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### May 6, 1993

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 9

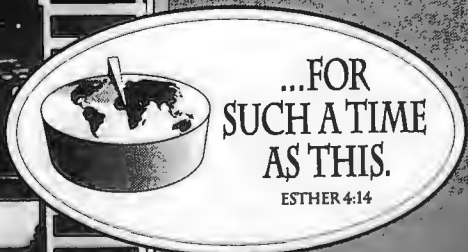
May 6, 1993



Preview of the

## 1993 SBC Annual Meeting

June 15-17  
Houston, Texas



...FOR  
SUCH A TIME  
AS THIS.

ESTHER 4:14

# Eleven Arkansans nominated to SBC boards, committees

As Southern Baptists prepare to gather next month in Houston for the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, the SBC Committee on Nominations has released its list of nominees for service on SBC boards, institutions and commissions.

Eleven Arkansas Baptists have been nominated for service, including six who are being nominated to fill new positions made possible because of growth in church membership among Arkansas Baptist churches.

According to 1992 Uniform Church Letter statistics, Arkansas Baptist church membership has topped 500,000 for the first time. Membership on general SBC boards includes one member from each cooperating state plus one additional member for each 250,000 church members.

By exceeding the 500,000 membership level, Arkansas Baptists now qualify for three positions rather than two on the SBC Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Annuity Board and Southern Seminary.

This year's SBC Committee on Nominations is being chaired by Arkansas Joe W. Atchison, director of missions for Northwest Association. Noting that the spirit of the nominating committee was "excellent," Atchison added, "There was unanimity in just about everything we did."

Atchison described the nominees as "mainline Southern Baptists who are excited about what is happening in the SBC." He said committee members voiced "concern about nominating anybody who was supporting the CBF (Cooperative Baptist

Fellowship)," an organization of Southern Baptist moderates dissatisfied with the current direction of the SBC.

Adding that the committee sought to nominate "incarnations," Atchison said, "We didn't reach out to anyone who wouldn't affirm that the Bible is without error."

Arkansas Baptists nominated to fill new positions include:

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

■ Stephen P. Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, Foreign Mission Board.

■ Wyndham Cook, member of Memorial Church, Waldo, Home Mission Board.

■ Ben J. Rowell, pastor of First Church, Rogers, Sunday School Board.

■ Ken Lilly, member of First Church, Fort Smith, Annuity Board.

■ Orman W. Simmons, member of First Church, Little Rock, Southern Seminary.

Arkansas Baptists nominated for a first term of service in existing positions are:

■ Tony Preston, pastor of First Church, Bentonville, Christian Life Commission.

■ L. Bert Miller, administrator of operations, First Church, Springdale, Order of Business Committee.

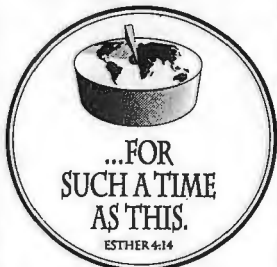
Arkansas trustees being nominated for a second term of service include:

■ Mark W. Brooks, pastor of Elm Dale Church, Springdale, Sunday School Board.

■ Ronnie W. Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, Midwestern Seminary.

■ James McDaniel, pastor of First Church, Brinkley, Education Commission.

## Cover Story



## SBC Preview 7-11

Southern Baptist messengers will gather in Houston, Texas, June 15-17 for the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. "For Such a Time as This" is the theme of the three-day convention.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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MOTHER'S DAY • SUNDAY, MAY 9

# Barbara Lynn: an odyssey of motherhood

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

Mother's Day offers an annual opportunity to honor natural mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers and grandmothers. At least one Arkansas mother, Barbara Lynn, fills all those positions and more.

Barbara's odyssey into motherhood expanded when her husband, Dale, read an article several years ago in *Reader's Digest* that asserted there would be no problem with overpopulation in America if every family would limit their families to two natural children and adopt one. It sounded like a good idea, but Barbara had no inkling that planning for that one adoption would lead her to a lifetime of mothering children from all walks of life.

As a young couple in Missouri, the Lynns had two natural children, both boys, and decided that a little girl would make their family complete. On the day a girl became available, Dale was out of town, driving the livestock truck that was his livelihood. When his new three-year-old daughter saw him for the first time the next day, he asked her, "Do you know who I am?" "Yes," she replied, "you're my daddy."

