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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

9-21-1995

September 21, 1995

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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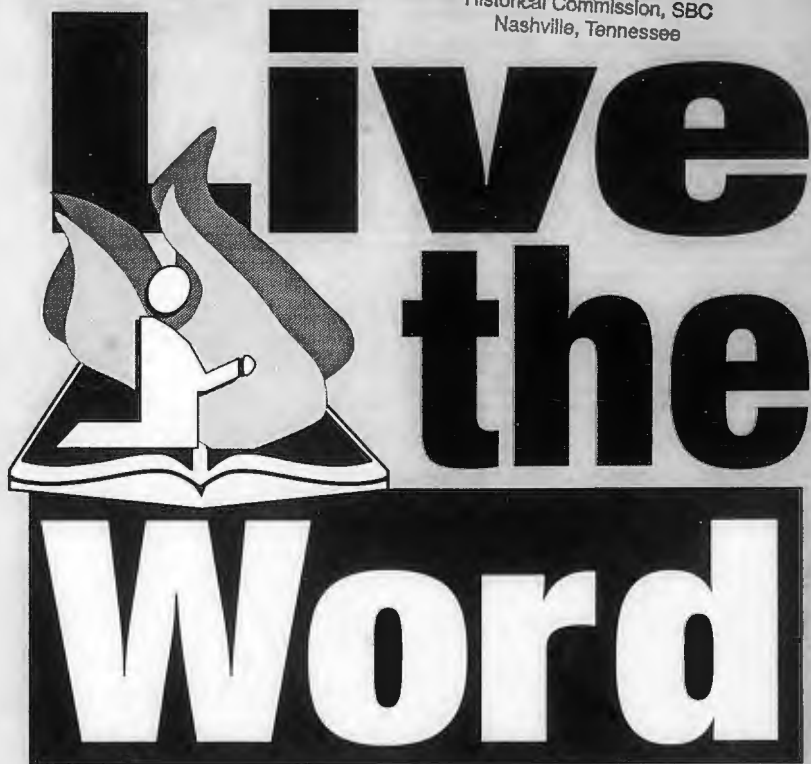
ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 19

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Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee



1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention
October 31-November 2
First Church, Little Rock

Enrollment up at OBU, WBC

Both Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College reported increased enrollment figures this fall. Ouachita enrolled 1,477 students, up 2.6 percent over last year. Williams noted a slight increase, from 606 to 615, as well as an increase in full-time equivalent (FTE) students from 415 to 420.

Ouachita president Ben Elrod said Ouachita's administration is "very pleased that our enrollment is up again this year. Despite the trend among private colleges and universities across the nation, Ouachita is experiencing a period of growth." He noted that Ouachita's enrollment has increased by almost 14 percent during the past three years.

Elrod attributed the growth at Ouachita to a growing interest among students in the quality educational programs and Christian values which can be found on the campus of a church-related institution. He said he believes the university enrollment is growing because of the school's academic and Christian reputation.

Noting that Ouachita's faculty and staff "make it possible for students to successfully integrate their academic pursuits with a strong personal Christian commitment,"

Elrod added, "This has been a hallmark of the Ouachita experience throughout the university's 109-year history."

Kenneth Startup, vice president for academic affairs at Williams, said new academic programs, particularly its new pre-med program, have helped sustain enrollment at Williams. He also credited a strong showing at the college's extension centers along with positive responses to ExCELL, Williams's new college degree completion program for adults. Williams operates extensions in Bradford and in Senath, Mo.

"The increase in FTE is probably the best news for those of us in administration," noted Williams president Jerol Swaim. "It tells us that Williams is attracting an increasing number of serious students. We're getting more students who are determined to earn a bachelor's degree."

Swaim credited the low cost of a Williams education with the stability of the college's enrollment. "We are capable of providing personal attention and an outstanding faculty for one of the lowest costs of any private college in this country," he said. "Students and parents alike are looking for that."

OBU ranked 8th best in South by U.S. News

Ouachita Baptist University has been ranked the eighth best liberal arts college in the South by *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual academic rankings of colleges and universities. It is the first time for Ouachita to make the top ten list, although it has ranked high in the annual study.

Two other Arkansas institutions, Lyon College and John Brown University, are included in the list, with Lyon ranking sixth and JBU seventh.

"The inclusion of Ouachita in this list is an indication of the growing strength of our educational program," said Ouachita president Ben Elrod. "We are delighted to be listed with other respected liberal arts colleges from across the south."

U.S. News and World Report uses several criteria to evaluate the approximately 125 colleges in the region, including academic reputation, faculty resources, financial resources and alumni satisfaction.

Cover Story



Live the Word 6-11

Arkansas Baptists will focus on the theme, "Live the Word," during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 at First Church, Little Rock. This issue features a preview of convention actions and activities.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



USPS 008021

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The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individuals) \$6.56 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.08 per year (Group Plan), Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 94 • Number 19

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WMU action, FMB response prompts debate

Missions leaders at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union have squared off over WMU's decision to produce missions education supplements for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

FMB president Jerry Rankin mailed a letter to about 40,000 pastors, WMU directors and other Southern Baptist leaders, urging them to pray that national WMU leaders will reverse their decision related to CBF. An FMB spokesman said the mailing cost approximately \$11,500.

Expressing disappointment that WMU "has chosen to depart from its historic relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention of exclusive support to SBC mission agencies," Rankin wrote, "We ask that you pray with us that the decision of the WMU national board to deviate from its historic role of exclusive support of HMB and FMB missionaries will be reversed and this special relationship, which has existed for 107 years, not be abandoned."

National WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien responded that she is "furious" with Rankin's letter, labeling it "inflammatory, misleading and divisive."

"Contrary to Dr. Rankin's statement in a press report that the letter was not designed to drive a wedge between grass-roots WMU members and the organization's national leadership, it would be difficult not to imagine that this was the purpose," she said.



Jerry Rankin



Dellanna O'Brien

O'Brien also expressed concern that Rankin's letter "leads its readers to believe that WMU intends 'to abandon' its relationship with the Foreign Mission Board. Nothing could be further from the truth! Ninety-nine point nine percent of what we do is, and will remain, related to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Rather than 'promoting and publicizing' the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, we are simply responding to a request from churches for materials which include information about what the CBF is doing in missions."

WMU's decision to produce material for the CBF is based on a 1993 policy to produce resources "for Southern Baptist groups involved in missions, at their request," a decision reaffirmed by WMU leaders this summer. While churches which support CBF officially remain a part of the SBC, convention leaders have sought

to distance the SBC from the CBF by refusing to accept any funds channeled through the moderate organization.

Rankin insisted that it is "counter-productive" for WMU leaders to "endorse and promote any organization which would divert funding and undercut support for the Southern Baptist Convention and our missions agencies." He added that the action "undermines a cooperative spirit" between the WMU and SBC agencies.

The recent WMU action came shortly after SBC messengers amended the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee report to include an affirmation of the "valued historic relationship" with WMU.

The current debate also follows a recent decision by FMB trustees to join the Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies, a voluntary association of 110 missions organizations including Campus Crusade for Christ and World Vision.

National WMU president Carolyn Miller said she is "appalled" that Rankin "would assume...that we have deviated from our historic role."

Noting that FMB trustees "apparently understand the need for working with other groups in sharing the gospel message," she added, "If the FMB can work with evangelical groups — some of which have been viewed in years past as 'competing' with Southern Baptists — why cannot we work with a group of Southern Baptists?"

Arkansas leaders analyze FMB/WMU conflict

Reflecting sentiments expressed by national leaders in a disagreement between the Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union, FMB trustees from Arkansas endorsed the recent actions of FMB president Jerry Rankin while state WMU leaders echoed views shared by national WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien.

The controversy centers around WMU's decision to publish supplemental missions material for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Rankin's decision to publicly oppose their action by mailing letters of concern to approximately 40,000 Baptist leaders (see related article above).

Arkansas Baptist WMU executive director Julia Ketter said she was "disturbed and hurt to receive Dr. Rankin's letter" which labeled WMU's recent action as "counterproductive."

"My concern is the potential negative effect it will have on reaching the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$100 million, our largest ever," Ketter explained. "I believe there is a greater cause on which we should spend time, money and energies — the winning of a lost and hurting world to Christ."

"I cannot see how the letter has any positive impact for missions," she added. "Let's move beyond the letter and join together to give the largest amount ever to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We must if we are to meet the needs of an ever-changing, lost world!"

FMB trustee Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, said trustees encouraged Rankin to address the issue of WMU producing material for CBF. "There was disappointment and

concern that the national WMU would take that action," he explained. "The concern is that CBF is made up of people who have reacted to the leadership of the SBC and the direction it is going."

Davis described O'Brien's reaction as "a total misunderstanding of what Jerry Rankin was saying in his letter. I see a plea to try to create tension that is not even there. I think that's unfortunate because we're all trying to work together to reach people."

State WMU president Barbara Wikman said she "felt hurt and anger" by Rankin's letter — "hurt because WMU women are not departing from their main purpose of missions and their support of Southern Baptist missionaries; anger because the letter appears to sow seeds of distrust and disloyalty among WMU women and the church leadership."

"WMU is simply trying to serve all Southern Baptist churches," Wikman insisted. "I sincerely desire that all of us would focus on the greater cause — sharing Christ with a lost world."

FMB trustee Wallace Edgar, pastor of Trinity Church, Texarkana, said he "would surely like for things to work out, if at all possible, between the WMU and the FMB." He added, however, that "I'm not sure exactly what that's going to take."

"Hopefully, by the grace of God, we can get this worked out and move on," he said. "We certainly want to work with WMU."

Regardless of what happens on the national level, Ketter emphasized that "Arkansas WMU will continue to be focused on the main thing — the promotion of Southern Baptist missions: state, home and foreign."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech." Deceitful speech in and out of the church is as prevalent as the air we breathe. From the politician to the pulpit there is such lack of integrity that one hardly knows who or what to believe. The hurt and damage being inflicted upon the body of Christ from evil speaking is enough to dam up the graces of God He wants to flow through our lives.

The next verse says, "He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it." Right relationships, harmony and meaningful living do not come easily, but when each of us by choice decides against evil ways and chooses to follow the good path. Even after the choice is made, "seeking" and "pursuing" indicate aggressive action taken in the direction of peaceful relationships. Do you know anyone who is "knocking themselves out" to live in peaceful relations? I find a lot of people delighting in their boldness, harshness and insensitivity rather than being grieving over broken relationships. In schools, homes, churches, offices and even the denomination there continues to be disregard for God's clear instruction.

"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." What a contrast there is between the way God relates to those who seek peace and those who live by evil, deceitful talk. To the one, God's eyes are favorably focused and His ears are attuned. To the other, His face is against them and their prayers are not heard. If answered prayer waits on giving up our evil tongue and deceitful speech, it behooves us to act with haste to get ourselves where God can once again be attentive to our prayers.

