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### May 5, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 9

May 5, 1994



**Arkansas  
Baptist  
leaders  
oppose  
gambling  
petition**

**INSIDE: 1994 SBC Preview, pgs. 15-20**

# Falkners appointed by FMB as representatives to Canada

Bill and Frankie Falkner have been commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board as Southern Baptist representatives to Canada. They were among 32 people appointed to mission service April 26 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Falkner, who has served since 1978 as an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Discipleship and Family Ministry department, will teach religious education at Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Alberta.

"I really feel good for Bill," affirmed Bob Holley, director of the Discipleship and Family Ministry department. "I'm excited about the opportunity for him to realize his full potential and calling and gifts. He will be greatly missed in our department and in our state.

"One of the greatest contributions he has made is in building positive relationships with churches and youth ministers and youth leaders," Holley pointed out. Noting that Falkner's ministry in Arkansas "has helped to equip him in a unique way for his teaching role in Canada," Holley added, "He will make an excellent contribution to the educational work of Canadian Baptist churches."

Falkner, who has taught at Boyce Bible School, Ouachita Baptist University and Brazilian Baptist Seminary, noted, "All of that has sparked a real interest in touching the lives of students in the classroom."

Explaining that he and his wife sensed "a real affirmation from God in the process," Falkner added, "There was something in me that said this was right. It's been very exciting to watch God remove barriers along the way."

Falkner emphasized that "Arkansas Baptists have been a very real part of my growth and maturing as a minister.... I've gained a very deep appreciation for the work of the churches of Arkansas, particularly the small churches in rural settings that are still ministering and reaching people."

Falkner is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Memphis State University. He has served as minister of education at First Church, Arkadelphia, and First Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas.

Mrs. Falkner, the former Frankie Cunningham, is a registered nurse who has served as a school nurse in Little Rock. She served two years as president of the Arkansas Baptist Nursing Fellowship and participated in a volunteer medical mission trip to Guatemala. She is a graduate of Baylor University and the University of Central Arkansas.

The Falkners are members of Second Church, Little Rock. They are the parents of two sons, Gavin, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, and Kyle, a high school freshman.



Bill and Frankie Falkner

## Cover Story

ABM photo / Russ Dickey



## Gambling battle 6-7

Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore and other Baptist leaders are encouraging citizens to take a stand against expanded gambling in the state by refusing to sign gambling petitions being circulated in Arkansas.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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## Trulove's Foundation service spans 20 years

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

When Harry Trulove became president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation on May 1, 1974, he said the primary purpose and task of the Foundation could be summarized in one word: service. He still feels that way today.

Trulove, who retired May 1 after exactly 20 years as Foundation president, explained, "I still say that. We don't exist for ourselves. We're to serve individual Baptists and Institutions and agencies."

Trulove and the Foundation staff have accomplished that goal time after time during the past two decades. When Trulove moved from Dallas to Little Rock in 1974, the Foundation was managing approximately \$730,000 in 27 trusts. That total has mushroomed today to include more than 700 trusts totaling \$42 million. Distributions last year reached about \$2.3 million.

"More Baptists have more money than at any time in our history," pointed out Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore. "They also have begun to realize their spiritual obligation as a steward to God to see that their assets are wisely used both before and after their death."

"Having a mature person of long tenure in the Foundation office has been just what was needed for Arkansas Baptists," Moore affirmed. He emphasized that Trulove "has been trusted to help Arkansas Baptists with their stewardship. This accounts for the wonderful growth of the Foundation."

Despite the strong financial evidence, Trulove is hesitant to accept credit for the Foundation's phenomenal growth. "The Lord allowed me to come when the fruit

was ripe in the orchard," he insisted. "I was here at the right time."

As he reflects on the long-term ministry impact of the Foundation's work, however, Trulove is definitely pleased. "We have generated for Baptist causes \$8 for every dollar we have received since 1948 through the Cooperative Program," he remarked. "There's a great deal of satisfaction in knowing these funds will continue to provide financial support for the Lord's work 'til Jesus comes."

### Christian stewardship

In addition to managing funds "for any institution or agency that is related directly or indirectly to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention," Trulove said another key area of responsibility is education.

"The staff is available to associations and local churches to do wills conferences and Christian estate planning conferences," he explained. "Our philosophy is that a will is a vital part of Christian stewardship not just for the sake of making charitable bequests but for the sake of the family."

As effortlessly as Trulove recites financial statistics and investment options, his greatest focus has always been on individuals. "It's not the dollars and cents; it's the people who are served as a result of it," he shared. "When I sign the check, I don't necessarily see the numbers. I see the ministries that those dollars will support, the people who will be helped."

Reflecting on his relationship to Foundation staff members over the years, Trulove said, "I've sought to build a team spirit and help develop the talents of each individual person. I would hope any person who has worked here will feel like they have grown spiritually as well as professionally."

Noting that the past 20 years "have been the most satisfying years of my ministry," Trulove said the personal highlight for him "has been the opportunity to meet some of God's choice people. The contacts with persons I've considered to be spiritual giants have impacted my life personally, professionally and, most of all, spiritually."

Trulove, who is a native of Georgia, served as a pastor in Oklahoma and Texas and director of the estate stewardship department for Texas Baptists before moving to Arkansas. Now that retirement is here, Trulove said he and his wife, Carolyn, plan to remain in Little Rock.

"This is home. We love Arkansas," he noted. He said retirement plans include supply preaching, consulting and hobbies such as landscaping and woodcraft.

Trulove affirmed that his successor, David Moore, "brings some talents and attributes that will complement and build on what has taken place in the past. The years ahead will continue to bring growth and blessings to the Lord's work."

Byron Eisman, chairman of the Foundation's board of directors, noted that "the growth of the Foundation not only in financial stature but as an institution with integrity reflects affirmatively on Harry's superb leadership."

"Harry has perennially had the respect of his board because of his good judgment, unwavering dedication and godly lifestyle," Eisman added. "He has spent 20 years laying the foundation for an arm of the convention of which all Arkansas Baptists can be proud."

Noting that Trulove "has been a friend to every agency and institution of the convention," Don Moore reflected, "Only eternity can reveal the great significance of his ministry."

## Arkansans nominated to SBC boards, committees

Nine Arkansas Baptists are among more than 220 people being nominated for service by the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations. The nominees will be presented for consideration by SBC messengers during the 1994 SBC annual meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla.

The SBC Committee on Nominations, which includes 68 people from 34 state and regional Baptist conventions, is responsible for presenting nominees to serve on 21 SBC boards, agencies and committees.

Arkansas Baptists nominated for a first term of service are:

■ Joe W. Atchison, director of missions

for Northwest Association, Foreign Mission Board.

■ Mickie Page, a member of South Highland Church, Little Rock, Home Mission Board.

■ Cliff Palmer, president of Church Growth Concepts and a member of Immanuel Church, Rogers, Sunday School Board.

■ Mark Tolbert, pastor of Wynne Church, Annullity Board.

■ Edward A. Saucier, pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith, Southwestern Seminary.

Arkansas trustees being nominated for a second term of service include:

■ William R. Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, SBC Executive Committee.

■ Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, SBC Executive Committee.

■ Robert C. Foster, associate pastor of Dove Circle Church, Eureka Springs, Southern Seminary.

■ Ozzie Berryhill, member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, Brotherhood Commission.

Arkansans appointed by SBC president Ed Young to the 1994 Committee on Committees are Terry Eaton, pastor of First Church, Decatur, and Mark Park, a member of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs.

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

Once again we are being faced with greed, deception and manipulation. You are being asked to sign petitions that will place on the ballot this fall amendments that will turn Arkansas into a state of shame and disgrace. While Mississippi has had hosts of people coming to their state to gamble, family tourism is down. People do not bring their families to casinos to vacation. Most retail sales in the area of the casinos are down 6 to 10 percent. Suicides are up. Requests for benevolent assistance have tripled. The fastest growing number of businesses in Mississippi are pawn shops. The leader of the Arkansas First gambling amendment, Craig Douglass, said, "Drunk drivers are driving the state troopers in Mississippi crazy." Gamblers Anonymous chapters are being formed "all over the place", according to Dr. Paul Jones. Children are being abandoned in record numbers. School children are going to school without lunch money with the only explanation, "Mama lost it last night at the casino."

The Arkansas First amendment never mentions casinos. Yet the Secretary of State is willing for you to be deceived by their ballot title and by their promotion.

All authority for expanding gambling will rest with seven political appointees who will be accountable to no one, not even the legislature. The governor will appoint them.

I have not even mentioned the lottery. While lotteries have expanded throughout the United States, they have not proven to produce what their promoters promise. Schools in Florida and California have suffered at the hands of a system that was supposed to deliver them.

Arkansas should not compete with legitimate businesses for the discretionary dollars our citizens have to spend. Lotteries take funds away from businesses that would otherwise get them.

You can do something about this NOW! Refuse to sign the petitions being circulated and encourage everyone you know to do the same. You will help yourself and your state if you will.

BEVERLY ROBERTSON

## Woman's viewpoint

### Witness!

Matthew 5:14-16 declares, "You are the world's light; it is impossible to hide a town built on the top of a hill. Men do not light a lamp stand and put it under a bucket. They put it on a lamp stand and it gives light for everybody in the house. Let your light shine like that in the sight of men. Let them see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven."

There is a scarlet thread running through our Bible which represents Jesus Christ. There also is a scarlet thread running through our lives which represents Jesus Christ. How often does this thread surface; how often do we allow it to be seen?

As we go about our daily lives, home responsibilities, work responsibilities and church responsibilities, what do our eyes and our smiles show? How do we respond to frustrations we face?

We don't wear signs that say "I am a Christian" but have you ever had someone say, "You must be a Christian; your kindness and your smile make me think you are." Your first thought might be, "What did I do or say to make her think that?"

There is a song in our hymnals we have sung for years. It makes the statement that our life is like a book to some people. They may not have read the Bible, but they "read" our lives. Do our lives lead them to God as our Bible does? We are witnesses so many times without realizing it.

Beverly Robertson is a member of Parkers Chapel First Church in El Dorado. She and her husband, Tommy, have two daughters and one grandchild. A recently retired registered nurse, Beverly is active in her church and Liberty Association.



## Personal perspectives

"We live in the midst of a hurting and broken world...The effective churches of the 21st century will be those ministering to individuals coming from all types of hurting backgrounds."

—Robert Holley, director  
ABCS Discipleship and Family Ministry department

"I'm not withdrawing into a rocking chair to ride out the next two years....It is my intent and my prayer that this transition will be Midwestern's finest hour."

—Midwestern Seminary president Milton Ferguson,  
announcing to trustees his plans to retire in July 1996

"We won't go back to the Rwanda we know. Many people we know and love will be gone. But we have been called to a people and when we return we will be taking something back to them they desperately need—hope and love."

—Marlene Lee  
evacuated Southern Baptist missionary to Rwanda

"It's really sobering how much importance God puts on prayer and on our role in how He accomplishes His will and His work."

—Minette Drumwright, retired director,  
Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office

# True Love Waits – a parable

It was a small, simple wedding attended by relatives and a few close friends. The bride, dressed in a flowing white gown, was radiant. Her cheeks were flushed with pride and excitement as her dad escorted her down the aisle. Her eyes sparkled with joy—especially as she exchanged loving glances with her handsome groom.

He was beaming. Despite his nervousness, the broad smile never left his face. The ceremony went smoothly—just as they had carefully rehearsed.

The wedding reception continued the joyful celebration. Hugs, kisses and congratulations were offered by aunts, uncles, co-workers and lifelong friends.

Stacked on a brightly decorated folding table near the cake and punch were dozens of beautifully wrapped wedding gifts sporting shiny ribbons and bows. Just as she finished opening the four-slice toaster from Aunt Alice, a package in the center of the table caught her eye. It wasn't the wrapping paper or the size of the box that grabbed her attention; it was the tag attached to the present. Carefully printed in her new husband's handwriting were the sentimental words: "To my darling wife, the love of my life."

Determined to control her curiosity, she decided to focus on all the other gifts for now and wait until they were alone together to open this most special gift of all.

The newlyweds soon climbed into his

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

waiting car. Leaving family and friends behind, the two started down the road together—both literally and figuratively. She clutched the precious gift on her lap.

Late that evening, they stopped in front of the romantic cottage they had rented for their honeymoon getaway. Amid constant giggles and grins, he effortlessly lifted her into his arms and carried her across the threshold.

Once the trunk was unpacked and the cottage door was closed, she eagerly reached for the package she had carefully placed on a nearby table. Snuggling on the couch in his arms, she began to gingerly unwrap the box. Watching her anticipation grow, he began to think about the contents of the package. His smile faded.

As she opened the box lid, she squealed with delight. She immediately recognized the beautiful crystal vase she had so often

admired in the jewelry store window. It would look perfect as the kitchen table centerpiece in their new apartment.

But wait! As she pulled it from the box, she noticed the hairline crack running the length of the vase and there was a huge chip in the gold-rimmed lip. Worst of all, it didn't look like the bright, sparkling vase she had adored in the store window. The inside was stained—as if it had been used as a pitcher and never washed clean.

She was crestfallen. It was the exact gift she had longed for on her wedding night—and yet now to receive it used, cracked and chipped was devastating. This night was not at all what she had imagined. Her tears began to flow.

"I...I meant to keep it nice and new for you," he stammered apologetically. "It's just that it was so beautiful, I couldn't help taking it out of the box and trying it out. And then when it broke...I'm so, so sorry. I wanted to buy you another one but it's a one-of-a-kind – irreplaceable. I hope this one will do...I meant for tonight to be perfect."

The moral: Teenagers and other singles, what is the most special wedding gift you can give your future spouse? Make a commitment to keep your gift pure and spotless for that one special love of your life. If you've already fallen short of that goal, decide today to reserve that gift from this day forward for your future mate. True Love Waits.



Sharing the  
World with  
Arkansas Baptists

## 1994 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Day of Prayer • Sunday, May 15



I count it a privilege to pray for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine because I believe in the product, the purpose, and most of all the staff. As an Executive Board employee, it is important that our story be told. The Newsmagazine staff believes in our story and every other department's story. I am thankful for balanced and fair reporting that acknowledges our diversity, and for courageous reporting that "speaks the truth in love."

*David James*  
Director, ABSC Student Ministries department



I rejoice in this privilege to give a testimony of appreciation for the Newsmagazine. We are grateful for the support and exposure of evangelism in Arkansas. The Newsmagazine is a medium to inform our people that evangelism is alive and well in our churches.

*Clarence Shell*  
Director, ABSC Evangelism department



The Newsmagazine serves as a window to the world, reminding Arkansas Baptists of the mission mandate given to every believer. I'm made aware of current events, needs and opportunities to guide me in praying specifically for the work of God's kingdom in Arkansas and around the world. No other publication enables me to do that.