"The boys just loved her," Barbara said. "When we went to the store, they didn't want toys for themselves, they wanted a doll for Paula."

That same sense of family came into play later when the family moved to a new subdivision where their house was the only completed structure, isolating the children, especially Paula, who was in the first grade. It was then that the Lynns became foster parents for the first time. An 11-year-old girl came to stay with them, and Barbara became aware of the realities of foster motherhood for the first time. "She didn't turn out how we would have liked," Barbara explained honestly. "But no telling what would have happened if she hadn't come to stay with us."

## Numerous foster children

In the following years, Barbara and her husband fostered numerous children, and learned some hard truths. "You can't be jealous of their natural family," Barbara said. "No matter what has happened, they still want to get back with the natural parents — you can't replace them."

The encouragement from her own children helped, Barbara noted proudly. They would always introduce the foster children as "my little brother (or sister)." One



*"Some of these kids have never been tucked in at night or eaten meals as a family.... What kind of parents are they going to be if they don't have an opportunity to see what a family is?"*

— Barbara Lynn  
Sherwood Emergency  
Receiving Home houseparent

summer her then 22-year-old son came home to find children on pallets covering the living room floor, watching TV. Counting the oldest son, there were eight kids in the house, from ages two to 22. "We've sure got a house full this time, Mom," her oldest son commented.

"We all want perfect children, but there is no perfect child," Barbara said, explaining her philosophy on parenting. "It takes experience to realize that even though some of the kids don't turn out like you want them to, that you have still made a difference."

The Lynns' children have since grown up — the boys are in their 30s and Paula is 27. They are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren — three boys and one

girl. Their only granddaughter is the offspring of their adopted daughter.

Barbara and Dale now practice their well-honed parenting skills as houseparents at the Sherwood Emergency Receiving Home, a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. After being houseparents in other states, the Lynns are happy to be in Sherwood. "We think the Christian element is extremely important," Barbara said. "Children need to be children, not work-horses. And it was important for us to work for the Baptists, since we're Baptist."

Noting that motherhood "means different things to different people," David Perry, director of program and staff development for Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, pointed out, "For many of the children cared for in our agency, motherhood may have negative connotations of abuse, neglect and bitter conflict. For others, it leaves a deep feeling of hollowness, a longing for one so desperately missed."

On the positive side, Perry said staff members like Barbara provide examples of motherhood as "someone who provides a listening ear for a hurting voice, a kind word (and sometimes, a firm word) for a sad spirit and a gentle hand for a fragile heart," adding that houseparents "care for these entrusted to them as though they were their very own."

Holding a sturdy black baby who looks at her with utter adoration, Barbara explained, "Some of these kids have never been tucked in at night or eaten meals as a family. Some have never had two parents. What kind of parents are they going to be if they don't have an opportunity to see what a family is?"

The baby whom Barbara is holding, she commented, came to the shelter at ripe months, having never taken solid food and unable to respond to others with a smile. His increasing weight now attests to his ability to eat baby food, and Barbara easily coaxes a bright and beaming smile from him.

Barbara's odyssey as a natural mother, adoptive mother, foster mother, emergency receiving home mother and grandmother seems natural to her. Perhaps the daunting task that faces Barbara and her husband every day is best explained by a banner the Lynns have over their desk at the shelter.

It declares, "Children reflect the love they've been shown."

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABS Executive Director

This is a good news/bad news story. Once again we are being raided. The Southern Baptist Convention agencies continue to find our staff desirable for positions they have. They are unashamed and unabashed to come calling on our people.

The Annuity Board has recently called our Language Missions director, Elias Pantoja, to come on their staff to work in an area previously unaddressed. He will be helping promote insurance and retirement programs with the black and language groups of the Southern Baptist Convention. This is a great and worthy work. We can't imagine anyone being more suited for this job.

The Baptist Sunday School Board has recently called Lester McCullough, director of our Church Music Department, to come to work with them. He will be working in the area of worship and church music.

These men fellow Floyd Tidsworth and Carolyn Porterfield who left us to work with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union. Carolyn has since been called to the Texas General Convention for leadership with them.

