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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

12-15-1988

December 15,1988

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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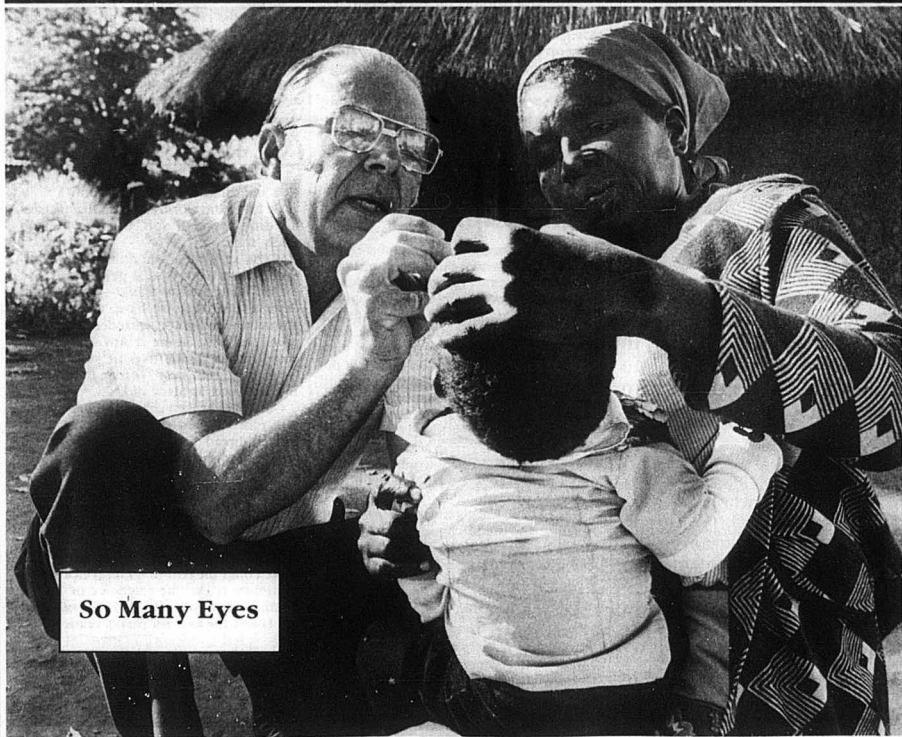
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The Face of Death

Arkansas Baptist

December 15, 1988

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So Many Eyes

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(BP) photo / Joanna Pinneo

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Missionary Ed Moses relieves suffering in one of 23 Mozambican refugee camps in South Africa.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

The Way the Cookie Crumbles

IMURU, Kenya (BP)—It was a dark day for missions—dark as in chocolate.

One package of Oreo cookies sold for \$115 during an impromptu auction at the recent annual meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya. Three other packages brought around \$40 each, a bottle of chocolate syrup went for \$25 and a single cookie for \$3.

The proceeds were just a tiny dash of sweetener added to more than \$16,000 the missionaries contributed during the meeting to Southern Baptist missions. Sixty percent of the money was earmarked for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to help fund evangelistic outreach in 113 countries. The rest will go to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for mission work in the United States.

Two cultures—American and Kenyan—joined unexpectedly to spark the auction when a visiting group from Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta brought along the treats. The group came to Kenya to lead worship services, youth meetings and a Vacation Bible School during the mis-

sion meeting.

The love affair between Americans and chocolate is only enhanced when the Americans live 8,000 miles from the source of the junk food of their dreams. And Kenyan churches regularly hold auctions, where members' tithes and offerings of produce or livestock are converted into cash on the spot. The money then goes to church work.

So when four unopened packages of cookies and several bottles of chocolate syrup were left over following the mission banquet, someone suggested they be auctioned, "for the benefit of Lottie Moon, of course." After a lone cookie sold for 50 Kenya shillings, or about \$3, things got serious in a hurry.

David Morse, a missionary journeyman from Georgetown, Texas, wound up paying 2,100 Kenya shillings for 60 cookies—almost \$6 per ounce.

As the bidding spiraled, participants emphasized the money had to be "above and beyond" the bidder's regular Lottie Moon or Annie Armstrong offering.

"Giving to missions always feels good," one missionary observed. "But it doesn't always taste this good."

GOOD NEWS!

Sanctified Extravagance

Jesus was a guest for a supper in Bethany (Jn. 12:1-9) at which both Mary and Martha were present. Practical Martha baked the biscuits, set the table, and served the food. And Mary listened to the Master's words. Both the maid and the mystic were there, and we need both. Mary had a jar of costly ointment. She didn't buy it at the five-and-ten. She poured that precious nard on the Lord, and the odor filled the house. She did not drizzle a few drops or merely dab it on his brow. She loved him so much that she forgot the cost in an act of magnificent extravagance. Some would have made only a token anointing. Not Mary, with her it was all or nothing!

Jesus knew Mary's heart. He gave true meaning and significance to what might look like overdoing it. He said it was a memorial. The fragrance of that perfume soon evaporated, but its spiritual aroma has lasted for two thousand years!

God loves sanctified extravagance—My heavenly Father is not stingy. He gives liberally. He scatters millions and billions of blossoms every springtime and billions of snowflakes every winter and splashes color all over the landscape in autumn.

He's not afraid he might overdo it.

He loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten Son, offering him up freely for us all.

If you are stingy, you didn't get that attitude from God! God is generous.

God loves broken things—Jesus Christ deserves the best we have, all we have. Youth have no right to squander those early years that will never return. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. Give him the best years! Break that alabaster box as Mary did!

God loves broken things. Broken clouds give rain. Broken soil sprouts the seed. Broken bread feeds our bodies. And a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Today there are many memorials to this and that. What God memorializes is sanctified, holy extravagance, the generous outflow and overflow of the inflow of the Spirit of God in the lives of Christians who never count the cost of their service. Their testimony is like the fragrance of Mary's ointment that not only filled the house but has lasted for two thousand years.

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The Cure for Loneliness

J. EVERETT SNEED

Loneliness is one of the most devastating emotions that an individual can feel. Almost every individual has experienced this at one time or another. Even when we are with other people, each of us stands alone. The solution to this devastating emotion is the abiding presence of Christ.

Some time ago in the cartoon "Peanuts," Linus was afraid to go to the library. Charlie Brown explained to him that everyone is lonely in one place or another. Linus then asked Charlie Brown where that place was for him. Charlie pondered the question for a moment and then replied, "The earth."

Loneliness and aloneness are not the same. Loneliness is the pain of being alone. Aloneness is the glory of being alone. Most individuals have experienced loneliness and have desired a time when they could be alone. It is important for every individual to learn the significance of savoring the glory of being alone with the Lord.

Loneliness often comes from the bearing of heavy responsibility. When an individual is compelled to make decisions that affect the wellbeing of others, the heavy pressure may make him feel completely alone. Former President Harry Truman once insisted, "The president of the United States has the loneliest job in the world." Individuals, however, who must make heavy decisions in other jobs may feel that their responsibility matches that of the president for loneliness.