*Julia Kettner*  
Director, Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union



The Newsmagazine has proven its commitment to state missions. Members of the ABN staff tell the state missions story effectively because they are able journalists who make the effort to know missions firsthand. Between state missions and ABN, there is a partnership. It is a partnership that tells the state missions story ably, fairly and responsibly. For that, we can all be grateful.

*Jimmy Barrantine*  
Director, ABSC Missions department

# Arkansas Baptist leaders

## Executive director Don Moore

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

A petition campaign to place a proposed amendment on the Nov. 8 ballot to expand gambling in Arkansas has raised both ire and action from Arkansas Southern Baptists. According to the April 14 issue of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, the campaign needs 69,641 signatures, or 10 percent of the voter turnout in the 1990 gubernatorial election, to place the amendment on the ballot.

The petition campaign was announced April 13 by the Arkansas First Committee, sponsored by officials at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs and Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis. The two tracks are seeking to legalize casino gambling, a state lottery and charity bingo in the state. Current state law prohibits all gambling except pari-mutuel wagering in Hot Springs and West Memphis. The amendment would make the two tracks the only sites in the state for casino gambling.

Christian Civic Foundation executive director Larry Page said the amendment "is simply about the greed of out-of-state racetrack owners." It's not about the lottery, he warned, "and it's not about benefiting education or improving law enforcement in Arkansas. It is and has always been about casino gambling.

"This is a very slick campaign," Page noted. "In fact, you won't even find the word 'casino' in the proposal. What's insidious about it is that there is no limit to what they can do. It's an open-ended amendment."

LI. Governor Mike Huckabee said he opposes the amendment, even though it promises to bring revenue to the state. "The end result," he countered, "is that it will take more money than it will bring in." Labeling the amendment a "lie," he said, "It's a complete, deceptive lie to ever tell people gambling is a revenue stream that tends to be reliable."

Huckabee said he also has a "problem with a government that is acting as a pimp. A pimp is a person who stands on a corner encouraging people to participate in a vice so that he may get a piece of the pie," he explained. "When

government runs the game of vice and encourages its own citizens to play in order to get a piece of the revenue, what's the difference?

"If money were the only issue, we could make money as a state by legalizing prostitution and operating brothels as state-run facilities," Huckabee said. "It won't help us in the long term because of the additional costs of police and additional welfare costs. In every other state where gambling has been enacted, it has been proven that over a long period of time it does not make money for the state. It makes money for the gambling interests."

Page agreed with Huckabee. "Government is intended to protect its most vulnerable and weakest citizens. The lottery just reverses that role. It makes a predator of the government, preying on its weakest and most vulnerable citizens."

According to the *Democrat-Gazette*, State Rep. John Parkerson, who heads a legislative subcommittee studying the gaming issue, said in testimony he does not think that expanded gaming is in the state's best interest.

Arkansas Baptists and other groups already have taken action against the petition drive. The Christian Civic Action Committee, a companion organization of the CCF, purchased a full-page advertisement in the April 15 issue of the *Democrat-Gazette* asking Arkansans not to sign the petition. The advertisement featured facts opposing the amendment and a large, bold "NO CASINOS!" headline.

"We wanted to bring the issue back to casinos," said Page. "The lottery is a major portion of the amendment, but we are talking about, in the final analysis, whether Arkansans will permit...the monopoly of the gambling trade" by the two tracks.

### 'Content for justice'

Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore said Arkansas Baptists should oppose gambling out of a sense of justice. "Historically, God has expected His people to contend for justice," he emphasized.

Moore sent a two-page letter to all Arkansas Baptist pastors urging them to ask their church members not to sign the petition. In the letter Moore encouraged the pastors "to urge your people to refuse to sign the petitions that will be circulated by the gambling industry."

"If they can get the amendment on the ballot," Moore wrote, "Arkansas will be faced with a multi-million dollar campaign to convince Arkansas voters to approve the amendment. Gambling interests spent \$130 million in the recent campaign in Missouri."

"If they succeed in getting this amendment on the ballot, you and your church will have to be prepared to join in the fight to defeat it," he

**"If they succeed in getting this amendment on the ballot, you and your church will have to be prepared to join in the fight to defeat it."**

**— Don Moore**

ABSC executive director



**"The more legal gambling there is, the more illegal gambling there is."**

**— Ronnie Rogers**

ABSC president

# oppose gambling plans

## urges Baptists not to sign petitions

emphasized. "Financial resources and personnel will be needed to combat this attempt to exploit Arkansans by outside interests."

The amendment also has raised Baptist concern because of the many social problems associated with gambling.

"A few people make a lot of money," said Huckabee. "A lot of people lose money. The taxpayers who work for a living lose because they have to pay for the folks who didn't pay their rent, didn't pay their car payment, didn't make their loan payments and couldn't afford lunch money because they took their paychecks and gambled on the lottery or in the casinos."

ABSC president Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, said he has seen the effects of gambling in his community from the local racetrack.

"Economically, a couple of things stand out," he explained. "Businesses that are in collection, such as insurance or rental, did a study here a few years ago and found that during the races when gambling is going on legally, collections are harder."

He said another economic problem caused by gambling is that "it seems gambling has almost been a 'crutch' for the local economy. In the back of people's minds here they say, 'If nothing else, we can always get gambling in here.' It has caused our leaders not to pursue other economic routes."

He said the addition of a casino at Oaklawn "would change the atmosphere of Hot Springs. Where now gambling is a part of a year, at that time gambling would become synonymous with Hot Springs and what was a crutch would then become a wheelchair."

Rogers said legal gambling also poses more spin-off problems. "The more legal gambling there is, the more illegal gambling there is. So it doesn't end up being a cure for illegal gambling. It increases illegal gambling."

"When there is more illegal gambling," he continued, "there also is more lawbreaking of other kinds along with that. What used to be promoted by organized crime in our country now is promoted by and operated by our government. People cannot vote into law practices which are immoral or erode high moral standards yet at the same time cry for safer streets. People can't vote for gambling and not accept other forms of crime that come with it."

"There is another factor to this," Huckabee noted. "Do we want to raise a generation of children who believe that the vice of wagering is more desirable than the virtue of work? We're losing the ability to teach our children that work is virtuous."

"The Bible says, 'If a man won't work, he shouldn't eat,'" Moore added. "Work is honorable and God expects His people to earn a living if

they're physically able and not indulge in games of chance."

Page said the effects of gambling "hurt people" and are evident in many areas, including:

■ Compulsive behavior. "Up to 5 percent of Americans who have access to legalized gambling

become compulsive gamblers" who lose their jobs, become dependent on the state and cause strife among families. "It is estimated that there are about 1.3 million teenage compulsive gamblers and about 10 million adult compulsive gambler in America today."

■ Unfulfilled promises. "In California, proceeds from the lottery were to go toward education," Page said. "It did well for two years because of the novelty, then trailed off badly after that. The lottery never performs as it is touted to perform."

■ The poor. "The lower socioeconomic classes will gamble sometimes at three times the rate other categories will."

Moore emphasized that Christians "should be standing up for the welfare of the poor. There are more lottery outlets placed in poor neighborhoods than in middle class neighborhoods. Gambling is an appeal to the poor because the poor are having a hard time and they're going to take a chance and so they end up betting money they should be using for rent and food payments."

Huckabee said the potential outcome of the petition concerns him. "I must be honest and say that I fear the crazy thing might pass because of the apathy of not just Christian people, but the apathy of politicians who are more interested in the next election than they are the next generation."

He said there need to be "three things happen: the political community, the business community and the faith community all need to come out and oppose this nonsense...with a clear and unmistakable voice."

"The Christians are going to have to stand up for what is decent and right," he said. "Forget the labels; this transcends even the Christian perspective. This exploits poor people in order to make rich people richer. That's all gambling does."

*"The lottery...makes a predator of the government, preying on its weakest and most vulnerable citizens."*

— Larry Page  
Christian Civic Foundation director



*"This exploits poor people in order to make rich people richer. That's all gambling does."*

— Mike Huckabee  
Arkansas Lt. Governor



## Life Support Workshops help churches aid hurting people

By Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

Seeking ways for churches to minister to the hurting people in their churches and communities, the Discipleship and Family Ministry department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention sponsored LIFE Support workshops in four locations across the state April 11-15. Bob Holley, department director, told workshop participants, "The effective churches of the 21st century will be those ministering to individuals coming from all types of hurting backgrounds.

"Today we live in the midst of a hurting and broken world," he said. "You will be following the Lord's commandment to minister to all people as you minister to those coming from all types of backgrounds who are dealing with problems such as eating disorders, codependent relationships or recovery from divorce, grief or abuse."

Holley noted the LIFE Support program, implemented in 1992 by the Baptist Sunday School Board, is an educational system of group resources for providing Christian ministry and emotional support to meet social, emotional and physical needs.

### Ministry starting points

He said ministry starting points for churches interested in launching this program include prayer; preparing the church with a support group mentality; selection of a LIFE Support coordinator; enlisting, interviewing and training leaders and co-leaders; developing a referral list; ordering resources; identifying needs; and determining the types of groups to offer.

Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Church in Conway and a pioneer in Arkansas for LIFE Support ministries, emphasized that those ministered to through LIFE Support ministries often are people with a "sense of hopelessness. As you accept these people and minister to them, you will lead them from their pain to knowing the saving power and love of Jesus Christ," he said.

"I challenge you to complete preparation through the utilization of all BSSB materials prior to launching LIFE Support ministries in your churches," Pillow said. He emphasized that ministry leaders must be totally committed and must continue to experience and express the grace of God that brings healing in people's lives.

"Christ didn't come to call the righteous, He came to call the hurting, the twisted and the bent," he concluded. "Through these ministries you too will be

ministering in the same manner as Jesus."

Johnny Jones, LIFE Support specialist in the BSSB discipleship and family development division and author/compiler of the *LIFE Support Leader's Handbook*, noted that churches are losing up to 75 percent of those in attendance because people are hurting so deeply that they cannot have an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord.

"People come to church with an expectation, but leave when they are not satisfied," Jones told a workshop group at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. "Our churches must become hospitals for sinners rather than hotels for saints if we are to show those who are hurting the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.

"Southern Baptists are on the cutting edge of meeting the needs of the hurting," he continued. "As a result of these workshops, you can begin to implement this ministry in Arkansas churches.

"I know, as a recovering alcoholic, what it means to hurt, but I also know what the saving grace of Jesus Christ can do," Jones declared. "I also know as a pastor what a successful support ministry did in my church and what it did for a North Carolina church whose membership grew in two years from 72 to more than 900 as a result of the Christ-centered ministry."

Jones described a church support group as a fellowship of people who have come together to share their common experiences, struggles and hopes with one another so that they can identify with one another, learn about life's relationships with others and with God, and develop into all that God intends them to be.

Jones noted the groups "help the church be the church by touching an undercurrent of hurt existing in the church, touching unchurched people where they hurt, leading groups members to faith in Christ, helping individuals through life crises and building strong leadership in the church."

Emphasizing that a LIFE Support ministry "will only be successful when coordinators and facilitators are adequately trained," Jones said training includes a 13-week study of *Wise Counsel*, a five-week study of *LIFE Support Leader's Handbook* and a 12-week study of *Making Peace With Your Past*, totaling 30 weeks.

Holley said the ABSB Discipleship and Family Ministry department staff is available to assist Arkansas Baptist churches with additional training or other LIFE Support program needs. Individuals interested in additional information may contact Holley at 376-4791, ext. 5160.

## Task force helps develop state WMU strategy

A statewide task force convened April 15 at the Baptist Building in Little Rock to develop a strategy for leading Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union through a time of transition as 1995 WMU programs are simplified to become more flexible and relevant.

The task force, gathered for its one-time meeting, included WMU representatives from across the state and state WMU staff members as well as a director of missions, a pastor and a minister of education. Monica Keathley, state Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women director, served as moderator.

Associational leadership was targeted as the primary group to assist local churches during the transition as BW/BYW are moved from two adult missions education organizations to one called "Women on Mission," effective October 1995.

Literature changes also will be implemented through the publication of a new magazine, *Missions Mosaic*, which will succeed the current *Royal Service* and *Contempo* magazines. A new magazine also is being designed for older Girls in Action members.

### New opportunities

"The task force dream is that associational WMU leadership will be able to sit down with every church within their local association to discuss how the new WMU improvements and opportunities will help their organization," Keathley said. "Our hope is they will be able to see how the local WMU can be revitalized to become a movement again and not just an organization."

Other task force ideas include presentations and displays at various Arkansas Baptist State Convention events, as well as direct mailouts. In addition, the Arkansas WMU staff will be available to assist local churches "to facilitate a smooth transition and good acceptance of the new WMU design," Keathley noted.

"In our changing world we have to keep our methods relevant," she emphasized. "Our message doesn't change—our purpose is the same. But our methods must change to reach today's women, girls and preschoolers."

# 'God has mysterious ways'

## Friendship Center director shares faith amid life's calamities

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Steven Cain sits at his desk at the Friendship Center in Texarkana. The center is a ministry to "the physical and spiritual needs of the poor, homeless and transient people in Texarkana," he explains. The ministry is co-sponsored by Southwest Association in Arkansas and Bowie Baptist Association in Texas.

The desk, like the rest of the office, has piles of papers stacked in every available corner. On top of one of the piles is the pamphlet "Management of Assaultive Behavior" and over the desk is a string of painted wooden letters reading, "Merry Christmas! It is April.

There is a toaster oven in a corner of the desk where a computer should be. "The computer burned in the fire," he notes.

"The fire" is the house fire that completely destroyed Cain's house March 11, displacing him, his wife and one of their four children.

"March was a bad month," he says, surprisingly, with a smile. "And on the 18th my father-in-law died and on the 25th my dad had a stroke. I've had a lot of people call me Job lately."

"It's a test," he says of recent events, "and I hope we don't fail."

A woman at the office door interrupts his story. "Is there any way you can put me in a hotel?" she asks. "If I sleep in my car again tonight, I'm gonna scream."

He tells her she needs to go back and try living at home again and promises to see what he can do. "Problems at home forced her out and she won't go back, so she's living in her car."

### Unending needs, opportunities

There are many stories in Texarkana like those of the woman at the door. "There will be a thousand people on the streets tonight," Cain remarks. He said the border town between Texas and Arkansas is a high traffic area for transients because it is between Little Rock and Dallas on Interstate 30 and is a major railroad center. "A lot of people come through."