God has been good to give us such dedicated and qualified people on our staff. It is a blessing to work with them. We are honored that others have thought so highly of their skills and commitment that they would want them.

Beyond those named above, others have recently been sought for SBC and other state convention positions. We are thankful the Lord's leading has allowed them to stay with us.

Because of the important place these people have played in our lives and in the life of you churches, I know you join me in expressing appreciation and praying for them God's best as their ministries are expanded. Surely, you will join in praying for God's special leadership in finding His persons to fill these positions.

ROMA ZELTNER

## Woman's Viewpoint

### The Encourager



*Webster's Dictionary* defines the word "encourager" as one who inspires hope. Another definition is one who emboldens or strives to give boldness or courage to another.

An ancient author once shared with a friend that encouragement was the thing that brought the best in most people.

The encourager has the ability to put his circumstances in the background, then provide those around him with the precious morale plasma.

Recently, I read the history of some great men. Some were inventors. Some were poets, outstanding leaders and teachers. These men were considered failures at one time in their lives. Because of an encourager at the needed time, they became successful.

The Sermon on the Mount in the book of Matthew is a good illustration of the words of Jesus that could bring persons from depression to hope.

The apostle Paul was an encourager. He wrote letters to the churches in which he had served. They carried words that expressed love, care and a vital interest in the choices they made.

Genuine interest, an attitude that is more eloquent than words, can assist in helping many persons to claim hope.

An encourager not only has a part in helping to inspire others, but the encourager's life becomes enriched. He thinks encouraging thoughts. He speaks encouraging words. He adopts an attitude of confident expectancy toward those he is trying to help.

The day in which we live offers much need for encouragers. Young people who face many choices, older people dealing with new issues, single parents, jobless and the diseased are needing an encourager.

The New Testament is full of encouraging words from the "Master Encourager," Jesus. With the words came His continued promise to be near.

There are no age barriers for the encourager. It can be a lifetime service. Correction for productive growth and encouragement make good partners. I want to be a Christian encourager.

Roma Zeltner is a pastor's wife and the director of education at Westside Church, Fort Smith. Preschool and children's work have been the areas where she has spent most of her life in service—the areas in which she feels called to serve. She and her husband, James, have two children and three grandchildren.

## Personal perspectives

"Children need to be children, not workhorses."

—Barbara Lynn, houseparent, Sherwood Emergency Receiving Home

"A local New Testament church is a body of baptized believers operating through democratic processes under the lordship of Jesus Christ."

—Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

"The time has come for us to stop living by our fears rather than by our faith... Sooner or later in our denomination, someone or some group will step forward to declare a unilateral truce in our spiritual civil war."

—Don Kammardler, interim president, Foreign Mission Board

# Opportunity and responsibility

Arkansas has moved into the national and international spotlight in recent months for obvious reasons. Datelines from Little Rock, Hot Springs and Hope have become common occurrences in the nation's newspapers. A bevy of satellite trucks beaming stories to television networks around the globe has long ago lost its novelty in the Natural State.

But presidential politics isn't the only thing for which Arkansans are known. In addition to an Arkansas Baptist serving in the White House, dozens of other Arkansas Baptists are being tapped for denominational service on the national level.

Two prominent examples are Elias Pantoja and Lester McCullough, members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention staff who have recently accepted ministry positions with national Southern Baptist agencies. Pantoja became manager of special groups for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board on April 15. He is responsible for coordinating the Annuity Board's efforts to meet the insurance and retirement needs of ethnic, black and bivocational ministers.

McCullough, the ABSC music department director, will become manager of the youth/adult/general materials section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department effective June 1. His work will include supervising 10 editors who are responsible for producing nine music-related periodicals.

In this week's "You'll Be Glad to Know" column, ABSC executive director Don Moore describes Pantoja's and McCullough's departures as "good news/bad news," noting that "we are honored that others have thought so highly of their skills and commitment that they would want them."

In addition to denominational staff members, many other Arkansas Baptists are being chosen for national service. Recent trustee meetings across the convention have included numerous Arkansans being elected to leadership positions. Among those recently elected are:

■ William "Lonnie" Willis, a member of Calvary Church in Little Rock, re-elected Annuity Board trustee chairman.