A multitude of circumstances can produce loneliness. Parents experience loneliness when their children all leave home. Loneliness can be produced by being a single parent or a widow. Any time that a person feels that he or she is in exile, all alone or under pressure because of decisions that must be made, loneliness will occur.

There are many popular antidotes for loneliness. Some individuals advise, "Throw yourself into your job and you will get rid of loneliness." This theory simply says that if one has no unused or unfulfilled block of time, loneliness will disappear. Although work is therapeutic, merely being busy is not a cure all.

Others suggest that one can get rid of loneliness by having a fun-filled life. This theory advises, "Fill your life with club activities, parties, and recreational activities and all loneliness will go away." It is true, that every individual should be involved in



activities that he or she enjoys, but "having fun" will not fulfill all the emotional needs of an individual's life.

Still others maintain that the proper method to eliminate loneliness is to find the right marriage partner. Pop psychologists leave the impression that this is the utopia which eliminates all loneliness. It is true that a proper Christian marriage relationship is the best experience an individual can know on earth. But improper non-Christian marriages will not solve problems. Many marriages are in trouble today because both partners expected the other to solve their loneliness. A marriage which is undertaken simply to eliminate loneliness and excludes God may be fatally flawed from the beginning.

The only permanent solution to loneliness is to allow Christ to fill the void

in an individual's life. Every individual walks alone until he or she walks with Jesus. When an individual puts his trust in crowds, in work, in leisure, in marriage relationships or in anything except Christ, he will continue to know loneliness.

Jesus should have been the loneliest person to have ever lived. John the Baptist couldn't understand him. The disciples were perplexed by Christ. Even his own family thought that Jesus was sick, confused or perhaps even insane. Government and religious leaders all wanted to eliminate him. Even his closest friends let him down. The disciples of the inner circle slept as he knelt alone in the Garden of Gethsamane. Judas betrayed him. Peter denied him. His enemies plotted against him, and the crowds shouted for his death. Yet Jesus knew a joy and a vitality that no other individual has ever experienced.

The awful evening of Jesus' betrayal and arrest, he announced, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me" (Jn. 16:32).

Psychological studies show that much unrecognized loneliness is really grief over the loss of a parent, a playmate, a toy or a friend. The root or real cause of the loneliness is separation. Separations will occur unless one is inseparably tied to God.

The one who will never repudiate or leave an individual is God through Christ. Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (Jn. 14:18). The word "comfortless" is the Greek word *orphanos* meaning "orphan." Through his Holy Spirit he will stand with us in every circumstance. The solution to overcoming loneliness is to accept his abiding presence.

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



It had been almost five years since I had been asked to preach a commissioning service for Karl and Thelma Weathers. School teachers in the Earl schools, they had received the call of God to go as missionaries to one of the most troubled spots on the earth. With two children, approximately 11 and 12 years of age, they left to make their home in Beirut, Lebanon. Before the first term of service was completed, our government ordered the missionaries to leave Lebanon. Some were moved to Gaza.

Gaza is 25 miles long by seven miles wide. Forty percent of that land is utilized by Israel to house their security and utility facilities. In the other 60 percent live 700,000 people who must try to raise some food and sustain their livestock. Barbed wire fences keep the people incarcerated. From 7 p.m. until 3 a.m., anyone venturing out of their home onto the streets is shot for violation of the curfew.

In this setting there are few foreigners. In fact, except for a government representative from the U.S., there are only 19 other foreigners. They are our Southern Baptist missionaries and their children. Their school age children are separated from them most of the time because of having to be placed in a boarding school in Israel. These missionaries are there because they want to demonstrate unconditional love to a people who have never known a God of true mercy and love.

The 12 percent reduction in support of our work there in 1989 has meant the termination of almost all of the national staff that works in the school and hospital. Missionary nurses are working 16 to 18 hours per day to try to keep the work going. Two couples are expected to retire next year. Between the retirements and the failure of adequate support from Southern Baptists, (we have not reached our Lottie Moon goal since 1981), Southern Baptists' witness is being severely threatened.

Heroic missionaries deserve heroic support! We need to do something really great with our Lottie Moon offering promotion. We need to increase the percent we give in regular support through the Cooperative Program.

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Woman's Viewpoint

The Simple Gifts

PAULINE MCDONALD

We need not check the calendar to realize the Christmas season is upon us. For weeks streets with the profusion of colored lights have proclaimed that. Stores have been in holiday dress so long that we are less dazzled by their elaborate displays. Houses and lawns are transformed with decorations that remind us people love their homes and take pride and pleasure in making them festive at this season.

Plans are made for the return of family members who are away or for happy visits to others who will keep Christmas in their own homes. Children are excited, and the day that will climax their eager anticipation seems too far distant.

Social activities become more demanding. Many people find their work schedules unreasonably



difficult because of the hurry and impatience that seem to prevail. The threat of overspending in order to meet established expectations can become burdensome. Should we wonder that we fail to rejoice as we should at the season we commemorate the coming of God's unspeakable gift?

Sometimes I recall with nostalgia Christmases long past. My memories list is long: the simple gifts, the Christmas tree and special service at the village church, the program in a one room country school, the family get-togethers and neighbors visiting, the

food bounty harvested from garden and farm, the added treat of unusual delicacies that have now become everyday fare. But I remember the labor that went into the preparation and am thankful for today's comforts and conveniences.

There is much disheartening in the daily news. But surely we have cause for gratitude and rejoicing. Let us hold fast the true spirit of Christmas. Let us find time to cheer and encourage those who have special needs. Let us never be too busy to remember why we celebrate this season. Let us be sure that in our hearts there is a special place for the One whose coming makes all our blessings possible.

Pauline McDonald is a Sunday School teacher at West Helena Church. She is a retired schoolteacher and the widow of a Baptist minister.

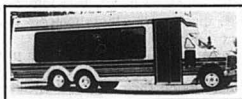


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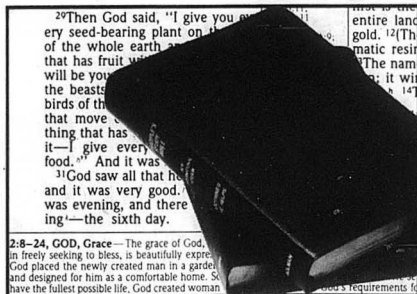
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BEN EARLY

Early Reflections



Wherever He Leads

As 1988 draws to a close, our thoughts turn to new beginnings.

As we think about new beginnings in 1989, my mind is almost overwhelmed as we look at what God has planned us.

Several weeks ago, we felt compelled to pray, "Lord, wherever you lead we'll go," not knowing God's plans were already in motion. There is no reason to bore you with all the details, but through surrendering to the Lord's will, the Earlys will be moving west.

In Billings, Mont., there is a young church named Rimrock Baptist where 70 members have issued a challenging call to become their pastor. Two days before Christmas all of our earthly possessions will be loaded on a van, and we will leave Southern Baptist College and the wonderful people of Arkansas.