1 Peter 2:10-12 is the text for this exhortation. Yours for revival! There is scarcely an area of Kingdom life that would not be enhanced by thorough-going practice of these words. Would you consider these words God's challenge to you? It is to me.

RONNIE ROGERS

President's Corner

The discipline of love



God has eternally bound discipline and *real* love together. Human love skirts discipline, but God's discipline is always a companion with love.

God disciplines His children because He loves them. "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines..." (Heb. 12:6).

God says parents who love their children will discipline them. "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently" (Prov. 13:24).

If we love God, we discipline ourselves so that we will be fit for God's use. "I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27).

Our Lord Jesus Christ loved the church so much that He gave the ultimate sacrifice, His life, for her and church discipline was one of the first corporate responsibilities Jesus gave the church. Today, however, church discipline has become the dinosaur of the church buried in dusty archives of church history. No longer is church discipline compatible with the mere human love which pervades church life. This new love scorns discipline as harsh and defies tolerance.

Space will not permit an examination of church discipline; however, only one reason is needed to make discipline an essential part of church

life, and that is that our Lord Jesus commanded it. That alone is sufficient to neutralize the most cogent justification for ignoring or depreciating it.

It is a telling fact about the spiritual condition of the church; when what our Lord made an essential, much of the contemporary church has assigned to a permanent place in the museum of inconsequential.

Rather than bemoan how many might be lost by church discipline, we should weep over how many are lost because of its absence.

Although you will not glean this from church growth marketing strategies, church discipline is an integral part of fulfilling the Great Commission; because only when we *fully* obey our Lord Jesus, do we experience His full power and blessing. Furthermore, it is God's way for the church to deal with those whose lifestyles impede the local church from being all God wants her to be.

If we *love* our brothers and sisters, we will seek to gain them when they fall into sin and that is done through church discipline (Matt. 18:15).

More importantly, it demonstrates our love for Jesus: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"We don't work in a vacuum on the mission field and therefore need to cultivate relationships and communication with other evangelical missions."

—Jerry Rankin, SBC Foreign Mission Board president

"There is a greater cause on which we should spend time, money and energies — the winning of a lost and hurting world to Christ."

—Julia Ketner, Arkansas Baptist WMC executive director

What does 'cooperation' really mean?

As Southern Baptists prepare to celebrate their annual Cooperative Program Month emphasis next month, the key element of CP's success — cooperation — faces unprecedented metamorphosis in Baptist life.

During the past few weeks:

- Foreign Mission Board trustees have announced new alliances with two missions organizations outside the traditional Southern Baptist structure.

- Woman's Missionary Union has agreed to publish "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

- Texas Baptist leaders have endorsed a plan to reduce national CP gifts by \$1.5 million in order to keep more money in the state to fund new church starts.

As can be expected in the diverse world of Southern Baptist life, each of the three actions has been greeted by both affirmation and criticism. Each is also representative of other changes that can be expected to unfold as Baptists freely interpret what voluntary cooperation involves both individually and corporately.

Among specific changes on the Southern Baptist scene, recent action by FMB trustees includes ratifying a "covenant of cooperation" with Global Focus, a new organization dedicated to helping Southern Baptist churches develop "personalized, prioritized" plans for missions support and involvement. Global Focus executive director Larry Reesor said the organization will help Southern Baptist churches "strengthen traditional Southern Baptist missions channels with creative, contemporary methods that appeal to a new generation."

While the board of Global Focus is comprised of Southern Baptist ministers and laymen, national WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien voiced concern that the FMB's alliance with a new, all-male organization "erodes confidence in the promotion and missions education efforts of WMU." Unlike WMU, she added, "these non-traditional methods have totally left out the significance of prayer support in favor of 'raising money' for missions."

Another action which has raised WMU concern is the FMB's decision to join the Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies (EFMA), a voluntary association of 110 missions organizations that send out almost 15,000 missionaries worldwide. Among member groups are the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Conservative Baptists, Campus Crusade for Christ, International Bible Societies and World Vision.

"By joining EFMA, we're recognizing

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



we don't work in a vacuum on the mission field and therefore need to cultivate relationships and communication with other evangelical missions," explained FMB president Jerry Rankin.

WMU leaders' concern about the EFMA alliance appears to be more a question of why FMB leaders can endorse cooperation with diverse evangelical groups while openly criticizing WMU's decision to produce informational materials to aid CBF's world missions efforts.

FMB trustees "apparently understand the need for working with other groups in sharing the gospel message," pointed out national WMU president Carolyn Miller. "If the Foreign Mission Board can work with evangelical groups — some of which have been viewed in years past as 'competing' with Southern Baptist efforts — why cannot we work with a group of Southern Baptists?"

Miller's question came in response to a recent mailing by Rankin that declared, "It would be counterproductive to endorse and promote any organization which would divert funding and undercut support for the Southern Baptist Convention and our mission agencies."

Rankin's mailing to 40,000 Southern Baptist leaders urged prayer that WMU's decision "to deviate from its historic role of exclusive support of HMB and FMB missionaries will be reversed."

Rankin's action prompted widespread distress among WMU leaders on both the state and national levels who used such words as "disturbed," "hurt," "appalled" and "furious" to describe their reactions to his perspective. O'Brien labeled the FMB president's letter "inflammatory, misleading and divisive."

These latest disagreements between the FMB and WMU follow other recent incidents such as the FMB seeking to trademark the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering without consulting WMU leaders as well as the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee refusing to officially affirm WMU's role as an auxiliary until the

report was amended by SBC messengers.

While Arkansas FMB trustees Stephen Davis and Wallace Edgar have indicated they desire for the FMB and WMU to work out their differences and continue to cooperate together, it is clear that the concept of voluntary cooperation among Southern Baptist missions organizations is strained and may undergo significant changes in the years ahead.

On the state level, Texas Baptist leaders have indicated that part of their reason for keeping more CP dollars at home is to respond to SBC structural changes that call for stronger state Baptist conventions to fund an increasing portion of traditional home missions efforts in their states.

SBC Executive Committee chairman Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, has called the Texas Baptist proposal "an extreme departure from the historic tradition of cooperation in worldwide mission support" that Texas Baptists have shared with the SBC for decades.

Floyd, who served on the SBC's seven-member structure study committee, added that the committee's "long-term objective in this was to free up more money for missions around the world; never was it to take money away from world missions."

It must be remembered, however, that the study committee also frequently emphasized that their plan was based on their vision of the SBC's ministry needs and goals, rather than conducting feasibility studies or a cost analysis. In seeking to determine how to respond to the plan on a state level, are Texas Baptists being uncooperative as some SBC leaders have charged or are they simply redefining their level of voluntary cooperation?

One thing is certain: Whatever Texas Baptists decide to do, they have both the right and the responsibility — as does every other Southern Baptist church, association and convention — to determine their most effective use of limited financial resources.

How will Southern Baptists choose to define cooperation as changes continue to bombard the denomination? In the words of Baptist Sunday School Board president Jimmy Draper, "The denomination's service to Christ is based on voluntary cooperation, not coercion; on consensus, not commands.... Our cooperation is completely voluntary because of our firm belief in the democratic principle of freedom of choice for churches and individuals."

What does "cooperation" really mean in Baptist life? Whatever the future holds, a steadfast commitment to "voluntary cooperation, not coercion" remains a fitting goal for all Southern Baptists.



Live the Word
ARKANSAS AWAKENING 1996

PREVIEW OF THE 1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention October 31 – November 1 First Church, Little Rock

Tuesday Morning

October 31

"Spiritual Awakening in Your Personal Life" (1 Cor. 15:34)

8:15	Pre-Session Music.....	Keyboard Ensemble
8:30	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
8:35	Spiritual Awakening Challenge.....	John H. Moore
	Prayer Facilitator.....	David Uth
8:50	Call to Order.....	Ronnie Rogers
8:55	Welcome.....	Bill Elliff
9:00	Appointment of Committees.....	Ronnie Rogers
	Enrollment of Messengers.....	Tim Prock
	Adoption of Order of Business.....	Jim Lagrone
	Tellers Committee Instructions.....	Randy Hogan
	Resolutions.....	Larry Page
	Charter/Bylaws Report.....	Phillip Smith
9:15	Announcements.....	Ronnie Rogers
9:20	Recognition of Denominational Guests.....	Ronnie Rogers
9:25	Recognition of Missionaries.....	Ronnie Rogers
9:30	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
9:35	Baptist Health (75 Year Anniversary).....	Russ Harrington
9:45	Report of Seminary Studies.....	Marion Reynolds
9:55	Worship in Song.....	Adult Ensemble, First Church, Nashville, Don Hall, Director
10:00	MESSAGE.....	Tony Evans
10:30	European Partnership Report.....	Harry Black
10:40	Iowa Partnership Update.....	Jimmy Barentine/ Wyndell Jones
10:50	World Hunger Report.....	Tommy Goode
10:55	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
11:00	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....	Ronnie Rogers

Tuesday Afternoon

October 31

"Spiritual Awakening in Our State and Nation" (Isa. 55:7)

1:15	Pre-Session Music.....	Master Singers Instrumentalists
1:30	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
1:35	Spiritual Awakening Challenge.....	Bryce Mitchell
	Prayer Facilitator.....	Don Moore
1:50	Miscellaneous Business	
2:00	Ouachita Baptist University Report.....	Ben Elrod
2:15	Convention Nominating Committee.....	Barry King
2:25	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT.....	Jerre Mitchell
2:45	Special Recognition: Don Moore.....	Ronnie Rogers
3:05	Church Extension Highlight.....	Jack Ramsey/ Jimmy Barentine
3:25	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell

3:30	Worship in Song.....	Allison Hunt
3:45	MESSAGE.....	Larry Lewis

Tuesday Evening

October 31

"Spiritual Awakening in the Church" (Habakkuk 3:2)

6:00	Pre-Session Music.....	Martha Rosenbaum, Harpist
6:15	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
6:20	Cooperative Program Awards.....	Jimmie Sheffield
6:30	Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Report.....	David Perry
6:45	Williams Baptist College Report.....	Jerol Swaim
7:00	Williams Baptist College Choir.....	Bob McGee, Director
7:15	Spiritual Awakening Challenge.....	Chuck McAllister
7:30	Seeking His Face	
8:10	MESSAGE.....	Don Moore
8:40	Hymn of Response.....	Rob Hewell

Wednesday Morning

November 1

"Spiritual Awakening in the Family" (Psalms 101:2)

8:00	Pre-Session Music.....	Handbell Choir, First Church, Little Rock, Tom Bolton, Director
8:15	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
8:20	Spiritual Awakening Challenge.....	Bill Elliff
8:35	Recognitions.....	Ronnie Rogers
	Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis Former Presidents	
8:40	Retired Baptist Workers.....	R. B. Crotts
8:45	New Arkansans.....	Don Moore
8:50	MESSAGE.....	W. A. Criswell
9:20	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:35	Arkansas Baptist Foundation Report.....	David Moore
9:45	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:55	News magazine Report.....	Trennis Henderson
10:05	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
10:15	Christian Civic Foundation Report.....	Larry Page
10:25	Seminary Report.....	Mark Coppenger
10:35	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
10:40	Worship in Song.....	Vickie Oliver
10:45	CONVENTION SERMON.....	David Crouch
11:15	Miscellaneous Business	
11:30	Resolutions.....	Larry Page
12:00	Presentation of New Officers/Benediction	

Organist: Linda Whatley, First Church, El Dorado
Pianist: Martha Rosenbaum, First Church, Little Rock

Speakers to highlight 'Live the Word' theme

Focusing on the theme, "Live the Word," Arkansas Baptists will launch a five-year emphasis on "Arkansas Awakening" during the 1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Little Rock.