■ Richard Proctor, a member of Wynne Church, elected to a third term as first vice chair-

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



man of the Midwestern Seminary trustees.

■ David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, elected second vice chairman of Southern Seminary's trustees.

■ Gary Underwood, media director for Beech Street First Church of Texarkana, elected trustee recording secretary for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

And the list goes on. Four Arkansas Baptists have been serving on the study groups appointed last fall by SBC president Ed Young. They include:

■ Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, co-chairman of the family study group.

■ Rick Caldwell, associate pastor of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, a member of the reaching children and youth study group.

■ Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, also serving on the reaching children and youth study group.

■ Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director, a member of the Cooperative Program and special offerings study group.

Arkansas Baptists also will be represented at next month's SBC annual meeting and related meetings in Houston.

Among the program participants:

■ Joe W. Atchison, director of missions for Northwest Association, will present a report as chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations on Tuesday, April 15, at 2:45 p.m.

■ Ronnie Floyd will preach during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference on Monday, June 14, at 1:40 p.m.

■ Wendy Hoag, a member of West Church in Batesville, will serve as an Acteens page during the SBC annual meeting. She will be recognized as a National Acteens Advisory Panelist during the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting Sunday afternoon, June 13.

■ The Arkansas Master Singers and Arkansas Singing Women will sing during the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference Monday, June 14, at 1:15 p.m.

And there's still more. An article on page 2 notes that 11 Arkansas Baptists will be nominated during the SBC annual meeting to serve on national boards, commissions and committees during the coming years. That total includes six new positions being created due to Arkansas Baptist church membership topping 500,000 this past year.

Based on this list, as well as many other Arkansas Baptists already serving in positions of denominational service, it is clear that Arkansas Baptists have a unique opportunity to help influence the direction and priorities of Southern Baptist life for years to come.

Yet with opportunity comes responsibility. Those serving in both career and volunteer positions have the responsibility of demonstrating mature Christian leadership and integrity in all their dealings. They are responsible for faithfully fulfilling their assigned tasks to the best of their ability.

All Arkansas Baptists have the responsibility of praying for those in positions of leadership. It also is appropriate to personally communicate suggestions, concerns and words of encouragement to these elected leaders.

During these challenging days as Southern Baptists, it is imperative to remember the words of Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Arkansas Baptists must not miss the opportunity to help lead the way.

**ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE**

**DAY OF PRAYER • SUNDAY, MAY 16**

# Election includes God's grace, man's will

By Herschel H. Hobbs  
Special to the Arkansas Baptist



God's purpose of grace involves the doctrine of election. Some see this to mean that God has elected certain people to be saved; all others will be lost. If this be true, then all biblical invitations to receive

Christ are without meaning. God's purpose is not to save as few but as many as He can. Frank Stagg notes that the doctrine of election is not a "rigged television show."

Election involves the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. Both are taught in the Bible. Some say they cannot be harmonized. But when properly understood they can be.

Ephesians is Paul's treatment of the doctrine of election. In short, he says that a sovereign God has elected a plan of salvation (Eph. 1-2) and a people to propagate the plan (Eph. 3-6). Man is free to accept or reject them. But he is responsible to God for the choice he makes.

Paul says that in love God has "predestinated" us (Eph. 1:5). The Greek verb is *proorizans* from *proorizo*, to set a boundary beforehand. Note our word "horizon," the limit or boundary of our vision from where we stand. In Ephesians 1:3-10 Paul uses "in Christ" or its equivalent 10 times. It is as if God built a fence about an area. The fence is Christ. He did this before

the foundation of the world.

Then He said that all inside the fence, in Christ, will be saved. All outside of Christ will be lost. He left man free to decide to be in or outside of Christ. "Believed" in Ephesians 1:13b expresses man's free will. All in Christ will be eternally saved; all outside Christ will be eternally lost. Thus God's sovereignty and man's free will do harmonize.

## The New Testament church

The word for "church" (*ekklesia*, note "ecclesiastical") appears in the New Testament 115 times. Yet according to the record Jesus only used it twice: once in the institutional sense (Matt. 16:18) and once in the local sense (Matt. 18:17). This word is also translated "assembly" (Acts 19:41). Literally, it means the "called out ones."

