

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

10-5-1995

October 5, 1995

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99



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

Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "October 5, 1995" (1995). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999*. 59.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99/59

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 20

October 5, 1995



**More than 3,000
Arkansas Baptist
Sunday School
workers were
challenged to**

**"Carry the Light" during 41
Associational Sunday School
Conventions held recently
throughout the state.**



New COM president has vision of more missions involvement

By Millie Gill
Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Involvement in the Arkansas/Lowa missions partnership, membership growth and organization of a southwest district chapter are at the top of Arkansas Campers on Mission's "to do" list for the coming year, according to newly elected president Charles Stender.

"We are campers on mission and therefore we are available to assist the Arkansas Baptist State Convention with mission efforts wherever we are needed," said Stender who has been involved in volunteer mission work with his wife, Jeanne, for more than 15 years. He said their initial missions involvement was the result of an article they read in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* concerning the Christian Volunteer Corps.

Stender, a deacon at Immanuel Church of Little Rock, was elected president of Arkansas Campers on Mission during the organization's annual fall rally Sept. 7-10 in Eureka Springs. Serving with him in the coming year will be vice president Preston Eddy, a member of Trinity Church in Searcy, and secretary/treasurer Dorothy Jackson, a member of Central Church in Marked Tree.

The new COM president is a mathematics teacher at Fuller Junior High School in the Pulaski County School District and a former athletic coach in the district. He requested that anyone needing assistance from the Campers on Mission group to contact him at 501-562-5338. He said he is available to share information with churches concerning COM efforts.

"We plan to have a booth at the upcoming state convention at First Church in Little Rock, and at future state meetings for the purpose of providing information and adding new members," Stender noted. He said efforts to add a southwest chapter will help the organization complete its goal of being a statewide effort. The Arkansas COM chapter currently has established units in the state's northwest, northeast, central and southeast regions.

Stender attributed the overall success of the Arkansas chapter to the efforts of Lendol Jackson, state volunteer COM coordinator. He said Jackson also is available to those interested in joining the organization or needing assistance from the group. Among the organization's newest ministry efforts is a statewide telephone prayer chain launched at the fall rally by 35 couples.

Pete Petty, who helps coordinate COM activities in his role as associate in the state convention missions department, said he believes the prayer chain ministry is one of the most significant decisions ever made by the organization.

"This ministry will not only meet the needs of those in the organization, but will provide opportunity for mission projects and needs to be prayed for," Petty affirmed. He said his current goal "is assist our state organization in becoming more involved in missions projects."

Petty said the state organization, which hosted this year's national COM rally, plans to participate in the 1996 COM rally to be held June 18-21 in Greenwood, Miss. The Mississippi rally will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Campers on Mission.

Cover Story

ABN photo / Tremis Henderson



'Carry the Light' 3

More than 3,000 Arkansas Baptist Sunday School workers were trained during the recent Associational Sunday School Conventions throughout the state. The training sessions focused on the theme, "Carry the Light."

Also inside

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

Arkansas Baptists
Iowa partnership update.....6
Arkansans serve in Chile.....7
Risk management: part 3.....8
Project targets discipleship.....9
Arkansas All Over.....12-13
College Digest.....19

Nation/World
World Missions Digest.....10
SBC Executive Committee.....11
Baptists, Catholics meet.....14
Hurricane relief under way.....15
Mission volunteers affirmed.....17

Lessons.....22-23

Next issue: October 21

Available on
CompuServe through
the Publications
Library of SBCNet.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

Tremis Henderson.....Editor
Russell N. Dilday.....Associate Editor
Colleen Baccus.....Assistant Editor
Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
Becky Hardwick.....Accountant
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D.Editor Emeritus

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

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc. 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individual) \$6.36 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.00 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 20

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mark Baber, Marion, president; James Alcock, Hope; Brenda Bruce, Newark; Robin Cook, Magnolia; Karl Cunningham, Menz; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Lacie Haggins, Fordyce; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Greg Kirksey, Benton; Eddie McCord, Mount Ida; David McCormick, Russellville; Cliff Palmer, Rogers; Millie Petty, Hot Springs; Ken Shaddox, Fordyce; Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

Sunday School training aids 3,000 workers

More than 3,000 Arkansans were urged to "Carry the Light," during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Associational Sunday School Conventions, held in the state's 41 Baptist associations Sept. 16-30. "Carry the Light" is the theme of the Baptist Sunday School Board's five-year training emphasis through the year 2000.

Milton Redeker, director of the ABCS Sunday School department, said the simultaneous conventions are a "first" for Arkansas. Noting that eight five-member teams conducted the 41 workshops, Redeker added, "We covered the entire state in a week." He said the 3,000-plus workers trained during the sessions "is more than twice what we get at the annual convention" held in Little Rock.

"This is by far the best we've ever done," he emphasized. "We surveyed the participants and found that 90 percent of them had never been to Little Rock for a Sunday School convention. We also found that 50 percent of those who came to the associational conventions were first-time Sunday School teachers and directors."

Based on initial results, Redeker said his department plans to repeat the associational emphasis in 2000. In the meantime, the traditional state Sunday School convention will be held in Little Rock in 1996 and 1999, a regional convention will be held in Jonesboro in '97, and district conventions will be held throughout the state in '98.

Redeker said the variety of training opportunities will enhance the goal of equipping Sunday School workers throughout the state. "Any time we do something different, it touches a different segment of people," he pointed out.

Although the initial goal of the associational events was to train 5,000 workers, Redeker acknowledged, "Five thousand was probably beyond our own imagination. Realistically, I think we accomplished our goal of training thousands of leaders to teach Sunday School into the 21st century."

Participants at several of the associational events viewed the video, "Carry the Light," before dividing into age-grated training sessions. The BSSB-produced video urged participants to help generate greater involvement in Sunday School through using a variety of teaching approaches, expansion of the organization and establishing more growth contacts and personal visits.

Participants then divided into 90-minute sessions for general officers and teachers of adult, youth, children and preschool Sunday School classes.

Valerie Loftis, a member of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, taught



John Cooper, minister of education at First Church, West Memphis, was among 40 conference leaders who led Sunday School training efforts throughout the state.

the "Leading Youth in Sunday School" session at the Garland County Association meeting, held Sept 18 at Park Place Church in Hot Springs.

Loftis, a 911-dispatch operator, said major issues youth face include family relationships, the media, emotional crises and lack of absolutes.

"Youth are searching for significance and meaning in life," Loftis said. "Cults and gangs are reaching youth and, after the age of 17, people are less likely to become Christians."

'Live what you teach'

Loftis said teenagers are receptive to learning when "needs are met, when you build relationships, when you use repetition and imitation and when they experience what they learn," adding that it is essential for youth teachers to "live what you teach."

Bonnie Evans, a youth teacher at Rector Heights Church in Hot Springs, attended the youth teachers' session. She said she especially appreciated the opportunity for dialogue with other teachers.

"We were discussing discipline and I really loved some of the ideas some of the others had," she noted. "I liked the way our part of the conference was put together, the way it was organized and our teacher was exceptional."

Freddie Pike, associate pastor of Second Church, Conway, and former ABCS Sunday School director, coordinated the training for Faulkner County Association which attracted nearly 200 participants.

Emphasizing that the event was designed to offer "encouragement and motivation" to Sunday School workers,

Pike said, "If they can pick up two or three new ideas and get a renewed enthusiasm and vision for their work, that's the greatest impact we can make."

Adult conference leader John Cooper, minister of education and administration at First Church, West Memphis, challenged teachers to "make our Bible study a life-changing experience. Don't just teach facts," he urged. "Carry those facts into principles of life. That's when people's lives are changed — when they apply the Bible."

Charles Allen, associate pastor of First Church, Conway, led training sessions for Sunday School general officers. "Teachers should never stop growing themselves," he said. "As you prepare your lessons, have an open mind to allow God to teach you first."

Noting that "many people look at Sunday School as an academic experience majoring on biblical content," Allen added, "While biblical content and truth are at the heart of Sunday School, I believe that just knowing cognitively is not Sunday School. Sunday School has to reach a person's emotions, attitudes and values or you get no commitment."

Preschool conference leader Carol Pyeat, preschool coordinator at First Church, Searcy, said "one the biggest thrills" for her was the opportunity to train a young lady who had not grown up in church. "It was seeing her desire and eagerness to learn more about teaching and feeling that I was able to help her," she affirmed. "That's real exciting."

"I'm glad Arkansas Baptists tried this," Pyeat reflected. "It's been good for every association to participate."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

Some of my best memories revolve around a practice sorely needed today. As a boy in a rural community, occasionally a barn or farm house would burn. The entire community would come together following the tragedy and rebuild the barn or house for the family.

In New Orleans, where I was pastoring when hurricane Betsy came and took 88 lives and did millions of dollars of damage, I saw it again. Blacks, whites, Cajuns, Protestants, Catholics, Christians and reprobates worked together to meet crucial needs. The crisis was of such enormous proportions that no time was spent accusing, examining or doubting the motives of the others. We all helped each other. The times demanded it.

I saw it again as God put a beautiful staff together at Grand Avenue Baptist Church. Sure they had differences of personality, opinion, gifts and concerns. Time and again I saw them give up their personal preferences in the interest of an event or activity that was of more value than their personal opinion. There was such absolute trust in the motivation of each other that mutual respect bridged over the potential rift and the team moved on. It is no wonder that God gave such magnificent blessings to that ordinary group. We all helped each other. The times demanded it.

That's what happened on the farm and in New Orleans. That is the way Christians have historically worked together when God really used them. Whether the church faces crisis or opportunity, the times demand that we trust and help each other.

In a world that can't deal with disagreement without some form of violent reaction, one wonders if we will ever see such trust and cooperation again. Even God's people seem to have little motivation to get the facts, strive for peace, trust the other, and work for the mutual welfare.

In denominational life, as in church or family life, the key to cooperative efforts is mutual trust and respect. This cannot be done without honesty and fairness. My hope is that we all will see "the times" calling us to united action rather than our differences urging destructive actions.

PEGGY SUTTON

Woman's Viewpoint

Words that count



Recently, while attending a funeral of a member of our church family, I heard a remark which has continued to come back to me time and again.

As our pastor summarized his relationship with our friend, he said, "Joe never spoke idle words but spoke words that counted." Joe's words were words that would build up, direct, heal and inspire, spoken with truth.

I remember the rhyme we all chanted as a child. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." What untruth there is in that childish rhyme, because spoken words can also do all manner of harm. They can break relationships, discourage, damage, stifle and destroy.

James 3:1-12 views control of the tongue as an individual's most difficult challenge. The tongue can set the direction of a life, especially in the young. It has great potential for evil because the tongue cannot be tamed; so it must be guarded and guarded particularly against the habit of speaking ill against others while praising God!

Parents have the opportunity to bless their children every day with the words they speak - words of love, praise and encouragement. Even reprimanding wrong behavior can be done without using harsh, unnecessary criticism. Using appropriate constructive words to guide and reprimand children is an application of "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

Teachers have a powerful effect on

us. Perhaps you can recall a personal communication spoken by your teacher that implanted an inspiration in your mind. Or perhaps a negative comment that has lingered through the years, never to be forgotten.

We have a ministry in our church that helps school-age children who are living in city shelter homes. On Wednesday evening, the children come to us for a meal and each is furnished a tutor to help with homework. The workers have compiled a list of phrases they use to encourage and build up lives that are unsettled, disturbed and maybe abused.

Each of us as a church family member has an opportunity to be like Joe, saying words that count - words that heal, comfort, inspire and do good.

Since Joe's funeral I have prayed more often that my words would count in the lives I touch each day. God has written an excellent petition we can pray concerning our words. "Let the words of my mouth ... be acceptable in Thy sight" (Psalm 19:14). We must ask and depend on God to fill our mouths with acceptable words, words that bless and do all manner of good.

Peggy Sutton is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock where she teaches first graders. She is the wife of William H. "Buddy" Sutton, a Little Rock attorney and former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The Suttons have three children and four grandchildren.

Personal perspectives

"Teachers should never stop growing themselves. As you prepare your lessons, have an open mind to allow God to teach you first."