Featured speakers during the two-day gathering include three Arkansas Baptists, two Texas Baptist pastors and the president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The out-of-state guests include W.A. Criswell, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Dallas; Anthony T. Evans, senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas; and HMB president Larry Lewis of Atlanta. Arkansas scheduled to speak include David Crouch, retired pastor of First Church, Searcy, who will deliver the annual convention sermon; state convention president Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs; and state convention executive director Don Moore.

Criswell, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak during the convention's Wednesday morning session. His message at 8:50 a.m. is scheduled immediately prior to the election of a new state convention president at 9:20 a.m.

Criswell, who has served at the 30,000-member Dallas congregation for 50 years, has held numerous denominational leadership positions during his 68 years of ministry. He also is the author of 54 books.

Evans, who will speak at 10 a.m. during the convention's opening session on Tuesday, is co-founder of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. He also is founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national organization that seeks to promote spiritual renewal in urban America.



W.A. Criswell



Anthony Evans



Larry Lewis



David Crouch

Evans, who has served as a Promise Keepers' speaker, is chaplain of the Dallas Mavericks and a former chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys.

Lewis, who has served as HMB president since 1987, will speak to Arkansas Baptists at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. Prior to serving as HMB president, he was president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo. He previously was pastor of churches in Missouri, New Jersey and Ohio as well as director of religious education for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.

Lewis is a former chairman of the SBC Resolutions Committee as well as a vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Crouch, who will preach the convention sermon at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, recently retired as pastor of First Church, Searcy, following 22 years of service there. A pastor for 33 years, he previously was pastor of Immanuel Church, Warren.

He has served as a member of the ABCS Executive Board and as state convention first vice president.

Rogers, who is completing his second year as state convention president, will present his president's message at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs since 1985, he previously was pastor of Knowles Church in Strong.

Rogers is the current chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations and a trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rogers, who served on Midwestern's presidential search committee, also is a member of the ABCS executive director search committee.

Moore, who has served as ABCS executive director since 1982, will deliver his final convention message as executive director at 8:10 p.m. on Tuesday. He has announced his plans to retire by the end of February 1996. Prior to serving as executive director, Moore was pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith. He previously was pastor of other churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Moore is a former president of the ABCS and the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference as well as a past trustee of Ouachita and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

1995 convention committees appointed

Resolutions Committee

Larry Page (chairman)
Christian Civic Foundation, Little Rock
Rick Hedger, pastor
First Church, Forrest City
Kerry Powell, pastor
First Church, McGehee
Ron Sanders, pastor
Life Life Church, Little Rock
Bryan Smith, pastor
First Church, Van Buren

Credentials Committee

Tim Prock, pastor (chairman)
First Church, Paris
Barry Smith, pastor
First Southern Church, Magnet Cove

Gene Ellis, director of missions
Garland County Association, Hot Springs
David Ard, pastor
Olivet Church, Little Rock
Benny Massey, pastor
West View Church, Paragould

Tellers Committee

Randy Hogan, pastor (chairman)
First Church, Waldron
Terry Eaton, pastor
First Church, Decatur
Rick Morrow, pastor
East End Church, Hensley
Eric Ertle, pastor
South McGehee Church
Charlie Bird, pastor
First Church, Havana

Gary Akers, pastor
Central Church, Pine Bluff
Tim Hight, pastor
First Church, Newport
Jim Box, pastor
First Church, Mulberry
Buddy Barton, pastor
Pleasant Lane Church, Crossett

Order of Business Committee

Jim Lagrone, pastor (chairman)
First Southern Church, Bryant
Steve Tucker, minister of education
First Church, Bentonville

Parliamentarian

Monty G. Murry, attorney
Texarkana

STATE CONVENTION PREVIEW

Guidelines highlight credentials, resolutions

Messengers to the 1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention are reminded to follow a few specific guidelines to ensure proper registration, according to credentials committee chairman Tim Prock.

Prock, pastor of First Church, Paris, was appointed chairman of the five-member committee by state convention president Ronnie Rogers. The credentials committee's primary responsibility is to evaluate "any contention concerning seating messengers...for recommendation to the convention for its action," according to state convention bylaws.

In an effort to avoid such contentions arising, however, churches should be aware of eligibility guidelines detailed in Article III of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Articles of Incorporation.

Section 1 of the guidelines emphasizes that "the convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this convention." Noting that "each messenger who is present at the time a matter is submitted to the messengers shall be entitled to one vote," the guidelines add that "no proxy voting shall be permitted."

The articles of incorporation define "regular Baptist churches" as those "which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and spirit of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention." It adds that The Baptist Faith and Message "shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion."

Section 2 regarding membership specifies that "each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers, with one additional messenger for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof above 100, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than 10 messengers."

A 1980 appendix to the bylaws requires that "any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president, and the chairman of the credentials committee 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the convention."

Despite the detailed guidelines, the actual messenger registration process is fairly simple. Once a church elects the appropriate number of messengers, registration cards may be obtained from the associational director of mission's office. Messengers with properly filled out registration cards may present them at the registration desk when they arrive at

the convention which will be held Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Little Rock.

"We will be available for messengers who need assistance with registration beginning on Monday afternoon," Prock noted. "We are there for their benefit."

Resolutions committee chairman Larry Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation, said the resolutions committee is inviting messengers with proposed resolutions to send them to the committee for early review.

Anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee should mail a copy of the proposed resolution to Page by Oct. 16. Page requested that, if possible, each resolution be presented on one page of typed copy.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to Page at the Christian Civic Foundation, P.O. Box 195256, Little Rock, AR 72219-3256. Resolutions also may be presented on the floor of the convention during regular business sessions.

1995 PASTORS' CONFERENCE OF THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

"HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH..."

OCTOBER 29-30, 1995

Session 1	<i>"Revive The Church"</i>	6:00-8:45pm
Session 2	<i>"Relive the Call"</i>	9:00-11:30am
Session 3	<i>"Remember the Commission"</i>	1:30-4:00pm
Session 4	<i>"Receive the Crown"</i>	6:30-8:45pm

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Grant Ethridge, Pres.



Bill Elliff



John Bisagno



Ronnie Floyd



Don Moore



David Miller



J. Harold Smith



James Merritt



Paige Pattenson



Sam Cathey

FEATURED SINGERS/CHOIRS

Buster Pray, Min. of Music, FBC Springdale
Dennis Thornton, Min. of Music, FBC Lavaca
The Griffin Family, Music Evangelists, Rusk, Texas
First Baptist Church Little Rock Choir
Second Baptist Church Hot Springs Choir

STARTING SUNDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 29, 6:00PM!

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LITTLE ROCK

Meetings set for pastors, wives, educators

Eyes, ears and hearts will be essential ingredients as participants interpret themes during three pre-convention meetings prior to the 1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting. The Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference, Ministers' Wives Conference and Religious Education Association annual meeting will precede the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 state convention at First Church in Little Rock.



Bisagno

Sorrell

Dean

and Nita Moore, wife of ABCS executive director Don Moore.

The cost for the conference is \$8.50 per person and includes lunch. Child care will be available by reservation for preschool and elementary-age children.

Williamson also noted that conference planners are seeking to locate the Ministers' Wives Conference historical scrapbook, which was last used in 1988.

For additional information about the conference or to provide information about the scrapbook, contact Williamson at 501-452-9214.

To make reservations, send an \$8.50 check per person made payable to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to Lisa Fortner, 3305 Sunshine Road, Royal, AR 71960.

Pastors' Conference

Pastors' Conference participants will use their ears to "Hear what the Spirit Saith..." Oct. 29-30 at First Church. In a change from previous conferences, this year's event will be expanded to two days and begin on Sunday evening.

Pastors' Conference president Grant Ethridge, pastor of First Church in Lavaca, said the schedule was expanded because many pastors who preach in their own churches on Sunday evening "are not able to arrive for the conference until the Monday afternoon session. It is unfortunate that so many miss out entirely on the morning session of the conference."

He said he had received requests from some pastors to begin the program on Sunday evening to allow them to travel on Sunday afternoon and attend the entire conference.

Ethridge said the conference's theme, "Hear What the Spirit Saith..." is taken from passages written to the seven churches in Revelation, "an appropriate Scripture for our setting where pastors, staff, laity, denominational workers and messengers from churches across our state meet for a special time of singing and preaching."

Session themes for the conference will include "Revive the Church," "Relive the Call," "Remember the Commission" and "Receive the Crown."

The Sunday evening program will feature Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church in Little Rock; John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas; and Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and David Miller, an evangelist from Heber Springs, will speak during the Monday morning session.

Speaking during the Monday afternoon session will be J. Harold Smith, an

evangelist from Newport, Tenn., and James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga.

The Monday evening session will feature messages by Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Sam Cathey, pastor of Graceway Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Conference session music will be led by Buster Pray, minister of music for First, Springdale; Dennis Thornton, minister of music for First, Lavaca; the Griffin Family, music evangelists from Rusk, Texas; and the choirs of First, Little Rock, and Second Church, Hot Springs.

Child care at First Church will be provided during all sessions of the Pastors' Conference.

Ministers' wives

Ministers' wives and widows will use their hearts to discern how "Love Finds a Way" to fulfill their unique ministry tasks.

Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Fellowship president Betty Williamson of Fort Smith said this year's conference "will more resemble the Pastors' Conference in that it will be a time of worship through Bible Study and inspiring music."

Williamson said the Ministers' Wives Conference and Luncheon, set for Oct. 30 at First Church, is popular because "women tend to be caregivers. We do continually for others. As a minister's wife, the work seems unending. We need to learn to take time for us.

"Our goal," she continued, "is to lighten the load for the day, worship the Lord together and share a laugh or two."

The program will feature keynote speaker Buna Sorrell, wife of Robert Sorrell, associate pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. Williamson said Sorrell "will be sharing from Psalm 91, relating it to the unique life of the minister's wife."