The center's 1993 report supports his statement. Last year the center ministered



Steven Cain, director of the Friendship Center ministry in Texarkana, examines the remains of his home which was destroyed by fire in March. Despite that catastrophe and other family crises, Cain continues to enthusiastically minister to the needs of others, emphasizing that many people he serves face spiritual needs that are "as greater or greater than physical needs."

to the needs of more than 27,000 people, serving nearly 15,000 meals, providing groceries and clothing for nearly 1,100 families and helping clients with utilities, medical needs, rent, lodging and gas.

Along with ministering to the physical needs of clients, Cain says, "It has always been my belief that spiritual needs are as great or greater than physical needs. It seems that people who are spiritually well often have less of the physical needs we provide here."

Underscoring Cain's commitment to meeting spiritual needs is the 150 professions of faith recorded last year by the center. When speaking of unsaved people, his tone becomes urgent. "There are more lost people in the world today than yesterday," he emphasizes.

Cain has served as director of the center

since 1990. Trained as a mechanical engineer, he answered God's call to ministry at a revival service at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Texarkana. "I gave God three reasons why I couldn't work for Him," including excuses of time, money and qualification. "He said, 'Steven, if you're obedient, you are qualified.' I gave up and surrendered my life to His service." That call was to lead to the Friendship Center.

Cain sees himself as the "pastor" here. "When people come in here with a problem, in essence I'm their pastor. God loves them and hung on a cross for them. These people are all a flock like a pastor would have."

As he drives to the ruins of his home, he tells of God's support for his family. "God takes care of us." The job at the center's director pays only part-time wages, though he often works a full day. "Somehow at the end of the month, we have a little change. It's by the grace of God that we survive."

Getting out of the car, he looks at the blackened timbers and remnants of his personal possessions and is silent a moment before entering the roofless remains. He pauses in the garage, looking at a filing cabinet. "That was my grandfather's." He and his wife lost many family heirlooms in the blaze.

He walks past a twisted bicycle and a brick wall that collapsed out onto the lawn as the house's frame burned. Sifting through pages of his theological books, now browned and crisp, he says he regrets most the loss of his library as he seeks to "look for the good" in the fire. "Our son was at home and he got out alive. The dogs barking saved his life. They now get to sleep at the foot of the bed and they get to split a burger when we go to McDonald's."

He mentions that the family had "good coverage" from home insurance, "but I don't know anyone who got their home back the way they wanted. Some of the things we didn't need, but I wouldn't suggest this method to you for spring cleaning." Again, he produces a grin.

Refusing to mope over life's calamities, Cain quietly affirms, "God has mysterious ways and watches out for people."

## Dilday dismissal continues to spark Baptist responses

FORT WORTH, TX—Nearly two months after trustees voted 26-7 to fire Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, that action continues to spark responses throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Among the most recent actions was a private gathering of leading conservative SBC leaders, including four former SBC presidents. At least 15 participants gathered in an Atlanta hotel April 21 to discuss the Southwestern Seminary issue and other topics of concern.

Among the participants were former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, Charles Stanley, Bailey Smith and Jerry Vines as well as Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, and Paul Pressler, a retired judge in Houston.

SBC Executive Committee member Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, who also participated in the meeting, described it as "a very helpful time of open sharing and communication about the various issues the convention is facing at the present time, namely the Southwestern issue."

Smith said the Southwestern firing, coupled with widespread protests, poses a serious threat to the denomination's conservative movement. "Anybody who is not (convinced of that) has got their head in the sand," he declared.

Smith said sympathy for Dilday and Southwestern likely will translate into votes for SBC presidential candidate Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla. Noting that presidential candidate Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., has been endorsed by key conservative leaders, Smith said, "There is some disappointment because Jim announced after Fred did."

SBC Pastors' Conference president Ike Reighard, who made arrangements for the Atlanta gathering, indicated participants agreed not to second-guess the trustees' firing of Dilday. "We still affirm the trustee process," Reighard noted. "That's what it distilled down to."

Among other recent developments, trustee Robert Anderson of Baton Rouge, La., spearheaded an effort to call a special meeting of Southwestern trustees to further discuss the firing and its impact. The approval of 20 trustees—half the board—was needed to call the special meeting over objections of the chairman.

Anderson succeeded in gaining the support of 20 trustees for the meeting, but within hours, two trustees backed out amid rumors the meeting would be used to reinstate Dilday.

Anderson said the group merely wanted to "establish reconciliation" by apologizing for misdeeds on both sides of the dispute, resolving details of Dilday's severance agreement, and finding the fired president a long-term role with the school, perhaps as chancellor.

Trustee chairman Ralph Pulley, who said he is opposed to reconvening the trustees, said Anderson's efforts "won't amount to anything."

Among the issues Anderson said need addressing is Dilday's severance package. Although trustees voted to pay Dilday his salary and other benefits until he reaches 65, details of the agreement were left to Pulley and the other officers to settle.

Dilday said the plan offered by Pulley would give trustees the power to cancel the benefits if Dilday says anything critical of the seminary.

### Day of prayer requested

After failing to force an emergency session of trustees, Anderson called for a day of prayer for the seminary May 11. "I want to sound the alarm to the fact that we need to get on our knees before God and hear from Him on this matter," Anderson noted.

He encouraged all pastors and churches in the Southern Baptist Convention to pray and fast May 11 "for Southwestern Seminary and issues surrounding the dismissal of Dr. Russell Dilday."

Jack Coldiron, 67, distinguished professor of voice at Southwestern, said he will retire this summer to protest Dilday's firing.

Coldiron, who has taught in the seminary's School of Church Music for 31 years, said his "belief and confidence" in the convention "have been gradually eroded" in recent years. With Dilday's dismissal, "the last vestige of trust was ripped apart and I have decided it is impossible for me to work with you any longer," he wrote to trustees.

Coldiron charged that the trustees' actions "have brought pain and outrage into the lives of countless thousands and have certainly diminished the work of the Lord in our time."

"The convention I once knew is no more," he wrote. "The school which I have revered and served for so many years is irreparably damaged."

Pulley voiced appreciation for Coldiron's years of service. "We know of his devotion to the School of Music and our Lord," the trustee chairman said. "We certainly will honor his decision to retire and wish him well."

## FMB tops 4,000 overseas, addresses Catholic document

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board pushed its missionary force past the 4,000 mark for the first time and responded to a nationally publicized document on Catholic-evangelical relations at the FMB trustees' April 25-27 meeting.

The record missionary total — a milestone en route to a goal of 5,000 missionaries by the year 2000 — came April 26 as trustees appointed 33 missionaries before a Texas Baptist crowd of 6,850 at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

The 4,000-missionary mark "reflects a missions priority on the part of our Southern Baptist churches," said FMB president Jerry Rankin.

Trustees also voted unanimously to express concern that a joint statement a group of evangelical and Roman Catholic leaders released March 29 "is subject to interpretations harmful to the work of foreign missions."

The document, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together," calls for reduced conflicts between evangelicals and Catholics, avoidance of proselytizing or "sheep stealing" each other's converts, and more cooperation on commonly held convictions on social issues.

The FMB trustees affirmed "missionary witness among populations and individuals characterized by nominal or former allegiance to any Christian denomination." It rejected "any suggestion that such witness should be characterized as 'sheep stealing,' proselytizing or a wasteful use of resources."

But the trustees also affirmed the FMB's "commitment to the Lordship of Christ and our fellowship with all who share a personal faith relationship with Him." It affirmed "commitment to the authority and trustworthiness of the Bible" and pledged to conduct mission work in accordance with scriptural teaching.

Two Southern Baptist leaders signed the Catholic-evangelical document: Larry Lewis of the Home Mission Board and Richard Land of the Christian Life Commission. Both have said nothing in the document should be misconstrued as diminishing the need for Southern Baptists to share their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with others.

# Midwestern's Ferguson to retire in 1996

KANSAS CITY, MO (BP)—Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary the past 21 years, will retire July 31, 1996. He announced his plans for retirement during the opening session of the seminary's annual trustee meeting April 18.

"This decision on my part is totally voluntary and positive in purpose and intent," Ferguson, who will be 66 May 8, told the trustee board. "It is the result of my prayerful conclusion regarding God's leadership for me and for Midwestern Seminary."

In a unanimous vote, trustees formally accepted the president's timetable for retirement. Trustee chairman James Jones, evangelism director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, expressed appreciation for his personal friendship with Ferguson, as well as for the president's "courage and leadership" during recent years of transition at the seminary and within the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 35-member trustee board approved a search process committee which will report back to the full board at its October meeting. Jones stressed this is not a search committee but rather it will come up with the process that the trustees will use to select a new president.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Ronnie Rogers is serving on the five-member search process committee. "We think we have the potential of making the smoothest transition of any," Rogers told the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*. "I think there is a unified excitement about the future of the seminary on the part of the trustees."

Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, said the recent board meeting was "very, very good from beginning to end." Acknowledging that "there will be a lot of difficult decisions" during the transition period, he said he is confident "the seminary is going in a more conservative direction."

In their closing session April 19, trustees approved a resolution of appreciation and support for Ferguson, noting that they "applaud his courage in leading us during these days of transition." They committed themselves to cooperating with him in "providing the atmosphere in which we can work together" and pledged to make every effort to keep the unity during the time of transition and the election of a new president.

Ferguson said he had been "prayerfully considering" this move for "several months" and had consulted with chairman Jones about the decision during those months. In more recent days, he said, he

had made the trustees' executive committee aware of his plans.

In talking with executive committee members, Ferguson said, "I explored with them my thinking regarding the time and the method which would be in the best interest of the seminary. They requested that I allow ample time for us to work together in addressing several of the major challenges before us and to allow the trustees opportunity to establish orderly procedures for selection of my successor. I respect their judgment in these matters and I will honor their request."



*"I intend for these last two years to be the best years I have to give."*

—Milton Ferguson

He told trustees he would not be a "lame duck" and added: "I want you to know that I'm not withdrawing into a rocking chair to ride out the next two years."

His voice breaking with emotion, Ferguson pledged, "I intend for these last two years to be the best years that I have to give.... It is my intent and my prayer that this transition be Midwestern's finest hour."

Arkansas trustee Richard Proctor, first vice chairman of the board and a municipal court judge from Wynne, presented a response from the executive committee, noting members felt "a profound sense of loss, some uncertainty and a lot of grief" to see Ferguson's tenure come to a close.

However, he said, they also felt "a profound sense of gratitude" for the president's "effective and capable leadership."

"We look forward with anticipation to the additional two years of leadership and fellowship that he will provide for us," Proctor said.

Ferguson assumed duties as president of Midwestern Seminary in February 1973. During his tenure, the seminary has experienced growth in student enrollment, financial stability and development of academic programs and campus facilities.

In recent years, Ferguson has repeatedly called for the institution's trustees to focus on their "common bond in Christ," rather than on theological or political differences.

During his April 18 report to the board, he urged trustees to set aside personal agendas, while reaffirming their "unity in Jesus Christ" and "commitment to the welfare of the seminary."

At the close of his report, Ferguson received a standing ovation from the trustees.

In other business, trustees met in executive session for one hour and 45 minutes during the afternoon session on April 18. When observers were allowed to re-enter, board members were standing in a large circle around the room and observers were invited to join them in holding hands and singing, "Bless Be The Tie."

Jones told observers that during the executive session trustees had "shared several concerns" with one another and concluded: "God has been at work in this body and caused us to be of one mind."

Board members adopted a \$3.7 million budget for 1994-95, a 5.7 percent increase over the current operating budget. They also voted to affirm the seminary administration's intent to increase faculty compensation by a total of 8 percent by August 1995.

In a related action, the board voted to increase student matriculation fees from \$600 to \$700 per semester for the 1994-95 academic year.

A resolution concerning support for the Cooperative Program presented by trustee Kent Cochran was adopted by the board. The document echoes a similar resolution passed at the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and urges Midwestern trustees, administration, faculty and staff to "maintain support of the Cooperative Program and avoid any conflict of interest which would be occasioned by any participation with any organization, program or meeting which would compromise support of the Cooperative Program."

Vernon Davis, Midwestern's vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, reported to trustees the seminary will have four faculty vacancies by the end of the academic year in Christian theology, New Testament, religious education and church music. He said two candidates being considered to fill vacancies in the areas of New Testament and religious education withdrew from the process just prior to the trustee meeting.

Trustees closed their meeting by electing new officers. Lewis Adkison, senior pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., will serve as chairman. Proctor was re-elected to a fourth term as first vice chairman.

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Church news

**Jonesboro First Church** recently bought six acres on south Caraway Road for the purpose of organizing a new Southern Baptist church. Purchase of the property was made possible by church contributions and grants from Mount Zion Association and the missions department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. A house-to-house survey of the areas to be served by the new congregation will be held June 4-18. Troy Prince is associate pastor for new work/outreach for First Church and will guide project development. Emil Williams is pastor.

**Wynne Church** began an "Acts 6 Ministry" April 28 that will minister to unmarried and widowed single adults. Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro was the featured speaker for a banquet that was held to launch the new work. Mark Tolbert is pastor.

**Pine Bluff First Church** hosted Southern Baptist missionary George Watanabe April 8-15. Watanabe, who has served in Japan since 1968, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. While in Pine Bluff, he spoke to a supper group of Japanese families and shared his testimony in the Sunday morning worship service at First Church, as well as speaking to a combined youth-adult group in the church's chapel on Thursday morning and to the city's International Friendship group. In addition, Watanabe spoke to a missions awareness group at Linwood Church and participated in the weekly chapel service at OBU.

**Valley Springs First Church** recently recognized Mrs. Dale Stephenson for nine years of perfect Sunday School attendance. She was presented with a one-year service pin and attaching service bars for the second through eighth years.

**Pine Bluff Second Church** is celebrating 90 years of ministry May 4-8, climaxing with a special Mother's Day recognition service. Speakers will be Johnny Ross, D.C. McAtee and Gordon Topping. Jimmy Watson is interim pastor.

**Crossett First Church** music ministry will present "Alleluia: The Praise Continues" May 22. The 4:30 and 7 p.m. services, directed by Wayne Grothman, will feature the sanctuary choir, orchestra and personal testimonies.

**Cullendale First Church** of Camden will celebrate 65 years of ministry with a three-day revival and celebration Aug. 19-21. Leading these services will be former members who have entered the ministry and former staff members, including Rex Horne Jr., Lanny Loc, Jimmy L. Burks, Robert A. Parker, Larry Grayson, Art Horne and Randel Pegues.

## Ordinations

**Westside First Church** in Greers Ferry licensed Mike McCarley, Buddy Funk and Shawn Harris to the gospel ministry April 17.

**Grace Church** of Camden ordained Steve Clack, Tim Jones and Jackie Williams to the deacon ministry April 26.

**Holly Springs Church** near Sparkman ordained James Howard and Larry Grafton to the deacon ministry May 1.

## Revivals

**DeQueen First Church** held a "Here's Hope" crusade April 10-13 with William Blackburn as the preaching evangelist and Brandon Willey as the music evangelist. Pastor Faron Rogers reported the crusade resulted in 100 professions of faith with 66

of those for church membership by baptism. In addition, there were two decisions for vocational Christian ministry.