—Charles Allen, associate pastor, First Church, Conway

"Volunteerism changes your life. It gets in your blood and you're never the same."

—Glenn Prescott, associate director, International Service Corps

Why fight fellow Baptists?

I was disappointed by Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin's recent letter opposing the decision of Woman's Missionary Union to provide assistance to another group involved in sharing Christ with the world. If I am not mistaken, the group which Rankin opposes was sending thousands and thousands of dollars to support the work of the SBC. The FMB, however, turned down that money as "tainted" and "dirty." Will the FMB also turn down tithes from gambling earnings or from tobacco or alcohol profits? I think it is a matter of consistency and integrity.

The FMB has recently joined Global Focus which appeals for funds from SBC churches. The FMB also joined a group of evangelical missions organizations, some of which have support in SBC churches. Why are we spending so much time and effort fighting our Baptist brothers and sisters? If it is not of God, then it will surely die. If it is of God, then neither the FMB nor any of the rest of us had better be found opposing it.

Aren't there enough people out there who have no personal relationship with God in Christ for all of us? Shouldn't we be excited that God may be doing new and fresh things in expanding opportunities for people to hear of Christ? Why must our little kingdoms be threatened by what very well may be the work of God's kingdom?

The FMB reportedly spent more than \$11,000 to send out Rankin's letter of August 25. Is that good stewardship? Couldn't the money have been better spent by purchasing Bibles or used for actually sharing the message of Christ rather than to pick a fight with the group that has done more to spread the gospel of Christ than all the Southern Baptist preachers put together? If I were in the WMU, I would resent such attempts to force and manipulate.

Layne E. Smith
Fayetteville, AR

Concentrate on Christ

I have believed in the sovereign grace of God throughout my Christian life: He sent His Son, His goodness leads us to repentance, He keeps us from falling, He is in control of all and works all things after the counsel of His will.

At the same time, it is not useful to engage in controversy about things that are above the line of human understanding. As Baptists, we owe nothing to either of the Augustines or to Calvin, and certainly not to the Remonstrants or Arminians.

We can be spoiled through speculative theology as well as through worldly



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

philosophy, as evidenced by the modernistic Protestant schools. We had better concentrate on what Christ and the apostles said and did, try to be people of one Book, and carefully avoid going beyond what is written.

Clay Hale,
El Dorado, AR

Examine 'what God said'

Jerry Vines is a precious friend. However, Dr. Vines erred when he sought to minimize debate over Calvinism versus Arminianism.

Dr. Vines has few peers when it comes to turning a phrase - I can just hear the resounding "amens" when he said, "I could care less what Calvin or Arminius believed - I want to know what the revealed Word of God has to say." This is tantamount to the WMU president saying, "I don't care what William Carey or Lottie Moon believed - I just want to know what God said."

Dr. Vines' error is compounded when we remember that he made this statement to seminarians! The truth is, most seminarians in our day could not list, compare or contrast the Calvinistic system of theology with Arminianism if their life depended on it!

I think it would be healthy for the church to examine Calvinism and Arminianism to see if one of them is consistent with "what God said" regarding depravity, election, atonement, calling and perseverance. After all, these doctrines are germane to our religion. Southern Baptists will profit even more from a discussion of the gospel than we have from the debate over inerrancy.

The very seminary where Dr. Vines made his remarks has a Calvinistic confessional document known as the Abstract of Principles. Professors are hired and fired at Southeastern and Southern based on whether they can teach "consistent with and not contrary to the Abstract." Article V in the Abstract says this: "Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life, not because of foreseen merit in them, but by mere mercy in Christ. In consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified."

Yes, I am a Calvinist. I am delighted to be identified with James Pedigru Boyce, Basil Manly and John Broadus - Calvinists

who founded Southern Seminary. I take my stand with fellow Calvinist B. H. Carroll who founded Southwestern Seminary. I am not ashamed of my kinship to missionary Calvinists like Luther Rice, William Carey and Lottie Moon. I have a rich heritage!

David Miller
Heber Springs, AR

Forget our biases

Articles and letters of recent months have generated more questions than answers. Here are my questions:

1. If the pastor must be the husband of one wife, why do we ordain single men who have no wife and no family to manage?

2. If a pastor is the overseer of a church, why do we ordain men to the non-pastor positions of chaplain, minister of education, music, youth, etc.? Some may never be in an overseer position. Do these ordained non-pastors receive the same IRS tax break offered to pastors in that their housing allowance is not considered as earned income? Why don't we offer the same tax break to women who hold the same offices?

3. What do Baptists believe about the gift of "prophecy"? Is it as the Living Bible explains in I Cor. 14:4, "One who prophesies...helps the entire church grow in holiness and happiness"? At Pentecost, Peter quoted Joel and said, "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." Just what did he foresee as the roll of women? Why do we invert the intention of I Cor. 11 and let the women cut their hair and uncover their head, but we tell them they cannot prophesy?

4. How do we get from Acts 6 to I Timothy 3 in our ordination of deacons? Is it true that the word *diakonos* is not used in Acts 6 for the seven Hellenists on whom the apostles laid their hands? How do we get from the daily distribution of food to what we practice in our churches today? Since we must go outside the New Testament to historical practices of the first several centuries to support the ordination of men deacons (and I am for it), why do we not use these same sources for ordaining deaconesses who were mentioned prominently in Christian writings of that same time?

Paul's example in I Cor. 9:19-22 teaches us that our motivating force should be to win as many as possible to Jesus Christ. We just have one question to ask: "Is it an honorable way to win people to Christ?" If the answer is "yes," let's forget about proof-texting our biases. Why don't we just do it?

Don Spiegel
Benton, AR

Iowa Baptists affirm efforts, request partnership extension

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Are you going to ring the bell?" people would stop and ask as they drove by the church, which was covered with ladders and paint.

The old church facility in Allerton, Iowa, had been closed for a year — and even when its doors were open, no one had been baptized in the congregation since 1982. Then a group met and decided to open First Baptist Church, Allerton, as a Southern Baptist church.

That's when the Iowa/Arkansas missions partnership kicked in, according to Phill Hall, director of missions in Iowa. A team from First Church, Searcy, under the leadership of Ross Pycatt, went to Allerton in August to paint and repair the church and parsonage. The group also restored the belfry and painted the old bell.

"People would stop and ask if we were going to ring the bell," Hall noted. "We had people come to church when the doors opened as a direct result of ladders and paint." During the few weeks that the church's doors have been reopened, the congregation has received 16 people in membership, baptized four and had an average attendance of 28 to 30.

"Arkansas teams have been doing many things for churches in Iowa that they could not do for themselves," Hall emphasized. "Not only prayer support but specific things — often just having a team in a town will raise the level of awareness about a church. People in the community ask, 'What does it mean that 30 people from Arkansas drove here to paint a building?' Most churches in Iowa are plateaued, traditional, mainline denomination churches — the teams provide an unbelievable open door."

Hall's counterpart in Arkansas is director of missions Jim Edwards of Caroline Association. "The key is that we really communicate with each other," Edwards explained. "We share dreams and visions and try to place volunteers where the needs are."

A district coordinator for the partnership, Edwards has helped organize a wide variety of mission trips to Iowa. Construction teams, numerous Vacation Bible School teams, revivals teams, camp workers and even a new work team have all come from the two DOMs working together. Hall will receive a specific request and Edwards will find volunteers to fill the need. "These volunteers come back higher

than kites," Edwards declared. "This is hands-on missions."

"Missions work is what we're all about," he affirmed. "Anytime the path of an unbeliever crosses that of a believer, we become a missionary."

Volunteers from Lake Village Church are a prime example of one team working to meet a variety of needs. The 20-member team was invited to lead a Vacation Bible School and demolition and construction work at the same time. Team members had to be flexible and adapt to what they found when they reached Ottumwa, Iowa, explained team member Steve Russell. Personnel assignments had to be changed to fit needs on site, and the team made the adjustments, turning the mission trip into a great week.

"There was a real bonding between the team members," remarked pastor Jack Albritton. "We had team meetings every night to discuss the day's events — our people really came to realize why they were there."

"One of the biggest things that took place was the realization that if it can happen in Iowa, it can happen in Lake Village," he said. "Since we've come back, we are becoming even more aggressive in our outreach."

God's timing evident

A team from Mount Carmel Church in Cabot also had a positive experience on their Iowa mission trip earlier in the year. Pastor Mitch Tapson, minister of music Jerry Miller and pianist Val Wilson answered the call for a revival team at First Baptist Church in Albia. "We didn't know the church and had never even been to Iowa," Tapson said. "But everything we did there had God's timeliness about it."

The Iowa church's pastor, David Grace, had been on the church field only about a year and was facing an internal struggle between older leadership and newer people who wanted to reach out to the community.

"We brought a more modern worship service — choruses as well as hymns; things to model a more active approach to reaching out to the community," Tapson explained. "I tried to convey that you are not disrespecting the past by doing new things — you're just doing it in a different way."

Team members, who were staying in the homes of members, sensed that every meal, every conversation was timely and there were questions they could answer and experiences they could relate to

enhance the church's changing attitude toward the community. "They can go from maintenance to a church that can really do good," Tapson said. The mission team continues to stay in weekly contact with the Albia church, sharing prayer requests and praises together.

That kind of input is one of the things that Richard Lamborne, Iowa Baptists' missions department director, had in mind when the partnership was established. "From the very inception, it was agreed that the overarching objective was to develop a spiritual bond between Iowa and Arkansas," Lamborne pointed out. "That bond is very evident — one thing that we Iowa Baptists have been impressed with the most is how much Arkansas Baptists love us."

Jimmy Barrentine, Arkansas Baptist missions department director, agrees. "The partnership is well beyond what we had any reason for it to be — the relationship between the state staffs couldn't be better."

Iowa Baptist leaders have requested that the partnership, originally set to end on Dec. 31, 1996, be extended through 2001. The Arkansas Baptist Executive Board will recommend the five-year extension to messengers at this year's state convention.

"To date, about 100 projects have been completed," Barrentine noted. "Forty three of those have been this year. The partnership purpose — for kingdom growth in Arkansas and Iowa — can continue to expand."

In Iowa, the reaction is much the same, Lamborne explained. "Everyone is enthusiastic about the extension of the partnership, right down to the grassroots level," he said.

One significant change for Iowa Baptist work this fall will be moving from state fellowship status to officially constituting as a state Baptist convention. Arkansas Baptist efforts have helped play a role in the fellowship's growth, enabling Iowa Baptists to complete Southern Baptist Convention statistical requirements to become a state convention.

Even as the Iowa Southern Baptist Convention becomes reality later this month, Lamborne said the new convention still needs significant assistance in the area of church starting. "We still have 43 unentered counties out of 99, and we need Arkansas teams to plug into our strategy," he explained. "We want to cultivate unentered counties as well as neighborhoods in our cities."

"What the partnership means to me personally," Lamborne added, "is a celebration of good things past, responding to the needs of the present and dreaming of the future — for there to be 200 Southern Baptist churches in Iowa."

Arkansan follows God's call to South America

By Trennis Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

SANTIAGO, CHILE — Arkansas native Lee Walker, a Southern Baptist missionary serving as a music professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Santiago, Chile, never really intended to enter foreign missions.

"We weren't running from missions," he explained. "It just never had crossed our minds."

But God had other plans for Walker and his wife, Phyllis. After graduating from Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Walker accepted a call to serve as minister of music and youth at First Church, Star City.

"While serving at Star City, the Lord spoke to us while we were at Siloam Springs," Walker recalled. He said God used Ted Stanton, another Arkansas missionary, to challenge them about missions needs around the world.

Pondering statistics shared by Stanton that 95 percent of the world's trained ministers serve 5 to 10 percent of the world's population, Walker confided to his wife midway through the week of camp at Arkansas Baptist Assembly, "I don't understand something. I'm trying to do what the Lord wants me to do and I don't have peace."

As the Lord confronted them with a call to missions, Walker recalled, "It was as if God was standing right behind us. Both of us perceived God saying to us, 'This is it. This is what I want you to do.' It was God's will and His timing."

Less than a year after that experience at Siloam, the Walkers were appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries to Chile. "It just doesn't work that quickly," Walker acknowledged, "but it did!"