SBC has continually sparked the mission flame in our hearts, while First Church, Walnut Ridge, has fed, loved, and challenged us to be all that God wants.

Arkansas Baptists have inspired, encouraged, and helped us to capture a vision for our state, the U.S., and the world.

During these last two years we've received far more than we've been able to give. We've become comfortable, happy and content in our work, yet God was preparing us for one of the greatest challenges in our ministry.

Hopefully, as we look at new beginnings in our life, focusing on the words, "Wherever he leads," we can encourage others to grasp a new vision in 1989 for their field of service.

Each day on the campus of SBC we've enjoyed Christian higher education at its best. Our hearts have thrilled as our BSU ranked number one in Arkansas because they sent so many summer missionaries and we've been challenged beyond our greatest expectations sharing with students as they've worked through God's direction in their own lives.

We hope everyone will pray in 1989, "Wherever you lead, Father, we will go," and then as we receive our marching orders, we'll go forth rejoicing.

Thanks, Arkansas Baptists, for caring. You've touched our lives more than you will ever know.

Ben Early is director of public relations for Southern Baptist College.

The Face of Death

by Elizabeth Watson
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas—Carolyn Roberson looks into the face of death every day.

As a chaplain for the Community Hospice program for Saint Joseph Hospital in Fort Worth, Roberson gives spiritual, physical, and emotional care to people who have less than six months left to live.

Roberson is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a registered nurse and former missionary to Zimbabwe and Bophuthatswana. She explained that Hospice does not exist to postpone death, but to help the patient and family live as fully as possible. Death is not denied but accepted and life is affirmed and lived more fully as a result, she said.

"It can be a terribly lonely time for patients and their families because they are trying to protect each other," Roberson said. "The family acts as if the terminal situation isn't real and the patient chooses not to discuss his imminent death because he doesn't want to upset the family. I'm there to help them communicate the pain and to say, 'It's okay to talk about death.'"

Roberson ministers to the patient and family as a unit. She works with a bereavement counseling program for families, a service which is offered up to a year after the patient's death. The bereavement program includes support groups and individual counseling. Roberson also sends personal cards and flowers to families on holidays and birthdays of the deceased.

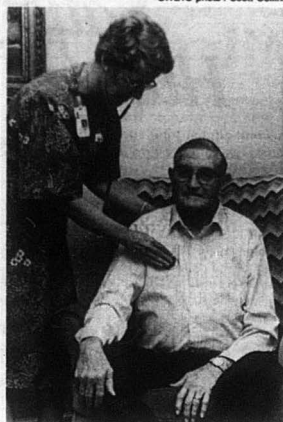
"We want them to know we care for them and we know those days will be difficult," she said.

Patients are usually more accepting of their death than are their families.

"When I visit patients, 90 percent of the time they are the ones who bring up spiritual matters and questions about death," she said. "They want to talk about God so they can face their death."

"Many family members accept the Lord during the bereavement time because death has made them sensitive to spiritual matters," Roberson said.

"Death is a universal fact of life. Whether or not it is accompanied by disease, dying is a natural process. Hospice provides the dying and their families the dignity of participating in preparation for death in a way



Carolyn Roberson checks a patient that is personally satisfying."

"And we learn more about living from dying people because their priorities are rearranged," Roberson added.

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HOT SPRINGS

Mission Banquet

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The First Church, Hot Springs, held its second annual John and Jewel Abernathy Missions Banquet Nov. 19. The congregation presented one scholarship and three awards for outstanding service. According to Pastor Roy Buckelew, the purpose of the banquet was to encourage mission involvement and support by the members of the congregation. The Abernathys, members of the church prior to their deaths, were missionaries in China for 30 years and in Korea for 10 years.

Jacob King, a member of First Church, presided over the banquet and presented a scholarship to Curtis and Debbie Sergeant. Sergeant, who is the son of foreign missionaries, and his wife are currently pursuing graduate degrees at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The scholarship is given in honor of William L. Hall, who willed 440 acres of timber land to First Church.

Lannie and Marguerite Robbins received the Abernathy Award for volunteer service in mission activity this year. Robbins has been involved in jail ministry for a number of years. In 1986 he returned to Hot Springs and started a jail ministry in Garland County. Until recently he conducted the ministry totally at his and his wife's expense. The award was presented by Judge John Robbins, a member of First Church.

Jack and Mildred Redford received the Abernathy Home Mission Board Service award. Redford has served churches in Texas, Arkansas, Colorado and Hawaii. He has worked as a church starter, a U. S. Army chaplain, and recently as director of missions for the Cisco Association in Texas. The first of January he will serve as director of state missions for the Indiana Baptist State Convention.

The Abernathy Foreign Mission Service award was presented to Keith and Helen Jean Parks by Dr. Buckelew.

Dr. Parks, who brought the missions address to the banquet, indicated that opportunities were opening all over the world and that innovative strategies were being developed by the Foreign Mission Board to enhance worldwide outreach. The pro-

Tamil people from place to place. They are currently on an international circuit, having moved 99 times last year.

Recently they sent a letter to Dr. Parks telling of a group who had accepted Christ in North India. The Wakefields are able to visit this group only one or two times a year. Between visits last year other religious groups which feared the new Christians burned the church to the ground.

The Christians said that rather than discouraging them this served to make them more fervent in their faith. They

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Roy Buckelew presents plaque to Keith Parks.

blem, he said, was the lack of funds. This year, for the first time since the depression, operating budgets have been cut by 12 percent in missions around the world.

Parks gave several illustrations of innovative mission activity that is currently producing mission growth in various parts of the world. One illustration was Bob and Mary Wakefield, who learned the Tamil language, and have worked in India, Malaysia, and Singapore. When visas were refused they have started following the

became determined to build a church that couldn't be burned.

Eventually the walls of the church were complete but they had no money to put a fireproof roof on the church. From last year's Lottie Moon Christmas offering the church received money to place a white asbestos roof on the church.

A spokesman for the church told the Wakefields, "It must have taken many Christians, many years to save enough money to send to us to put this roof on our building. This is more money than all the people in our village would ever earn in a whole generation."

The roof cost the church \$357. Dr. Parks observed that when we give our money for foreign missions the Lord takes it and multiplies it as he did the five loaves and two fish. Dr. Parks asked each individual to consider what God would have him to give.

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LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Kathleen Crumby has joined the staff of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock as church organist. She was a student of Mary Edna Smith, who served the church as organist for 37 years. Crumby and her husband, Al, have two children, James, and Chad.

Owen Ring is serving as pastor of Blackwater Church, Manila. He formerly pastored Mary's Chapel at Etowah and is presently serving as a faculty member of Westside School in Blytheville.

Roger Haney has resigned as pastor of Leachville Second Church and **Mike Henderson** has been called to serve as pastor, coming there from Whitton Church.

Byron Pritchett is serving as pastor of Friendship Church of Osceola. He and his wife, Rhonda, have two sons, Byron, and Barry.

Earl Cumbie observed seven years of service Dec. 4 as minister of education at Wynne Church.