**Springdale First Church** recently held a crusade that was coordinated by Rod Goodsell and led by John Jacobs and the Power Team. The northwest Arkansas outreach effort resulted in 1,319 professions of faith and 402 baptisms, according to pastor Ronnie W. Floyd.

**Plainview First Church** held a revival April 13-17 that resulted in eight professions of faith, four baptisms and three rededications, according to pastor R. Scott Miller. The revival was led by Buddy Keim, chalk evangelist.

## Obituaries

**Charles C. Todd**, pastor of Gamaliel Church in Mountain Home, died recently at the age of 70. Survivors are his wife, Dolores; four sons, Tony of Mountain Home; Keith of Oak Ridge, Mo.; Jesse of Vanduser, Mo.; and Todd of Silkeston, Mo.

**Marle Marbury Bryan** of Bismarck died April 13 at age 69. She was the wife of N.C. Bryan, pastor of Okolona Church. Other survivors are a brother, Sam Marbury of the Shiloh community; and two sisters, Sallie Marbury and Joe Nellie Marbury, both of Arkadelphia. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.



Baptist Student Union members recently elected five state officers for the 1994-95 school year. They are (left to right) vice presidents Julie Snyder, Ouachita Baptist University; Stacy Reed, University of Arkansas at Monticello; Brad Kinsey, University of Arkansas; Joey Cobble, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and president Amber Vaden, Arkansas State University.

## Staff changes

**Freddie M. Gay** will begin serving May 9 as director of missions for Carey Association with offices in Fordyce. He will go there from Cross Road Church in Little Rock where he has been pastor for four years. He also has served other Arkansas and Texas churches. Gay is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Freelandia Bible Institute of Cassville, Mo., and Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Betty Jean, are parents of three children, Rebecca Marie, Martin Allen and William Branson.

**Jeff Thomas** will begin serving May 8 as pastor of Saltliff Heights Church, Conway. He previously was at Antioch Church, Beebe, and has been a chaplain intern for Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Thomas is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Leslie, will move to Conway from Little Rock.

**James E. Grafton** has accepted the call to serve as director of missions for Current-Gaines Association with offices in Corning. He will move there from Thornton where he has been serving as pastor of First Church. He also has served with the U.S. Air Force. Grafton is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Mary Nell, have two children, Vance and Cristy Ellen.

**Dan Springfield** began serving May 1 as pastor of Philadelphia Church, Jonesboro. He and his wife, Sandi, moved there from Cherokee Village. They have been involved in full-time evangelism for the past nine years.

**Kevin Hawley** has joined the staff of Walcott Church as minister to youth. He previously served for more than six years at Brookland Church. Hawley and his wife, Loretta, have three children, Meagan, Logan and Morgan.

**Ed Gillham**, who served for three months as interim pastor of Riverside Church at Maumelle, has become full-time pastor. He previously served as assistant pastor and youth minister for Landmark Church in Clarksville. In addition, he has been a staff member at First Church in Vilonia. Gillham is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Robbin, have a daughter, Abigail.

**Mark Gibbens** has joined the staff of Immanuel Church in Little Rock as minister to students, coming there from Lewisville, Texas, where he was minister of youth at



*Black River Association held a noteburning service April 10 at First Church of Walnut Ridge celebrating payment of the association's Norman Lewis Office Building in Hoxie. The 1,500-square-foot office, constructed at a cost of \$29,000 by volunteer labor, has been appraised at \$95,000. Jimmy Barrentine, Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department director, was the featured speaker for the service that was led by noteburning committee chairman Mike Bradley and moderator Harold Russell. Burning the note are (left to right) director of missions Norman Lewis, Bradley and J.R. Cox, a deacon at First Church, Walnut Ridge, who financed the building project.*

Lakeland Baptist Church. He also has served other churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. Gibbens is a graduate of John Brown University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kim, have a son, Tyler Andrew.

**Jamie Powell** recently joined the staff of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs as associate pastor with responsibilities for student and family ministries. Powell previously served for more than three years as pastor of Twin Lakes Church. In addition, he has served other churches in Arkansas, Texas and Tennessee. Powell is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and has also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Traci, have a daughter, Kati.

**Richard H. Brown** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Emmet. An associate professor at Ouachita Baptist University, he is available to serve as an interim pastor or pulpit supply, evangelist or vocal musician. Brown may be contacted at 246-2846 or 245-5529.

**Fred Fretz** is serving as pastor of Pee Dee Church in Clinton, going there from Saltliff Heights Church, Conway.

**Lendol Jackson** of Jonesboro is serving as interim pastor of Central Church in Marked Tree. He retired in 1993 as pastor of New Hope Church, Hardy.

**Bill Storts** retired April 17 as pastor of Havana Church, following 20 years of service. He and his wife, Glenna, were honored by the church with a reception and special gifts. The Storts will continue to live in Havana where they own and operate a chicken farm. He also has been a public school teacher.

**Kim Eubanks** will join the staff of First Church in Conway May 15 as associate pastor for students. He and his wife, Tina, will go there from North Little Rock where he currently is minister of youth for Central Church. Eubanks is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Bob Sowell**, who had retired following 11 years of service as minister of education for First Church in Hot Springs, is again serving the church as interim minister of education.

**Roger Duffel** resigned April 3 as pastor of First Church in Marmaduke.

# Rwanda horror is personal for missionaries

By Craig Bird

SBC Foreign Missions Board

NAIROBI, KENYA (BP)—To most people, television and newspaper images from Rwanda of trucks heaped with bodies and streets littered with corpses are horrifying but distant — both geographically and emotionally.

But the 11 Southern Baptist missionaries forced to flee the central African country in April are watching a land they love die. And as the cameras scan the destruction, they fear they will recognize the victims — slaughtered because of their ethnic identity.

"It even hurts too much to call the names of our Rwandan Christian friends when we're praying for them because there are so many who have probably died," said missionary Dianne Randolph.

Among those they are concerned about are:

■ Vincent, an employee of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Rwanda for 12 years and a key leader in Kigali Baptist Church in the Rwandan capital. He had been worried for several months, predicting even before the most recent fighting erupted that "I won't make it next time."

The morning of April 9 he slipped into the house of a neighbor who had a phone and called missionary Vernon Sivage.



"I want you to pray for me and my family," Vincent told Sivage. "Looking out the window right now I can see an armed gang searching house to house for Tutsis. When they find my family they will kill us all."

Sivage prayed with him over the phone. Ten minutes later the missionary drove

out of his home to join an evacuation convoy leaving Rwanda.

■ Emmanuel worked as a guard for missionaries Martha Colwell and Katrina Knox. When he tried to go home April 7, he was turned back by soldiers. Colwell read Psalm 9 with him after he shared his fears for his family.

"He cried," she said. "And Rwandan men never cry in public."

■ A pastors' and leaders' meeting in Butare stranded 22 men and one woman in the southern town, cut off from their families in other parts of the country after the killing began. They faced the twin traumas of starvation and being unable to protect their families.

■ Eleazar Zihcrambere, executive secretary of the Baptist Union of Rwanda, is well-known as an outspoken critic of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (the Tutsi army now taking control of Kigali). He also was a close friend of the late Rwandan president, Juvenal Habyarimana, whose death in a suspicious plane crash sparked the current bloodletting.

Zihcrambere has since managed to flee with his family to a neighboring country. Before he fled, Zihcrambere said he saw terrible massacres. "It was a bloodbath," he reported to a Baptist World Alliance official. "I saw people being slaughtered and thrown into the river."

The names and faces of scores of other pastors and women and children overflow the memories of all the missionaries, adding perspective to the material and emotional loss the Americans have undergone.

The missionaries currently are meeting and praying together, trying to decide what to do. Some probably will travel to western Tanzania and see if Rwandan refugees are joining Burundi refugees in desolate, desperate camps. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board already has committed funds for relief. Also, as soon as possible, a survey team will return to Rwanda to assess the carnage.

Until then, they pray for their country and their friends.

"The healing process has begun but the worst is still to come," Marlene Lee admitted. "So far I've not been angry, angry, angry — but I've had some anger and depression. I'm doing better talking about it now but I still can't write any of my feelings. I either write stupid, superfluous things or wet the page with tears.

"We won't go back to the Rwanda we know. Many people we know and love will be gone. But we have been called to a people and when we return we will be taking something back to them they desperately need — hope and love."

## Missionaries request prayer 'war'

MOMBASA, KENYA (BP)—Despite having to evacuate Rwanda, the 11 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to the country have formally asked Southern Baptists to join them in praying for the people they left behind.

The text of the request, sent by the missionaries now in Kenya, includes:

"We, the Southern Baptist Mission in Rwanda, thank Southern Baptists for their prayers in recent days as it became necessary to leave Rwanda when violence broke out in the aftermath of the death of Rwanda's president.

"Having now exited Rwanda, leaving our many friends and fellow Baptists to endure continuing violence, we are convinced that the cessation of violence and killing is not in the hands of armies or governments, but in the hands of our Lord who has resolved to use His church to accomplish His purpose on earth.

"Because of this conviction, we now appeal to all Southern Baptists to join us in prayer for Rwanda and for the church

there," they wrote. "We pray that:

1. The Lord will preserve His church (Christian believers) in Rwanda.

2. The church will be strengthened by what is happening in Rwanda and thus be better equipped for ministry.

3. The will of the Lord will be done in Rwanda as it is in heaven.

"These are not simple prayers. They are full of implications that must be acted out by the church. But, if peace is to come, it will be because God's people have united their hearts in crying out to God."

The prayer request, the missionaries explained, is an intentional effort to call American Christians to "spiritual warfare" on behalf of Rwanda.

"I don't know how many people in America pray like this, but we do all the time in Rwanda — because the reality of demons and the powers of darkness have been evident in Rwanda long before the evil made the world headlines," one missionary told Baptist Press.

# I know HE IS ABLE

2 Timothy 1:12

## Preview of the 1994 SBC Annual Meeting

June 14-16, Orlando, Fla.

### SBC messengers to elect new president

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptists will gather for their 137th annual meeting June 14-16 at Orlando's Orange County Convention/Civic Center to elect a new president, conduct business and hear testimonies on the theme, "For I know...He is Able."

Two conservative pastors have announced they will be nominated for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency: Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. Current president H. Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, will step down after two one-year terms.

The "Cross Over Orlando" evangelistic campaign will precede the convention as will a host of other related meetings such as the Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

Organizers have planned a full schedule with the first election of officers scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Tuesday. The Baptist Sunday School Board's report will conclude the Tuesday night session and the Wednesday night session will be a combined presentation by the Foreign and Home Mission boards.

Although there have been predictions of 27,000 messengers at the Orlando meeting, Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, said he forecasts 23,000 to 25,000, a large increase over the 18,000 registered last year in Houston.

Theme testimonies will draw on experiences of people

who have walked through difficult times but who testify, "I know He is able," taken from II Timothy 1:12.

The convention facility is being enlarged and could cause some congestion. One entrance will be closed and there will be only one entrance and one exit available for all traffic.

Seating will be limited and overflow areas are being planned. Parking lots are adjacent to the center with about 3,500 spaces at \$3 per day. Parking at the center itself will accommodate 1,700 vehicles at \$4 per day.

A limited shuttle service from hotels along the busy International Drive will run from Monday morning through Thursday at \$1 per trip. A new "I-Ride" bus service is tentatively scheduled to begin June 5 along International Boulevard as well.

Porter said registration will open at 4 p.m. June 12 and 8 a.m. June 13-14. Registration will close sometime after 9 p.m. each night.

Those needing messengers cards can get them from state convention offices, Porter said. Churches must elect messengers and the cards must be filled out ahead of time. With a properly filled out card, Porter said a messenger can expect to register in five minutes.

"If he doesn't have a card and needs to go before the credentials committee, it will take some time,"

noted Porter, associate pastor of St. Andrew Baptist Church in Panama City, Fla.

Also, a church which sends messengers must, in the previous SBC year (Sept. 30, 1992, to Oct. 1, 1993), have been a bona fide contributor to the work of the SBC, Porter said. New church and new missions organized after Oct. 1, 1993, will have to wait until next year, he explained.

#### PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



Jim Henry  
pastor, First Baptist  
Church,  
Orlando, Fla.



Fred Wolfe  
pastor, Cottage Hill  
Baptist Church,  
Mobile, Ala.

### Arkansans well represented on '94 SBC program

Arkansas Baptists will be well represented on the program of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and related events in Orlando, Fla. Serving on the Committee on Order of Business is L. Bert Miller, administrator of operations for First Church, Springdale.

Providing inspirational music for the opening session Tuesday, June 14, will be the combined youth choir of First Church, Crossett. The 90-voice choir, led by minister of music Wayne Grothman and music associate Michael Peeler, will join several other choirs from across the SBC for the convention's opening music presentation.

In the Tuesday afternoon session, Joe Atchison, director of missions for Northwest Association, will lead a prayer. He served last year as Nominating Committee chairman.

Pam Veteto, wife of Independence Association director of missions Danny Veteto, will give a testimony at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Jerry Cooper, pastor of Harvey's Chapel Church in Hot Springs and chairman of the Denominational Calendar Committee, will present the committee's report Wednesday, June 15 at 8:55 a.m.

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, will preach June 12 at 2:50 p.m. at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. Floyd also preached at last year's conference.

Diana Lewis, a Southern Baptist home missionary serving in Benton, will speak about "God's Unique Way of Loving" during the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. Lewis will speak during the Monday morning session on June 13.



# Southern Baptist Convention

June 14-16 • Orange County Convention Center • Orlando, Fla.