The program also will feature Brenda Woodard, widow of the late Roy Woodard,

Religious educators

Religious educators will use their eyes to discover God's "Vision" for their lives during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association Oct. 30 at First Church.

The meeting will feature Jennifer Kennedy Dean, a Christian author and speaker. ABREA president Monica Keathley said Dean "is an excellent speaker and has insights that really have caused me to think."

Snookie Dixon, minister of education for First Church in Arkadelphia, added that Dean, the featured speaker at SUMMIT '94 in Arkansas, is "thought-provoking."

"We have a difficult time understanding the tremendous power that is ours through Jesus Christ," Dixon noted. "Jennifer Dean helped our women to explore the challenge of a deeper walk of faith in the power through prayer."

Dean is the author of *Heart's Cry: Principles of Prayer and The Praying Life: Living Beyond Your Limits*.

Keathley said the meeting's theme, "Vision," is needed "because it is important to think about vision. Times are changing quickly. To quote (research analyst) Carol Childress, 'You can be driven to the future by fear or drawn to the future by vision.'"

The cost for the meeting is \$15 per person, which includes a banquet and annual dues. Spouses may attend the banquet for \$8 per spouse.

To register, send a \$15 check per person made payable to ABREA to Jan Kelley at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

1995 Executive Board recommendations

Recommendation No. 1

1996 Budget

I. State Causes

1. Administration	\$292,514
2. Business Services	\$121,083
3. Accounting	\$196,998
4. Computer Services	\$106,435
5. Annuity	\$23,654
6. Baptist Student Union	\$754,860
7. Brotherhood	\$143,868
8. Church Music	\$195,280
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	\$141,999
10. Discipleship Training	\$213,482
11. Evangelism	\$283,044
12. Ministry of Crisis Support	\$117,657
13. Missions	\$543,046
14. Church Leadership Support	\$123,214
15. Stewardship	\$98,799
16. Sunday School	\$329,565
17. Woman's Missionary Union	\$326,610
18. Media Services	\$74,002
19. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	\$214,819

20. Camp Paron-Operating	\$60,364
21. Camp Paron-Improvement Fund	\$15,504
22. Expanded Church Annuity Plan	\$392,072
23. Baptist Student Union-Buildings	\$132,400
24. Convention	\$134,286
25. Historical Commission	\$10,750
26. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes	\$521,141
27. Printing Services	\$49,777
28. Salary Increase Reserve	\$105,606

TOTAL EXECUTIVE BOARD PROGRAMS\$5,722,828

29. Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries	\$457,955
30. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	\$268,303
31. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	\$229,311
32. Ouachita Baptist University	\$2,484,036
33. Williams Baptist College	\$748,157
34. Ministerial Scholarship Fund	\$134,085

TOTAL STATE PROGRAMS\$10,044,675

II. Southern Baptist Convention\$7,205,325

TOTAL BUDGET\$17,250,000

Recommendation No. 2

1996 Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Arkansas Awakening Projects*

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1996 Arkansas Awakening Projects.

In 1996, the Arkansas Awakening emphasis is "Live the Word." The following are priority projects that highlight the emphasis.

- State Evangelism Conference
- Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference
- Institute for Christian Discipleship
- Spiritual Awakening Worship Workshop
- Truth Alive
- Ministering to Children in Crisis Conference

Each department has projects that relate to Arkansas Awakening goals. The projects will be distributed during the annual meeting.

*Arkansas Awakening goals were adopted in the 1994 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting. The projects supporting these goals are presented each year for approval.

Recommendation No. 3

Arkansas-European Baptist Convention Partnership

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas-European Baptist Convention Partnership be extended

one year beyond the original agreement. It would be concluded December 31, 1997, rather than 1996 as originally planned.

This recommendation is in response to the report of the General Council of the European Baptist Convention and the Area Director of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Recommendation No. 4

Extension of Iowa Partnership

The Executive Board recommends that the existing partnership between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Iowa Southern Baptist Convention be continued beyond its previously established date of termination, December 31, 1996, to December 31, 2001.

Recommendation No. 5

Williams Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University Request

The Executive Board recommends that Williams Baptist College be allowed to solicit the Arkansas Southern Baptist churches for their participation in a funding campaign to increase endowment and complete capital improvement projects. The campaign solicitation period will be for a period of two years ending in November 1997.

The board of trustees will request a three-year budgeted commitment from each church ending in December of 2000.

The Executive Board further recommends that Ouachita Baptist University proceed with a campaign in the churches of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, to begin at some reasonable time following the conclusion of a proposed two-year solicitation in the churches by Williams Baptist College. Under no circumstances would the campaign begin later than the year 2001. If Ouachita has not begun a campaign by that time, additional authorization would be required by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Amendment to Article V: Section 1, Nominating Committee

The Charter and Bylaws Committee recommends the following amendment to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Articles of Incorporation. The change is noted in bold.

The President shall also name the Chairman, who shall have served at least one year on the committee.

This amendment will have to be approved in two successive annual meetings.

Phil Smith, Chairman
David Napier
Monty Murry
Charles Allen
John Holston
James Harris



Arkansas Baptist
Ministers' Wives
Conference & Luncheon

Pre-register
 by Oct. 31

October 30 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Little Rock Cost: \$8.50

Keynote leader:

Buna Sorrell

Wife of Robert Sorrell,
 associate pastor and
 administration,
 Bellevue Baptist,
 Memphis, Tenn.



Also Featuring:

Brenda Woodard

Pastor's widow,
 Looking for the
 Wounded Ministries,
 Bentonville, Ark.

Theme: "Love Finds A Way"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

Children/Names/Ages: _____

(Please provide sack lunch and drink for each child.)

Mail \$8.50 and childcare reservations to:

Lisa Fortner, 3305 Sunshine Road, Royal, AR 71968; phone 501-767-4633.

Make check payable to: Arkansas Baptist State Convention

PRE-REGISTER FOR

Preschool Child Care

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Pastors' Conference and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Pre-registration for preschoolers, babies through five year olds, is necessary to provide quality care with a planned program. No child care will be provided for school-age children at any session. Please complete the registration form below and mail immediately. The reservation deadline is Oct. 20, 1995.

Note: Children of parents attending sessions of the Pastors' Conference and the Convention need to be picked up during the breaks for meals. Child care will only be provided during the sessions listed below. Child care for the Ministers' Wives Conference is to be reserved separately.

Child's name _____ Age _____

Parent's name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please check sessions needed:

Pastors' Conference

Sunday, Oct. 29

Evening, 6 - 9 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 30

Morning, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon, 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Evening, 6:15 p.m. - 9 p.m.

State Convention

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Morning, 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon, 1:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Evening, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Morning, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Mail to: Jennifer Berry, First Baptist Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive,
 Little Rock, AR 72212; phone 501-227-0010.

ALUMNI

**Baptist-related
 institutions plan
 alumni meetings**

■ **Golden Gate Seminary**

Noon, Oct. 31

First Church, Room B-102

Speaker: Grant Ethridge, pastor
 of Lavaca First Church and
 Golden Gate Seminary trustee

Tickets: \$6.50, call Sid Carswell
 at 501-227-5388 for reservations

■ **Midwestern Seminary**

Noon, Oct. 31

First Church, Room B-103

Speaker: Ron Rogers, missionary to
 Brazil and Midwestern Seminary
 visiting professor

Tickets: \$6.50, send reservations to
 Nadean Bell, 1205 NW 11th,
 Bentonville, AR 72712;
 phone 501-273-3220.

■ **New Orleans Seminary**

Noon, Oct. 31

First Church, Room A-103

Speaker: Arnold Burke, member of
 First Church of Russellville and
 New Orleans Seminary trustee

Tickets: \$6.50, call L.H. McCullough at
 501-945-2687 for reservations.

■ **Southern Seminary**

Noon, Oct. 31

First Church, Reception Room C-233
 (2nd level)

Speaker: Seminary representative

Tickets: \$8, call Trennis Henderson at
 501-376-4791, ext. 5153
 for reservations.

■ **Southwestern Seminary**

Noon, Oct. 31

First Church, Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Thomas Lea, newly elected
 dean of Southwestern Seminary's
 School of Theology

Tickets: \$6.50, call Scott Duval at
 501-245-5000 for reservations.

■ **Ouachita Baptist University**

Close of evening convention session,
 Oct. 31

First Church, Fellowship Hall
 Reception with all friends of
 OBU invited

No reservations needed
 Phil Hardin, coordinator

Churches gain tips to reduce sexual misconduct suit risks

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

What preventative measures can church leaders take to avoid the risk of lawsuits related to sexual misconduct with children? According to Richard Hammar, an attorney, accountant and author specializing in legal and tax issues affecting churches and clergy. "There is only one way to prevent this risk. That's to put a sign on your front door that says no children allowed here."

Acknowledging that solution is "unrealistic," he added that churches must address specific ways to "reduce risks."

Hammar shared his insights during a recent Risk Management Seminar at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. More than 300 people attended the seminar, which was offered to pastors and church staff, as well as attorneys and insurance agents who work with churches.

Hammar, the author of *Pastor, Church and Law* and *Church and Clergy Tax*, offered participants "four steps of risk management or risk maintenance."

Acknowledging that the risk management guidelines could be a deterrent to recruiting workers with children, Hammar, who has worked in his church's nursery for 12 years, said, "I am fully aware of the difficulty of recruiting volunteers."

The first step, he explained, is to "adopt a six-month rule. No volunteer worker in our church can work with minors who has not been a member of the church for six months minimum."

"What does this do?" he asked. "It creates an environment in which you have an opportunity to observe this person, to hear of rumors about this person."

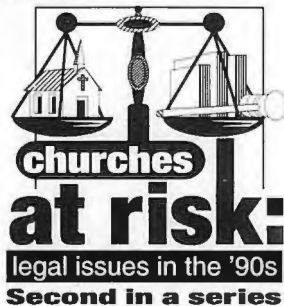
"It's less likely you will be found guilty of negligence as opposed to having a stranger...walking off the street someday and saying he wants to work with children," he added. "And you say, 'Can you begin this evening?' That's the typical church response - negligent selection."

Second, he said, is to implement screening forms. He encouraged church leaders "to have current and future workers, be they paid or volunteer, complete a screening form."

He said the screening process should include photographic identification, verifying a person's identity, asking about

criminal convictions, prior church membership, prior church volunteer work and any other volunteer work with children, as well as a drivers' license number.

"Just having people fill out this form in and of itself is of no value," he said. "You must take the next step and check references."



"The best reference you can get is another organization where this person has worked with children - be it another church or child care organization or charity of some kind," he emphasized. "The bottom line in these reference checks is, 'Do you know of any reason why (the candidate) would not be suitable for working with children in our church?'"

"Churches that have implemented this simple program...are going to reduce significantly the likelihood of children being abused."

~ Richard Hammar
Church legal expert

"If they say, 'no,' and you record that," he said, "that becomes incredibly powerful evidence that you have acted reasonably by asking that question."

