with lives that affect one another. Just as God is there to aid to us, so we must be there for our brothers and sisters.

We cannot pick up the newspaper or turn on the television without being bombarded by reminders of the sin that abounds in our society. It frequently seems as though violence, corruption, greed, immorality and rebellion prevail. This is nothing new. In Noah's day there was also an abundance of evil. In fact, the biblical record emphasizes that "the wickedness of man was great on the earth" (Gen. 6:5). Wickedness was simply everywhere.

God's response to sin and wickedness is constant. Whether the sin be in Noah's day or ours, it still affects the heart of God. Sin broke God's heart: "The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain" (Gen. 6:7). God was sorry His purposes for man had been marred by sin. So sinful had humans become that God decided to destroy humanity by a flood (Gen. 6:7). Certainly the language of God "blotting out man" serves as proof that He does judge sin. While God allows us to choose our own way, He also

allows us to experience the consequences.

Have you ever heard the expression, "There is a silver lining in every cloud?" In Genesis 6:8 and following we are introduced to a man named Noah. In this man the grace of the Lord was present. He and his family serve as the silver lining in the sixth chapter of Genesis. Noah was not a perfect man but he did stand out as different than the culture around him. Words like "blameless" and "righteous" are used to describe Noah. His life is living proof that we can walk with God even in a wicked society.

Noah faithfully built an ark as the Lord instructed. No one had ever built an ark before and yet Noah chose to obey God. Perhaps we should ask ourselves the question, "How willing am I to follow God into uncharted areas?" Noah's faith is demonstrated at this point (Heb. 11:7). The flood came and only Noah and his family were delivered. God blesses those who faithfully follow Him. You and I have been called to be light in a sin-darkened world (Matt. 5:14-16).

## Family Bible Resisting temptation

By Randy Maxwell, pastor,  
Mount Olive Church, Crossett

### Basic passage:

Daniel 1

### Focal passage:

Daniel 1:3-5, 8-16

### Central truth:

Daniel and his friends resisted the temptation to compromise their principles and serve as examples for us today.

## Life and Work

### Be encouragers

By Brett Cooper,  
director of public relations,  
Williams Baptist College

### Basic passage:

II Corinthians 1:1-11

### Focal passage:

II Corinthians 1:3-11

### Central truth:

Church members should extend the same care toward one another that God has shown them.

## Explore the Bible Right living in wrong times

By Ken Shaddox, pastor,  
First Church, Fordyce

### Basic passage:

Genesis 6-9

### Focal passage:

Genesis 6:5-9, 18-19;

8:16-17; 9:11-13

### Central truth:

In the midst of evil surroundings, the Christian is to bear the light of the righteousness of God.



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## Dilday to be nominated as Texas Baptist president

ABILENE, TX (ABP)—Russell Dilday, senior president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be nominated as president of the Texas General Convention of Texas this fall, according to Edwin Simmons, University chancellor Jesse Fletcher, who will nominate him.

Dilday, 66, who was fired by Southwestern trustees in 1974, now teaches at Baylor University's George W. Truett Seminary in Waco. He said he agreed to accept the nomination because he is a "debtor" to Texas and Texas Baptists.

If elected, Dilday pledged, he would seek to help Texas Baptists "get beyond our political struggles and differences and pull together in encouraging all Baptist Texans to put these peripheral and minor differences behind us and meet our goals of winning Texans to faith in Christ and building Texas churches."

## Southwestern professor barred from class

FORT WORTH, TX (ABP)—A faculty member who accused Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of academic censorship in a recent book has been permanently removed from classroom duties and may face firing.

Jeff Pool, an assistant professor of systematic theology, was not in classes when the fall semester opened Aug. 25. Pool was scheduled to teach four courses, which now are being taught by graduate students or other faculty.

Pool reportedly was barred from teaching courses by administrators angry about *Sacred Mandates of Conscience*, a new book examining the Southern Baptist Convention's "Baptist Faith and Message."

The book contains articles Pool originally edited for an issue of the seminary's *Southwestern Journal of Theology* which was suspended by seminary administrators. In a preface to the book published by Smyth and Helwys Publishing, Pool decried the seminary's refusal to publish the journal as "academic censorship." Seminary officials denied the censorship charge, noting that they waived rights to the articles and returned them to the authors.

According to a written statement by seminary president Ken Hemphill, "We are presently working with Dr. Pool according to seminary policies on matters of concern. We believe we will reach a resolution that will be in the best interests of Dr. Pool and the seminary."

## Pastors protest woman's role on state convention staff

BENTON, IL (ABP)—Several Illinois Baptist ministers are criticizing a proposed reorganization of the state's Baptist convention staff because it places women in two ministry leadership positions.

A new Illinois Baptist State Association staff structure names Janet Craynon as associate executive director and Evelyn Tully as facilitator of a service-ministry leadership team. Craynon currently is director of the resource management department. Tully would assume the new duties while retaining her current job as director of Woman's Missionary Union services.

The plan, unveiled by executive director Bob Wiley in a series of meetings across the state, was criticized in recent letters to the *Illinois Baptist* and has been discussed among pastors in a series of phone calls. The critics insist the Bible forbids women from holding authority over men in church offices.

Wiley, who became executive director last fall, denied the new structure gives women authority over men. He said the new team leadership approach is designed to "take away positional authority" and "flatten the lines of authority."

## Yeats named editor of Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—John L. Yeats, editor of the *Indiana Baptist* the past 18 months, will become editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, newsjournal of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention, Nov. 1.

Yeats, 47, a native of Oklahoma, was unanimously elected Sept. 9 by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma board of directors. He will succeed Glenn Brown, who will retire Sept. 30 after 10 years as editor.

Yeats currently is recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention. He previously was a pastor in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas and editor of a Baptist conservative newsletter in Texas. He is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

# NEWS DIGEST