## Tuesday Morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration – Southern Baptist Convention Student Choir, Byron Cutrer, director
- 8:30 Call to Order  
 Congregational Singing – Ragan M. Vandergriff III, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.  
 Prayer – Lewis E. Adkinson, pastor, Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention – Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) – Fred Powell, chairman
- 8:45 Welcome – Pat Williams, general manager, Orlando Magic basketball team, Orlando
- 8:50 Response – James L. Sullivan, retired president, Baptist Sunday School Board
- 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:00 Crossover Orlando – Jay Strack, SBC first vice president
- 9:05 Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report – Stephen P. Carleton, secretary-treasurer
- 9:15 SBC Canada Planning Group Report – Larry L. Lewis, president, SBC Home Mission Board
- 9:25 Theme Testimony – Bo Mitchell, Mission Service Corps volunteer, Winter Haven, Fla.
- 9:35 Denominational Press Report – Herbert V. Hollinger, vice president for Convention News, SBC Executive Committee
- 9:45 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 10:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) – Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer, SBC Executive Committee
- 10:55 Congregational Singing – Gary Moore, convention music director, minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 11:00 Music – Caedmon's Call, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 11:10 President's Address – H. Edwin Young, SBC president, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston

## Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration – Babbie Mason, Christian artist, Eastside Baptist Church, Marletta, Ga.
- 1:30 Congregational Singing – Ken Harley, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Va.  
 Prayer – Joseph W. Atchison, director of missions, Northwest Association, Rogers, Ark.
- 1:35 Business  
 Committee on Order of Business (Second Report)  
 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 1:45 Theme Testimony – Beverly Terrell, Christian vocalist, Houston
- 1:55 Congregational Singing – Steve White, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Merritt Island, Fla.
- 2:00 Baptist World Alliance Report – Denton Lotz
- 2:10 Annuity Board Report – Paul W. Powell
- 2:20 Education Commission Report – Stephen P. Carleton
- 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report – William E. Bell Jr., chairman
- 3:00 Executive Committee Report (Part Two)
- 3:50 Theme Testimony – Pam Veteto, homemaker, Batesville, Ark.



- 4:00 Messenger Information Survey – David W. Atchison, SBC recording secretary
- 4:05 Music
- 4:10 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:20 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 4:40 Election of Officers (Second)

## Tuesday Evening

- 6:10 Music for Inspiration – Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Bob Reeder, director, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- 6:25 Congregational Singing – Bob Reeder  
 Prayer – David Butler, pastor, Springdale Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.
- 6:30 Theme Testimony – Rachelle Hood-Phillips, corporate vice president, Miami
- 6:40 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report)
- 6:45 Congregational Singing – Steve Skinner, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.
- 6:50 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:00 Brotherhood Commission Report – James D. Williams
- 7:10 Christian Life Commission Report – Richard D. Land
- 7:20 Christian Life Commission and Brotherhood Commission Presentation
- 7:40 Congregational Singing – Steve Phillips, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C.
- 7:45 Sunday School Board Report – James T. Draper Jr.
- 7:55 Sunday School Board Presentation

## Wednesday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration – Michael Sandifer, Christian artist, Belmont Church, Nashville
- 8:40 Pat Butler, Soloist, Sanctuary Choir, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 8:50 Congregational Singing – Gary Moore  
 Prayer – Terry Little, pastor, Pines Baptist Church, Spokane, Wash.
- 8:55 Denominational Calendar Report – Jerry R. Cooper, chairman, pastor, Harvey's Chapel Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark.
- 9:00 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee – John R. "Jack" Wilkerson
- 9:05 Theme Testimony – Jack R. Smith, personal evangelism consultant, Atlanta
- 9:15 Congregational Singing – Randy Elrod, minister of music, First Baptist Church of Indian Rock, Largo, Fla.
- 9:20 Bold Mission Thrust Report – Morris H. Chapman
- 9:30 Election of Officers (Fourth)

- 9:35 Introduction of Past Presidents
- 9:45 Seminary Reports & Presentation - Seminary Presidents
- 10:45 Theme Testimony - Cecil Sims, executive director-treasurer, Northwest Baptist Convention
- 10:55 Business
  - Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report)
  - Introduction of Business and Resolutions (Last Time)
- 11:00 Previously Scheduled Business
- 11:15 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 11:25 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:30 Music - Sherry Orr Ministries, Killarney Street Baptist Church, Winter Park, Fla.
- 11:40 Convention Sermon - Bobby N. Boyles, pastor, Eagle Heights Church, Oklahoma City

## NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### Wednesday Evening

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration - Music Ministry, First Baptist Church, Orlando
- 6:25 Congregational Singing - Ragan M. Vandergriff III  
Prayer - Paul S. James, executive director emeritus, Baptist Convention of New York
- 6:30 Business
  - Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)
  - Election of Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director 1995
- 6:40 Congregational Singing - Gary Middleton, minister of music, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.
- 6:45 Theme Testimony - Thomas Smith, foreign missionary, Sierra Leone
- 6:55 Woman's Missionary Union Report - Dellanna W. O'Brien
- 7:05 Foreign Mission Board Report - Jerry A. Rankin
- 7:15 Home Mission Board Report - Larry L. Lewis
- 7:25 Foreign and Home Mission Board Presentation
- 8:50 Commitment Invitation

### Thursday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration - Steve Sweet, Christian artist, First Baptist Church, Orlando
- 8:50 Congregational Singing - Gary Moore  
Prayer - John L. Yeats, pastor, South Park Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas
- 8:55 Stewardship Commission Report - A.R. "Rudy" Fagan
- 9:05 American Bible Society Report - Eugene B. Habecker
- 9:15 Memorial Service
- 9:20 Radio and Television Commission Report - Jack B. Johnson
- 9:30 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 9:40 Theme Testimony - Arturo Cobo, Cuban Refugee Center coordinator, Key West, Fla.
- 9:50 Historical Commission Report - Lynn E. May Jr.
- 10:00 Southern Baptist Foundation Report - Hollis E. Johnson
- 10:10 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers
- 10:15 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 10:20 Theme Testimony - Karen Thomas, crisis pregnancy counselor, Paducah, Ky.
- 10:30 Congregational Singing - Gary Moore
- 10:35 Previously Scheduled Business
- 10:45 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 11:15 Music - Dick and Mel Tunney, Christian artists, Christ Community Church, Franklin, Tenn.
- 11:25 Message - Frederick Sampson, pastor, Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit
- 12:00 Benediction - Jim Richards, pastor, Southminister Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

## Seminary Alumni meetings

All six Southern Baptist seminaries will host alumni meetings June 15 in conjunction with the June 14-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

### Southwestern Seminary

Rebekah Naylor, William O. Crews and Walter Reid have been chosen to receive the 1994 Distinguished Alumni Award from Southwestern Seminary. The three will be honored at a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel.

Naylor is a Southern Baptist missionary to India; Crews is president of Golden Gate Seminary; and Reid is the retired pastor of South Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Tickets for the alumni luncheon may be purchased by sending \$13 to the Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122.

### Southern Seminary

Southern Seminary will honor four distinguished alumni: Harold Bennett, president emeritus of the SBC Executive Committee; Winston Crawley, retired vice president of the Foreign Mission Board; Verlene Farmer, Baptist Student Union director at Langston (Okla.) University; and David Nelson, retired pastor of First Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky.

They will be honored at a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Peabody Hotel. Tickets are \$8.50 each in advance and \$10.50 at the convention and can be ordered from the Office of Alumni Services, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

### Southeastern Seminary

Southeastern Seminary will host a luncheon for alumni and friends at noon. The luncheon will be in Florida Rooms II and III of the Peabody Hotel. Southeastern president Paige Patterson will be the keynote speaker.

Cost of the luncheon is \$12 per adult. There is a children's menu available for \$6 per child. Make reservations through the Southeastern Alumni Office at 919-556-3101.

### New Orleans Seminary

New Orleans Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be a breakfast at 7:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Orlando's First Baptist Church. The 1994 distinguished alumnus award recipient is Charles R. Barnes, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware.

Tickets may be purchased from the Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Tickets ordered before June 1 will cost \$6 each; after June 1 they will cost \$7.50 each.

### Midwestern Seminary

Gary Farley, director of town and country missions at the Home Mission Board, and Paul Swadley, pastor of South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., have been selected as 1994 Alumni of the Year. They will be honored during a luncheon at the convention center in room 6A-B.

Advance tickets may be purchased for \$12 each from the Alumni Office, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118 or for \$15 at the booth in the convention exhibit hall.

### Golden Gate Seminary

The Golden Gate alumni association will honor Henry Blackaby, co-author of "Experiencing God" and "Fresh Encounter," with the 1994 Alumni Achievement Award at a luncheon at 12:15 in Room 8A/B of the convention center.

Tickets for the event may be purchased by sending \$14 to the Office of Alumni Relations, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

## SBC Pastors' Conference

June 12-13 • Orange County Convention Center • Orlando, Fla.

### Sunday Afternoon

### A Heart for Evangelism

- 1:50 Pre-Session Choral Praise  
 2:00 Welcome – Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Pastors' Conference president, Fayetteville, Ga.  
 2:03 Scripture and Prayer – John Sullivan, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention  
 2:08 Musical Praise – Point of Grace, Christian concert artists, Nashville, Tenn.  
 2:15 Message – Ted Traylor, pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.  
 2:40 Praise and Worship – Michael Wells, minister of worship, Brae Inn Baptist Church, Peachtree City, Ga.  
 2:45 Greetings and Welcome – James T. Draper Jr., president, Baptist Sunday School Board  
 2:50 Message – Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.  
 3:15 Prayer and Offering – Charles Roesel, pastor, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla.  
 3:18 Choral Praise – New Hope Baptist Church Choir & Orchestra  
 3:20 Message – Calvin Miller, professor of communications, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
 3:45 Musical Praise – Point of Grace  
 3:50 Testimonial Message – Rick Stanley, evangelist, Fayetteville, Ga.  
 4:05 Musical Praise – Jack Price, music evangelist, Garland, Texas  
 4:10 Message – Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

### Sunday Evening

### A Heart for the World

- 6:25 Pre-Session Choral Praise  
 6:30 Praise & Worship – Roger Christian, minister of music, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.  
 6:35 Scripture & Prayer – John Yarbrough, pastor, First Baptist Church, Perry, Ga.  
 6:40 Musical Praise – Newsong, Christian concert artists, Atlanta  
 6:50 Message – Tom Eliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.  
 7:20 Praise & Worship – Roger Christian  
 7:25 Welcome – Morris Chapman, president, Southern Baptist Executive Committee  
 7:30 Message – Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas  
 7:50 Prayer & Offering – Fred Lowery, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.  
 7:55 Musical Praise – Newsong  
 8:00 Message – Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.  
 8:30 Foreign Mission Board Commissioning Service – Jerry Rankin, president, Foreign Mission Board

### Monday Morning

### A Heart for the Family

- 8:30 Choral Praise  
 8:40 Praise & Worship – Denny Dawson, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn.  
 8:45 Scripture & Prayer – Robert McGee, president, Rapha  
 8:50 Musical Praise – Al Holley, music evangelist, Atlanta

- 9:00 Message – Tony Evans, pastor, Oakcliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas  
 9:30 Musical Praise – SpiritBound, Christian concert artists, Nashville  
 9:40 Message – Zig Ziglar, president, Zig Ziglar Corp., Dallas  
 10:10 Praise & Worship – Denny Dawson  
 10:15 Prayer & Offering – Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville  
 10:20 Choral Praise  
 10:30 Testimonial Message – Bobby Bowden, head football coach, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla.  
 10:50 Musical Praise – SpiritBound  
 10:55 Message – John Maxwell, InJoy Ministries, El Cajon, Calif.

### Monday Afternoon

### A Heart for the Church

- 1:20 Choral Praise  
 1:30 Scripture & Prayer – Timothy George, dean, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.  
 1:35 Message – Larry Wynn, pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.  
 2:00 Choral Praise  
 2:10 Message – James Merritt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga.  
 2:35 Musical Praise – 4 Him, Christian concert artist, Nashville  
 2:40 Election of Officers  
 3:00 Message – Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 3:30 Prayer & Offering – Jack Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas  
 3:35 Praise & Worship – Kim Noblitt, minister of music, Daughin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.  
 3:40 Special 50 Year Recognition of W.A. Criswell – presentation by O.S. Hawkins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, and "Ike" Reighard  
 3:50 Musical Praise – 4 Him  
 4:00 Message – Jerry Falwell, president, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

### Monday Evening

### A Heart for America

- 6:30 Patriotic Opener – Truth, Christian concert artists, Mobile, Ala., Roger Breland, director  
 6:35 Welcome – Ed Young, president, Southern Baptist Convention, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston  
 6:40 Scripture & Prayer – Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
 6:45 Introduction of 1995 Pastors' Conference Officers  
 6:50 Home Mission Board's Here's Hope America – Thad Hamilton, director of personal evangelism, HMB  
 7:10 Musical Praise – Truth  
 7:15 Message – Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.  
 7:45 Prayer & Offering – Richard Lee, pastor, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.  
 7:50 Musical Praise – Larry Brubaker, minister of instrumental music, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.  
 7:55 Message – Jack Kemp, co-director, Empower America, Washington  
 8:25 Praise & Worship – Mass Choir  
 8:30 Testimonial Message – Clebe McClary, director, Clebe McClary Ministries, Pawley's Island, S.C.  
 8:50 Musical Praise – Truth  
 9:00 Message – Charles Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta  
 9:30 Grand Finale Celebration – The Church Triumphant

# Woman's Missionary Union

June 12-13 • First Baptist Church • Orlando, Fla.

**Sunday Afternoon**      **Growing in Love**

- 2:15 Pre-session music  
 2:30 Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller, WMU president, Huntsville, Ala.  
 Hymns – Anna Keith, West Palm Beach, Fla., directing  
 Invocation – Nancy Sullivan, wife of state executive director, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Theme Interpretation – Barbara Joiner, author and speaker, Columbiana, Ala.  
 Greetings – Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando  
 Announcements  
 Message: See How Love Works – Susan Broadwell, home missionary, Tampa, Fla.  
 Testimony: When Work and Ministry Mix – Rachelle Hood-Phillips, mission action participant, Miami  
 Hymns  
 Special Music – First Baptist Church Choir, Orlando  
 Dialogue: Growing Churches – John Wright, foreign missionary, Japan; Robert Cochran, home missionary, West Palm Beach, Fla.  
 Testimony: A Witness that Is Consistent – Idessia Rutman, mission action participant, Frostproof, Fla.  
 Prayer Calendar – Rhonda Wright, Japan; Debbie Cochran, West Palm Beach, Fla.  
 4:30 Musical Benediction – Anna Keith

**Sunday Evening**      **International Missions Fair**

- 5:30 "It's a Big, Big, World" is the theme of the International Missions Fair at the Clarion Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. It will include dozens of missions booths with home and foreign missionaries to interpret their work. Puppets, choirs, dramas, flags, local ministries and many other things will be featured during the evening. The fair is free, but tickets must be purchased in advance for the meal. Adults, \$12; Children, \$6. (Order tickets with payment enclosed by May 20. WMU Annual Meeting 1994, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.)

**Monday Morning**      **Ministering in Love**

- 9:20 Music for Meditation  
 9:30 Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller  
 Hymns  
 Invocation – Ellen Tanner, wife of state executive director, Edmond, Okla.  
 Theme Interpretation – Barbara Joiner  
 Announcements  
 Message: God's Unique Way of Loving – Diana Lewis, home missionary, Benton, Ark.  
 Testimony: God's Love Calls Forth My Love – Heather Barron, mission action participant, Lexington, Ky.  
 Hymn  
 Executive Board Report – Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director  
 Presentation of National Acteens Panelists – Sharon Vincent, Birmingham, Ala.; Jennie Kaye Bell, Murray, Ky.; Kayla Katherine Giska, Wisner, La.; Sornalay Rasavong, Amarillo, Texas; Cynthia A. Segura, Waco, Texas

Message: Ministering Through Second Century Fund – Patricia Stooksbury, foreign missionary, Knoxville, Tenn.