Third, adopt a church policy of reporting abuse. Hammar reviewed Arkansas Criminal Code 12-12-507 with participants. "The state child abuse reporting law requires staff members in the church who have any suspicion of abuse to report it to the designated person."

"This creates an environment where this kind of conduct is exposed rather than concealed," he noted.

Fourth, he emphasized, "Education is absolutely critical."

Noting that he had produced a kit which contains a videotape that details concerns in this area, he said, "The videotape is a powerful tool in transforming people's behavior. It happened in my church."

"We have 300 to 400 workers who work with children in some capacity," Hammar said. "It was not until I showed that video a year or so ago that they were mobilized into action."

Hammar reiterated the need for background checks, especially criminal checks.

"We need to conduct criminal records checks of our (day care) workers," he said. "The only reason you have to do that is it is required by the state for state-licensed child care facilities. No state requires churches to conduct checks on their volunteer workers."

"Should we ever conduct criminal records checks" on volunteers? he asked. "The answer is 'no' unless there is some specific reason to do so, such as conflicting evidence of a person's background."

He added that if a worker does have a criminal record, that should not necessarily exclude them from service.

"What kinds of criminal records should be grounds for not utilizing a person?" Hammar asked. "Any type of criminal offense that involved assault or injury to another person, such as assault and battery, rape and, of course, involving contact with a child."

"But it's broader than just child abuse," he continued. "It also depends on the risk. Between 95 and 99 percent of the perpetrators within the church are male instead of female."

"Females are a lesser risk," he said. "In fact, I've dealt with at least a few thousand cases involving child abuse within churches and only three of those have involved a female perpetrator."

Recapping his steps for risk reduction, Hammar said, "The evidence is now

mounting that churches that have implemented this simple program are not being sued, even when incidents of molestation occur.

"Number one, you're going to reduce significantly the likelihood of children being abused," he said. "Second, even if a child is molested, those churches that have adopted this method are not being sued because parents and families view the church as having acted responsibly."

Basketball team nets 66 conversions

High School All Stars hold sports clinics, spread gospel in Venezuela

Ten Arkansas Baptist youth and their leaders shared the gospel with more than 2,000 Venezuelans as the seventh Arkansas High School Baptist Young Men's All Star Basketball Team traveled to Maracaibo this summer.

The group, which divided into two teams, conducted basketball clinics, held games and provided leadership at church services, resulting in 66 Venezuelans making professions of faith in Christ.

"The team's mission was sports evangelism," explained Brian Carroll, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. "They used basketball clinics and games as a vehicle to draw a crowd and effectively presented the gospel message of Christ."

Carroll served as a coach for the group along with Park Hill members David Wallace and Dickie Jones, Park Hill minister of activities Mark Overman and Gary Bean, a member of First Church, Amity. The team worked with foreign missionary Butch Strickland and his family in conducting the week's activities.

Team members included: Brad Baine and Josh Dowler of Southside Church in Paragould; Spencer Barnard of Eagle Heights Church in Harrison; Tommy Bean of Amity First; Rob Callahan of Park Hill; Scott Keeling of Tomahawk Church in Saint Joe; Nathan Kyzar of First Church in West Memphis; Matt McGowan of Eastside Church in Paragould; Josh Miles of First Church in Clinton; and Darin Williams of First Church in Mansfield.

Carroll said the week began "with the teams splitting up and attending six churches, each in an area where they would serve later in the week."

Fast-paced schedule

On Monday, he noted, team members "began a schedule of early morning breakfast, travel, clinic, travel, lunch, travel, clinic/game, travel, supper, travel, game, travel, devotion time and returning to their rooms around 11 p.m."

Rob Callahan, now a student at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, noted that "in any day's time, we would play basketball for eight hours and travel two. We had two free hours during the week. We were doing something all the time."

"Somehow, through it all, the boys did a marvelous job of accomplishing their task," Carroll affirmed. "During the week they led five clinics with a total of 180 participants, played eight games, gave out 1,500 fliers about the team with the gospel message in Spanish, gave out 1,500 copies of their personal testimonies in Spanish and shared their faith.



Members of the Arkansas Baptist Young Men's All Star Team hold a basketball clinic in the Maracaibo area of Venezuela as part of their July sports evangelism tour.

"By the end of the week they had presented the gospel message to about 2,000 people during clinics, games and church services," Carroll noted. "Most significantly, 66 people registered making the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior."

He said the team not only was effective in sharing the gospel, but also played and taught basketball well. "From a basketball standpoint, they did an excellent job of leading full-scale clinics and passing on their skills to groups ranging in age from grade school through their early 20s."

The team also achieved a game record of six wins and two losses. The record wasn't a disappointment, said Carroll, because of "the losses being to the Zulia All Star Team which was preparing for the national tournament and composed of older players."

He explained that Zulia is the state where Maracaibo is located. The Maracaibo metropolitan area has a population of more than two million people.

Relating an experience during the week "that most reflected the trip," Carroll said, "A young man named Richard came to church on Sunday for the first time, out of curiosity because he heard an American basketball team would be there. That was his first exposure to the gospel."

Callahan was especially burdened for Richard. "The Sunday we went to church, these five guys (including Richard) showed up and they had never been to church. I gave Richard my testimony there. He seemed real receptive."

"On Thursday the clinics were in his area again," Carroll said. "That day follow-

ing the testimony time, Richard responded by saying he had accepted Jesus."

Richard, who is the captain of his basketball team in the local community center, is looked up to by the people there, Carroll explained.

"Richard is currently attending Manatí De Amor Church that meets in the driveway of a layman's home who is coaching at the community center," Carroll said. "That layman, Raphael, has a vision for a sports evangelism ministry in his community of El Carrabobo. Richard could well be the first piece of that ministry because of 10 high school boys from Arkansas."

Carroll shared that there were "tears of joy as missionary Butch Strickland shared of opportunities this team had created that had not existed previously and as he thanked them for a job well done."

Mark Overman said the trip affected not only the Venezuelans, but the team members as well. "I felt from the share times we had each evening that each of the young people had gained a unique perspective from the interaction with the teenagers and the adults as they had the Sports Festival games," he said.

"Many lives were changed," Carroll agreed, "and not all were Venezuelan."

Callahan said his perspective was changed "just to see how grateful they were that we took time out to come and were caring and understanding."

"It was the best time of my life," he added. "Just being able to go down there and do something I love and share with people who didn't know made it worth everything."

Church news

Park Hill Church in Arkadelphia recently completed an expansion and remodeling project which included renovations to the children's ministry area and nursery. The church held an open house Sept. 3 for church members and community residents to tour the renovated facility which was dedicated during the evening worship service.

Marmaduke First Church held a service Aug. 13 to commission Nikki McIntosh who was recently appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for service as a Mission Service Corps volunteer to the island of Pago Pago, American Samoa. Her duties will be to teach physical education at the Samoa Baptist Academy, as well as personal evangelism and aiding the missionaries on the island.

Rogers First Church honored Ben Rowell Sept. 10 on his 20th anniversary as pastor. In addition to special recognition in the morning worship services, a Sunday evening banquet honored both Rowell and his wife, June. During his 20-year tenure, church membership has grown from 1,500 to 3,100 and Sunday School average attendance has grown from 490 to 1,000. Rowell, who attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), Kansas City University and Central Seminary in Kansas City, Kan., is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

West Church in Batesville recently recognized associate pastor David W. Tohien for 15 years of service. He and his wife, Gayle, and their daughters, Julie and Jennifer, were presented with a money tree.

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana observed "Doug and Lisa Porter Day" Sept. 10 in recognition of his 10th anniversary as minister of youth and recreation. Activities included an evening reception where a video of ministry highlights and words from former and current youth were shared. In addition, a book of letters, a love offering and gifts of appreciation were presented.

Spradling Church in Fort Smith sponsored a youth mission trip this summer to North Dakota. Seventeen volunteers, including 12 youth, delivered more than 1,100 flyers on behalf of Beulah Baptist Church. The mission team also led Backyard Bible Clubs as well as sharing testimonies, singing and presenting skits



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

during a five-day revival. One person made a profession of faith and another made a recommitment in response to the mission efforts.

Immanuel Church in Rogers' family caring ministry sponsored gospel soul artist Malvie Giles in concert Sept. 15. The church is sponsoring a Christian men's rally Sept. 22-23 at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs that will feature a Promise Keepers update and video by area coordinator Rocky Flemming. Speakers will include Lobby Boyles, senior pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Oklahoma City, and Chuck Ward, a professor at Criswell College.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock will host "A Wise Woman Builds" retreat Oct. 7, featuring Linda Gray, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, as speaker. Margaret Ward is serving as coordinator for the retreat which will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m., followed by a general session, a luncheon and special interest seminars. Additional information about the retreat is available through the church office; phone 501-375-2347.

Ordinations

Bradley Church ordained Gary Burton to the deacon ministry Aug. 20.

Oak Grove Church near White Hall ordained Charles Calhoun to the gospel ministry Aug. 20. Calhoun is pastor of Northside Church of Star City.

Black Rock Church recently ordained Jeff Fisher to the gospel ministry.

Plainview First Church recently ordained David Pounders and Barry Tipping as deacons.

Calico Rock First Church recently ordained Terry Jenkins as a deacon.

Emmanuel Church of Piggott recently licensed David Finley to the gospel ministry.

Biggers Church recently licensed Mark Rainwater to the gospel ministry.

Osceola First Church ordained Kenny Noble to the deacon ministry Sept. 10.

Staff changes

Mark Markle is pastor of Highland Hills Church in Texarkana. He previously was pastor of churches in east Texas. Markle is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, and is continuing his graduate work through the Shreveport, La., branch of New Orleans Seminary.

Larry Donaldson began serving Sept. 3 as pastor of Corinth Church at Wilmar. He previously served at Parkdale Church.

Ed Hollis joined the staff of Nettleton Church in Jonesboro Sept. 3 as music and worship minister, coming there from Sunset Church in Wilmington, N.C. He is a graduate of Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Janela, have two children, Andrea and Brent.

Gene Davis began serving Sept. 3 as pastor of Bee Branch Church. Davis, who retired in May as a public school teacher, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Central Arkansas. He previously was pastor of First Church of Shannon Hills, Angora Church, Calvary Church of Ward, Hebron Church of Little Rock, West Side Church of Little Rock and Harmony Church of Olmstead. He and his wife, Vi, have two adult daughters.

Bob Oden is pastor of Spadra Church. He previously served churches in Texas. Oden completed his master's degree through seminary extension work in Little Rock. He and his wife, Nancy, have a daughter, Melody, who is a student at Arkansas Tech University.

Terry Bolin is serving as pastor of Marble Falls Church where he has been a member.