Following language school, the couple began work as music promoters in the coastal city of Vina Del Mar. A year and a half later, in July 1985, they transferred to Santiago, where they continue to serve.

While serving as a music promoter, Walker worked closely with local church leaders to teach music skills as well as promote choir ministry and music education. As a seminary professor, he sees his current role as planting seeds to help produce effective church music ministries.

In a strongly Catholic nation where many people view Baptists as a sect or cult, Walker said there are very few Baptist churches large enough to financially support a second staff member. But he still sees trained music ministers as an essential part of strengthening the overall ministry



Lee and Phyllis Walker (left), missionaries to Santiago, Chile, visit in their home with SBC Executive Committee vice president Ernest Mosley and his wife, Vivian.

of the more than 500 Baptist churches and missions throughout Chile.

"We have music in the churches but channeling it into a ministry is a brand-new concept," he explained. "I'm selling an unknown item."

"The awesome responsibility of shaping a church music philosophy for an entire country is sometimes overwhelming — it's frightening," Walker remarked. But just as they sensed God's clear call at Siloam, he and his wife remain committed to being "exactly where the Lord would have us to be and doing what the Lord would have us do."

Reaching people for Christ

Utilizing music as an effective tool for worship and outreach is a driving force behind Walker's ministry philosophy. "The purpose we have for training church musicians is for them to take the music to reach people for Christ and for church members to be able to express their feelings for God through music and to share those feelings with others."

Recounting an experience from his early days on the mission field, Walker said, "I took the 'Four Spiritual Laws' (tract) and chose hymns that reinforced the four spiritual laws and taught them to a church." He said that one effort resulted in three people professing faith in Christ.

"I see music as a tool to be used in worship," he added. "I think we are selling ourselves short when we make worship synonymous with praise." While praise is one aspect of worship, he emphasized that thanksgiving and confession of sin also are essential parts of worship.

Describing "three indispensable elements in worship," he said worship involves "a vision of God which produces

a confession of sins and a surrender of all that we are and all that we have to Him. If you miss one of the three elements, you don't have true worship."

With most of the seminary's 60 to 70 students being trained for pastoral ministry, Walker said there currently are only four full-time music students.

Although the small number of students with few full-time ministry opportunities awaiting them upon graduation means "the significance cannot be seen here yet," the Walkers are confident that God will use their efforts to strengthen His ministry among the people of Chile. "The motivation," he emphasized, "is that's what we're called to do."

As the Walkers and their children, Chip and Jennifer, serve in Chile, he voiced appreciation for Arkansas Baptists' investment in his family's ministry efforts. "Thanks for making Siloam Springs available to kids and adults. Thanks for being a praying people. Thanks for being a giving people as evidenced by increases in the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering." He also added a word of thanks for what Arkansas Baptists "will continue to do in the future."

One word of challenge he offered to church members back in the States is to "adopt a missionary. Write to them. Build up a relationship." He said such a project provides an excellent opportunity "to make missionaries real-life people to the church members."

Even as he emphasized the importance of supporting missionaries on the field, Walker downplayed the "mystique" often associated with foreign missions service.

"We've not special folks," he insisted. "We're the same as anybody else doing God's will."

'Do the right thing' when legal, moral crises arise

By Russell N. Dillard
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Allegations of sexual misconduct are among the most devastating legal scenarios a local congregation can face. In addition to seeking to reduce the risks of such allegations, church leaders should be prepared to respond appropriately if such a crisis does occur, according to church liability expert Richard Hammar.

Hammar, an attorney who specializes in legal issues affecting churches and ministers, outlined such a scenario during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's recent Risk Management Seminar.

"Church leaders learn of incidents of child abuse in various ways," he pointed out. "This can result in increased legal risk and a greater likelihood of litigation."

Offering guidelines on how to respond to allegations of sexual misconduct, Hammar noted that in a few cases, the perpetrator confesses to the incident. But "in most cases," he acknowledged, "the alleged perpetrator does not confess."

"In some cases, this is because the individual is innocent," he added. "But in many cases, the individual is guilty. It is important for church leaders not to assume an alleged offender is innocent based solely on his denial of any wrongdoing. Many offenders deny any wrongdoing."

To respond to such cases, he urged participants to "notify your church insurance company immediately" and "consult with a local attorney immediately."

"It is important to immediately apprise your church insurance company of an allegation of molestation or abuse," he said. "Your insurance company can be of vital assistance to your church in the investigation and successful resolution of the case if they are contacted soon enough."

"Obviously," he continued, "it is essential to work with legal counsel in the investigation of an allegation of abuse or molestation."

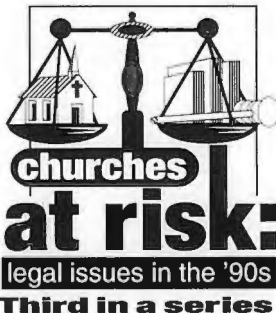
Hammar offered a six-step response for churches "as soon as a pastor or other church leader receives information indicating that an incident...has occurred."

The first step, he said, is to conduct an immediate child abuse assessment.

"A decision must be made immediately whether to report the information to the

civil authorities," he pointed out. He said specific considerations to explore include checking state law, investigating if there is criminal or civil liability for not reporting and discussing the case with the state agency that receives child abuse reports.

"By reporting the abuse, you are turning the case over to the civil authorities for



independent investigation," Hammar said. "The actions of the civil authorities can be helpful to the church in formulating its own response in a case involving inconclusive evidence."

"Influence public opinion positively by emphasizing your awareness of the problem of child abuse, your concern for victims and the extensive steps your church has taken to reduce the risk."

—Richard Hammar
Church legal expert

Second, he said, if the abuse is reported to civil authorities, the church should remove the alleged offender from any position involving contact with minors pending the outcome of a formal investigation.

The third step, Hammar said, if the abuse is not reported to civil authorities, is for the church to "conduct its own internal investigation of the alleged abuse, unless the reason that it did not report the abuse

to civil authorities was a lack of reasonable cause to believe the abuse occurred."

He said specific reasons why a church may decide not to report known or suspected abuse include:

The person or persons who know of the abuse are not mandatory reporters under state law; the abuse is reported to a pastor in the course of privileged communication and state law exempts the pastor from reporting; individuals within the church who know of the allegation conclude that they lack a reasonable basis for believing the abuse occurred; or the incident does not meet the definition of "child abuse" under state law.

Any church investigation should include serious treatment of the complaint, Hammar emphasized. He said investigations should begin within 24 hours of receiving the complaint, adding that the victim, the victim's family and the congregation should be kept informed.

Step four should be conducted if the perpetrator is an employee, Hammar said.

"If the perpetrator is a paid employee of the church, then the church is faced with the question of whether or not to terminate his or her employment," he explained. Factors to consider if the perpetrator is an employee include:

■ "If the accused confesses to an incident of molestation, then termination of employment is in order."

■ "If the accused does not confess, then the church needs to proceed carefully, since it can be sued for 'wrongful termination' if it dismisses the accused on the basis of insufficient evidence."

■ "If there is clear and convincing evidence of guilt, then the church is free to dismiss the employee with little fear of legal retaliation," Hammar explained. He cautioned, however, that "the problem is that in some cases the accused denies any wrongdoing and the evidence is inconclusive."

Step five, he said, is to "do the right thing" in responding to the victim and the victim's family,

such as taking allegations seriously, investigating charges, keeping the victim informed, filing a charge if reasonable cause exists and removing the offender from any position of leadership.

Step six, he concluded, is to "influence public opinion positively by emphasizing your awareness of the problem of child abuse, your concern for the victims and the extensive steps your church has taken to reduce the risk."

Annuity Board: IRS action penalizes retired ministers

DALLAS (BP)—A recent decision by the Internal Revenue Service to consider retired ministers' housing allowance as subject to self-employment tax (SECA) is drawing fire from leaders at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Paul Powell, Annuity Board president, said the IRS action is "contrary to" previous IRS policy, such as those in "private letter rulings and IRS Publication 517."

"It is the opinion of the Annuity Board...that a housing allowance, as part of one's retirement benefit, is not 'net earnings' and is not subject to the burdensome SECA tax for Social Security that ordained ministers pay while employed," Powell wrote in a letter to the board's ministerial participants.

The recent IRS action came with the public release of a manual that instructs IRS examiners on how to audit ministers. The audit manual was released as part of the IRS's "Market Segment Specialization Program" in which ministers are one of 31 "industries" targeted for special scrutiny.

The IRS "position on this point is most unfortunate," according to an article in the *Church Law & Tax Report*, edited by Richard Hammar, author of the Annuity Board's annual tax guide. "Most retired ministers and retirement plans do not presently follow this rule," the article noted.

In his letter, Powell urged readers to express support for pending national legislation to address the concerns. Powell said the bills are Senate bill 881 and House resolution 528, titled the Church Retirement Benefits Simplification Act (CRBSA) of 1995.

Thomas E. Miller, senior vice president for public relations at the Annuity Board, said the impact of the new IRS policy would be widely felt. "Virtually all retired ministers claim some housing allowance, regardless of whether their house is paid for," Miller said.

Miller noted the Annuity Board's involvement in the Church Alliance, a group of 29 denominational benefit programs seeking passage of the CRBSA. "The IRS is making an interpretation that the alliance does not feel is in keeping with (previous tax) legislation," Miller said.

DISCIPLESHIP

Four-day growth project targets church discipleship programs

Twenty-four workers conducted 250 consultations in four days during Arkansas Baptists' recent Discipleship Training Growth/Enrichment Project.

The project, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Discipleship and Family Ministry department, marked both the completion of a state convention priority project and a first in the Southern Baptist Convention, said department director Bob Holley.

He said the growth project was "the first such project to be conducted by a state convention where only those churches with Discipleship Training were targeted for personal visits." He added that

the project also fulfilled one of the ABCS priority projects for the 1995 "Reach People" emphasis.

The project "has been two years in planning," Holley explained.

"It was an attempt to personally visit pastors and staff members in churches that offer Discipleship Training.

"Our objective was to present approaches and resources that might strengthen their discipleship ministry," He added. "Our goal was to involve 250 churches and we were right on target."

Consultations were conducted with 377 people from 250 churches in 35 of the 42 associations in the state.

He said the strategy "involved personal consultations, by appointment, with pastors or staff members in churches that presently offer a Discipleship Training ministry." He said the consultants included department staff members as well as consultants from the Baptist Sunday School Board and other states and others trained specifically for this project.

Don Blackmore, minister of education for First Church, Gentry, served as a consultant. "It's an ingenious project in that it takes the expertise to the local church," Blackmore pointed out. "It takes people who have had personal experience in Discipleship Training and helps them assist a local pastor or minister of education to see how they can practically implement new ideas and new methods of discipling people."

Blackmore said the consultations "affirmed a trend I have noticed. There is a trend in discipleship which is moving away from a program-centered approach to a process-centered approach.

"I think the benefits of the evaluations

is that they knew their needs," Blackmore noted. "We tried to help them effectively meet that need through a resource and a method to meet that need."

Gene Stacks, pastor of Dallas Avenue Church in Mena, said the project gave him "confirmation" of existing Discipleship Training programs at the church. "It affirmed the things that we were doing. I appreciated what I heard.

"We have a new director of religious education, Eddie Anderson," said Stacks. "He was already moving in the direction of the information that we received."

Stacks noted that during the consultation, the "program that really stood out

with me was... TeamKid. I was very impressed with that.

"We're going to set that up and get that started," he added. "I asked the consultant about material

"There is a trend in discipleship...to a process-centered approach."

— Don Blackmore

Minister of education, First Church, Gentry

that would do for our kids what AWANA is doing for other kids and he indicated that he felt this was the better program."

Holley said other state conventions may utilize the project as well. "Discipleship Training directors from four other states participated as consultants and are considering such a project in their states," he said.

Holley said "listening" was the strength of the consultations. "In each consultation, the consultant began by listening carefully as the pastor or staff members shared information about their Discipleship Training program, their concerns and the needs of the church.

"Suggestions related to approaches, schedule and resources were offered in light of this information," he added. "The personal consultation approach proved to be the best way to personalize the program to the specific needs and concerns of individual churches."