- Offering  
 Solo: "I'll Tell It Now" – Anna Keith  
 Hunger Presentation  
 Hymn  
 Message: Love Has a Way – Kenneth and Beth Perkins, Cooperative Services International, Kenya  
 Testimony: We Offer Outstretched Hands – Martha Robison, mission action participant, Shelby, N.C.  
 Prayer Calendar – Rhonda Wright, Debbie Cochran  
 12:00 Musical Benediction – Anna Keith

**Monday Afternoon**      **Witnessing in Love**

- 1:50 Music for Meditation  
 2:00 Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller  
 Hymns  
 Invocation – Judy Lyle, wife of state executive director, Northboro, Mass.  
 Theme Interpretation – Barbara Joiner  
 Announcements  
 Introduction of Local Committee  
 Growing Through Prayer – Mary Helen Dixon, WMU development specialist, Birmingham, Ala.  
 Message: Love Speaks – Herberto Becerra, home missionary, Fairview, N.J.  
 Testimony: Chosen by God to Bear Fruit – Patti Seal, mission action participant, Smithville, Tenn.  
 Hymn  
 Introduction of National Acteens Panelists – Sylvia DeLoach, Birmingham, Ala.; Melissa Kay Bryant, Shelbyville, Ky.; Megan Johnston, Springfield, Mo.; Carrie-Ann Segraves, Huntingdon, Tenn.; Ashley Marie Ward, Florence, S.C.  
 Special Music – First Baptist Church, Orlando  
 Message: Love Shows the Way – William Cashion, foreign missionary, Venezuela  
 Testimony: Sharing Your Faith Through Bible Study – Barbara Jean Davis, mission action participant, Wachula, Fla.  
 Prayer Calendar – Kay Richardson, home missionary, Annandale, Va.; Charlotte Cearley, foreign missionary, Zimbabwe  
 4:15 Musical Benediction – Anna Keith

**Monday Evening**      **Risking in Love**

- 6:50 Pre-session Music  
 7:00 Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller  
 Hymns  
 Invocation – Alice Marshall, wife of state executive director, Louisville, Ky.  
 Theme Interpretation – Barbara Joiner  
 Announcements  
 Message: Love Works in Difficult Places – William Harrington, foreign missionary, Tanzania  
 Testimony  
 Hymn  
 Special Music – First Baptist Church Choir, Orlando  
 Message: Love Sticks Its Neck Out – Michael Williams, home missionary, Orange, N.J.  
 Testimony: Love Never Ends – Susan Smith, Cayce, S.C.  
 Prayer Calendar – Kay Richardson, Charlotte Cearley  
 8:40 Musical Benediction – Anna Keith

## RELATED MEETINGS

### Religious educators

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Tony Compolo and Kenneth Cooper will be among the featured speakers during the June 11-13 "CEO: Claiming Education Opportunities" meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association at the Hyatt Orlando.

Compolo, a popular Christian speaker and author, is sociology department chairman at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa. Cooper, who sparked the international aerobics movement, is the founder of the Cooper Clinic in Dallas and author of numerous books.

Compolo will speak at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 11; Cooper will speak at 7 p.m. the following day.

Three two-hour sessions during the program will be devoted to concerns facing ministers in specific areas or age groups. The sessions will focus on "the hard issues facing each of these groups," said Bill Taylor, minister of education at North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church and president of the association.

Other speakers on the SBREA program will be Dan Yeary, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church; Don Newbury, president of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas; and Carol Childress, research specialist with Leadership Network in Tyler, Texas.

### Church musicians

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—The 1994 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will be June 12-13 at College Park Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla.

"Together in Jesus" will be the conference theme. It will be "an emphasis celebrating the common threads of SBC music ministers and musicians," said conference president Mark Blankenship, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Genevox Music Group.

Program features include worship services at 6:45 p.m. Sunday and Monday, June 12-13, with preaching by Dan Yeary, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church; an orchestra concert and demonstration by Florida Baptist church instrumentalists at 3:30 p.m. June 12; and a panel discussion on "Innovative Music Ministry" at 9 a.m. June 13.

Small-group sessions, on such topics as "The College/Seminary Music Department: PR or Academics?" and "Music Ministry Needs of Ethnic Churches," will be at 2 p.m. June 13.

### Directors of missions

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—"Minister, Manager, Missionary" will be the theme of the 33rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational

Directors of Missions. The June 12-13 meeting will be held at the Orlando Marriott.

Six associational directors of missions will address the theme during session at 1 p.m. on June 12 and 8 a.m. on June 13. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead Bible studies during both sessions.

Frank Boyd, an association secretary of Baptist work in Southampton, England, will speak on associational leadership from the European perspective during the Sunday afternoon session.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be among the speakers during a 7 p.m. banquet June 12 sponsored by the HMB. Paul Powell, president of the Annuity Board, will address a 12:30 p.m. luncheon June 13 sponsored by the Annuity Board.

### Campus ministers

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Richard Ross, one of the organizers of the "True Love Waits" campaign, will be among the speakers during the 1994 annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers. The June 10-12 sessions will be at Rollins College in Orlando, Fla.

Ross will speak during the 9:30 a.m. session June 11 on today's youth and how they will affect college ministry in the future. George Louterback, a special consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas who is coordinating a study of student work in the state, will speak during the 7 p.m. session June 11.

### Conference of Evangelists

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—"More than Conquerors: Spiritual Warfare in the Man, the Ministry and the Marketplace" will be the theme of the 1994 Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists meeting.

The session will be Wednesday afternoon, June 15, beginning at 1 p.m. in the Orange County Convention/Civic Center in Orlando, Fla.

E.V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles; evangelist Perry Neal of Montgomery, Ala.; and music and drama evangelist Jim McNiel of St. Louis will be the featured speakers.

Among the featured musicians will be Truth and vocalist Janet Paschal of Nashville, Tenn.

### Baptist chaplains

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptist chaplains will meet Monday, June 13, to discuss "Evangelical Chaplaincy in the Post-Christian Era." The convocation is set for 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Orlando's Navy Training Center.

The guest speaker for the luncheon will be Larry Elliott, director of mission ministries for the Florida Baptist Convention.

For more information or to make a reservation, call the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board chaplaincy division at 404-898-7445.

### Ethnic fellowships

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Several ethnic Baptist fellowships will meet in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla.

The Hispanic Fellowship meeting will be held June 11-12 at First Baptist Church of Pine Hills in Orlando. Featured speakers will include international evangelist Jose Borras and Bob Sena, assistant director of Hispanic church growth at the Home Mission Board. Also featured will be issues-focused seminars and a music festival.

The African America Fellowship's annual meeting will begin with a 5 p.m. worship service June 12 at Tangelo Park Baptist Church in Orlando. Fred Luther, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, will be the featured speaker. An orientation session, business session and luncheon are scheduled for June 13.

The Chinese Baptist Fellowship will meet June 11-13 at the Harley Hotel. Among the featured speakers will be Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board; James Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission; and Oscar Romo, HMB director of language missions.

The Filipino Baptist Fellowship will meet from 2 to 9:30 p.m. June 16 at Neptune Road Baptist Church in Kissimmee, Fla.

The Messianic Southern Baptist Fellowship will meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 13 in the overflow room of the Orange County Convention/Civic Center. Among the speakers will be Sam Keller, a staff member of "Focus on the Family."

### Ministers' wives

ORLANDO, FL—Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, will be the featured speaker at the 1994 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon. "Joy in the Journey" is the theme of the luncheon which will be held at noon on June 14 at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando, Fla.

Luncheon tickets purchased before May 20 will be \$18 each. Advanced tickets may be purchased by mailing a check for \$18 to Sherry Blankenship, P.O. Box 489, Paris, TX 75461. Tickets will be available at the convention for \$20 each.

# Prayer remains key focus for Drumwright

By Don Martin  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—With her eyes open and head up, Minette Drumwright began praying for China as she climbed to one of the highest points of the Great Wall.

"We couldn't make any public Christian indications (in that sensitive setting). We needed to pray conversationally, as though our Lord were right there as a literal part of our discussion, because He was and is," said Drumwright, who retired March 31 as director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office.

She and 17 other Southern Baptists prayed for China's lost people as they walked on the wall's hand-chiseled steps, worn smooth by millions of others drawn to the awesome site. The group, casting aside normal protocol for prayer, focused wide-eyed on the Asian nation of more than 1.2 billion people and even on individuals they passed on the stone walkway.

"We went to World A to be a part of challenging Satan's power and the darkness he creates," Drumwright said, recalling the 21-day "prayer pilgrimage" last year. It took the group to several countries in World A — that part of the globe that has had little or no exposure to the gospel — including Uzbekistan and Mongolia.

Drumwright considers the time on the Great Wall as one of the high points in her leadership of the mission prayer effort.

"Volunteers go to the mission field for different reasons," she said at a recent prayer conference. "Some go to dig wells, some go to do medical projects, some go to teach and many go for partnership evangelism. This (prayer pilgrimage) group went to do the most crucial work of prayer and intercession, to employ prayer as a strategy."

Viewing prayer as the ultimate missions strategy has been a cornerstone of her work. She brought this conviction to the prayer office when she became its leader in 1985, after working as assistant to the board's executive vice president for nearly three years.

Drumwright, a native of San Antonio, Texas, is the widow of the late Huber L. Drumwright, who died in 1981. Her husband had been dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and was executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at the time of his death.

"When I came to the Foreign Mission Board in '82, I was still reeling from the trauma of my husband's death and



Minette Drumwright, retired international prayer strategy director for the Foreign Mission Board, visits with her daughters, Debra Underwood (left) and Meme Perry.

struggling with how to 'do life' without his life, love and laughter," she said at a board gathering to recognize her recent retirement.

"I came here in brokenness, with no comprehension of the joy that lay ahead. The Lord and the Foreign Mission Board gave me the most wonderful gift ... by giving me this work to do."

***"Any ministry begins,  
ends and proceeds  
with prayer."***

—Minette Drumwright

Drumwright's work included the launching of the board's toll-free missions PrayerLine (1-800-359-PRAY), which now averages more than 10,000 calls a month. A new text telephone line (1-800-414-PRAY) for hearing-impaired callers will soon be added.

She and her prayer office co-workers, Terri Willis and Joanie Marsh, also have channeled thousands of foreign missions prayer requests into Southern Baptist publications that reach more than 1 million homes a month.

That's not all. Drumwright also:

- Guided the production of the Global PrayerGram, which distributes FMB missionaries' urgent prayer requests.

- Administered the Global Prayer Network, which enlists the prayers of Baptists all over the world.

- Helped coordinate prayer partner-

ships with 14 state Baptist conventions.

- Launched the "First Sunday Concert of Prayer," which encourages churches to focus on praying for the lost world on the first Sunday of each month.

- Directed the annual Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization and worked with more than 1,000 Southern Baptist churches that have committed to pray for a specific unreached people group.

Experience has taught Drumwright and board leaders that prayer works in missions.

"There's no question that the scope of prayer support generated by this kind of emphasis has a direct link with the significant results we're experiencing around the world," said FMB president Jerry Rankin.

Drumwright's retirement plans include part-time seminary teaching and possibly one or more short-term missions assignments. And, she quickly adds, she plans "to experience the adventure of grandmothering" at a new level with her three grandchildren.

Drumwright also will lead two more prayer pilgrimages in the coming months — one in Latin America and another in North Africa.

"My retirement doesn't change the emphasis of prayer in my life," she said. "It's really sobering how much importance God puts on prayer and on our role in how He accomplishes His will and His work."

"I came to work at the board believing any ministry begins, ends and proceeds with prayer, and that certainly has not changed."

# Pike Avenue, Gethsemane vote to merge

By Russell N. Dilday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The congregations of Pike Avenue Church and Gethsemane Church, both in North Little Rock, voted April 24 to merge into one congregation and serve together in Gethsemane's facilities. The merger promises to give Pike Avenue members a new ministry location, while giving Gethsemane members an injection of "enthusiasm."

Mike Seabaugh, pastor of Pike Avenue since 1989, said Gethsemane is in a middle class neighborhood "right in the heart of where many of the members have already moved. We did not vote to relocate in the richest neighborhood, we did not relocate out on I-40. We voted to say, 'Lord, we're willing for you to show us where it is we're supposed to be.'"

Seabaugh said ideas for a merger took shape after the church participated in a study that classified Pike Avenue as a "declining congregation in a transitional neighborhood."

He recalled that, despite community outreach projects, Pike Avenue's numbers and finances have continued to decline over the years. "We really felt like the door was closed in that ministry there in the sense that though we were doing things, we weren't seeing the confirmation of 'that's what your ministry is supposed to be' that comes with growth and the Lord meeting those needs."

He said the church "came to a conclusion to study what our identity is, our purpose is and what our responsibilities are as a congregation." The congregation began an internal study they called Challenge 2000. Seabaugh used *Great Commission Breakthrough* materials, *The Handbook for Congregation Studies* and other resources to conduct the study while using *Experiencing God* materials to explore God's will.

"In the study we began to see we were growing in certain areas, that God was

doing something here and we were attracted to people," recounted Seabaugh. "Then we asked, 'What can we do to augment that?'" He said the church's answer was to relocate. "Out of what we had been, God is creating something for the future."

As Pike Avenue studied its ministry and vision during Challenge 2000, Bill Sultor, Gethsemane's chairman of deacons, contacted Seabaugh.

"Bill and the deacons of Gethsemane approached me and basically said, 'We have no vision. We need a vision and we are excited about the things that are being done' at Pike Avenue. Gethsemane has been without a pastor for almost a year.

## 'Enthusiasm and goals'

Sultor said Pike Avenue members will bring "enthusiasm and goals" to Gethsemane. "We have been without any goals for the past five or six years and that's one of the reasons we have declined in attendance. We kind of have gone to church, and that's it," he commented.

Sultor said Pike Avenue also will benefit from the merger. "We have more youth, we have an energetic congregation, but we have been stagnant for a long time. We are ready to do something, grow a church and reach out to the lost."

"One of the big factors," Seabaugh said of the decision, "was that Pike Avenue feels like we have ministry and are located in a place that still needs a ministry. But maybe God wants us to get out of the way.

We are committed to see a ministry come in here and reach the downtown area."

He said Glory Land Church, a black Southern Baptist congregation, has approached him about purchasing the Pike Avenue facilities. Pike Avenue has worked out a no-interest payment plan, but Glory Land is struggling to raise a down payment.