Richard Snyder began serving as pastor of First Church of Vandervoort Aug. 13, coming there from Corning where he had served Calvary Church for more than five years. A graduate of Williams Baptist College, he has served other Arkansas churches. Snyder and his wife, JoAnn, have two daughters, Blaine and Elizabeth.

Leo Roberts has joined the staff of Balboa Church in Hot Springs Village as minister of music. He and his wife, Jimmie, moved to the area following his 1994 retirement from Fiedler Road Church in Arlington, Texas.

Mike Kinsey joined the staff of Highway Church in North Little Rock Sept. 10 as minister of education and music. He previously was Baptist Student Union director at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville where his wife, Winnie, is a

professor. They have two children, Brad and Amy. Kinsey, a graduate of the University of Arkansas and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has served Central Church in North Little Rock, First Church of Lavaca and First Church of Clarksville, as well as Central Church in Muskogee, Okla.

David Ward has joined the staff of Marshall Road Church of Jacksonville as education and youth minister. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and will graduate in December from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ward and his wife, Peggy, have two children, Rachel and Bethany.

Rick McKinney joined the staff of Highland Drive Church in Jonesboro Aug. 28 as minister of music and education, going there from First Church of Charleston. He previously served Second Church of West Memphis and Lucy Church in Millington, Tenn. McKinney is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Dana, have two children, Rachel and Cameron.

Charles Malone joined the staff of Lake Ouachita Church of Mount Ida Sept. 17 as music and youth director, coming there from four years of service at Dallas Avenue Church in Mena. He is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Malone and his wife, Sue, have three sons, Matthew, Allen and Gene.

Andrew M. Hall of Fayetteville is serving as interim pastor of First Church of West Fork.

James Taylor recently retired as pastor of Grannis Church to move to Texas to be near his family. Taylor served the church for two years, having served there as interim pastor for 13 months.

Ron Stone resigned as minister of music and youth at Matthews Memorial Church in Pine Sept. 3. He and his wife, Elaine, and their children, Jonathan and Katie, have moved to Marion, Ala., where he will join the staff of Siloam Baptist Church as minister of music and activities.

Kenneth Moore completed his service Aug. 27 as pastor of First Church in Walnut Ridge. He and his wife, Janice, and their children, Kellie and Chris have moved to Starkville, Miss., where he is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

Kelly Weaver has resigned as pastor of Tumbling Shoals Church to serve as associate pastor of Broadway Church in Olive Branch, Miss.

Duane Gantz has resigned as associate pastor of West Rock Church in Little Rock. A graduate of Criswell College, he

previously was a pastor in Florida. Gantz and his wife, Rose, will continue to reside in Little Rock. He is available to do supply preaching and may be contacted at 501-868-9433.

Elbert Warren resigned Sept. 15 as pastor of Royal Oaks Mission, following eight years of ministry. First Church, Sherwood, the sponsoring congregation, honored Warren and his wife, Katherine, with a reception Sept. 10. Warren, a bivocational minister, will continue to reside at 510 Grandview, Sherwood, AR 72120; phone 501-835-5103. The Warrens have three adult children.

Obituaries

V.L. Harris of Petit Jean Mountain died Aug. 29 in Celina, Texas. Harris, a Southern Baptist minister for 45 years, retired in 1994 as pastor of Southside Church in Paris. He also had been pastor of First Church in Glenwood and First Church of Petit Jean as well as churches in Texas. Harris was a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Survivors are his wife, Nell Harris; two sons, Stephen Harris and John Paul Harris, both of Celina; 11 grandchildren; two sisters; and three brothers. Memorials may be made to the Southside Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 642, Paris, AR 72855.

Marion J. Chitwood of North Little Rock died Aug. 31 at age 91. Her funeral services were held Sept. 5 at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock where she was a member. Survivors are four daughters, Jo Lavem Smith, Ida Doris Lewis, Sue Chambers and Janelle Curry, all of North Little Rock; one sister; nine grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Hugh Miles Howard of Camden died Sept. 2 at age 92. His funeral service was held Sept. 5 at Cullendale First Church in Camden where he was a member. Howard was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served Arkansas and North Carolina churches. He was a graduate of Wingate College in Wingate, N.C., and attended Ouachita Baptist College (now Ouachita Baptist University). Survivors are his wife, Pauline A. Primm Howard; a son, John B. Howard of Arkadelphia; three daughters, Margaret Anne Robertson and Marcia Curry, both of Arkadelphia and Carolyn Sue Bock of Magnolia; two stepsons, Jimmy Primm of El Dorado and Louie Primm of Camden; two stepdaughters, Margaret Primm Formaggio of Dallas and Beverly Primm Davis of Shawnee, Okla.; one brother; six sisters; six grandsons; six step-grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

October retreats to help launch Women on Mission

Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union members will gather to celebrate WMU and launch a new organization during two retreats Oct. 19-21 at Camp Paron.

The first retreat will begin at 1:30 p.m. Thursday and conclude after lunch Friday. The second retreat will begin Friday at 5 p.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Monica Keathley, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention WMU department, said the retreats will focus both on the past and the future.

"This will be a celebration of the past and a launching of Women on Mission, our exciting new missions organization for women," Keathley explained. "We are going to focus on the past through drama and a fashion show of any decade from the late 1800s to the present. We are encouraging participants to bring period clothes to wear.

"We also are asking participants to bring WMU mementos," she added, suggesting old literature, programs, photographs and GA paraphernalia.

Dreams and expectations

She said the launching of Women on Mission "will be through small-group sharing of dreams and expectations." Keathley added that two featured conferences will "model different Women on Mission group options."

The program will feature WMU national president Carolyn Miller, home missionary Dottie Williamson, foreign missionary Susan Lafferty and Cindy Gaskins, Acteens associate for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The cost for the retreats is \$32 per person, which includes three meals and lodging. The deadline for retreat registration is Oct. 12 and registration is limited to 200 per retreat.

Participants must bring their own linens, personal items, Bible and writing items.

For additional information about the events, contact Keathley at the ABCS Woman's Missionary Union department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5137.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Info packet promotes attendance campaign

The first Sunday in October will mark the beginning of a five-Sunday "Let Your Light Shine in Sunday School" enrollment and attendance campaign in Arkansas Baptist churches. The campaign will conclude Oct. 29 with the annual "Great Day in the Morning" high attendance Sunday.

Benny Grant, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department, said resource packets are available for churches which choose to conduct the campaign.

"Let Your Light Shine" can work for any church of any size or in any location," Grant said. The campaign's goal, he added, is to "have as many people as you can in your church to study the Word of God."

Department director Milton Redeker said the campaign is versatile because "it is simple, it is inexpensive and it works."

Emphasizing its simplicity, Redeker noted that the campaign involves church members "being present each Sunday of the campaign, inviting friends and neighbors to attend, setting class goals, enrolling as many as possible, witnessing and praying."

Grant said each campaign packet is designed to serve 100 people in a congregation. "It contains clip art, publicity posters, commitment cards, prayer cards and a detailed instruction booklet," he said. The booklet contains helps for preparing for, promoting and conducting the emphasis as well as for "Great Day in the Morning."

The packet is available at a cost recovery price of \$10 per packet from the ABCS Sunday School department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

For additional information, contact department associate Benny Grant; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5129.

Ouachita conference studies book of Amos

Ouachita Baptist University will host the 1995 Fall Pastors' Conference on campus Oct. 5-6. Participants will study the book of Amos, the 1996 Winter Bible Study book, during the conference.

The conference is sponsored by OBU's Center for Christian Ministries, an extension of the university formed to promote services to churches.

The program, which will begin Thursday at 1 p.m. and conclude Friday with lunch, will feature OBU religion department chairman Bill Steeger and assistant professors Terry Carter and Danny Hays.

Participants will receive a complimentary copy of J. Motyer's *The Message of Amos*, study helps on Amos and access to OBU's Religion Computer Lab.

The cost for the conference is \$35 per person. The cost includes three meals and conference materials. Participants must make their own lodging arrangements.

To register by phone, contact OBU at 501-245-5599 and ask for "Pastors' Conference Registration." Reservation may be made by mail at the Center for Christian Ministry, Ouachita Baptist University, OBU Box 3787, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

Workshop to discuss racial, social issues

Recognizing racial and social differences are issues that will be addressed at the Overcoming Differences Workshop Sept. 28 at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention chapel in Little Rock.

The workshop, sponsored by the ABCS Cooperative Ministries with National and Southern Baptists, will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

Cooperative ministries director Jack Kwok said the workshop's purpose "is to enable participants to recognize and overcome racial, social, gender, regional, physical and other differences in a righteous manner."

"Differences do not have to be negative nor divisive," he explained. "Positive differences should be appreciated and negative differences should be addressed."

He said the workshop program will provide a setting where "differences are acknowledged, appreciated and addressed through dialogue sessions."

"This workshop will assist community and church leaders to facilitate positive race relations in their local area," he said. "After experiencing the workshop themselves, they will feel more confident about scheduling the workshop for their community or church."

The cost for the workshop is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

To register, contact Cooperative Ministries, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5159. Registration is limited to 50 participants.

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COLLEGE DIGEST

Ouachita Baptist University

New missionaries-in-residence—John and Vivian Conrad have been named as missionaries-in-residence for the 1995-96 year. The Conrads are Southern Baptist missionaries in Kwangju, South Korea. Goals of OBU's missionary-in-residence program include offering students an opportunity to become acquainted with SBC missionaries and offering Arkansas Baptist churches an opportunity to invite the missionaries to speak in their churches.

Marsden to speak—George M. Marsden, the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, will present a lecture Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the recital hall of Ouachita's Mabee Fine Arts Center. The lecture, titled "The Role of Church-Related Schools in Higher Education," is free and the public is invited to attend. It is part of the university's Birkett Williams Lecture Series.

Dean chosen for state post—Bill Dixon, dean of students, has been elected president of the Arkansas Council on Student Services (ACSS). The organization involves the chief student services officers of the public and private college and universities in Arkansas. Dixon has served as dean of students at Ouachita since 1970.

Business Club honored—OBU's Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) national business fraternity was honored recently following national competition in Orlando, Fla. The OBU chapter was presented a Gold Seal of Merit and a Go for the Gold Medal for its "exemplary" year's work and four of its members were individually recognized as national finalists in a competition sponsored by the organization. PBL is a professional association of business students.

Williams Baptist College

Bolin named division chairman—Duane Bolin has been named chairman of the division of arts and sciences at Williams Baptist College. Bolin is associate professor of history and has been on the Williams faculty since 1992. As division chairman, he will oversee the seven departments in the arts and sciences division at WBC.

Lawson, Mullen to present papers—Gregory Lawson, director of counseling, and Steven Mullen, director of non-traditional programs, have been selected to present papers in October at the 1995 North American Professors of Christian Education Conference. Lawson's paper deals with legal issues in education ministry, while Mullen's paper presents contrasts in study habits of traditional college students versus older students. The conference is set for Oct. 12-15 in Chicago.