The consultants' reports "indicated a very positive response by those who were visited," he said. "Many of the churches were enthusiastic about their involvement in studies such as Experiencing God, The Mind of Christ and TeamKid.

"Some were seeking new directions for their discipleship ministry after such studies were completed," Holley noted. "Many were surprised and pleased to discover such a wide variety of materials and approaches available for specific personal issues as well as church concerns."

Missionary to Lesotho dies in car wreck

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA (BP)—Glenda Middleton, 56, a Southern Baptist missionary to Lesotho, died in a Sept. 22 accident while driving alone behind her husband to a prayer retreat in Midwaters, South Africa.

Mrs. Middleton lost control of her four-wheel-drive vehicle just before going over a hill, said her husband, Charles, in a Sept. 25 telephone interview from Johannesburg, South Africa. She died upon impact when her vehicle turned over several times.

Her husband had just passed over the hill when he looked in his rear-view mirror and realized his wife had disappeared. He turned his truck around to investigate.

When Middleton got to her truck, his wife was still strapped in her seat. Using CPR, he tried to revive her. About 30 minutes later a physician pronounced her dead at the scene.

The Middletons are assigned to Maseru, capital of the tiny country of Lesotho surrounded by South Africa. He is a church developer. Much of her work as a missionary has been in literature development. Appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1968, the Middletons previously served in Malawi and Transkei.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Middleton is survived by a daughter, Vicki Blackwell of Bossier City, La.; a son, Carl Middleton of Hawkins, Texas; four grandchildren; five sisters and four brothers.

"Our family appreciates all the prayers," said Middleton. "My wife had an unusual prayer burden that (African Christian) leaders would be called of God to work in the country of Lesotho. I think that would be the prayer request she would like to leave (with Southern Baptists)."

FMB and WMU leaders agree to disagree

BIRMINGHAM, AL (ABP) — Leaders of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union have agreed to disagree in a private meeting aimed at resolving a public dispute.

FMB president Jerry Rankin and WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien met "several hours" in a Sept. 16 meeting at the WMU headquarters building in Birmingham, Ala.

At the meeting, set up at O'Brien's initiative, the leaders "confirmed our friendship and our mutual commitment to work together," Rankin said, but "continue to disagree" over a decision by WMU leaders to begin publishing missions education supplements for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Rankin said he is "still concerned about the wisdom" of the move, which he has said will fragment missions support by promoting efforts of the Fellowship, which SBC leaders view as a rival to the convention's unified missions program.

O'Brien said the recent dispute "is not the first time in history there has been disagreement" between the two agencies. "For the sake of a greater cause — that is missions — there is the need to find ways to work through" the disagreement, O'Brien said.

She said WMU leaders "have not slackened" in their support of SBC missions "and do not intend to."

European leaders affirm FMB cooperation

SAO PEDRO DE MOEL, PORTUGAL (BP)—Baptist leaders from 40 European countries unanimously affirmed their cooperative relationship with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during the European Baptist Federation's general council meeting Sept. 20-23.

In an address to the body Sept. 21, FMB president Jerry Rankin reassured the board's commitment to ever-higher levels of cooperation in evangelism and church planting efforts as the numbers of career and volunteer missionaries in Europe reach record levels.

Rankin and John Floyd, director of FMB work in Europe, also spoke to the EBF executive committee Sept. 21 to review the Hamburg Agreement, a 1992 accord outlining principles of cooperation and consultation between the two groups. The committee voted to reaffirm the Hamburg Agreement, and EBF's general council delegates ratified the action unanimously.

Floyd told the committee the board now has 459 career missionaries and representatives working in 30 countries of Europe, with ongoing relationships in 15 other countries.

At the same time, partnership projects will involve a record number of volunteers from the United States for evangelism and church growth efforts in Europe this year, he said. Through August, 2,979 volunteers had assisted European Baptists in 384 projects related to the FMB. That number is expected to top 4,000 by year's end.

World Changers to expand opportunities

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—Youth can participate in a new kind of missions experience in 1996 as World Changers introduces World Tour. Combining the best of "traditional" World Changers projects with inner-city ministries in a host city, World Tour offers youth in grades seven through 12 a multifaceted approach to missions, exposing them to urban needs and ministries.

"World Tour participants get the best of two worlds — a relationship ministry with an inner-city organization or church, and a paint project in an inner-city neighborhood," said George Siler, associate director of World Changers. "We're excited about partnering this project with Baptist associations and ongoing missions work in the inner city."

Piloted in 1995, World Tour involved more than 275 participants from 19 churches in 19 paint projects and 21 ministries in the inner-city neighborhoods of Memphis. In 1996, four World Tour projects will be held — one in Savannah, Ga., one in New Orleans, and two in Memphis.

World Changers, a ministry of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has involved more than 20,000 youth and adults in renovating more than 2,000 homes since it began in 1990. For more information about World Tour or other projects, call the World Changers office at 901-272-2461.

FMB promotion targets daily newspapers

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board distributed about 1.9 million tabloid-size inserts through daily newspapers in four major cities during September.

In addition, the board placed a full-page color ad — with a clip-out coupon to order the tabloid report — in three other daily newspapers of major cities with circulation totaling 625,000.

The eight-page, four-color insert, a special report titled "Changing Lives Overseas for 150 Years," highlights the size and scope of the board's work throughout the world, using stories, photos and informational graphics.

The ad centers on the teamwork between volunteers and missionaries working in 130 nations. "We're Southern Baptists coming together.... One Savior. One people. One purpose. No apologies," it reads.

Cities targeted for the ad campaign, which were chosen based on their Southern Baptist population, included Atlanta; Houston; Dallas, Richmond, Va.; Birmingham, Ala.; Greenville, S.C.; and Nashville, Tenn.

"Our traditional channels of communication about our work have served us well," noted David Button, the board's vice president for public relations and development. He said the campaign "helps augment what those channels are doing, and gives us the perfect media mix for getting our message out to missions supporters."

'Implementation task force' established

NASHVILLE, TN (BP/ABP)—The Great Commission "will navigate our every decision" in implementing the Southern Baptist Convention's new structure for the 21st century, according to SBC Executive Committee chairman Ronnie Floyd.

Executive Committee members unanimously approved the establishment of a 10-member "implementation task force" recommended by Floyd to carry out the restructuring approved by SBC messengers in June.

The restructuring faces a required second bylaw vote during the 1996 SBC annual meeting, then it "will be carried out all the way," said Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale. He said the "Covenant for a New Century," will be enacted by the end of the 1997 SBC annual meeting "in fairness, but also in boldness."

"It is the Great Commission that should steer, direct and guide this denomination to taking the gospel to the world," Floyd noted. "This is the only basis for existence that we have as a denomination."

The 10-member implementation task force will include four members of the Executive Committee and six at-large members. Executive Committee member Robert Reccord, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., will serve as chairman of the task force which includes one woman and one Hispanic.

The task force will "analyze, study and take actions necessary...to facilitate the orderly and timely transitions" related to restructuring, according to the action.

The task force will be responsible for legal issues; financial issues, such as cost analysis for relocating functions; physical



Executive Committee officers Ronnie Floyd and Rex Terry, both from Arkansas, confer about committee proceedings.

assets; financial assets; personnel issues, including "career transition support for employees whose jobs are being terminated;" and ministry assignments.

Although trustee boards of the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission have appointed their own transition teams, Floyd's proposal makes no provision for any formal input from these trustee committees.

But Floyd, in response to reporters' questions, said the task force will interact with agency trustees "to some degree" but won't adjust the new SBC structure to

please trustees. While the task force will be "fair," he promised, "the role of the implementation task force is not to rethink the plan but to carry out the plan."

In related action, the Executive Committee elected David Hankins, a Louisiana pastor and former Executive Committee chairman, to the new staff position of vice president for convention policy. Hankins, a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will carry the primary staff responsibility for implementing the restructuring. Although Hankins' salary was not announced, an SBC official said it is in a range between \$56,000-\$84,000.

In other business the committee:

- Amended a policy on granting exhibit space at annual convention meetings to exclude schools that condone the use of alcohol on campus. Stetson University, a Baptist college in DeLand, Fla., recently dropped its ban on drinking in student dorms.

- Heard a report by SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman projecting a second straight record year in giving to the Cooperative Program. Receipts for the fiscal year, which ends in September, are projected at \$145.6 million, Chapman said, more than \$2.7 million over last year's record total. The record years followed three straight years of financial decline.

- Adopted resolutions of appreciation for Don Moore, retiring executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Presnall Wood, retiring editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*.

Henry challenges Baptist leaders to 'look in the mirror'

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptists need to take a look in the mirror to see "how we look—and how we can look," urged Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry.

Racial reconciliation, women's involvement in the SBC and relations between the SBC and state Baptist conventions were key issues in Henry's look in the mirror as he addressed the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 18.

"The response to the Program and Structure Study Committee has been basically positive," Henry noted. "Once we decisively voted, it seemed to have a settling effect upon our people."

"Granted, there is uncertainty about how it will play out, but the people are trusting our leadership to do the best thing for the kingdom of God and be fair with those who will be most profoundly affected," Henry said.

"The transition committee has an awesome task," he added. "It is one thing to draw a diagram on the chalkboard; it is another to run the play on the field. I believe the 'fans' are with us to this point, and we must do all that we can to not disappoint them."

Turning to the SBC's racial reconciliation resolution adopted last June, Henry said "the way in which our people dealt with this spoke volumes to a skeptical world...To be sure, there are detractors...but we, as a body, rose to a higher standard—and that

has not been lost on anyone who is objective in their observations."

Noting that the resolution "must take on flesh," Henry pledged to work with SBC second vice president Gary Frost, an African American, to pursue dialogue with black Baptists and with SBC leaders to commit resources to programs that "work on behalf of minorities." He cited possibilities such as seminary scholarships, church planting and salary support for black pastors.

Concerning women's involvement in the SBC, Henry announced he will name at least one woman to chair one of the four SBC committees he names in his role as convention president and add other women as participants in the 1996 SBC meeting.

Such steps, Henry said, "can embrace the kingdom of God without violating Scripture and recognize more decisively the 'Proverbs 31 women' the Lord is raising up in our denomination."

Voicing "growing concern" over tension between the SBC and some state Baptist conventions, Henry said, "The truth of the matter is we need each other. We must avoid this independent spirit. We must appreciate each other at all levels."

"We are family," he emphasized. "It is not an 'I win, you lose' proposition. It is a 'win-win' or 'lose-lose' for all of us. We've got to talk together. We've got to build trust in our mutual commitment."

Church news



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Clarendon First Church will celebrate 100 years of ministry by observing homecoming Oct. 8. A special worship service planned for 10 a.m. until noon will feature testimonies from former pastors and a message by pastor Fulton Amontette. A potluck luncheon and fellowship will conclude activities.

Brinkley Chapel near Osceola will observe homecoming Nov. 5 with activities that include Sunday School at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11, a noon luncheon and a 1:30 p.m. musical program, featuring the Songmen Quartet of Paragould. Former pastor Bill Volner will be the guest speaker. Dale Shempert is pastor.

Jacksonville First Church has named former pastor Mason Bondurant, who served the congregation from 1970 to 1981, as pastor emeritus. Bondurant, who has served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary since leaving the Jacksonville church, continues to serve as interim pastor of Arkansas churches.

Barling Cross Church of North Little Rock observed Barbara Holloway Day Sept. 17 in recognition of her service as church pianist. Holloway, who resigned following 28 years of service, was presented with a love offering.

Batesville First Church recently honored Elma Raye Hunter who celebrated 25 years of service as pastor's secretary. In addition, she has responsibilities as financial secretary and receptionist.

Little Rock Second Church has launched a new Care Ministry to provide an organized network of church members to help fellow members in times of crisis, illness, bereavement, loss of job, family and marital stress, loneliness and other concerns. The ministry's core leaders are Vicki Haydon, Christy Bain and Jean Goodwin.