"A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth," Article VI of The Baptist Faith and Message declares.

Jesus is the foundation of the church (1 Cor. 3:11). In Matthew 16:18 He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" or *ekklesia*. In the Greek text the emphasis is upon "my," which suggests that there were other *ekklesias*. And that is true.

It was used in the political sense as in Acts 19:41. The Roman empire rewarded

cities which had rendered some special service to the empire by making them free cities. Among other things they were permitted self-rule, but it had to be within the framework of the laws of the empire. So in Acts 19:41 "assembly" (*ekklesia*) is used of a local political body operating through democratic processes under the laws of the Roman empire.

This word was also used to translate the Hebrew *Qahal*. This denoted the assembly of Israel before God in the wilderness and under His direct theocratic rule.

In effect, Jesus said, "I will build my church," and it partakes of the nature of the other two. In the New Testament "church" is used a few times, especially in Ephesians and Colossians, to refer to the body of Christ composed of all the redeemed of all the ages.

But 93 out of 115 times it refers to the local church. Thus a local New Testament church is a body of baptized believers operating through democratic processes under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Neither a local church or an individual can do as it or he pleases. They must do as Christ pleases or wills. The two ordained officers of a local New Testament church are pastors and deacons. They are not positions of authority but of service.

The local church is not a membership but a fellowship of sharing *koinonia*. This means that each of us shares in both the privileges and responsibilities of the fellowship. It is through His churches that God's redemptive purpose runs to share the gospel with every person on earth (Eph. 3:10-11).

## McCullough accepts Sunday School Board post

Lester McCullough, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music department, has been named manager of the youth/adult/general materials section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department. McCullough, who has served in Arkansas five years, will assume his new position June 1.

"Lester has been able to involve record numbers of ministers of music in the music program of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention," noted ABCS executive director Don Moore. "He has been a team player."

"We are honored that one of our own would be chosen for such a responsible position that will impact all of the Southern Baptist Convention," Moore added. "We wish him God's choicest blessings in this challenging responsibility."

McCullough's new responsibilities will include supervising 10 editors who are responsible for producing nine music-related periodicals. He also will be responsible for youth and adult leadership and member training materials as well as working with composers who provide materials for publication.



McCullough

Reflecting on his years in Arkansas, McCullough said, "The first thing I think of in my tenure in Arkansas is how wonderful the relationships are in the Baptist Building itself. Everyone is concerned about the local churches and their needs.

Concerning work with Arkansas Baptists across the state, he added, "We have sunk some roots and we have built some great relationships and those are the hard things to leave; that's what we'll miss."

Prior to his ministry in Arkansas, McCullough was associate in the church music department of the Florida Baptist Convention. Earlier, he was minister of music at Murray Hill Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., for 11 years.

A native of Florida, he is a graduate of Florida State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A past president of the State Music Directors Fellowship, he also is listed in the 1992 edition of *Who's Who in Religion*.

McCullough and his wife, Jo Ann, are the parents of one daughter, Melody Ann Revell. They have been active members of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.



...FOR  
SUCH A TIME  
AS THIS.  
ESTHER 4:14

# Preview of the 1993 SBC Annual Meeting

June 15-17, Houston, Texas

## Baptists prepare to gather in Houston

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press

HOUSTON (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention will face the question of Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity during the SBC's annual meeting, scheduled June 15-17 in Houston.

While not officially on the agenda, the convention may be asked, in motions from the floor, to address changes adopted by the Woman's Missionary Union executive board broadening the auxiliary's work beyond SBC entities.

From action at last year's SBC meeting, the convention will take the second of two required votes on a proposed change in the SBC constitution to disfellowship churches for actions which "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior."

"For Such a Time as This" will be the theme of the three-day meeting in Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center. The SBC last met in Houston in 1979.

Baptist visitors will have opportunity to join hands with area Baptists in "Crossover Houston" evangelistic efforts and a slate of missions projects organized by the Woman's Missionary Union. Also scheduled are such traditional pre-SBC meetings as the Pastor's Conference and the WMU national meeting, June 13-14, and those of other ministry-related organizations.