Paul D. McDaniel is again serving as pastor of Bates Church, Waldron.

Paul White of Hartford is serving as pastor of Ione Church, Booneville.

Tom Harris will begin serving in January as pastor of First Church in Hartford following the retirement of Harold Plunkett. He will move there from Hot Springs where he served as pastor of Park Place Church.

Ken Edmonson has resigned as pastor of Centerville Church, Dardanelle.

Briefly

Evening Shade Church observed homecoming Nov. 6 with services which featured Pastor Daniel Kennedy and former pastor Lew Gwin as speakers. Other guests included Rev. and Mrs. Porter Black and Rev. and Mrs. Johnnie Darr.

New Providence Church of Hackett has reactivated its church training program, according to Pastor James Wright.

James Fork Church of Mansfield women have organized a Baptist Young Women's group.

Friendship Church at Mena licensed Pastor Freddie Woodral to the preaching ministry Nov. 27 in a service held at Big Creek Church in eastern Oklahoma.

Bentonville First Church ordained Dallas Collie, Jim Goins, Steve Goss, Harold Klein, Gary Matteri, Travis Riggs, and Clarence Vandiver to the deacon ministry Dec. 4.

Sedgwick Church recently completed a fellowship hall and dining room building that connects to the church building. Dale Davis, a member, was recognized for his work on the new addition. Mike Bradley is pastor.

Texarkana Trinity Church is celebrating the Christmas season by presenting "That

Night at Bethlehem," written and conducted by Gary Lanier, the church's minister of music. The drama/choral presentation will feature live animals, a living Christmas tree, a multi-media presentation, and a cast of 175. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18.

Hot Springs First Church, in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board, sponsored a Conflict Management Workshop for furloughing missionaries Oct. 30-Nov. 6. This workshop, attended by 19 furloughing missionaries, was the first ever of its type to be held in a local church. Its purpose was to assist them in dealing with stress and conflict that develops from changing cultures, family relationships, and the problems of working with other missionaries. Pastor Roy Buckelew reported that members housed the missionaries in their homes, and provided meals and transportation for them. Plans are being made to make this an annual event at the Hot Springs church.

ABN photo / J. Everett Snead



Newark Southern Church held a dedication of its new facilities on Dec. 4. The new building was erected at a cost of approximately \$165,000 and is valued at \$250,000. Labor was contributed by the Nailbenders of Arkansas, a Brotherhood group from Forrest City, Baptist churches within the Independence Association and by the members of the Newark Church. The new 6,500 square foot facilities include an auditorium that will seat 340 individuals, six Sunday School classrooms, a pastor's study, and four bathrooms. Individuals involved in the dedicatory service were Leonard Bunch, chairman of the building committee; Mike Jeffrey, chairman of deacons and Church Training director; Una Dell Edwards, choir member and Pastor Manuel Macks, who presented the dedicatory message.



Frank Worley presents van keys to Raymond and Norene Reed.

Reed Honored at Retirement

Bartholomew Association churches hosted a reception Dec. 4 at Immanuel Church in Warren for Raymond Reed, who will retire as director of missions Jan. 31, 1989. Sharing in the honors was his wife, Norene, who retired this year as associational secretary.

The couple, who served the churches for more than 17 years and spearheaded the organization of Hermitage Migrant Mission Center, was surprised when Conway Sawyers, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department, announced that the association had voted to rename the center "The Ray and Norene Reed Migrant Mission Center" in recognition of their service.

This center became a reality as a result of a ministry the Reeds began as they travel-

ed from farm to farm in Bradley County, ministering to migrant workers and their families. The needs they saw led them to work with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Home Mission Board to establish the center. More than 5,000 migrant families have received ministry at the center during its seven years of operation.

Another surprise came when Frank Worley, associational vice-moderator and pastor of the host church, presented them with a set of van keys. This gift, a cooperative effort of Bartholomew Association churches, will be used by the couple for their future missions involvement in Campers on Missions. Their community involvement was recognized by Warren Mayor R. Gregg Reep.

The Reed's plan to retire in Camden.

Eastside Leads State

Eastside Church in Paragould led the state of Arkansas in total church study course awards for 1987-88, according to statistics recently released by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Members of Eastside Church completed a total of 626 awards for the year. Clinton First Church placed second with 552 awards. Markham Street Church in Little Rock ranked third with 477 study awards.

Across the Southern Baptist Convention, 1.16 million people were enrolled in the study course system last year, an increase of 14 percent over the previous year.

SEMINARY STUDIES

Spring Term Announced

Three courses will be offered in the Little Rock Seminary Studies program when the spring semester begins Feb. 13.

Old Testament Backgrounds will be taught from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. by Tommy Brisco, assistant professor of biblical backgrounds and archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The course attempts to recover the life situation within which the biblical events occurred and to discern the impact of this setting on Old Testament literature.

Associational Ministries will be taught from 2:00 to 4:45 p.m. by Royce Rose, assistant professor of administration at Southwestern Seminary. This course emphasizes the local association as an avenue through which local congregations can share innovations and creative opportunities for ministry.

Clinical Preaching will be taught from 6:00 to 8:45 p.m. by Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock and adjunct professor for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. This course takes a laboratory approach to sermon delivery in order to analyze, evaluate, and improve the student's skills in oral communication, especially as these skills relate to preaching.

Classes will meet each Monday from Feb. 13 through May 1 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. Application deadline for spring semester is Jan. 30, 1989.

Matriculation fees are \$200 for one course and \$350 for two or more courses. Non-Baptist students pay double these amounts. Persons who wish merely to audit pay \$75 per course.

For more information, contact Lehman Webb, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791.

A SMILE OR TWO

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... you can claim it as a deduction.

... he's one politician who never asks for a contribution.

... don't worry—he's housebroken.

... to open, tear along perforation.

Grant Plaza Dedicated

A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony honoring Daniel R. Grant, recently-retired president of Ouachita Baptist University, was held Dec. 8 on the school's Arkadelphia campus.

The octagon-shaped, 40x40 foot area includes plaques honoring Grant and other former presidents of the university.

The plaza is the result of a campus committee working with the OBU board of trustees and the Development Council. It was designed by architect Noland Bliss, who donated his services for the project, as did Pickens Bond Construction Company. Expenses were covered by donations from friends of Ouachita Baptist University.

Staff Changes Announced

Two staff changes have been made at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello.

Royce Aston, ABHC director of social work services, has been named director of the children's home. A graduate of Baylor University and the University of Texas, Aston has served as social work services director for 13 years.

Van H. Evans of El Dorado has accepted the position of business manager for the home. A graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Evans was serving as church administrator for First Church, El Dorado.

Executive Director Sought

The Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission in Memphis, Tenn., is accepting applications for the position of executive director.

Applicants should have strong management, speaking, and writing skills, as well as experience with rural economic development. Salary is negotiable, but the commission may not pay at a rate exceeding Level II of the Federal Executive Schedule.

The commission was recently created by Congress to conduct an 18-month study and make recommendations for economic development in the seven-state area along the lower Mississippi River.

Applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to commission chairman Governor Bill Clinton, c/o Bob Nash, State Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Committees Elected

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention met for its annual organizational meeting Dec. 6 at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.

Executive Board members approved two recommendations from their Operating Committee. The first raised the Church Loan Fund ceiling from \$500,000 to \$600,000 and extended the convention's line of credit at Worthen Bank from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Operating Committee chairman Jim Gattis of Little Rock explained to board members that the action would allow the state convention to assist more new church starts by making more money available for short-term loans. Presently, new congregations are faced with a 15-month waiting period before the loans are available.

A second recommendation from the Operating Committee expressed concern to the Southern Baptist Annuity Board about recent increases in health insurance rates and about the strictness of requirements regarding hospital admissions.

Executive Board members elected the following committees on the recommendation of their nominating committee.

Operating Committee, James Gattis, chairman. (1989) Betty Moore, Dist. 7, Gary Fulton, Dist. 3; Shelby Bittle, Dist. 6. (1990) Bobby Walker, Dist. 4; James Gattis, Dist. 5; Dennis Dodson, Dist. 8. (1991) Jerry Kirkpatrick, Dist. 2; Homer Shirley, Dist. 1.

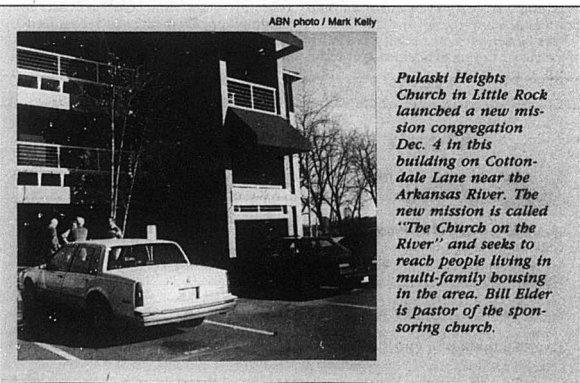
Program Committee, Sonny Simpson, chairman. (1989) Mark Brooks, A. Hilton Lane, Eddie McCord, Dillard Miller, Glenn Morgan, William Piercy, Ken Price, Tim

Reddin, Dorothy Ritter, Ron Sanders, Sonny Simpson, Tom Smith, Dale Thompson. (1990) Eugene Anderson, Jerry Cooper, Lex Eaker, Don Hubbard, Greg Kirksey, Jerry Muse, Larry Pillow, Glen Power, Eugene Ray, Lynn Robertson, Brad Sheffield, Kyle Sumpter, James Weedman, Billy White, Billie Sharp. (1991) Stanley Ballard, Sid Carswell, Dennis Coop, Nelson Eubank, Ronnie Floyd, Malvadeen Friday, Bill Gunter, Bob Harper, Captain Lovell, James McDaniel, Bryan Moery, Don Phillips, Bill Riddle, Clyde Vire, Jerry Wilson.

Finance Committee, Keith Robbins, chairman. (1989) Ledell Bailey, Marquita Butcher, Joel Faircloth, Alfred Gallant, Billy Kimbrough, David McLemore, Merle Milligan, George Pirtle, Keith Robbins, Ed Simpson, Al Sparkman, Allen Thrasher, Barbara Tommey, John Wikman. (1990) Sardis Bever, John Edwards, Kent Farris, Jim Files, James Gardner, Bill Hilburn, Ted Houston, Harrison Johns, Ken Lilly, Roy McLeod, David Moore, Bratton Rhoades, Pauline Tucker, Dan Webb, J.D. Webb. (1991) Charles Atkinson, Ronald Bracken, Bill Brown, Betty Dail, Horace Gage, Peggy Jeffries, L.B. Jordan, Alice King, Jimmy Miller, Charles Osborne, Paul Seal, Ray Taffar, Joe Thompson, Noble Wiles.

Nominating Committee, Eddie McCord, chairman. (1989) Eddie McCord, David McLemore. (1990) Billy White (1991) L.B. Jordan, Jerry Wilson.

Christian Life Council, Ed Simpson, chairman. (1989) Ed Simpson, Al Sparkman, Tom Smith. (1990) J.D. Webb, Eugene Ray. (1991) Bob Harper, James McDaniel.



Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock launched a new mission congregation Dec. 4 in this building on Cottondale Lane near the Arkansas River. The new mission is called "The Church on the River" and seeks to reach people living in multi-family housing in the area. Bill Elder is pastor of the sponsoring church.

'Conscience Problem'

God had been good to Union Hill Church.

Located in the country three or four miles south of the migrant mission center at Hermitage, Union Hill's needs were being met. The people were generous in their giving. They had no building debt to retire. Their pastor was bivocational. They were meeting their local expenses, giving almost 25 percent to missions, and still had money left over at the end of each month.

For several years, they had been salting that surplus away in a bank account, saving it for the proverbial "rainy day." As the months passed, the nest egg grew, until it reached five figures.

The money was causing a problem. Pastor Bobby Meggs telephoned Conway Sawyers, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's missions department, to see if he could help.

Meggs explained how the congregation had been accumulating the surplus funds each month, thinking they might be needed for an emergency one day. But the emergency hadn't come, and now the congregation was beginning to have a "conscience problem."

Sawyers says Meggs told him, "We're putting the Lord's money into savings, when he meant it to be spent. Can you help us with this problem?"

What problem? Sawyers sat down with Floyd Tidsworth, who directs the church extension program for Arkansas Baptists, and together they put together a list of four urgent mission needs in the state.

Tidsworth drove down to Bartholomew Association to present the list to the congregation. He told them about the desperate need for mobile chapels to house new mission congregations. He told them about mission churches at Benton and Center Ridge which needed funds to launch construction of their first buildings. He told them about the need to buy land for a new church at Hoxie. Tidsworth drove home that day, expecting a phone call the next week telling him which project the church had decided to adopt.

He didn't expect the call he got. Pastor Meggs said the church had voted to fund all the projects at a total cost of \$26,000.

The check they mailed to Tidsworth met all four needs. It helped pay for the purchase and remodeling of four mobile chapels. It sent \$5,000 each to Benton and Center Ridge to help mission congregations launch their building programs. It provided \$4,000 for the purchase of three acres in Hoxie, where a mobile chapel will be placed and a mission church started.

The check also met a fifth need. It solved Union Hill's "conscience problem." Now the Lord's money was being used as he intended, and the cause of missions was being advanced.

God was still being good to Union Hill.

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by Prospectus.



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INDIANA BAPTISTS

Staff Cut; Budget Slashed

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Seven staff members were laid off, another was offered a transfer until retirement and \$235,000 was cut from the 1989 budget as the executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana struggled to match income to outgo.

The executive board met a week after the annual meeting of SCBI, which had heard reports of financial problems, both in the current year and in the year to come. Despite predictions of a \$200,000-plus shortfall, messengers adopted a 1989 budget of \$2,600,441.