Obituaries

Don O. Gobert of Hot Springs died Aug. 27 at age 64. His funeral service was held Aug. 29 at First Church of Hot Springs where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. He and his wife, Margaret, had served as missions volunteers in Arkansas, the nation and around the world since his retirement in 1986 as an aerospace engineer for the U.S. Department of Defense, following 30 years of service. In addition to his wife, other survivors are a son, Charles Gobert of Belmar, N.J.;

a stepson, David Capshaw of Hot Springs; a stepdaughter, Carol Brown of Wynne; a brother and a sister.

Larry P. Fears, age 46, of Van Buren died Sept. 21 as the result of a heart attack. His funeral services were held Sept. 23 at Lee Creek Church where he was pastor. He previously had been pastor of Cedarville Church and McKey Church of Van, Okla. In addition, he had been interim pastor of Lee Creek Church and assistant pastor of Shady Grove Church of Van Buren. Fears was licensed to the ministry by Liberty Church of Dutch Mills and ordained by Cedarville Church. Survivors include his wife, Frances Cluck Fears; three children, Tracey Diana Earnhart of Rogers; Larry Phillip Fears of Van Buren and Samuel Jason Fears of Conway; and one granddaughter, Nicole Earnhart of Rogers.

Staff changes

Woodie Sanders is serving as pastor of Ridgeview Mission. The congregation is sponsored by Union Avenue Church in Wynne where Sanders was serving as associate pastor and also has been interim pastor. He and his wife, Ruth, have two adult children.

Jimmy Dale Huskey is pastor of Whiteville Church in White River Association. He and his wife, Misha, have three children.

Mike Fowler is pastor of Dermott Church, moving there from Russellville where he was serving as a church planter strategist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Arkansas Baptist missions department. Fowler and his wife, Kathy, have two adult children, David and Jennifer.

Terry Fortner is pastor of Antioch Church near Hot Springs, coming there from Barling Church. He previously has served as a house parent for a residential children's home in Granbury, Texas, a US-2 missionary in New York state, as pastor of Chidester Church and as a part-time minister of youth for Sylvania Hills First Church in North Little Rock. Fortner is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children, Jessica Ann, Rachel Lynn and Joshua.

Jack Ruble is serving as pastor of Oak Bowers Church in Conway. He and his wife, Debra, moved there from Fort Kent, Maine, where he was involved in missions work for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He previously was pastor of Black Oak Church in Marked Tree as well as churches in Missouri and Illinois. Ruble attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo.

John L. Powell Jr. began serving Sept. 10 as pastor of Oak Ridge Church of Austin, coming there from Rupert Church at Clinton. He attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas State University and Boyce Bible School. Powell and his wife, Debbie, have a son, John III.

Dennis C. Corder began serving Aug. 1 as director of missions for Conway-Perry Association. He previously was bivocational pastor of Wye Mountain Church. In addition, Corder has been pastor of Providence Church of Fayetteville as well as churches in Louisiana and Missouri. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), Louisiana College in Pineville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Corder and his wife, Tracy, have an adult son, Danny Corder of Fayetteville.

Steve A. Stephens began serving Oct. 1 as pastor of Zion Church of Conway. He previously was a youth pastor and pastor of Naylor Church. Stephens, who attended Central Baptist College in Conway, is continuing his education through seminary extension. He and his wife, Connie, have three children, Amanda, Jace and Ashley.

Fred Holst is serving as pastor of Pleasant Valley Church of Shirley, going there from First Church of Clarendon where he was minister of youth and music. He previously was pastor of First Church of Plumerville and Sage Church. Holst is a graduate of Williams Baptist College. He and his wife, Sheila, have three sons, Paul, Kyle and Bradley.

David Watkins joined the staff of First Church of Mulberry Sept. 3 as minister of youth, coming there from Beth-El Baptist Church of Red Oak, Okla. He attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Welburton. Watkins and his wife, Kristen, have a daughter, Jalyne.

Eddie Hardister has joined the staff of First Church of Gravel Ridge as minister of music and education, coming there from Park Place Church of Hot Springs. Hardister, a member of the Master Singers of Arkansas, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously has served Windsor Park Church in Fort Smith

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

and Eagle Heights Church in Harrison. He and his wife, Debbie, have two children, Amy and Aaron.

Oliver Layne Shipman has joined the staff of Lakeshore Heights Church in Hot Springs as youth minister. A native of North Little Rock, he is a student at Ouachita Baptist University. He previously has served as director of junior high activities for Geyer Springs First Church of Little Rock and as a youth leader for Baring Cross Church and Park Hill Church, both of North Little Rock.

Gregory Scott Ringle has joined the staff of First Church of Forrest City as minister of recreation and youth. He and his wife, Dena Renee, moved there from Watauga, Texas, where he was on the staff of Hatvest Baptist Church. He previous has served other Texas congregations. Ringle is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Don Carter has resigned as pastor of First Church of Eureka Springs. He previously was a staff member of two churches in Missouri. Carter is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Bethany, and their children, Bethany and Meredith, will continue to reside in Eureka Springs. Carter, who will be involved in Visions Communication, may be contacted at P.O. Box 307, Eureka Springs, AR 72632; phone 501-253-7480.

Ron Taylor has resigned as associate pastor of music and youth at Calvary Church in Batesville, following more than 11 years of service. Taylor and his wife, Glenda, and their children, Kristie and Greg, are moving to Union, Miss., where he will serve as minister of music and activities for First Church.

Ken Dalton has resigned as pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock. Dalton's wife, Vanessa, has resigned as director of preschool and children's ministry. The Daltons will continue to reside at 7 Hunting Hill Lane, Little Rock, AR 72207; phone 501-223-5355.

Ken Jerome has resigned as associate pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock. He and his wife, Debbie, are residing at 1708 N. University, Little Rock, AR 72207; phone 501-666-3755.

Charles Locke has resigned as pastor of Wheatley Church. He may be contacted at 501-457-2841.

Don Mulkey of Arkadelphia is serving as interim pastor of Whelen Springs Church. He and his wife, Anne, are retired Southern Baptist home missionaries, having served in Hawaii and Nevada.

Emil Williams is serving as interim pastor of Magnolia Road Church in Jonesboro. He recently retired as pastor of First Church in Jonesboro, following 30 years of ministry.

People

Rev. and Mrs. Jack Porter of Charleston celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 28. Porter has been pastor of several Arkansas churches in his 45 years of ministry. The Porters are parents of three children, Danny Porter of Paris, Debi Batchelor of Siloam Springs and Tim Porter of Melbourne. They have 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ordinations

Ward First Church recently licensed Timothy R. Walker to the gospel ministry. He is a student at Williams Baptist College.

Shiloh Church of Arkadelphia ordained Fred Arnold and Jack McCallum as deacons Sept. 10.

Bella Vista Church ordained Kenny Sifford as a deacon Sept. 17.

Piggott First Church ordained Barry Johnson as a deacon Sept. 24.

Union Avenue Church of Wynne recently licensed Danny Brawner, a member of Ridgeview Mission, to the ministry.

Volunteers from the Arkansas Baptist disaster relief mass feeding unit based in Batesville participated in a recent disaster relief training exercise. Edward Ellis (right), minister of education at First Church, Batesville, was among workers who served meals to 33 "victims" and American Red Cross volunteers during the simulated earthquake response. The training was sponsored by the Independence County Office of Emergency Services, Red Cross, ABSC disaster relief and other relief organizations.



Baptist and Catholic representatives engage in new 'conversation'

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Teams of theologians from the Southern Baptist Convention and the Roman Catholic Church met Sept. 14-15 to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Messengers to the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention "encouraged" the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department to enter "conversations" with the Catholic Church "to foster better understanding" between the two faiths.

Although similar dialogues had been held periodically for many years, the HMB's Phil Roberts said this is a new approach.

"We are not using the word dialogue because it is often perceived to signal a willingness to negotiate doctrines. Neither Catholics nor Baptists have that intention," Roberts said.

Southern Baptists "were there to represent the denomination and to faithfully witness for Jesus Christ," he noted. "Our concerns were to explain the basis of our hope for salvation as one Baptist neighbor would share it with a Catholic friend. We were able to do that."

Don Kammerdiener, Foreign Mission Board executive vice president, said the discussion was positive. "Each side understands the other better, and we took several opportunities to bear witness to our faith," said Kammerdiener, who served on previous teams. The Southern Baptist representatives are "determined to clarify the Baptist evangelical stance and be persuasive about that stance," he said.

Frank Ruff, a member of the Catholic team who participated in past meetings, said the most recent conversation was much more substantive.

"This time we talked about the core beliefs of our faith rather than peripheral matters," Ruff said. "We were talking directly about issues, not around them."

SBC team member Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the conversation was "tremendously educational."

"While it became increasingly apparent that any ecumenical goal was clearly unattainable, it was of great value in clarifying what both groups believe."

Topics included the definition of dogma, the status of ecumenism and differences in church polity and biblical authority.

Prior to their September 1996 meeting, each team will study the other group's views on biblical authority. Catholics will study the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, while Southern Baptists will review the 1965 document "Dei Verbum," issued by the Second Vatican Council.

**Thursday • November 16, 1995
8:00 P.M.**

**PARK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
JFK at "C" • North Little Rock
(501) 753-3413**

Tickets: \$15.00 In Advance, \$18.00 at The Door



Available in 20' to 33' Models
(12 to 36 passengers)

Church Buses • Rental Buses

(New and Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc. • Brentwood, TN

Call Henry Headden

1 (800) 370-6180 • 1 (615) 371-6180

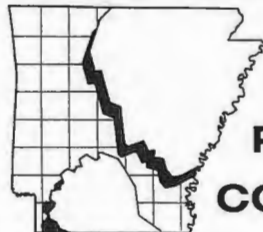
The Holy Land

Escorted by Lt. Governor Mike Huckabee

November 12 - 21, 1995

Join Mike Huckabee for his 8th visit to The Holy Land-5 nights in Jerusalem, 2 nights Tiberias, and 1 night Tel Aviv. Your trip includes all airfare, transfers and baggage handling, 8 nights deluxe hotels, all sightseeing, professional drivers & guides, all admissions, gratuities & 3 meals a day. Except for purchases of a personal nature, you will not have any additional costs! Join Mike Huckabee for this trip of a lifetime. \$2,499 per person, double occupancy.

Call **James F. Goodwin Travel, Inc.-Little Rock 375-6427 or 800-365-4111** for a complimentary brochure and to reserve your space.



1995 ARKANSAS PRAYER CONFERENCE

FEATURING

DR. HENRY BLACKABY

**First Baptist Church, Little Rock
62 Pleasant Valley Drive**

November 3 • 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

November 4 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information, contact the ABSC Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5158, or your associational Brotherhood director.

SPONSORED BY THE BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT, ABSC

Baptists aid hurricane victims, seek additional relief funds, volunteers

ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA (BP)—Southern Baptists are aiding survivors of one of the worst series of hurricanes to lash the Caribbean this century.

People on St. Maarten and Antigua, islands hit hardest by Hurricane Luis in early September, are receiving food, supplies, shelter and spiritual help through relief efforts sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas and Alabama prepared close to 100,000 meals in their first week of disaster relief on the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix following Hurricane Marilyn.

Hurricane Marilyn — the fourth such storm to hit the Caribbean in as many weeks — claimed at least 17 lives in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, destroyed about one fourth of the homes on St. Thomas and damaged virtually every other building on that island. President Clinton declared the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico disaster areas.

At least 240 Southern Baptist volunteers are needed to rebuild homes and churches damaged by the hurricanes. But as the project gets under way, available Southern Baptist disaster funds are dangerously low and hunger relief funds are depleted, according to FMB officials.

"We're moving forward on faith, knowing that this is what God wants us to do — minister to these people who are hurting and need help," said Ronald Wilson, who directs the FMB's work in the Caribbean. "We're asking Southern Baptists to respond in a tremendous way."

Two Texas Baptists have traveled to St. Maarten and Antigua to teach local personnel how to operate water purifiers provided by the FMB. Two water purifiers, each capable of purifying 25,000 gallons of water daily, were sent to the islands following Hurricane Luis.

On Antigua, volunteer Gary Smith of Dallas and a Southern Baptist missionary have been taking the purification unit from village to village, distributing tracts and delivering water in plastic bladders.