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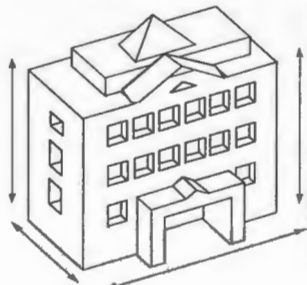
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NEWS NOTES

FMB vice president to help lead BWA evangelism effort

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vice president for mission personnel has been named as a special assistant to Nilson Fanini, the newly elected president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Thurmon Bryant and a team composed primarily of Southern Baptists, appointed by Fanini and Bryant, will begin working to help develop an evangelism focus with Fanini and the BWA. The evangelism focus is an addition to ongoing programs worldwide through the BWA's evangelism and education division.

Fanini, a Brazilian pastor, was elected to a five-year term as BWA president in August. He challenged Baptists meeting in Buenos Aires for the Baptist World Congress to engage in a coordinated effort to reach the world with the gospel through the year 2000.

Bryant, 65, will remain on the Foreign Mission Board payroll and continue to work out of the board's Richmond, Va., offices. But he will use up to a fourth of his time helping coordinate Fanini's evangelism plans with those of the BWA and national Baptist bodies worldwide.

Fanini and Bryant named eight current and former Southern Baptist missionaries and other Baptist leaders as "ministry coordinators" to help schedule events and emphases in international locations.

Henry seeks input in appointment process

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry has requested input and names of people "in the preparation of the appointment process for the 1996 Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Tellers Committee and Credentials Committee nominations."

"I want your input and I will need the names of recommended persons," Henry noted. He said the information is needed by Nov. 15, adding that recommendations "will give us the widest possible field of nominees to pray about and consider."

To request forms, write to: Jim Henry, SBC President, First Baptist Church, 3701 L.B. McLeod Road, Orlando, FL 32805. Respondents should mark "Form" on their envelopes to have their requests directed to the proper party, Henry added.

"We will be glad to fax a form to you if you include your fax number," Henry said. "The forms will be forwarded to you, and they must be complete in order for the recommendation's consideration."



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Infanticide, forced abortion decried at women's meeting

BEIJING (BP)—Two female world leaders decried violence against women, including coercive abortion and the infanticide of girls, in speeches during the World Conference on Women in a country notorious for both practices.

Without mentioning the host country, China, by name, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton included forced abortion and sterilization among a list of violations of human rights in a Sept. 5 speech to delegates. In the opening session the day before, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto condemned infanticide, abortion and abandonment of baby girls, especially in Asia.

Their speeches pointed to some of the controversy which has surrounded this United Nations-sponsored conference, which is the fourth one for women. Some American pro-life and human rights advocates criticized the conference's site and called for the United States to boycott it.

The Chinese communist regime's widespread human rights violations are well-documented. The government's one-child policy for most families has resulted in forced abortions and sterilizations, as well as reports of infanticide, especially of female babies.

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls," Clinton said, according to an excerpt of her speech in *The Washington Times*. "It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or

being sterilized against their will."

While condemning forced abortion, Clinton continued to voice support for abortion rights. She expressed regret over the millions of women who will seek "unsafe abortions," resulting in death or disability for some. She also encouraged the delegates to "join together to ensure that every little boy and girl that comes into our world is healthy and wanted."

Bhutto reportedly said, "How tragic it is that the pre-Islamic practice of female infanticide still haunts a world we regard as modern and civilized. Girl children are often abandoned or aborted. Statistics show that men now increasingly outnumber women in more than 15 Asian nations."

A climate in which Asian men prefer male children has resulted in pressure to

abort "innocent, perfectly formed" unborn girls, she said.

"As we gather here today, the cries of the girl child reach out to us," Bhutto said, according to reports in *The New York Times*. "This conference needs to chart a course that can create a climate where the girl child is as welcome and valued as the boy child."

Two hours prior to Clinton's speech, the head of the Vatican delegation voiced concerns to delegates about the conference's proposed Platform for Action.

"The conference documents, in the view of my delegation, are not bold enough in acknowledging the threat to women's health arising from widespread attitudes of sexual permissiveness," said Mary Ann Glendon, Harvard University professor of law. "The document likewise refrains from challenging societies which have abdicated their responsibility to attempt to change, at their very roots, irresponsible attitudes and behavior."

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CLC trustee leads protest in China, loses credentials

BEIJING (BP)—The Southern Baptist representative to the World Conference on Women in Beijing expressed pro-family and pro-life concerns to members of the United States delegation Sept. 11 but was stripped of her conference credentials the next day following a demonstration.

At the close of a Sept. 12 press briefing by the U.S. delegation, Nancy Schaefer, representing the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and six other women raised a banner which read "U.S. Delegation Ignores Pro-family Women." A United Nations security guard escorted them to a holding room, where he confiscated their badges and instructed the women to return the next morning, Schaefer said in a written statement. The following morning, however, the women reportedly were told more time was needed before their badges could be returned.

Schaefer, who is a CLC trustee, and the other women decided to unfurl the banner after they were dissatisfied with the U.S. delegation's agenda and its response to pro-family concerns expressed in the Sept. 11 meeting.

On behalf of 21 organizations, Schaefer had written a letter Sept. 8 to Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. and head of the U.S. delegation, asking for a meeting. Among the groups signing onto the letter were Focus on the Family, Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for America, American Life League and the National Association of Evangelicals.

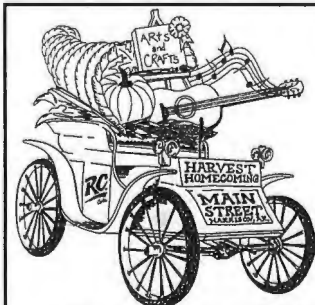
The U.S. delegation invited Schaefer and three other pro-family representatives to the Sept. 11 meeting.

In the meeting, the four representatives expressed concern that the delegation was promoting abortion, the funding of RU

486 (the French abortion pill), the redefinition of the family and the undermining of parental rights. They also challenged the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the Platform for Action as a status deserving of protection.

The U.S. delegation defended "sexual orientation" in the document and opposed efforts to define it, Diane Knippers of the Institute on Religion and Democracy reported. She said the delegation also resisted defining family and said homosexual marriages had not been discussed.

"When I left the office of the U.S. delegation, the words ringing in my ears were: 'We don't define terms.' Schaefer said. "If they don't define terms, how can they possibly expect 186 nations to join in signing onto their concepts unless these countries are going to be bullied into accepting it by linking their approval to financial aid?"



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Convention Uniform

Becoming a servant

By Tommy Robertson, director of
missions, Liberty Association

Basic passage: Acts 6:1-8:3

Focal passage: Acts 7:54-60

Central truth: True servants are a vital component in a New Testament church.

One of the necessities in becoming a servant is a good role model. Scripture provides the worthy example of Stephen, one of the original deacons. Notice the characteristics of this man who became a true servant of the Lord and His church.

■ **Knowledge of the Scripture.** Stephen obviously had a keen insight into the Word of God. His survey of Old Testament history showed the pattern of rejection of God's chosen people. They had betrayed and murdered the Son of God and had received the law of God but had not obeyed it. This ran counter to the thinking of the Jews of the time, but showed Stephen's awareness of what God's Word taught. If we are to be servants, we need more than a superficial knowledge of the Scripture so that we will see clearly God's direction for us.

■ **Led by the Spirit of God.** The phrase "full of the Holy Spirit" implies that he was led or controlled by the Spirit. He obeyed the Spirit of God regardless of the consequences. The message he brought cost him his life, but it was exactly what God instructed him to say. Unless we submit to God and follow His guidance, we will not be servants at all. A servant does the will of his master joyfully.

■ **Willingness to forgive.** When the leaders reacted violently to all he said and began to stone him to death, he was the only one present with forgiveness in his heart. He fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." There was no bitterness, revenge or hatred. He, like the Lord on the cross, prayed for their forgiveness in the sight of God. Though forgiveness is often very difficult for us, we will not be effective servants unless we learn to honestly forgive.

■ **Complete trust in God.** Knowing he was dying and would soon stand face to face with his Lord, he simply prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." This is the same trust Jesus had as He died on Calvary. We need this absolute trust in God that believes God will do right by us and will not lead us astray. Without this trust we cannot be true servants and want to control our own lives. We must learn to be committed servants of Christ if we are pleasing to Him.

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Life and Work

Spiritual gifts

By Mike Petty, pastor,
Park Place Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: I Corinthians 12

Focal passage: I Corinthians 12

Central truth: Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to fulfill God-given functions within the church.

A spiritual gift (literally translated "the spirituals") is a God-given ability to accomplish a Christ-centered purpose. The Father gave us the Son for our salvation, the Son gave us the Holy Spirit for our sanctification and the Holy Spirit has given us spiritual gifts for our service. Whatever the gift, it has a close relation to the local church, the body of Christ. Notice:

■ **The Provider of the gifts (vv. 1-11).** Note the references to "the same Spirit" (v. 4), the "same Lord" (v. 5) and the "same God" (v. 6). It is God alone who dispenses the "spirituals" for His good pleasure (vv. 11, 18). The same God still provides His people exactly what is needed to accomplish what He has called them to do.

■ **The people of the gifts are not a select few.** "To every man" (v. 7) refers to those who are in Christ. If you are a regenerated believer, God has given you specific burdens and desires which lead you to minister within the realm of your spiritual gift. Just as there are various functions fulfilled by each part of one's physical body, so there are spiritual abilities given in order to fulfill the spiritual function given us within the body of Christ (vv. 25-26).

■ **The purpose of the gifts (vv. 12-26).** These gifts are to be discovered and developed to fulfill their purpose - a healthy function of the body of Christ. They are given "to profit withal" (v. 7). They are not given so that the individual may "sit and glow" in the joy of one's own spiritual gift. Rather, gifts are provided to the true members of the body of Christ, so that the church may "go and grow." There is a mutual dependency we have upon one another, produced by the Holy Spirit (vv. 13-14) known as the "body of Christ."

■ **The priority of the gifts (vv. 27-31).** Paul distinguished the importance of the gifts. Those which center around the Word of God (preaching and teaching) are those most needed in the church. If you are to desire any, desire these.

Have you discovered the "spiritual bent" God has given you? Ask yourself what functions in the church are most important, then seek the Lord for His leadership and start serving.

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Bible Book

A new beginning

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain,
Baptist Memorial Medical Center,
North Little Rock

Basic passage: Ezra 1:1-3:13

Focal passage: Ezra 1:1-5; 2:1; 3:1-4, 10-13

Central truth: Our sovereign Lord is faithful to His covenant people.

It is true that God works through particular people to form a community of worship and service (vv. 1:1-5). They are to serve as a witness to Him and His kingdom. However, the Lord's power reaches to the ends of the earth. Divine sovereignty may work through anyone at any time to further His kingdom.