Special features of the Tuesday-through-Thursday SBC will include evening extravaganzas June 15 and 16 of music, drama, multi-media presentations, preaching and testimonies that will "put some heart and some soul and some real union into our convention experience," said SBC president H. Edwin Young, pastor of Houston's Second Baptist Church.

The first focus of the Tuesday night extravaganza will be the SBC's six seminaries, "Challenge to Biblical Preparation."

The second focus will be the Baptist Sunday School Board presentation, "The Bible Speaks — For Such a Time as This." It will feature such personalities as country music performer Ricky Skaggs and Christian musicians Cynthia Clawson and Wayne Watson.

On Wednesday, a missionary extravaganza, "The Church's Missionary Zeal," will feature a combined report from the SBC Foreign and Home Mission boards, missionary testimonies and multi-media and dramatic presentations.

Plenty of hotel and motel rooms remain available, said Herb Hollinger, an SBC Executive Committee vice president serving as convention manager. Messengers have registered for 64 percent of the 8,000 rooms reserved for the SBC by the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, he said. Requests for SBC housing forms should be directed to the SBC Convention Housing Manager, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203; phone 615-244-2355.

Concerning Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity, messengers will vote on a report and recommendation on Freemasonry from the Home Mission Board, which concludes:

"In light of the fact that many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while others are compatible with

Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, we therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience. Therefore, we exhort Southern Baptists to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in light of the Lordship of Christ, the teachings of Scripture, and the findings of this report, as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

With several time slots set aside for "Introduction of Business and Resolutions," Woman's Missionary Union may face scrutiny of decisions by its executive board in January to broaden the scope of the auxiliary's missions education efforts beyond SBC entities.

If any messengers make a motion or propose a resolution addressing the WMU changes, consideration at the SBC meeting is not automatic. The Committee on Order of Business may recommend referral of motions to any of the SBC entities for initial consideration, delaying action for at least a year. The Committee on Resolutions, meanwhile, can choose to recommend, modify or set aside proposed resolutions.

The proposed constitutional amendment on homosexuality, approved with virtually no opposition during the 1992 SBC meeting in Indianapolis, would declare churches which "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior" as not "in friendly cooperation" with the SBC and not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings.

The proposed amendment, initiated by the SBC Executive Committee, was prompted by a Raleigh, N.C., congregation which approved and performed a marriage-like ceremony for two homosexual men and a congregation in nearby Chapel Hill which licensed a homosexual man to the ministry.

The amendment would mark the first time the SBC in its history has determined a church's "friendly cooperation" standing in the convention to include a matter of church practice, not just the traditional requirement of financial contributions to SBC causes.



Houston, Texas, home of the largest Baptist association in the SBC, will host the 1993 annual meeting June 15-17.



## Southern Baptist Convention

June 15-17 • Brown Convention Center, Houston

### Tuesday morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration – Texas All State Youth Choir, Loyd Hawthorne, director
- 8:30 Call to Order  
 Congregational Singing – Ragan M. Vandegriff III, convention music director, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Gary Moore, music associate, minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Houston; Gerald Ray, music associate, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Prayer – Joe Chambers, pastor, Lochwood Baptist Church, Lochwood, 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, senior associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
- 8:45 Welcome – Bob Lanier, mayor, Houston; John Bisagno, pastor, First Baptist Church, Houston
- 8:50 Response – Doug Hodo, president, Houston Baptist University
- 9:00 Crossover Houston – Jay Strack, SBC first vice president
- 9:05 Denominational Press Report – Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, SBC Executive Committee
- 9:15 Theme Devotion – Charles B. Fuller, pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.
- 9:30 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 9:50 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) – Morris H. Chapman, president, SBC Executive Committee
- 10:45 Congregational Singing – Gary Moore
- 10:50 Music – Caedmon's Call, Danielle Glen, Carl Harris, and Cliff Young, vocalists
- 11:00 Introduction of President – Ed Young, pastor, Fellowship of Las Colinas Church, Irving, Texas
- 11:05 President's Address – Edwin Young, SBC president
- 11:45 Benediction – Ben B. Young, singles minister, Second Baptist Church, Houston