The need for volunteer builders is "desperate," according to Mickey Gaison, project manager for the Brotherhood Commission's Caribbean relief effort. He said primary projects for construction volunteers will include repairing churches as well as the houses of missionaries and islanders.

Prospective volunteers can call Beth Huneycutt at 1-800-280-1891.

EVERYBODY
HURTS.

And everybody cries. But sometimes, tears mean more than, "I hurt." Sometimes, they mean, "I can't go on."

Learn how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and what to do about them. Attend the Arkansas Youth Suicide Prevention Conference, October 21st at the Central Arkansas Christian Academy in North Little Rock. Admission is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

For more information, please call one of the Roller Funeral Homes at 1-225-4818 or the Attorney General's Office at 1-800-448-3014 or 1-682-1323.

Because everybody hurts. But nobody should hurt so much it kills them.

ROLLER FUNERAL HOMES
OF ARKANSAS



BSSB income exceeds expectations, reverses past year's decline

RIDGECREST, NC (BP)—A projected record turnaround in finances and a range of ministry successes highlight the Baptist Sunday School Board's 1994-95 year, according to a report from president James T. Draper Jr. to the agency's trustees.

"The news is good," Draper told trustees. "In fact, in some areas, the news is spectacular!"

Projections for year-end are for \$244.5 million in income, more than \$1 million over budget and almost \$20 million ahead of last year. Funds provided from operations, revenue above operating costs used for expanded ministries, are projected at \$5.6 million, compared to a budgeted \$100,000 and last year's loss of \$8.2 million.

Draper said the loss of a year ago "was a low point for me, for the (BSSB's) executive management group and for all employees."

Trustees later approved a 1995-96 budget of \$266.7 million, a 9.1 percent increase over the current year's projection.

Due to rising paper costs that have outpaced inflation, trustees also approved a 7 percent average increase in the prices of dated church literature beginning with the April-May-June 1996 issues. Paper pulp prices increased 66.9 percent from June 1994 to June 1995, reaching an all-time high in September.

In reporting on the current budget, Draper said revenue was \$227.3 million through Aug. 31, compared to a budget of \$217.9 million, or 4.3 percent ahead of budget.

"As of Sept. 30," he announced, "our capital debt will be down to \$8.4 million. We are ahead of our three-year payback schedule." Final year-end totals will be available in early November.

Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said funds above operating expense will be used to pay off debt, fund new assignments from the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, continue to "fix" the board's business, purchase and repair assets, provide for working capital as business and ministry grow and bring contingency reserves up to SBC-required levels, among other items.

With implementation of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee recommendations, if bylaw changes are approved in 1996, the BSSB will take on additional ministries that have been funded by the Cooperative Program. The BSSB receives no CP funds but is self-supporting and contributes funds annually to SBC agencies and state Baptist conventions.

First Baptist Church • Norphlet, Arkansas

*Homecoming
Centennial Celebration*

Sunday, October 22, 1995

- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. • Registration & Hospitality • Coffee & Doughnuts
- 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon • Program in Sanctuary
- 12 noon - 1:30 p.m. • Lunch (furnished by church)
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. • Singing & Sharing in Sanctuary

If you are planning to attend our celebration, please let us know how many adults and the ages of the children, so we can make ample provisions. We can be contacted by mail or by phone by Oct. 6. However, reservations are not required.

P.O. Box 10 • Norphlet, AR 71759 • 501-546-2573



Our company proudly retains the name of our founder, L.L. Sams, a Southern Baptist pastor.

It has been our privilege to serve Southern Baptists since 1898

- pews • pulpit furniture • stained glass
 - educational furniture • carpet • painting
- more than 290 complete CHURCH RENOVATIONS

**FREE BROCHURES CALL
1-800-537-4723**

P.O. Box 1430, Waco, TX 76703

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeple • Chancel
- Baptistries • Windows
- Lighted Wall • Baptistries heaters
- Cross

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-527-4558
PO Box 1940
Henderson, TX 75653-1940

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

Arkansas Bus Sales

PINE BLUFF

4105 Hwy. 65 South / Pine Bluff, AR 71601

501-534-1234 • Fax 501-535-9780
1-800-822-5307

**JERRY NEWTON
PRESIDENT**

**LOOKING FOR A GOOD USED BUS?
CALL US TODAY**

**South's Largest Inventory
Used Mini-Buses**

With Over 20 Years Experience
Let Us Help You With Your Transportation Needs

GOSHEN COACH



GC-II 21 - 29 Passenger

Sentry ML 31 Passenger



**CHURCH BUSES
(NEW and USED)
12 to 38 adult capacity**

Baptists celebrate vital ministry of mission volunteers

ARLINGTON, TX (BP)—Volunteers are an indispensable ingredient of Southern Baptists' missions work, said missionaries and other Baptist leaders during the denomination's first volunteer celebration. More than 500 people attended the "Love... More than Words" celebration Sept. 15-19 at the Arlington Convention Center.

Each year, thousands of Southern Baptists donate time and resources for

home and foreign missions work in evangelism, ministry and church starting.

"Volunteerism changes your life. It gets in your blood and you're never the same," Glenn Prescott, associate director of the Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps volunteer program, told one of the celebration's workshops. "Once you see the needs firsthand, it will change your prayer life."

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis called volunteer Southern Baptists' answer to the challenge of reaching an ever-growing nation with ever-decreasing resources. "The feet and legs of much of what we are doing through the Home Mission Board are provided through volunteers."

Missionaries affirmed that volunteers both advance the missionary's work and return to their home churches as more missions-minded members.

Bob Calvert, a foreign missionary to Kenya, said his volunteers return and promote missions in their congregations. "You begin to light a fire and establish a world vision in your church." Volunteers also can pray more specifically for missions work, he added.

More than 95,000 volunteers served through the Home and Foreign mission boards in 1994, according to figures from volunteer coordinators. The Brotherhood Commission also recruited more than 100,000 volunteers to serve in America and abroad. Some of those served through the mission boards. Others were involved in disaster relief work and World Changers, a Brotherhood program for volunteer ministry.

Despite the growing number of volunteers, foreign and home missionaries still have needs that go unmet. Each year, the Home Mission Board fills about three-fourths of the requests for volunteer workers, said HMB volunteer coordinators.

Jack Little, a home missionary serving in Charleston, S.C., said his greatest frustration is getting local workers to catch the vision to volunteer in their own community. He said he encourages visiting mission teams to return home with the same passion to work in their town. "The mission trip is successful when they return home and do it there."



Literacy Missions Workshops

Conversational English (ESL) • 16 hours, cost / \$20

- First Baptist Church, Little Rock • Oct. 9, 11 & 18
Contact person: Betty Perkins / 501-847-0426
- Calvary Baptist Church, Dardanelle • Oct. 26, 27 & 28
Contact person: Mark Lashley, pastor / 501-229-2814

Tutoring Children & Youth • 14 hours, cost / \$25

- First Baptist Church, Marvell • Oct. 26, 27 & 28
Contact person: Sandra Kemer / 501-734-2481
- First Baptist Church, West Memphis • Oct. 26, 27 & 28
Contact person: Steve Smith / 501-735-5241

To schedule other workshops or for more information, call or write to Gail Williams, Literacy Missions Coordinator, 7 Alcala Lane, Hot Springs Village / 501-922-4236.

Criswell College Banquet

October 31, 1995

4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Reception Room

Little Rock's

First Baptist Church

W.A. Criswell

Chancellor of The Criswell College
Pastor Emeritus of
First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

Send \$8 per ticket
before October 23 to:

Limited Seating
Respond immediately

Criswell College Banquet • c/o Lakeside Baptist Church
3601 Malvern Road • Hot Springs, AR 71901



UPDATE

Arkansas/European
Baptist Partnership

Current Needs:

- ★ Pastor to serve 2-3 years in Schwainturt, Germany, English-speaking congregation. Apartment, car and \$900 stipend furnished.
- ★ Arkansas partner churches for English-speaking churches in Athens, Greece; Prague, Czech Republic; Naples, Italy; Stukeley, England; and in Germany - Bremen, Augsburg.

Please contact the ABCS Brotherhood Dept., Doyné Plummer or Harry Black, 501-376-4791, ext. 5190, for more info.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Church/denominational secretary workshop to focus on ministry

"Partners in Ministry" will be the theme of Arkansas Baptists' 1995 Church/Denominational Secretary Workshop Oct. 23-24 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. The workshop sessions are scheduled for 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and 9 a.m. until noon on Tuesday.

The workshop leader will be Sarah Farmer, Baptist Student Union secretary at East Tennessee State University and a certified secretary trainer for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

According to Bob Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's discipleship and family ministry department, "The workshop will focus on developing communication and management skills that enable secretaries to function effectively on an office ministry team."

He added that the workshop "is

planned for church and associational secretaries and for secretaries of state convention boards, agencies and institutions."

On Monday evening, the Association of Arkansas Baptist Secretaries will host a banquet for all church and denominational secretaries. This will be the first annual meeting of the newly formed organization of secretaries in Arkansas. The keynote speaker for the

banquet will be Janet Huckabee, wife of Arkansas Lieutenant Governor Mike Huckabee.

Registration for the workshop is \$10 and reservations for the banquet are \$8 each. Checks should be sent to Secretary Workshop, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Additional information is available by calling 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.

Classifieds

Accepting resumes — for full-time pastor. Send to: East Side Baptist Church, 1605 Wisconsin St., Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

Youth/education — Wanted: full-time youth/education minister. Send resume and salary requirements to Oak Avenue Baptist Church, 523 North Oak, Ada, OK 74820; phone 405-332-1325.

Accepting resumes — for full-time minister of music and youth. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 10, Norphlet, AR 71759.

Needed — Part-time hostess. Send resume to Baring Cross Baptist Church, 13th and Franklin, NLR, AR 72114 or contact church office 501-375-2347.

Accepting resumes — for full-time pastor. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Gillett, AR 72055.

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



Quality
VAN Sales

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

A comfort to loved ones with life-threatening illness.

Caring for those with terminal illness can provide some of life's richest and challenging moments. That's what makes our hospice program so very special. With CareNetwork, patients can remain comfortably at home while receiving a complete range of services—from pain and symptom management to much-needed emotional support. All provided by our team of highly qualified, caring professionals. That makes CareNetwork a comfort to patients with life-threatening illnesses. And their families, too.

Little Rock
9712 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205
223-3333

Hot Springs
2212 Malvern, Suite 3
Hot Springs, AR 71901
623-5656

Fort Smith
4300 Rogers, Suite 29
Fort Smith, AR 72903
494-7273

Rogers
1327 W. Walnut
Rogers, AR 72756
636-1700

Statewide
1-800-467-1333



CareNetwork
EXCELLENCE IN HOME CARE & STAFFING

ICAHQ A-credited with Commendation

WE NEED PARENTS!

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries
needs Houseparents for:

Boys Ranch - Harrison • Clint Morrison - Director • 501-741-4362

Children's Home - Monticello • Royce Aston - Director • 501-367-5358

Camden Emergency Receiving Home • Mark Weaver - Director • 501-862-0095

Housing, Salary, Insurance, Paid Vacation

DAD'S UNIVERSITY

Training for the Job of Your Life
"Secrets of Fast-Track Fathering"

...a short four hour course that will dramatically improve your performance ratings with your family of "customers."



Saturday, Oct. 21 8:00 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Hosted by:

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church
12400 Interstate 30, Little Rock

Tuition: \$20.00

(\$25.00 at the door)

For more information or to bring a group from your church, call Geyer Springs First Baptist Church at 565-3474.

**DAD, You've got the job,
now get the training!**

LIGHTHOUSE INN™

Arkansas Baptist Special
SAVE \$10 PER ROOM PER NIGHT!

- New Facility
- Heated Pool
- Kids Stay Free
- Inside Corridors
- In Room Coffee
- Mini-Suites

Centrally located by Andy Williams & the Grand Palace

2375 Green Mountain Dr. Branson, MO

Discount not valid thru any reservation service or with any other discounts must be presented at check-in.

Expires: 12-31-95

1-800-237-5444

Thanks Arkansas Baptists!