"We are committed to see another congregation come in here and would love for Glory Land to have this building," said Seabaugh.

He said Pike Avenue's decision was "a tremendously painful process, but also a loving, patient forgiving process."

"Pike Avenue is not a fly-by-night congregation," he said. "It's been here for 50 years as a wonderful ministry. It has had wonderful days, it has had some excellent pastors and its influence has been far-reaching. Then you have some young, idealistic pastor come in and say, 'All of that has to change.' That doesn't sit well. Change is always difficult."

But, said Seabaugh, "the church is the people, not the building. It's a resource and a tool that God has given us."

The merger will take place on June 5, Pike Avenue's 50th anniversary. The two congregations will sign the merger documents and the name of the new church will be unveiled.

Sultor said the last services for both congregations will be "real emotional. There's going to be some gladness and some sadness but it has been a real good experience for all of us."



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## YOUTH

### Arkansas youth earn state honors

Three young men from Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock earned top honors in the recent High School Baptist Young Men "Speak Out" tournament. The tournament was part of a statewide congress sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist Brotherhood department.

In addition to the annual speakers' tournament, activities included basketball and swimming events. The congress was launched with a banquet hosted by Immanuel Church in Little Rock. Tim Bearden of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission was the speaker.

Dustin Turner was the first place winner for the "Speak Out," an event that provides young men an opportunity to speak publicly about the HSBYM's program and their participation in missions. A video of Turner's speech has been submitted to the national Jerry Clower Speak Out tournament sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. Brad Johnson and Rip Young finished second and third in the state.

Calvary Church in Little Rock hosted a senior high basketball competition that was won by Central Church, North Little Rock. Mike Totty of Lepanto First Church won hot shot first place with Mark Patrick, a member of Central Church in North Little Rock, finishing second. Third place was awarded to Matthew McAnally, a member of First Church, Amity.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock also hosted a senior high basketball competition that was won by Southside Church in Paragould. Hot shot winners were: Jay Stroud and Bryan Brooks, members of the host church, first and second, and Jonathan McLaughlin, a member of Fairfield Bay Church, third.

Immanuel Church of Little Rock hosted the junior high competition with the host church's team winning the event. First Church of West Memphis placed second. Wesley Byers, a member of First Church in Monticello, was hot shot winner. The junior high sportsmanship award went to Central Church, North Little Rock.

Swimming competition winners included Johnathon Hall, a member of Second Church in Little Rock, first place in speed, second place in back and breast stroke and freestyle. Tim Gibson, a member of Lake Hamilton Church of Hot Springs, placed first in freestyle and breast stroke, second in speed and third in back stroke.

Jeff Brown, a member of Lake Hamilton Church of Hot Springs, placed first in back stroke competition and third in breast stroke with Paul Schimberg, a member of Second Church in El Dorado, was third in the speed event.





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**BAPTIST STUDENT UNION**

**Spring break means more than  
'going to the beach' for BSUers**

By Colleen Backus  
Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Take nine students, an aging van and drive across the country to participate in work projects — and call it "spring break." Darrell Cook, Baptist Student Union director for the University of Arkansas at Monticello, did just that. The Monticello BSU was among several in the state participating in mission projects during the recent spring semester break.

Cook's team went to Philadelphia, Penn., where they assisted Emmanuel Baptist Church in West Chester with work projects. The church, which has been meeting in a storefront, recently bought a 110-year old Presbyterian church that needed a great deal of clean-up work. The students did everything from waxing floors to handing out flyers, as well as leading services with dramatic worship. The church's pastor, Paul E. Broyles, said the group was "one of the most responsible and dedicated groups we have seen in a long time. They don't have a lazy bone in their bodies."

The Monticello students also handed out spiritual surveys at three Philadelphia area campuses. At West Chester University, the group canvassed 400 students and received 40 positive responses.

At the end of the week, Cook and the BSU students assisted at the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank, sorting and boxing food donated for 550 different relief organizations. The food bank's director, Gaynor Yancy, a former Southern Baptist home missionary, explained to the groups that there are 600,000 chronically hungry people in the Philadelphia area.

"I learned that people are just people, wherever you are," said Jennifer Lanier, a junior from Warren. "Whether you're from the North or the South, you've got to start with treating people right."

Ouachita Baptist University's BSU sent 28 students to a spot more traditionally thought of as spring break — the beach. The group, led by BSU director Ian Cosh, participated in a spring break ministry program conducted by First Baptist Church of Hilton Head Island, S.C., called "beach reach."

"It's a good balanced program," Cosh commented. "It's aimed inward at the students who participate and outward, giving them an opportunity to go out on the beach."

Ouachita students had a devotional time each morning to prepare themselves for their outreach on the beach in the after-

noons. The "beach reach" program also focuses on creative ministry ideas to help students build better relationships with those on the beach. "It's a window on the fact that there's a need for creative ministry out there — the same old way doesn't work anymore," Cosh noted.

He also pointed out that four OBU students were invited to work in the church's summer program. He felt their selection was an honor, since the program utilizes only 20 students nationwide.

BSU students from Henderson State University, under the leadership of Mark Robinson, assisted First Baptist Church of San Antonio with their homeless ministry. The 16 students participated in a variety of projects related to the homeless ministry.

In addition to feeding the homeless, one student group worked in a church-owned restaurant, where volunteers provide the labor and all profits go to the homeless mission. Another group handed out the "necessities" — towels, soap, etc. — at the mission and another group taught Vacation Bible School in the inner city.

The inner city area where the students were ministering in had three active gangs. One day the students arrived to teach VBS to find no one outside, only to learn later there had been a drive-by shooting just hours before. The only person they found was a gang member lying on the ground, who threw stones at the students.

**Life-changing impact**

"What was the most significant was that all the students came back with their priorities rearranged," Robinson said. "Some students even changed their major so they could do social work after college."

Students from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville went to Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans. The 18 students helped the ministry with physical needs each morning and led kids' clubs in the afternoon.

BSU director Lynn Lloyd explained that ministering in the French Quarter was difficult for some of the students, who were reluctant at first.

Rhonda Cowan, BSU outreach coordinator for U of A, noted that her witnessing partner was initially hesitant. But he soon "was struck by a real compassion for the people there and talked to as many people as he could."

For many Arkansas students, as well as those they touched, the experience could be summed up in the words of Cowan's partner, John Marshall. "It was a life-changing experience," he declared.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### Senior Adults: "Growing Older, Growing Wiser"

Arkansas Baptist senior adult will experience inspiration, fellowship, encouragement and leadership training as they celebrate "Growing Older...Growing Wiser" at the Senior Adult Celebration June 2-4 at Ouachita Baptist University.

The celebration, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, will feature speakers, worship and music. Department director Robert Holley said it also will feature "fun."

Holley said the program personnel will be an attractive draw for participants. "The program will feature speakers Bob Norman of Nashville, Tenn., an inspirational speaker and outstanding musician, and Irene Endicott, a speaker, writer and radio talk show host from Seattle," Holley noted. Endicott is the author of *Grandparenting Redefined* and co-author of *Grandparenting by Grace*, the new LIFE course by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The program also will feature conferences on growing older, spiritual life, financial management and grandparenting. Leadership training sessions for senior adult leadership will be led by Jay Johnston, senior adult consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Participants also will be able to participate in singing "He is Faithful," a musical drama based on the hymns of Fanny Crosby written expressly for the celebration by John Dresbach and Wanda Pearce.

The cost for the celebration is \$20 per person and includes program fees, breaks and a Friday night banquet featuring entertainers "Sam and Jesse." Lodging and meals are available on campus at an additional charge.

For more information, contact Holley at the ABCS discipleship and family ministry department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

### GA Camps feature ministry projects

Four events in July will offer Girls in Action and their mothers an opportunity to experience missions at Camp Paron. Two GA Mini-Camps, for girls who have finished the third through the sixth grades, will be held July 4-6 and July 6-8 and two GA Mother-Daughter Camps, for girls who have finished first through third grades, will be held July 1-2 and July 8-9.

All four camps will feature missionaries, singing, quiet times, crafts, recreation and swimming. Sandy Wisdom-Martin, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Woman's Missionary Union department, said the camps will have other special features.

"The camps will have different Hope for Hurting Humanity ministry projects in which all of the girls and their mothers can participate," she said. "Some of the projects will include back-to-school kits for disadvantaged children, assembling health kits and 'use-me' books, and working in a clothes closet."

Hope for Hurting Humanity is an effort to involve every Southern Baptist church in ministry projects during a six-week period, June 19-July 31.

Each Mini-Camp will begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude at 9:30 a.m. the following day. Each Mother-Daughter Camp will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 3 p.m. the following day.

The cost for the Mini-Camps is \$32 per person and includes insurance, five meals, lodging and program fees. The cost for the Mother-Daughter Camps is \$20 per person and includes insurance, three meals, lodging and program fees.

To request a registration form, contact Wisdom-Martin at the state WMU department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5137. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and registration is limited. Wisdom-Martin suggests a chaperone ratio of one woman for every five girls for the Mini-Camps.

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## Ouachita Baptist University

**Scholarship fund for twins announced** — Robert and Betty Oliver of North Little Rock recently established a scholarship fund to benefit twins who are both enrolled at Ouachita. The Ferguson-Oliver Scholarship Fund was initiated by the Olivers in memory of Mrs. Oliver's twin brother, Billy Carl Ferguson.

**"Ouachitonian" yearbook wins awards** — The 1993 "Ouachitonian" yearbook was awarded more first place Gold Circle Awards than any other university in the nation at the annual meeting of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) held recently in New York City. The yearbook received seven first place awards and a total of 16 Gold Circle Awards. Rachel Ward, senior communications major from Texarkana, was editor of the yearbook. Deborah Root, assistant professor of communication and director of development publications, serves as yearbook adviser.

**Dietetics program affirmed** — The OBU dietetics program in the home economics department is being recommended to prospective students all over the nation by the American Dietetic Association (ADA). Verna Akers, assistant professor of economics, is director of the program. **OBU professor has book published** — A book on the occult by OBU religion professor Bill Viser will hit bookstores this month. The book, *The Darkness Among Us: A Look at the Sinister Growth of the Occult and How Dangerously Close It is to You*, has been published by Broadman-Holman Press in Nashville, Tenn. Viser joined the OBU faculty in 1988.

**Gilbert wins Miss OBU title** — Jamie Dee Gilbert of Texarkana, a 19-year-old freshman music education major, was recently crowned 1994 Miss OBU. Her selection marks only the third time in the pageant's history that a freshman has been chosen. Gilbert will compete in the Miss Arkansas Pageant in June.

## Williams Baptist College


**Reeves elected head of scholars' group** — Rodney Reeves, chairman of the department of religion and philosophy at Williams, has been elected president of the southwest region of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. He also was appointed convener of the Pauline Theology Group of the Southwest Commission of religious studies, which meets annually in Dallas.

**Holloway addresses professors** — Joseph Holloway, assistant professor of religion and philosophy at WBC, addressed the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion during their recent meeting in Dallas. He spoke on the subject of "political correctness" as a part of a panel discussion.

**Hayes to coach WBC baseball** — Former professional baseball player Charles "Gabby" Hayes has been named the new coach of the Williams baseball team beginning in June. Hayes was a pitcher and pinch-hitter with the New York Yankees in 1962-66.

Hayes is a native of Black Rock, where he lives with his wife, Regina. He operates Hayes Roofing, and he will continue to run the business in addition to his coaching duties.

Current Williams baseball coach Danny Leasure is stepping down to devote more time to his job as head coach of the Eagles basketball team. Leasure also will coach the new Williams golf team, which begins play in the 1994-95 school year.



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## 'Embraced by the Light' book called Mormonism in disguise

By David Winfrey

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—A best-selling book by a woman claiming to have a message from Jesus is full of covert Mormon teachings and language, said Southern Baptist interfaith witness specialists.

*Embraced by the Light* by Betty J. Eadie has been on the *New York Times* best-seller list 49 weeks for hardcover non-fiction books, and recently reached No. 1.

Eadie claims to have died for five hours following an operation in November 1973. During that time, she wrote, Jesus took her to heaven and gave her a message for the world.

Although she dedicates the book to "The Light, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," the ideas "revealed" to her use Mormon phrases and theology, said Tal Davis, interim director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

"This thing is hard-core Mormon," Davis said. "It is purely Mormon content that is written in a style that would appeal to people who are looking for something non-threatening and non-dogmatic."

Eadie, however, never identifies herself as a Mormon in the book, said Robert McKay, associate director of Utah Missions Inc., a ministry to Mormons.

"It's very carefully sanitized to make sure there is no overt reference to the

Mormon church," said McKay, a former Mormon. "It is written to sound like it is generic Christian, and yet it is not Christian at all."

Eadie must have known her book would influence readers to be more receptive to Mormon doctrine, Davis said.

Some Baptist Book Stores sold *Embraced by the Light*, but an official in Nashville, Tenn., said store managers have been instructed to pull it from their shelves.

"This book, clearly, is not a book that we want to be carrying in our stores," said Jim Gilliland, director of marketing services for the Baptist Sunday School Board. "We have had some managers that didn't get the message and now we are in fact going out there making sure they pull that off the shelf."

Employees have been instructed to recommend *The Life After* by Billy Graham, which will be released in August, to customers who inquire about *Embraced by the Light*, he said.

### MK birthdays

■ May 5: Joel Gaddis, OBU Box 4188, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, freshman from Zimbabwe.

■ May 15: John Davidson, OBU Box 3098, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, freshman from Nigeria.

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## EEOC to extend comment period for religious harassment guidelines

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is reopening the public comment period on controversial religious harassment guidelines, a congressional source said.

EEOC acting chairman Tony Gallegos said in an April 14 meeting with two congressmen the comment period is being extended until May 15, according to Heather Ingram, legislative aide to Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif. Officially, however, the discussion time has not been extended yet, an EEOC spokesman said.

An extension will enable more citizens to comment on proposed federal employment guidelines which critics have said may severely inhibit religious freedom in the workplace. The guidelines would apply the definitions used for sexual harassment to religion and other classifications.

Concerns about the guidelines were not widely reported until after the two-month public comment period closed Nov. 30. Comments continued to arrive at the EEOC office during the review period.

"They have been stunned," Ingram said. The EEOC "had absolutely no idea" it would receive this kind of response to the religious harassment guidelines, she said.

"It just goes to show that people can make a difference when they get involved," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Even federal bureau-

crats have to sit up and pay attention when citizens air such critical concerns as are raised by these regulations.

"It's even more critical for people to use this window of opportunity to flood the EEOC and their representatives in Congress with their concerns about this proposal," Smith said.