Here God chose to work through a pagan king to accomplish His will. God "stirred up" Cyrus. He became God's anointed for that situation (Isa. 44:24-45:6).

Israel was alive again, raised from the death of exile. They had a future because God was at work to fulfill His purpose for them as His people. This was not good fortune. It was the providential care of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Here God revealed His character. He is true to His covenant love. He is true to His word. Jeremiah prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon. He also prophesied the return from captivity. This gracious promise was given because the Lord had "plans to prosper them, not harm, plans to give them hope and a future" (Jer. 29:10-14). Therefore, an event that seemed hopelessly destructive became the means to a redemptive new beginning.

God moved the hearts of Israelites to rebuild the temple and the nation. He sustained them for 70 years with neither. These are merely focal points that help them live out internal and eternal truths. The goal is for them to be a community of worshippers and servants of the Lord and His kingdom.

Their roots went back to Abraham (v. 2:1). The covenant community of Israel had been preserved. The same Israel that had a history with God now moved toward their future with Him. The judgment was both disciplinary and redemptive.

In spite of their fear, they built the altar and celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles (vv. 3:1-3, 10-13). The feast was a reminder that their only security was God's steadfast love. Existence is fragile. Self-security is ultimately illusory. They survived only because the transcendent Lord was present and was good and loving.

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Convention Uniform

The worth of a person

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association
 Basic passage: Acts 8:4-40
 Focal passage: Acts 8:26-39
 Central truth: In the sight of God all people are valuable.

Philip, one of the first deacons, left Jerusalem during the persecution that followed the stoning of Stephen. He went to Samaria in obedience to the commission of Christ (v. 1:8). He probably went to the capital city where the people needed the good news. Many were converted, healed, and great joy was everywhere.

■ *The command of God.* In the midst of this Samaritan revival, God instructed Philip to leave Samaria. These people were valuable in God's sight, but Philip was given another task.

He was told to go south to the desert road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. This seemed like a strange command to remove the evangelist from the crowds and vast need and send him to the desert. If Philip questioned God, we have no evidence of it. The Scripture just says he started out in obedience to the Lord.

On his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch who had been to Jerusalem to worship the true God. He may have been a convert to Judaism, but we know that he was an important official in Ethiopia. As he rode home he was reading Isaiah, specifically chapter 53. The Lord told Philip to help the eunuch and he asked if he understood the passage. The eunuch replied he could not unless someone explained it to him.

Philip began with the passage from Isaiah and told him it referred to Jesus who was crucified, risen and the only Savior.

■ *The result of obedience.* As a result of that witness, the eunuch found Christ as Savior of his life. Because he now knew Christ, he wanted to show the reality of his conversion through baptism. So Philip baptized him and he left rejoicing.

It seems strange that God removed His witness from Samaria and sent him to the desert. Yet when we realize that this eunuch would open Ethiopia to the gospel of Christ, then we understand.

The Samaritans, who were hated by the Jews, obviously were objects of God's love. It is also obvious that the Ethiopian eunuch was loved by God and would be used by Him. Each of us must learn that all people are of worth to the Lord and that we are to love them and be witnesses to them wherever we find them.

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Life and Work

The essential ingredient

By Mike Petty, pastor,
 Park Place Church, Hot Springs
 Basic passage: Galatians 6:1-10
 Focal passage: Galatians 6:1-10
 Central truth: Only in the power of the Holy Spirit will one be able to relate to others as he should.

Chapter six begins with some of the results of walking in the Spirit, specifically the changes that will occur in how one relates to other believers.

■ *The Spirit-filled person salvages* (v. 1). Paul said that the "spiritual" should seek to restore a back-slidden brother or sister while remaining alert to their own vulnerability. The "spiritual" are the Spirit-filled children of God who walk with the Lord, grieve over things which grieve God, love those whom He loves and conduct the ministry of reconciliation (Eph. 4:17-32; II Cor. 5:17-18). Jesus outlined the best method to restore someone. Go to him alone, with another brother and then with the church if necessary (Matt. 18:15-17).

■ *The Spirit-filled person strengthens* (v. 2). The greatest evidence that we walk with God is our determination to fulfill His commandments. The main characteristic of a Christian is our "love for the brethren" (John 13:35; 15:12). Love is more than emotion, though. It is action. When someone is hurting, they need the love of the body of Christ (I John 2:8-11, 4:21).

■ *The Spirit-filled person exercises self-examination* (v. 3-5). Though a Spirit-filled person will be sensitive and generous, he or she will not expect others to "carry their load." Pride and laziness have no part in the life God uses and we must root these out of our lives (Prov. 26:12, Psalms 26:2, I Cor. 11:28, II Cor. 13:5, Prov. 14:14).

■ *The Spirit-filled person shares* (v. 6). Not only do those who "fall down" deserve your support, but those who "lift up" as well. It is a scriptural principle to render financial support for those who labor in the Word to feed the flock of God (Deut. 12:19, I Cor. 9:9-14). Those "elders who rule well" are worthy of a double payment (I Tim. 5:17-18). It is a Spirit-filled church that seeks to care for their pastor well.

■ *The Spirit-filled person sows to the Spirit* (v. 7-10). Paul cites the simple principle of the "law of the harvest" to illustrate the results one can expect from the life he or she chooses to live. This week, ask the Lord for His guidance about how you may seek to be a blessing to those in the family of God (Gal. 6:10).

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Bible Book

The going gets tough

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain,
 Baptist Memorial Medical Center,
 North Little Rock
 Basic passage: Ezra 4:1-6:22
 Focal passage: Ezra 4:1-5, 14, 24;
 5:1-5, 12; 6:7-9, 14, 21
 Central truth: When we are opposed, God remains committed to us. We must remain committed to Him.

The enemies of Israel wanted to work and worship on equal standing at the temple (vv. 4:1-5, 14, 24). However, their concept of God was pagan. The firm "no" was appropriate. Not all ways are true. Some things are non-negotiable. God has revealed who He is and what is appropriate worship and service. Note the comment in II Kings 17:32-41 on these enemies.

Having been rejected on their own terms, these enemies began a campaign that was persistent and multifaceted. They demonstrated how committed evil can be to discourage good. Through lies, exaggeration, subtle suggestion and even a sprinkle of truth these enemies were able to stop the building of the temple.

After 19 years, the prophets Zechariah and Haggai challenged them to action (vv. 5:1-5, 12). Once they started building they were once again opposed. This time they were allowed to continue building during the investigation.

They were reminded that the God who is over them has His eye on them. They have not been forgotten by the Lord.

Haggai challenged them to action and saw that the long delay in building was largely due to their lack of concern and commitment. Evil was winning by default.

The word from God was a call to action, a vision of what could be and gave God's promise to be with them. The present state of the temple was due to the judgment of God. The rebuilding of the temple would be due to His mercy. Both were expressions of His providential care and covenant love.

Once Israel was committed, everything changed (vv. 6:7-9, 14, 21). The challenge that called the temple's construction in question became the means that removed all interference and guaranteed all the money, supplies and protection needed. God's eye was on them.

At the dedication of the temple only those who excluded themselves were not included. The genuine covenant has always been welcome among God's people (see Exodus 12:48). God covenants with those who covenant with Him.

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RTVC trustees work toward possible broadcast agreement

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—A resolution approving in principle a proposed programming agreement between ACTS and the "Faith and Values" channel was approved by trustees of the Radio and Television Commission at their Sept. 12 meeting.

"There is some language to clarify in the agreement proposed by the Faith and Values channel, but I think an agreement is now reachable," said RTVC president Jack Johnson.

Johnson said he could give no timetable concerning when final agreement would be reached but said he hoped it would be within the next two months. In the meantime, ACTS has a temporary agreement to continue its current program schedule on F&V through Dec. 31. A programming schedule based on a new agreement is expected to begin Jan. 1, 1996.

In other action, trustees appointed a transition team to prepare for the restructuring voted by the Southern Baptist Convention last June. Arkansas trustee Gary Underwood, executive vice president of Beech Street Communication in Texarkana, was named to the seven-member transition team.

Texas board approves plan to retain more CP funds

DALLAS (BP)—The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board voted Sept. 12 to recommend a 1996 Texas Baptist Cooperative Program budget of \$42,688,625, including a 2.5 percent increase for home mission work in Texas, or \$1.5 million, to help start 1,400 new churches in the next five years.

The budget proposal, adopted with only two dissenting votes, is subject to approval by messengers to the BGCT annual meeting in San Antonio, Nov. 13-14.

The recommended budget calls for Texas Baptists to use 67 percent of Cooperative Program receipts in the state rather than the current 64.5 percent. Thirty-three percent would go to worldwide causes.

Reducing the percentage allocation for worldwide causes was not a decision made lightly, according to Jack Smith, chairman of the BGCT administrative committee. "The change is seen as a necessary investment in the future support of missions both in Texas and around the world," he said.

Florida board proposes cutting ties to Stetson University

JACKSONVILLE, FL (ABP)—The Florida Baptist Convention is expected to sever all ties with Stetson University over the school's new policy permitting alcohol on campus.

The convention's State Board of Missions approved a recommendation Sept. 8 to end the fraternal relationship Florida Baptists have had with Stetson for most of the school's 112 years. The plan will go to the Florida Baptist Convention Nov. 13-15 for approval.

State convention leaders, echoing the feelings of many Florida Baptists, have condemned the new drinking policy, which permits students of legal drinking age to consume alcoholic beverages in most residence halls and at approved social gatherings.

The recommendation, approved without opposition, eliminates all remaining state convention funding, which has gone from \$1.3 million in 1987 to \$20,000 a year now.

In addition, the convention will no longer accept church contributions designated for Stetson, or allow Stetson to participate in the convention's annual meeting or sponsor an exhibit at the meeting. Stetson officials also have agreed to return a \$568,148 endowment established in 1945 to fund ministerial scholarships.

Kentucky editor to join staff of Texas Baptist paper

DALLAS (ABP)—Kentucky Baptist editor Marv Knox has been elected associate editor of the *Baptist Standard* of Texas.

The Texas newspaper's board of directors elected Knox Sept. 12 to work with editor-elect Toby Druin. The board chose Druin, the *Standard's* longtime associate editor, in June to succeed editor Presnall Wood, who retires at the end of 1995.

Knox, 39, has been editor of the *Western Recorder*, Kentucky Baptists' weekly newspaper, since 1990. Previously he was feature editor at Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service, and assistant editor of the *Baptist Message* of Louisiana.

Texas church pledges \$100,000 to help fund Draper Chair

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper Jr. and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary were honored Aug. 27 as First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, pledged \$100,000 toward the million-dollar James T. Draper Chair of Pastoral Ministries at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary.

Draper served as pastor of the Euless congregation 16 years, from 1975-1991. The James T. Draper Chair of Pastoral Ministries was established in 1994 and will be activated when designated endowment funds reach \$1 million.