Thanks for supporting the Melody Boys Quartet in 1995 and the many years past. It's your support of Gospel music that keeps us going. If you would like to schedule the Melody Boys Quartet for a concert in your church in 1996, call (501) 455-3789, or write: The Melody Boys Quartet, P.O. Box 193, Mabelvale, AR 72103.



COLLEGE DIGEST

Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita earns top value ranking—Ouachita Baptist University is the best value among Southern liberal arts colleges and universities, according to the Sept. 25 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*.

Ouachita, which was ranked eighth in the South in the magazine's academic quality rankings, topped the list when it came to value, the cost of attending an institution compared to its quality.

Composer honored—For the 30th consecutive year, W. Francis McBeth has been honored nationally in receiving an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Award for his music compositions. McBeth is chairman of the theory-composition department of the School of Music at Ouachita and Composer Laureate of Arkansas.

Multi-media computers donated—Students in the religion department at Ouachita now have four new multi-media computers for use in research and class studies. A.O. Smith, a businessman in southwest Arkansas and a longtime supporter of Ouachita, donated the computers to the department.

The new computers, as well as others in the computer laboratories, are equipped with programs geared specifically to the religion department, including tutorial, research and administration programs. The equipment is available for use by Southern Baptist ministers in the area.

Art award established—Phares Raybon and Betty Berry, two former chairmen of the Department of Art at OBU, have been honored with the establishment of an art award fund in their names. Raybon joined the Ouachita faculty in 1951 and retired in 1980. Berry joined the faculty in 1969 and retired in 1994.

Raouf Halaby, acting chairman of the department of art and professor of English at OBU, and his wife, Rachel, participated in the initial funding of the annual award that is to be given each spring to the "outstanding rising senior student who is majoring in art."

Williams Baptist College

Trustees donate \$85,000—Extensive financial support from trustees has helped Williams Baptist College finish "in the black" for the 14th consecutive budget year.

WBC president Jerol Swaim said the trustees turned a potentially difficult period for the college into a success by giving the school more than \$85,000. "We could see heading into the transition time that help was needed if we were to finish in the black once again," Swaim said. "These trustees stepped forward and got the job done."

MISSIONARY NOTES

John and Connie Anthony, Baptist representatives to Israel, are in the States (address: P.O. Box 278, Murfreesboro, AR 71958). He is a native of Hope. The former Connie Goble, she grew up in Mount Ida. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973.

Craig and Melissa Bird, missionaries to Kenya, are in the States (address: 4029 Burke #3207, Pasadena, TX 77504). He considers Camden his hometown, and she is the former Melissa Jackson of Texas. They were appointed in 1986.

Robert and Frances Crockett, missionaries to Argentina, are in the States (address: 3364 Faxon Ave., Memphis, TN 38122). He grew up in Cross County. She is the former Annette Perkins, also of Cross County. They were appointed in 1972.

Jeffrey and Nell Ginn, missionaries to Colombia, are in the States (address: c/o Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road at Homer, Memphis, TN 38122). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Forrest City and considers West Memphis his hometown. The former Nell Nichols, she considers Bhalia, Miss., her hometown. They were appointed in 1991.

Kenneth and Shelly Izzard, missionaries to Togo, are on the field (address: B.P. 1353, Lome, Togo). He is a native of Florida. The former Shelly Ellenburg of Arkansas, she was born in Helena and considers Marvell her hometown. They were appointed in 1992.

Michael and Kathy Kemper, Baptist representatives to Romania, are on the

field (P.O. Box 42-83, Bucharest, 42, Romania). He was born in Pine Bluff. She is the former Kathy Woody of Tennessee. They were employed in 1993.

Wilfred and LaJoye Martin, missionary associates to Taiwan, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 39-875, Taipei 100, Taiwan ROC). He was born in Texas, and she, the former LaJoye Cooper, in Willow. They were employed in 1992.

Gerry Odum, missionary to Taiwan, is on the field (address: P.O. Box 30-134, Taipei 100, Taiwan ROC). Born in El Dorado, she also lived in Smackover while growing up. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Hugh and Brenda Provost, Baptist representatives to the Middle East, are in the States (address: 3404 Violet, Pine Bluff, AR 71603). He was born in Jonesboro, and grew up in Lepanto, Hughes, Harrisburg and West Memphis. She is the former Brenda Byles of Pine Bluff. They were appointed in 1981.

James and Kathy Shafto, missionaries to Burkina Faso, have arrived in France for language study (address: 133, Rue Lakanal, 37000 Tours, France). He is from Massachusetts. The former Kathy Hamilton, she was born in Eudora. They were appointed in 1995.

Mark and Geneva Weller, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the States (address: 3161 Oakfield St., Fayetteville, AR 72704). He is a native of South Dakota. The former Geneva Carpenter, she is from Elkins. They were appointed in 1987.

ASC COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNALING SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR

Arkansas Sound Corporation
7000 Remount Road
North Little Rock, AR 72118
For All your COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

OVER 18 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH SYSTEMS

STATEWIDE SALES AND SERVICE CALL TODAY FOR A FREE SURVEY (501) 753-5674 AR WATS 1-800-441-1272

YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED

Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, New Orleans, Branson for summer missions. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For info, costs, contact Dr. Harry Fowler, Director, Youth on Mission (800) 299-0385

W/Bear Withess. 
Every time you write a check!

Any check will transfer funds. Our checks cause every one that handles them to think about Christ Our Lord!

Christian Check Company now offers both personal & business checks in several Christian designs, at prices 30 to 50% less than the banks! Our checks meet ABA standards and are fully guaranteed. Call 1-800-977-6211 for a FREE BROCHURE.

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

1-800-330-3622 • (817) 484-6145
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

Christian Medical Cost Sharing

This scriptural concept of burden sharing is the alternative. II Cor. 8:14

- People helping people.
- Up to \$1 Million of expenses shared.
- \$136 average monthly share per family in 1994.
- Assistance with maternity expenses.
- Every published need met to date.



11 Church Ave. 20126
CALL: 1.800.704.4103

Living Hope INSTITUTE

Professional Treatment from a Christian Perspective

Hope and Health for Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Problems

Treating the Physical, Psychological and Spiritual Needs of Each Patient

- Christian Counseling • Treatment of Survivors of Abuse • Outpatient, Inpatient and Partial Programs • Day and Evening Programs • Specializing in Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Marriage Problems, Dysfunctional Families, Sexual Abuse, Sexual Addiction, Depression, Stress and Anxiety, Co-dependency

Special Services offered to Churches and Pastors

- Courtesy Workshops by Christian experts from a Biblical basis
- Courtesy Consultation to pastors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**24 hour FREE Consultation • Crisis Intervention
Call 663-HOPE • 663-4673 • Toll FREE 1-800-829-HOPE**

A Service of Doctors Hospital • 600 S. McKinley, Suite 400 • Little Rock

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SeniorSing offers 'new opportunity' for senior adults

A "new opportunity" for adults age 55 and above will be offered at the SeniorSing Retreat. The statewide event will be held in Hot Springs Nov. 13-16 at the Downtowner Motel and First Church there.

Glen Ennes, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, said the retreat is a "new and different opportunity with the flavor of SummerSing that we have had the past seven years on the Ouachita Baptist University campus."

He said the program "will provide an interesting variety of choir, ukelele, fellowship, sight-seeing, talent show, worship and Bible study."

"We hope to encourage senior adults to stay active and continue learning through the experience of music and build relationships with others both in-state and from other states," Ennes said.

The program also will feature the new music festival on Thursday "which will involve those who want to come just for the day," he noted. "The festival will be the first rehearsal for the 300-

voice senior adult choir to sing at the Golden Age Evangelism Conference in Springdale in 1996."

The cost for the retreat is \$20 if participants register prior to Oct. 16. After Oct. 16, the cost will increase to \$25 per person. The cost includes all meals except Wednesday dinner.

Retreat participants should make motel arrangements directly with the Downtowner at 501-624-4635. Cost for a double room is \$105 per person and a single room is \$135.55.

For additional information about SeniorSing, consult the State Music Ministry Booklet or contact Ennes at the ABCS church music ministries department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5121.

ABN's CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Architects

The BDA Design Group, Inc.
310 State Line Avenue
P.O. Box 1231
Texarkana, USA 75504-1231
501-773-1193 FAX: 501-773-0163
Architects - Planners - Consultants

Baptistries/Steeples

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

Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)
9101 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-225-6009

Costume Rental

Gayla's Costume Shoppe
2018 New Congo Rd.
Benton, AR 72015
501-778-1383
Costume Rental for all occasions

Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning
1612 Park Avenue
Stuttgart, AR 72160
501-673-2081

Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Aimco Wholesale
10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72204
501-228-0808

Long-Term Care Insurance

Mary Alice Hughes
217 East G St.
North Little Rock, AR 72116
501-791-2651 / 1-800-220-2380 PIN 2888
Long-term care specialist

Retreat & Conference Center

Higher Ground Retreat
P.O. Box 736
Clinton, AR 72031
501-745-8657 or 501-745-8667
Ask about free usage for small churches

Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.
P.O. Box 1719
Ruston, LA 71273
Arkansas references available
318-251-0290 FAX: 318-255-3363

Audio, Lighting, and Video Systems
Design-Installation-Rental.

Wedding Services

Affordable Weddings
1641 Oak Shadow
North Little Rock, AR 72120
501-834-0177
Ceremony and Reception Arrangements, Flowers,
Cakes, Catering, Invitations, Music, Photography

A.B. Culbertson and Company

invites your indication of interest to:
FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS

EARN UP TO: **9.90%**

These bonds may be purchased in a self-directed/Church IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Semiannually

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

A.B. Culbertson and Company

Financial Services Since 1954
1250 Continental Plaza
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Member Chicago Stock Exchange

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

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern	Call:
P.O. Box 1302	(800) 468-3007
Benton, AR 72018	(501) 778-5700

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by A. B. Culbertson and Company.
Member NASD & SIPC

Albert George Mfg. Co.

Quality Custom
Manufacturers of:



- Pew Cushions
- Upholstered Seats & Backs

717 North Cypress, N. Little Rock
Write: P.O. Box 5700, N.L.R., AR 72119

501-375-2921

For a listing, call Nelle O'Bryan at 376-4791, ext. 5155

Convention Uniform

Confronted by Jesus

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association

Basic passage: Acts 9:1-31

Focal passage: Acts 9:1-9

Central truth: The Lord confronts individuals with their need and draws them to Himself for salvation.

■ *Confrontation involves conviction.* Following the stoning of Stephen, Saul embarked on a course of violent persecution. Luke tells us that Saul began to seek the destruction of the church, and began to arrest Christians and put them in prison. His aim was to stop Christianity in its tracks, but God had other plans.

He received credentials from the high priest to go to Damascus and arrest the believers he found. As he neared the city a light from heaven flashed around him. It was so powerful he fell to the ground. Then he heard the risen Lord say, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" In this moment, when his life was turning upside down, he asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply was, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Then that conviction stirred him to the depths of his life and he knew he had been dead wrong.

■ *Confrontation leads to belief.* In that world-shattering moment he believed in the Lord with a heart that was broken in contrition. This Jesus that Stephen had preached and seen in his dying was really the Messiah promised by God long ago. He had known a Messiah was coming, and now he knew that Jesus who was crucified was that "promised one."

Never again would Saul be a persecutor. Never again would he be a foe of the Christian faith. From this time forward he would be the spokesman for the Lord.

■ *Confrontation leads to service.* According to Acts 22:10, he then asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" He was told to go into the city and his mission would be revealed to him. One overwhelming proof that this was a genuine conversion was his willingness to serve the Lord. There should be that same willingness in each of us because of our belief in Christ.

The disciple Ananias was instructed to go to Saul and help him. Saul came to comprehend that he was an instrument of God to proclaim Christ to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

In that confrontation and conversion each of us is to see our mission and seek to fulfill it for the rest of our lives.

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

Developing character

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

Basic passage: II Peter 1:1-11

Focal passage: II Peter 1:1-11

Central truth: The true believer is ever-growing in the knowledge of and likeness to Jesus.