The adopted budget projects \$1,841,197, will be contributed by the congregations affiliated with the Indiana convention, a figure newly elected Executive Director-Treasurer Mark Coppenger thinks is too high. He said a more realistic figure for receipts would be about \$1.6 million.

He explained the convention will end the 1988 budget year "about \$90,000 in the red" and that occurred with four major staff vacancies. Predictions for 1989 were that by following the budget, the convention would be outspending receipts by an average of \$20,000 per month, resulting in a shortfall of about \$235,000.

In order to balance the budget, Coppenger said, the executive committee eliminated five staff, one maintenance and two clerical positions to reduce the budget to the amount "realistically projected" for contributions.

One staff vacancy has been filled. F. Jack Redford, director of associational missions in Cisco, Texas, and former director of

church extension for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will return to Indiana as state missions director. Redford was secretary of the state missions department 1962-67.

One staff member, James Abernathy, who has been evangelism/stewardship director, was offered reassignment as head of a slimmed down Sunday school, church training department. Coppenger said Abernathy has not yet indicated whether he will assume the new responsibilities.

Abernathy will be 65 in June 1990. Four other staffers were told their jobs would be eliminated and their duties absorbed by other staff. They are James Erlich, language missions director; W.J. Davis, church music/church training; B.J. Watts, administrative assistant to the executive director; and Bill Harrison, family ministries/Brotherhood.

One staff vacancy remains to be filled, that of editor of the state Baptist newspaper, the *Indiana Baptist*, Coppenger said. The duties of the editor will be combined with responsibility for oversight of Baptist Student Union work.

Under the reorganization, the staff will include Coppenger, Redford, a Sunday school/church training director, an editor/BSU director, and the director of Woman's Missionary Union work, Margaret Gillaspie.

Other staffers are James Brewer, director of the Boyce Bible School campus, and Reathell Miller, director of the state Baptist camp. Also on the staff are nine clerical workers.

CP Hits 37-Month Low

NASHVILLE (BP)—Receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget fell to the lowest level in 37 months during November.

The national Cooperative Program received \$9,055,571, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. The receipts were 4.73 percent below receipts for November 1987.

The Cooperative Program is the combined SBC budget that supports evangelistic, missionary, church-starting and educational ministries worldwide. Funds originate from church members, and they pass to state conventions and on to national and international causes.

November was the Cooperative Program's worst month since October 1985, Bennett reported. The budget has posted

only three lower monthly totals in the past four years.

The November total was more than \$3 million—or 25.37 percent—below the average monthly total needed to reach the Cooperative Program's \$145.6 million goal for the 1988-89 fiscal year.

The budget's year-to-date total is \$20,007,186, Bennett said. That amount represents a 2.45 percent drop from the same period last year, while inflation currently hovers at about 4 percent—a negative variance of more than 6 percent.

If Southern Baptists are to reach the Cooperative Program goal, the national budget now must receive an average of \$12.56 million for the 10 remaining months in the fiscal year. However, the monthly total has topped that mark only three times in Cooperative Program history.

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Names Sought

SBC President Looking for 'Committed' Baptists

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines has issued an open letter seeking recommendations of people to be appointed to key committees to serve at the 1989 SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

Vines said he is "beginning the process which will result in nominees for the 1989 Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee."

According to the SBC constitution and bylaws, the convention president appoints the four key committees that will serve June 13-15, 1989, at the annual meeting in Las Vegas. The president appoints the Committee on Committees and Resolutions Committees "in conference with" the two vice presidents; the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents; and the Tellers Committee "in consultation" with the SBC registration secretary.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., said he would welcome recommendations from "all Southern Baptists." He added: "My commitment is to find the best Southern Baptists for these committee appointments. I will make my appointments as prayerfully and carefully as possible."

Vines listed qualities he wants and does not want in people he appoints: "I want people who are supportive of our Southern Baptist work. I want people who are committed to our priority as Southern Baptists—winning people to Christ. I am more interested in that they are witnessing people than that they are wealthy people."

"I am looking for committed Southern Baptists, not merely prominent Southern Baptists."

"I do not want people who have personal hostilities or grievances which would

cause them to use a committee appointment as a platform for pushing their own agenda."

Vines asked that the recommendations be sent to him by Feb. 1, 1989, at First Baptist Church, 124 Ashley Street, Jacksonville, Fla. 32202. The envelopes should be designated on the lower left hand side, "SBC Committee Recommendation."

He asked people making nominations to include information on whether the nominee has served on any SBC committee or board previously, and whether anyone in the nominee's church currently is serving or previously has served.

He also asked that specific information be provided, including the full name of the nominee, correctly spelled; complete mailing address, including ZIP code; home and business telephones, including area code; whether the nominee is in a clergy or denominationally related post or is a layperson. The correct title or occupation of the nominee—whether clergy or layperson—should be included, as should the full business address and telephone number.

In addition, the recommendations should include the nominee's church affiliation, the church mailing address and telephone number, total church membership, amount the church gave through the Cooperative Program unified budget during the 1987-88 associational year and the percentage of the church budget the CP gifts represented.

Nominations also should include the number of baptisms in the church during the 1987-1988 associational year, whether the nominee plans to attend the SBC in Las Vegas, and the state convention in which the nominee lives.

The recommendations also should include the nominator's name, title, mailing address and home and business telephone numbers.

'An Entrenched Moral Problem'

NASHVILLE (BP)—To help improve racial relationships within the Southern Baptist Convention, the Christian Life Commission will host here a special two-day conference to begin on Jan. 16, the holiday commemorating the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Racism remains an entrenched moral problem in our society as well as within the Southern Baptist Convention. It discloses itself sometimes with directness and sometimes with great subtlety," Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said in announcing the race relations conference.

On Oct. 25, the day after he took the helm at the Commission, Land set the wheels in motion for the special two-day meeting. He said he moved swiftly to inaugurate the conference both to underscore the Commission's continuing deep commitment to improving race relations within the Southern Baptist Convention and in society at large, as well as to encourage Southern Baptists to observe the Convention's Race Relations Sunday, Feb. 12, 1989.

The Christian Life Commission is the social/ethical action arm of the SBC.

The conference, scheduled at First Baptist Church of Nashville, begins at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, and concludes at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17. Participants will stay at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville. The conference's registration fee is \$30.

Speakers will focus on the biblical mandate concerning race relations and on positive ways that mandate can be implemented today.

"The Christian Life Commission is committed to understanding the problem of race relations, facing it in all its expressions and helping and church members find handles for redemptive involvement in the social order," Land said.

For more information about the conference, contact the Christian Life Commission; P.O. Box 25266, Nashville, Tenn. 37202-5266; or call (615) 244-2495.

Houseparents needed:

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Hastey Elected Alliance Exec

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Alliance elected Stan Hastey as its first executive director during the SBA board meeting Nov. 28-29 in Charlotte, N.C.

Hastey, 44, is chief of the Washington bureau of Baptist Press and associate executive director of the Baptist Joint Commission on Public Affairs. He will assume the SBA post Jan. 1.