Southern Baptists and others may send their comments to: Tony Gallegos, Acting Chairman; EEOC; 1801 L. St. NW; Washington, DC 20507. They may write their senators at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and representative at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

The proposed guidelines define harassment as verbal or physical conduct, as well as writing or art, which "denigrates or shows hostility or aversion" toward an individual because of his or her religion or that of his or her "relatives, friends or associates."

Among other definitions of harassment under the guidelines: It has the "purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment."

"Religion should be left out of the guidelines altogether," CLC general counsel Michael Whitehead has said. "The agency and courts have enforced the existing law since 1964 without such guidelines, and they should continue to do so."

McKeon and 44 other members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Gallegos asking the EEOC to remove the category of religion from the guidelines.

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## Convention Uniform

### *A birthright of freedom*

By Ledell Bailey, DOM,  
Calvary Association

Basic passage: Galatians 4:8-31

Focal passage: Galatians 4:8-20

Central truth: In Christ and the Holy Spirit there is blessed freedom.

Without a doubt there are many church members today devoted to ritual and rule-keeping. They do not realize that they have a birthright of freedom through faith in Jesus Christ.

In our last lesson Paul set forth the new relationships to God which faith in Christ brings. In this lesson he raises the question: Do you prefer slavery or freedom? Do you wish to turn your back on the privileges as sons and daughters of God and return to the bondage of rituals and rules?

Paul makes a statement here that magnifies the grace of God in that the Galatians had come to know God and to be known of God. The true and living God had, in Christ, reached out to them with saving grace, so why should they want to turn back to the old ideas and ways that would only enslave them?

In verses 12-20, Paul talked to the Galatians right out of his heart. He was anxious about their spiritual well-being as he asked them what happened to their joy. He knew that their change of attitude had come about because of the Judaizers.

Paul did not hesitate to tell the Galatian believers that the Judaizers did not have their best interests at heart but were simply trying to drive a wedge between himself and them. Paul's only desire for them was that they would have the likeness of Christ formed in them. He likened his desire for this to birth pangs. He yearned that they should become mature men and women in Christ and know this was their birthright that is in Christ, for this is God's will. Legalism is bondage, but in Christ and in the Holy Spirit there is blessed freedom.

Christians today need to be free from a legalistic spirit. The key to victorious Christian living is not in rule-keeping but in living and cultivating the Spirit-filled life.

There will always be those who will seek to enslave us in a legalistic system of living, but in Christ we are set free — this is our birthright.

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## Life and Work

### *Holding out the word of life*

By Mark Baber, pastor,  
First Church, Marion

Basic passage: Philippians 2:12-30

Focal passage: Philippians 2:14-16

Central truth: Followers of Christ are called to hold out the word of life.

The New Testament makes it clear that personal salvation is an inner work that Christ does. That inner work, however, must be worked out by followers of Christ. In the passage for this lesson Paul gives clear insights and living examples of what it means to work out what Christ has begun to work within.

His first insight is stated in the negative (v. 14). Believers are to live out their faith without arguing or grumbling. Did the apostle anticipate business meetings in Baptist churches? The results of living a life of faith without a contentious spirit are seen in verses 15-16. Believers who are being made blameless are like stars in the universe. As stars shed light in the darkness so believers are to hold out the word of life in a sin-darkened world.

Believers are to be bearers of the message of life in Christ. Paul's desire for the believers at Philippi is to be people who "hold out the word of life" is seen in his plans to send two workers to them (vv. 19-30). From his prison cell in Rome, the apostle sent Timothy and Epaphroditus to Philippi. His plans for these servants were to enhance the witness of the church. What Paul says about these two can teach valuable lessons about the nature of those who "hold out the word of life."

Paul said Timothy "takes a genuine interest in your welfare" (v. 20). For those who desire to "hold out the word of life," genuine interest in the well being of others is a necessity. We need adequate training for witnessing, but we also should give diligence to see that we share the faith with heartfelt interest in others.

Paul's friend Epaphroditus had been sent to Rome with a gift for the apostle. While there he had become gravely ill. We do not know the nature of his illness. We do know that Paul said, "He almost died for the work of Christ" (v. 30). Epaphroditus had demonstrated a spirit of sacrificial commitment. The apostle wanted that kind of spirit to come alive in the hearts of the Philippians. As we think about our calling to "hold out the word of life," we cannot miss the need for commitment that is willing to sacrifice.

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## Bible Book

### *The Holy Spirit's promise*

By John R. Evans, pastor,  
Yarbrough Church, Blytheville

Basic passage: John 15:17-16:15

Focal passage: John 16:1-15

Central truth: The Holy Spirit is an extension of the ministry of Jesus.

In John 14, Jesus promised His followers that the Holy Spirit would come. Here He repeats that promise. He adds that it is to our advantage that the Holy Spirit comes (v. 7). The Holy Spirit is a blessing in the life of the believer because He continues the ministry of Jesus. This is evidenced in the purpose that Jesus gave for the coming of the Spirit.

Jesus said that the Spirit would come with a purpose for the world and for the believer.

■ *The purpose of His coming for the world.* The Holy Spirit came to convict the world of sin, convince the world of righteousness, and convince the world of judgment (v. 8). The Holy Spirit convicted 3,000 of sin on the day of Pentecost, resulting in their begging to be saved. He still convicts men of sin today. The Holy Spirit gives evidence of the righteousness of God which is in Christ Jesus by the change that His indwelling presence makes in the lives of sinners who have been saved. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of judgment — He certainly judged Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5). He judged Satan at the cross (v. 11). He will convict and condemn the unconvicted on the day of judgment.

■ *The purpose of His coming for the Christian.* Jesus said the Holy Spirit would come to guide the believer into all truth. He will do this by speaking not on His own authority but by speaking what comes from Christ (vv. 13-14). Jesus also said the Spirit would glorify Him (v. 14). Many today are glorifying and exalting themselves and claiming that the Holy Spirit is the cause of their self edification. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would glorify Him, not men or denominations nor movements nor worship styles, but Jesus. Any spirit that leads us to glorify anything except Jesus is leading us away from the truth and therefore cannot be the Holy Spirit.

We should be careful about what we blame on the Holy Spirit.

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## Convention Uniform

### *Bear fruit of the Spirit*

By Ledell Bailey, DOM,  
Calvary Association

Basic passage: Galatians 5

Focal passage: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

Central truth: Living the Spirit-filled life.

Freedom does not mean an individual's right to do whatever he pleases whenever he pleases. True freedom always works within the context of the rights and needs of others.

In the opening verse of this lesson, we come to grips with the threat that legalism poses on Christian freedom. We must never allow legalism and formalism to rob us of our privileges as believers in Christ. At the same time we must never allow our Christian freedom become perverted as a license to sin.

In verses 13-15, we are confronted with the danger that Christian liberty might be abused and become license. Moral standards are always an essential factor in Christian living. Christian freedom then must become a responsible freedom. Paul in effect is saying, "Do not use your Christian freedom as a launching pad for doing as you please."

Love is, and always should be, the law of the Christian life. Love demands that we take the initiative in doing good for others. Christian love grows out of a personal experience of God's grace and love. This is the main force in life's relationships.

In verses 16-26, Paul sets forth a struggle between Spirit and flesh and spells out for us the real characteristics of each of these ways of living. He describes for us the deeds of the flesh or lower nature. After this he lists for us the harvest of a Spirit-led life and appeals for this kind of living.

Nine beautiful fruits of the Spirit-led life are given to us here. Love heads the list, and rightly so, for it is the most God-like quality. True goodness is the fruit of a life lived under the Holy Spirit's control. What a difference in our day-by-day lifestyle would be brought about if the Holy Spirit always was in control.

Living the good life comes about by giving our lives over to the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot bear fruit apart from Him.

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## Life and Work

### *Two kinds of righteousness*

By Mark Baber, pastor,  
First Church, Marion

Basic passage: Philippians 3:1-11

Focal passage: Philippians 3:7-10

Central truth: Nothing is greater than knowing Christ by faith.

In this passage Paul emphasizes two kinds of righteousness. Righteousness is a way of being right with God. The first kind can be called "works righteousness" (vv. 1-6). The second kind can be described as "faith righteousness" (vv. 7-11).

As he describes "works righteousness" Paul tells the believers in Philippi to "watch out for the dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh" (v. 2). These descriptions undoubtedly refer to the "Judaizers" who sought to mix law and grace. In contrast to these "dogs," the apostle points out that true Christians are those "who worship God in the Spirit, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh" (v. 3).

In verses 4-6 the apostle speaks from his own experience of trying to achieve a "works righteousness." He points out that neither his birth, his devotion to the law, his status as a Pharisee, his opposition to the perceived enemies of Judaism, nor his self-achieved morality was of any value.

Paul's statements should remind us that no amount of effort on our part can put us in a right relationship with God. A right relationship with God is solely based upon "faith righteousness" (vv. 7-11).

When Paul met Christ face to face (Acts 9) he realized the futility of "works righteousness," losing some things and gaining others.

Paul lost the things that had been most important to him. In fact, he saw that what he thought mattered in life was the equivalent to rubbish (v. 8). What did Paul lose? A load of rubbish. We should realize that, in the final analysis, much of what we hold dear does not eternally matter.

Paul gained the knowledge of Christ as Lord (v. 8). Further, he gained the right relationship with God that comes through faith in Christ (v. 9) and the power for living that comes through fellowship with Christ (v. 10).

All of these "gains" are ours for the taking when we exercise heart faith in Christ alone. "Faith righteousness" as opposed to "works righteousness" cannot be overemphasized in our culture that places so much emphasis on "self made" success.

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## Bible Book

### *From sorrow to joy*

By John T. Evans, pastor,  
Yarbro Church, Blytheville

Basic passage: John 16:16-33

focal passage: John 16:20-33

Central truth: Understanding God's plan helps us endure sorrow and suffering.

Jesus' disciples were troubled because they had not understood His statements to them concerning His death, burial, resurrection and ascension (vv. 16-19). It didn't seem fair that He would leave them, that they would not see Him for a "little while" and then that He would be gone away from them to the Father. It didn't seem fair and it didn't seem right! How could it be? He comforted them by explaining the benefits they would receive as a result of these events.

He promised that their sorrow would be turned to joy (v. 20); that their sorrow and pain would be forgotten (v. 21); that their newfound joy could not be taken away from them (v. 22); that He would be their prayer advocate (vv. 23-24); that they would receive knowledge and understanding (v. 25); and that they would have direct access to God because of His redeeming work (vv. 26-28). We too are heirs to these promises. The believer is promised that even though there may be persecutions and sorrows in this life (vv. 1-16), the day is coming when our sorrow will be gone and our joy will be unspeakable and unstoppable. In the meantime, we have the promise of an intimate, personal relationship with God through Christ. We also have the joy of knowing that no matter how bad circumstances get, we are eternally saved and eternally secure.

When the disciples learned God's plan to turn what initially sounded sorrowful into joy and blessings, they understood and their faith and belief in Christ grew (vv. 29-30). When faced with momentary sorrow, we too would profit to consider God's overall plan and let Him turn our sorrow to joy. When life seems unfair, we should look to Calvary. We should realize how unfair it is that the sinless God suffered for sinful creatures He created on a tree that He planted. How unfair it was for men that He created and loved to arrest Him, to spit upon Him, to whip Him and to kill Him. How unfair and yet how wonderful.

Aren't you glad life isn't fair?

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## NEWS DIGEST

### President proclaims May 5 as National Day of Prayer

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Clinton has issued a proclamation recognizing May 5 as National Day of Prayer.

In the proclamation, the president encouraged Americans "to gather, each in his or her own manner, to recognize our blessings, acknowledge our wrongs, to remember the needy, to seek guidance for our challenging future, and to give thanks for the abundance we have enjoyed throughout our history."

He also said, "Presidents, above all, need the power of prayer, their own and that of all Americans."

The National Day of Prayer will be observed with prayer meetings and other events in Washington, D.C., and communities throughout the country. "Meet at City Hall" will be held May 5 in many communities. The campaign calls for citizens to meet at their local government building at 12:20 p.m. for 20 minutes of prayer.

Congress established the national Day of Prayer in 1952. In 1968, it was set on the first Thursday of May.

### Graham, Colson praise Nixon for foreign policy

WASHINGTON (BP)—Evangelical Christian leaders who knew President Richard M. Nixon well praised him upon his death April 22.

Nixon, 81, died in a New York City hospital after suffering a stroke. His funeral was April 27 in Yorba Linda, Calif., with evangelist Billy Graham officiating.

"I believe history will be generous toward him," said Graham, who described Nixon as a close friend for 44 years. "He will always be remembered for his boldness in ushering in a whole new era of history by opening the door of China. In recent years, he had become America's elder statesman, for he had no peer in the area of foreign affairs."

Prison Fellowship chairman Charles Colson, who said he saw Nixon "at his finest and his worst," added, "In the longer perspective of history, Watergate not withstanding, Richard Nixon will be remembered as one of the truly great leaders of this century."

### Texas Baptists consider move to 'Texas-oriented CP'

DALLAS (BP)—Texas Baptists' Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee has moved toward recommending a Texas-oriented Cooperative Program. The proposal places a primary focus on Texas Baptist causes while permitting funds designated for "worldwide Baptist causes" also to qualify as "Cooperative Program" gifts. "Worldwide Baptist causes" could include a variety of things, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or any other Baptist entity.

If adopted, the proposal would dramatically change the longtime Cooperative Program relationship between the churches, the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, according to SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman.

"The Cooperative Program which was adopted in 1925 is considered by most Southern Baptists to be a God-given method for funding world missions," Chapman said. "The Texas proposal as released is a far cry from what Southern Baptists have known, cherished and practiced."

No recommendation has been agreed upon and probably will not be until the Texas committee's last scheduled meeting July 29, but the idea of a Cooperative Program with a focus on Texas Baptist causes and designation of funds beyond that to worldwide Baptist causes surfaced in the committee's April 18 meeting as the consensus favorite.

### Second grader loses legal battle to show religious video

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The refusal by a Michigan school district to allow a second-grade class to watch a videotape of one of its students performing a religious song during a worship service has been left standing by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court refused April 18 to review lower-court decisions which sided with the ruling by Livonia Public Schools not to allow the videotape to be shown.

Kelly DeNooyer and her mother, Ilene DeNooyer, sued school officials after the second-grader was prohibited from playing the videotape during a "show and tell" period. The lawsuit alleged violations of free speech, free religious exercise and free association.

The teacher's concerns about using the videotape—including that it did not achieve the same goal as having students make verbal presentations—are legitimate educational concerns and sufficient to uphold the lawsuit's dismissal, the appeals court said. The appeals court did not address other issues raised by the DeNooyers, including their free-exercise claim.