There are two primary dangers facing any church — the attack from without and apostasy from within. The former has often made the church stronger, the latter always destroys. Peter is inspired to clarify the basis of truth, so the believer has a "standard of truth" by which he or she may measure every word-belief. The revelation of such truth is found only in God's Word.

■ *The gift of the knowledge of Jesus (vv. 1-4).* Salvation is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9). It is the personal experience, of coming to know Jesus Christ through faith. Our Lord defined the true nature of this faith: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). Being saved is not merely knowing about Christ, we must know Him personally (Phil. 3:10). When we receive Him as our personal Savior, He forgives us, and gives us His righteousness (I Cor. 5:21).

■ *The growth in the knowledge of Jesus (vv. 5-7).* Being saved is a "beginning," not merely an "end." We are to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18). The process of spiritual maturity takes diligence and determination. The believer must be committed to becoming all that his Lord desires for him to be.

We are to make certain that our "faith" leads to a life of "virtue" or our faith is suspect. As one grows, their virtue brings the ability to exercise moral discernment which in turn strengthens self-control. Self-control is the prerequisite to patience, and patience is a testimony to godliness.

■ *The glory of the knowledge of Jesus (vv. 8-11).* If one possesses these qualities, he or she will be "fruitful," and enjoying an ever-maturing knowledge of Christ (see John 15:1-11). Peter calls for a willingness on the part of believers to examine their beliefs, to make certain they are in fact saved and continuing to live for God. For there is little difference and no blessing in being an under-developed, non-growing believer, or a "religious unregenerate" (II Pet. 2:20-22). True believers are to be certain of their salvation, and to be ever-growing in the knowledge of Jesus.

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Bible Book

God's helping hand

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

Basic passage: Ezra 7:1-8:36

Focal passage: Ezra 7:6, 10, 27-28; 8:15, 21-23, 31, 35

Central truth: God's hand is on His people. We must respond to His touch.

About 60 years have passed since chapter 6 (7:6, 10, 27-28). The process has been slow but the hand of the Lord has directed the process. The Lord of the universe has no need to act in haste. But it is time once again for decisive action by the Lord. So He sends Ezra whose name means "the Lord has helped."

The Jews saw Ezra as almost being a second Moses. He more than anyone focused Israel on the book which enabled them to reclaim their heritage and destiny which focused their present.

Ezra constantly reminds us that it was the hand of the Lord that was decisive in this all too human story (see 7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31). At the same time Ezra had to have courage and take the initiative to approach King Artaxerxes.

Here was a reformer who was a living example of reformation. What the Lord had revealed, he studied, he lived and then he taught. Ezra reminds us that it is the wisdom from above that is to be sought and lived here below and then offered as wisdom to those around us. By living the word of God with integrity, Ezra avoided insincerity and shallowness. Then the word in clearly shown to be authoritative and realistic. To communicate the message with integrity we must integrate the message into our daily lives. Otherwise it will be seen as mere hype and we are mere hypocrites (see James 1:25 and John 3:21).

Because the Lord's hand was on him, Ezra had courage and started the mundane hard work needed to accomplish the mission. Faith in God's involvement calls for courage and action on our part. Faith walks with God in this risky world.

The Israelites humbled themselves, sought God, fasted and prayed. And the Lord who is faithful responded to their faith (see II Chron. 7:14). While it is true that God always graciously takes the initiative in relationship with Him, it is also true that He graciously responds to our response. Faith in Him will sustain us even when we are anxious because of danger and when enthusiasm fades.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Convention Uniform

No partiality

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association

Basic passage: Acts 10:1-11:18

Focal passage: Acts 11:1-18

Central truth: There is no partiality with God for He loves all men.

■ *The tendency to partiality.* The Jews of the first century had been taught that they were God's chosen people. They were correct in this, but they inferred from that teaching that God did not love anyone else. They had as little to do with the Gentiles as possible, saying they were only fuel for the fires of hell.

They had been carefully taught this lesson, and it was very difficult for them to change. Simon Peter still had to learn that God is concerned for all, even though he had walked with Jesus.

The vision of the animals, wild beasts, reptiles and birds showed him that he was not to show partiality to any man. Now he was willing to go to Cornelius' house.

■ *The correction of partiality.* When he arrived at the house of Cornelius, the centurion, Peter preached to the people gathered there. He told them of the death of Jesus on the cross, His resurrection from the dead, and that all who believe in Him will have forgiveness of sins through His name. While he was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came on them even as He had come on the Jews at Pentecost. Obviously, God loved them and was going to use them as well as the Jews. Anyone who believed would be saved.

When Peter returned to Jerusalem he was criticized by the other Jewish Christians. When they heard the explanation, they changed their minds. Peter said to them, "So if God gave them the same gift as He gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"

They then had no further objections and understood that God had given the Gentiles life as well as the Jews.

■ *The understanding of impartiality.* The scripture is very clear when it teaches that God loves all people and is not partial to one race. The Jews had a difficult time comprehending this, but God proceeded to change their thinking.

The statement of Simon Peter should always bring us to the truth: "So if God gave them the same gift as He gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" None of us want to be guilty of opposing God!

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

Christians in the world

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

Basic passage: Ephesians 5:1-20

Focal passage: Ephesians 5:1-20

Central truth: The power to live the Christian life is found in the One who led us to Christ in the first place — the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians is a wonderfully practical book. In it, we learn of our position in Christ (chapters 1-3), and our profession before the world (chapters 4-6). We are different than the world, and our "walk" will reflect that difference. Chapter five gives practical instruction about our walk before unbelievers. Notice:

■ *The example of the Savior we are to follow (vv. 1-2).* Our call is to follow God according to the example set forth by the Lord Jesus Himself. That example is one of sacrificial love for one another and absolute loyalty to the Father. When we are walking by our example we are also aware of...

■ *The entanglement of sin we are to flee (vv. 3-14).* Sin will be around us until Jesus comes to get us, but it need not be in us. "Sin is not something to be ignored, tolerated or swept under the bed — it is something to repent of, and run from whenever it shows its ugly head." Sin should be in our past, not in our plans (vv. 7-8, 11-12). The lifestyle of a believer must reflect a disdain for sin (vv. 9-10, 13-14). We are to live in accordance to the dictates of God, and He has provided...

■ *The enablement of the Spirit we are to favor (vv. 15-20).* The biblically defined lifestyle of the believer is humanly impossible to live, but not impossible to be lived through us (Gal. 2:20, 5:19-25). Paul said, "In me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing," which makes it impossible to do that which is right in one's own strength (Rom. 7:18-24). God has provided our deliverance and enables us to live in a manner which pleases Him (Rom. 7:25:8, 2, Col. 1:10-14, Heb. 11:6a).

This section of our text emphasizes three critical issues: First, the need to be diligent in our walk, to make the most of the time we have on earth in service to the Lord (vv. 15-16). Second, be discerning. The will of the Lord for one's life is learned, and lived-out, under the control of the Holy Spirit (vv. 17-18). And third, be determined to glorify Him in praise and thanksgiving. He deserves for His own to live in a manner which reflects His character in our witness and worship.

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Bible Book

No compromise

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

Basic passage: Ezra 9:1-10:44

Focal passage: Ezra 9:1-3, 10-15; 10:1-3, 10-15

Central truth: Compromises that jeopardize our calling must be rejected.

As a result of Ezra's teaching, the leaders in Israel became convicted due to the intermarriage of the Israelites with the pagans in the land. This failure involved every segment of their society.

Intermarriage meant the intermingling of idols and the true God in worship and service. If they are to be a light to the nations (Isa. 42:6) they must be true to their distinctiveness (Exodus 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-4; II Cor. 6:14-15).

This was a serious breach of their covenant. They were called to be holy, distinct and now that was at risk. One can not safely tolerate that which threatens the core of one's reason for being. Faith demands faithfulness.

Ezra's prayer showed a spiritual leader who identifies with his flock. He prays "our" and "we" as he focuses on the sin. They are a community. He does not focus on his personal innocence. As a true penitent he simply confesses the betrayal of their holy calling. Without excuse he comes to the holy and merciful God.

Ezra's reaction was strong because everything was at stake. Grief and shock are always appropriate in the face of betrayal and disaster. Had the captivity taught them nothing?

Compromise was what brought about the Babylonian captivity (10:1-3, 10-15). It threatens them again. We can never assume evil has been defeated. Victory is ours only when we remain vigilant, not when we are presumptuous.

Because of God's past mercies they are inspired to be repentant and obedient now. Repentance leads to action, sometimes even to a dramatic upheaval in the life of the penitent. Real hope for forgiveness lies in a lived repentance.

The measures were drastic. Divorce is terrible. The three-month process was deliberative and not hasty. They looked at the Law and the people and made decisions based on truth and reality rather than irresponsible emotionalism. They knew further injustice would not further the Kingdom of God.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

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

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

■ **The Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscriptions together through their local church.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Mississippi Baptist leaders propose reallocation of funds

JACKSON, MS (ABP) — The Mississippi Baptist Convention will reallocate about \$250,000 in funding for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for in-state use if a 1996 budget proposed by the state convention's board is approved.

The change will allow Mississippi Baptists to assume full responsibility for missions in their state next year, said state convention executive director Bill Causey. He told the state board that the change will reflect a more accurate accounting of money contributed and used within the state.

The proposed budget calls for 37 percent of Cooperative Program receipts — \$8.6 million — to be sent to the SBC. Of that, the Home Mission Board would receive about \$1.7 million for church-starting and missions efforts in the United States. The Mississippi convention would retain \$249,530 of the SBC's portion for missions work in the state, Causey said, the approximate amount the HMB presently returns for joint funding of projects in Mississippi.

The budget proposal, adopted unanimously by the state executive board, will be considered again at the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in November. The proposal follows a proposed reduction of 2.5 percent to the SBC Cooperative Program by Texas Baptists and a proposed 2 percent reduction in Oklahoma.

Alabama board affirms change in ties to state entities

TALLADEGA, AL (BP)—Alabama Baptists' state board of missions adopted a new "paradigm" of relating to Samford University and, potentially, to all other entities of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. The report will go to messengers for consideration at the convention's annual meeting.

Ron Madison, chairman of the Samford study committee, reported that Samford University trustees had declined several "strong appeals" to rescind last year's charter change making the trustees a self-perpetuating body.

Rejecting the option of a lawsuit, the committee proposal focuses on the principles of sound stewardship, shared responsibility and sensitivity to the corporate integrity of each entity, Madison said. The new model also emphasizes the state convention's autonomy and its right to determine its stewardship.

The proposal offers each incorporated entity of the convention the option of allowing the convention to either elect or affirm trustees and directors. In turn, the convention in annual session will determine financial support for the respective entities based on the entity's contribution to the convention's purposes.

State convention president Fred Lackey called the proposal "a necessity." He said the report addressed what he felt was necessary for the survival of the convention relationship.

Three accrediting agencies plan joint visit to Southern

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP) — Three accrediting agencies will make a joint visit to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Nov. 8-10 to investigate concerns arising out of turmoil on the Louisville, Ky., campus last spring.

The visiting team will include representatives from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada — the seminary's primary accrediting agency — as well as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Council on Social Work Education, which accredits the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work.

The team's investigation reportedly will focus on president Albert Mohler's firing of Diana Garland as dean of the Carver School after she told students that Mohler's hiring policies jeopardized the school's accreditation. The investigation also is expected to focus on events after the firing, including trustee-adopted changes in the faculty hiring process and implementation of a policy banning employees from criticizing the president or trustees publicly.

Roberts to retire after 30 years as S.C. Courier editor

GREENVILLE, SC (BP)—John E. Roberts has announced he will retire Feb. 29, 1996, as editor of the *South Carolina Baptist Courier*. Roberts will complete 30 years as editor on his projected retirement date, a record among current Baptist state paper editors.

The *Baptist Courier* has had unprecedented growth during Roberts' 30 years as editor. Circulation has doubled, an office building was erected and the paper has won several awards for news and editorial writing. The *Courier's* assets have grown to \$4 million, including more than \$2 million in endowment.

Roberts is a former president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the only Baptist editor in the nation to hold such office in at least 40 years. He also has served as trustee chairman of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

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

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

When inquiring about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the *Newsmagazine* at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.