Convention Uniform

Glory to God

by Norene A. Reed, Bartholomew Association, Warren

Basic passage: Luke 2:1-16

Focal passage: Luke 2:1-16

Central truth: God is worthy of all praises and adoration.

Imagine yourself in a rural area with only the starlit sky overhead. There would be the normal night sounds of insects and perhaps a night bird or some small animal moving about. All is calm and peaceful when suddenly you are astonished by something you have never seen before. You have never heard of anything like this.

The shepherds had this experience. There, standing by them, was an angel of the Lord. The glory of the Lord flashed and shone about them; they were terribly frightened. As with Zacharias and Mary the angel spoke words of comfort and assurance for the shepherds needed to be of a mind to understand the great news.

God had this night fulfilled his promise made for many centuries. Christ, the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, was born. His birth was to affect all people. He was to be the Savior born of Jewish heritage, but reaching into the hearts of people of all nations.

Without words, the shepherds listened as the angels gave them a sign to verify this announcement. They could find this baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger in Bethlehem. The heavenly beings, unable to contain their joy any longer, became visible and burst into a song of praise to God. The Lord was and is worthy of the greatest praise to the highest heavens for giving to man his only Son. Through Jesus each person may find peace with God.

God had truly revealed his love for man. The shepherds responded by hurrying to Bethlehem to find the baby in the manger. When they had seen him with their own eyes they began telling the great news of what had happen throughout the town.

The good news that Jesus has come is still ringing through the world today. The Bible speaks out, servants of God proclaim it, and hearts of love witness to those around of the peace that only Jesus can bring. There can be peace within us regardless of the surrounding circumstances. As this peace spreads, it affects our families, our churches, our communities, our nation, and the world.

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

Life and Work

Praying for One Another

by Stephen Pate, Second Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Acts 20:36-38; Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 6:18-20

Focal passage: Acts 20:36; Ephesians 3:14-21; 6:18-20

Central truth: As Christians we are to pray for one another for spiritual strength and effective service.

Prayer is essential for the Christian to be in tune with God's will for his/her life. The gospels include many events and occasions of Jesus praying. Paul prayed for his brothers and requested they pray for him. Why?

Following the address to the leaders of the church in Ephesus, Paul knelt and prayed with them and for them. It must have been an emotional time for Paul. They had spent years working together for the cause of Christ and their friendship grew to be very sweet. They were brothers and sisters in the Lord. Paul sensed the need for prayer that God would continue to bless them and strengthen them. Paul also had a good idea of what lay ahead for him. He needed God's support and needed to feel God's love.

Another need which prayer can fulfill is filling us with God's power for the tasks that lie ahead. Ephesians 3:14-17 is an example of praying for God's power. He asked God for glorious riches, some of God's vast resources from which their needs might be met.

Paul also prayed for spiritual growth. Ephesians 3:18-21 reveal Christ's presence in our lives. His presence means wisdom, inspiration and strength. But love is the key! Through love we are able to move to a greater depth of understanding God.

Our goal according to Paul (v. 19) is to know and love Christ. Christ's love defies comprehension. Paul desired being filled with all of the fullness of God.

Finally, Paul prayed for the ability to preach boldly. In Ephesians 6:18-20, he identified himself as an ambassador in chains. He was committed to the gospel. So very committed that even though he was chained and imprisoned, his prayers were not to be freed, but to be empowered by God so he could preach boldly. We like Paul need to pray for boldness so we might proclaim the gospel clearly and effectively. That is our job! That is what he is counting on.

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Bible Book

The Tabernacle Completed

by Bradley A. Rogge, Forest Tower Church, Hensley

Basic passage: Exodus 35-40

Focal passage: Exodus 35:4-5a; 36:2-5; 39:43 to 40:2; 40:34-38

Central truth: For God's work to be completed we must be willing to stay with the task.

Building the Tabernacle was not an easy task. The first thing the people had to have as a willing heart (35:5). The people had to be ready to sacrifice to provide a place of worship. They were asked to give money and other valuable gifts.

But the giving was not enough. The people also needed to work. We are a very service-directed people today. We pay for others to perform tasks, like raising the food we eat and making the clothes we wear; things that families used to do for themselves. This is not such a bad idea perhaps unless this attitude carries over into our church.

If we have the attitude that we pay the staff to be our witnesses or that we give to send others to do our mission work, we have a bad attitude. God expects us to give, but also to serve.

We need to serve God to the best of our ability. One of the greatest thrills in my life was going to Brazil. I personally got involved in mission work. I still feel the glow of a refreshed spirit and a deeper understanding of what our missionaries face daily.

As the new year approaches we often make a list of resolutions we will not keep. But, maybe we could think of a few we could keep.

I resolve to have a willing heart to increase my giving to my church and its mission work this year.

I resolve to have a willing heart to be in service for my Lord in my church this year.

I resolve to have a willing heart to seek a church to serve as a volunteer missionary.

I resolve to have a willing heart to set aside or expand my quiet time so that I may draw closer to him.

I resolve to have a willing heart to pray daily for my church, its leadership, and our donations.

I believe that if each of us would make out a list something like the one above we would see some changes. We would change ourselves, thereby changing our family, our church, and make a real difference for Christ in 1989.

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So Many Eyes

Missionary Relieves Suffering in Refugee Camps

by Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GAZANKULU, South Africa (BP)—Aid, both physical and spiritual, is touching the lives of thousands of refugees fleeing Mozambique into the South African homeland of Gazankulu.

The most visible symbol of that aid is a large white truck with the emblem of Xhurani Baptist Center on the side. Its boxy shape contrasts with the soft outlines of a village of round mud and thatch huts, of discarded tin cans and cardboard boxes and plastic bags—a village that knows neither running water nor electricity.

Under normal circumstances, the truck would not be there, but neither would the hungry refugees, who depend on it to bring them food to fend off starvation and clothes to neutralize the chill of winter.

These people are hundreds of miles from their own homes and their own fields, unable to raise their own food because armies and rebel groups in Mozambique kill each other and civilians, and troops torch crops and blow up bridges.

But the village and truck are not unusual, or even unusual. People in thousands of flimsy villages in Chad and Sudan and Angola, and many other places where wars have raged, await either death or such a truck.

While Christians around the world have prayed for rain to end Africa's drought, wars on the continent continue to create more refugees, who in turn produce the need for more villages and more trucks destined for locations not even found on most maps. Recent history indicates people are more willing to aid the victims of drought—something they cannot control—than the victims of war.

The tragedy of Mozambique represents the plight of refugees around the world. The languages they speak, the food they eat and the architecture of their pasted-together villages may vary. But the emotional current runs steady: the bloated bellies, the peeling skin and thinning hair of babies, the slumped shoulders of the husband and father who can't find a job, the frantic efforts of a mother to gather firewood and edible leaves from fields long ago picked clean by others like her.

And most of all, the eyes—eyes of hopelessness, fear, anger. Those are the eyes that look for the truck on a typical day in the relief camp.

Among Gazankulu's 23 camps, the Baptist-sponsored truck typically generates its own crowd. But Peter Khoza and Denis

Toko, two African Christians who work in the Baptist relief project, go to the houses away from the truck's path and announce their arrival over a bullhorn. They don't want anyone to miss what they are giving: food and clothing for today, salvation in Jesus Christ for eternity.

When the crowd is seated—men on one side, women and children on the other—Khoza leads them in communal singing.

Rosa, Khoza's wife, takes the children to one side for Bible stories while he preaches to the adults. The evangelistic message lasts about 20 minutes and concludes with an invitation to believe in Christ. Thirty-seven people indicate a desire to become Christians, a fairly typical response.

Those who respond and can read or have someone to read to them are given tracts and a mimeographed sheet with six Scripture verses. The Baptist team also enrolls them in the first lesson of a Bible correspondence course.

On one particular day, two men and a woman stand nervously before the crowd to recite the six verses from memory. Amid cheers and congratulations from their family, friends and neighbors, they receive a Bible from Khoza.

New Christians who display leadership skills will be invited to two weeks of intensive training in how to share their faith and lead Bible study, the first step toward organizing a church in the camp.

After Toko, Khoza's partner, teaches about health and sanitation, the team gives out clothing. Shoes are so highly valued that even single shoes without mates are prized.

Southern Baptist hunger funds used by the team are restricted to buying food and the equipment necessary to distribute it. So Baptist churches in South Africa, primarily black churches, have collected the clothing. Even soap is purchased with

special donations.

"When we tell Southern Baptists that 100 percent of their gifts to the hunger funds go to feed hungry people, we mean 100 percent," explains missionary Ed Moses of Orlando, Fla. Moses is the closest Southern Baptist missionary to Gazankulu. He drives four hours each way one week a month to help in the distribution.

Mealy meal, a fine-ground corn meal that is the basic food, and supplemental foods such as peanuts and mixed beans are poured into pans and baskets as people file by the distribution point.

Meanwhile Moses, a pharmacist-turned-church developer, holds a clinic under a shade tree beside the truck. One 7-year-old girl has a leg wound with gangrene. Three adults hold her down while Moses cleans

out the wound. Later a baby boy is brought to Moses with puss draining out of his ear.

Most of the cases are more routine—scabies, eye infections, malaria. "Clean water and soap would cure most of this," Moses points out. But he knows the closest piped water is more than half a mile away, and people without jobs cannot buy soap. Sanitary toilets also are non-existent.

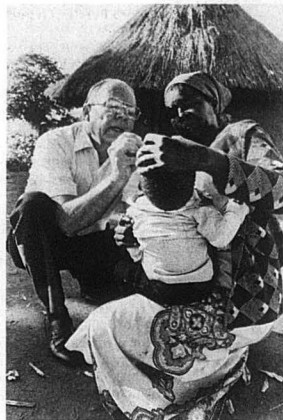
Moses likes to say that Jesus healed the blind with a touch, and he and other Christians can heal with a touch of eye ointment. But there are so many

eyes and so few tubes of medicine, and even fewer hands to dispense the medicine. Less than three hours after arriving, the Baptist team is ready to roll out. More than 700 people have received food and clothing. Another 150 have received basic health care. Three have new Bibles, and 37 have started a new life as Christians.

The effort will be repeated at two different camps the next day and three more the day after.

The Mozambican refugees in Gazankulu are more fortunate than some, if fortunate can describe people who have been driven from their homes by a war they neither asked for nor understand, people who must rely upon others to feed them.

At least there is a truck driven by Christians who know the way to their village.



Missionary Ed Moses

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WORLD

Lay Academy Planned

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP)—A key Hungarian official has given new assurances of his government's openness to a Baptist lay academy in Budapest for training bivocational pastors and other church workers in Eastern Europe.

The International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest is scheduled to open in the summer of 1990 and will be affiliated with Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Barna Sarkadi-Nagy, vice president of the Hungarian State Office for Church Affairs, "assured us the academy would be able to carry out freely its educational programs," said John David Hopper, president of the Ruschlikon seminary and a longtime Southern Baptist missionary in Europe. Hopper was part of a delegation that met with the official Nov. 22.

To assist the new academy, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators will ask board trustees in December to assign a Southern Baptist couple to work in Hungary. The trustees' strategy committee first approved Foreign Mission Board participation in the academy last June.

Hungarian pastor Laszlo Gerzsenyi has been named the academy's first director. He was selected Nov. 25 by the Ruschlikon seminary's executive board, which was assigned the task by the European Baptist Federation. The federation encompasses 26 Baptist bodies in Western and Eastern Europe.

Gerzsenyi leads a Baptist church in the Budapest suburb of Pecel and is a church history professor at Hungarian Baptist Seminary in Budapest. He received a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and for five years was pastor of a Hungarian Baptist congregation in Detroit.

Sarkadi-Nagy has given Baptist representatives a green light for opening the academy on two other occasions. He met with a delegation in Budapest last May that included Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks; G. Keith Parker, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe; and Janos Viczian, president of the Baptist Union of Hungary. And he met Nov. 4 in New York with Parker and Isam Ballenger, board vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

The academy will operate primarily during the summer and will utilize the Hungarian seminary's classrooms and sleeping quarters. The facility's overnight capacity is being expanded from 28 to 40.

Bivocational pastors and other church

leaders throughout Eastern Europe will be able to enroll in conferences and training programs spanning several days to several weeks. Especially in the Soviet Union, Romania, Czechoslovakia and parts of Yugoslavia, a large majority of ministers are bivocational.

Because they earn their living from jobs outside their churches, with limited time off for vacation, many of these leaders have few opportunities for in-depth study of the Bible or for training in evangelism, discipleship, church growth, preaching, religious education or music ministry, according to Parker.

Beyond such training, the academy also will provide English-language instruction to help church leaders make greater use of books and publications in English.

Another key aim of the academy will be to assist Eastern European church leaders in developing their own materials and "their own indigenous approach to evangelism and church growth," Parker said.

The Hungarian government's openness to the Baptist academy, Parker said, stems in part from "glasnost" liberalizations initiated in the Soviet Union by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The openness in all of Eastern Europe has immediate effects on the churches," he added. "They are able to allow us to be partners with them with less of the difficulties of the past."

Christians in some socialist countries now find it easier to build churches, publish religious materials and import Bibles and other books, Parker said.

And the new openness has allowed Eastern Europeans to venture into the global evangelization movement, he noted. Baptists in East Germany have received government permission to send two nurse-midwives to Sierra Leone. The two single missionaries began language study in October. A Hungarian woman also is working in the African country.

The academy is not Southern Baptists' first involvement with Hungarian Baptists, Parker pointed out. Six teams of Southern Baptist volunteers traveled to the Budapest seminary last summer to help construct a four-story building.

Southern Baptists first assisted Hungarian Baptists in 1921 by helping acquire property for a seminary. A girls' training school opened in 1937, and Southern Baptist missionaries were among the teachers. Both institutions' buildings were destroyed during World War II. After the war, Southern Baptists helped Hungarian Baptists acquire the current seminary property.

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