### Tuesday afternoon

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration
- 1:45 Congregational Singing – Ragan Vandegriff  
 Prayer, Robert L. Lentz, pastor, Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Clemson, S.C.
- 1:50 Southern Baptist Foundation Report – Hollis E. Johnson III, president
- 2:00 Business  
 Committee on Order of Business (second report) – Fred Powell
- 2:10 Theme Devotion – Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
- 2:25 Congregational Singing
- 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report – Joseph W. Atchison, chairman, director of missions, Rogers, Ark.
- 3:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) – Morris H. Chapman
- 3:45 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 3:50 Messenger Information Survey – Mike Arrington, vice president, Baptist Sunday School Board



- 3:55 Music – Wingspread Trio, Moore, Okla.
- 4:05 Business  
 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) – Fred Powell
- 4:10 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:25 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction – Robert Sorrell, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.

### Tuesday evening

- 6:10 Music for Inspiration – United Colors of Christ Choir, Houston; Second Voice, Vocal Ensemble, Houston
- 6:40 Congregational Singing  
 Prayer – Danny Sotelo, pastor, El Encino Community Church, Fresno, Calif.
- 6:45 Brotherhood Commission Report – James D. Williams, president
- 6:55 Congregational Singing
- 7:00 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:10 Seminaries – Challenge to Biblical Preparation  
 Seminary invitation – Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 7:45 Congregational Singing
- 7:50 Sunday School Board Report – James T. Draper Jr., president
- 8:00 Sunday School/Discipleship Presentation – "The Bible Speaks – For Such a Time as This"
- 8:50 Discipleship Commitment Invitation
- 9:00 Benediction – Rick Ray, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

### Wednesday morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration – Prestonwood Baptist Church Choir, Dallas
- 8:30 Congregational Singing
- 8:35 Woman's Missionary Union Report – Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director
- 8:45 Education Commission Report – Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director
- 8:55 Doctrinal Devotion – Richard D. Land, executive director, SBC Christian Life Commission
- 9:10 Congregational Singing
- 9:15 Bold Mission Thrust Report – Morris H. Chapman
- 9:25 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:30 Introduction of Past Presidents
- 9:40 Seminary Reports
- 9:50 Seminary Presentation
- 10:15 Congregational Singing
- 10:20 Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) – Fred Powell
- 10:25 Report and Recommendation on Freemasonry – Larry Lewis, president, Home Mission Board
- 10:45 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:05 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)

- 11:20 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:25 Music — Prestonwood Baptist Church Choir
- 11:30 Convention Sermon — Jack N. Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 12:00 Benediction — Charles Germany, layman, Atlanta

**No Wednesday afternoon session**

**Wednesday evening**

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — Massed choirs of Union Baptist Association, Texas
- 6:35 Congregational Singing — Gary Moore
- 6:40 Business  
Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)  
Election of Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate and Music Director 1994  
Denominational Calendar Report — V.M. Piland, chairman, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.  
Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 6:45 Congregational Singing
- 6:50 Home Mission Board Report — Larry Lewis
- 6:55 Foreign Mission Board Report — President
- 7:05 Congregational Singing
- 7:15 World Missions Presentation — "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Missionary Zeal
- 8:50 Missions Commitment Invitation
- 9:00 Benediction — Charles Tope, retired foreign missionary, Oklahoma City

**Thursday morning**

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — Champion Forest Baptist Church Choir, Houston
- 8:35 Congregational Singing
- 8:40 American Bible Society Report — Fred A. Allen, church relations director
- 8:50 Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report — Arthur L. Walker Jr., secretary-treasurer
- 9:00 Baptist World Alliance Report — Denton Lotz, general secretary
- 9:10 Stewardship Commission Report — A.R. Fagan, president
- 9:20 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee — Herb Hollinger
- 9:25 Historical Commission Report — Lynn E. May Jr., executive director
- 9:35 Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report — Larry L. Lewis
- 9:45 Theme Devotion — Frank D. Pollard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
- 10:00 Christian Life Commission Report — Richard D. Land
- 10:10 Annuity Board Report — Paul W. Powell, president
- 10:20 Radio & Television Commission Report — Jack B. Johnson, president
- 10:30 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers — Morris H. Chapman  
Congregational Singing
- 10:35 Miscellaneous Business
- 10:55 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 11:15 Music — Renee McLaurin, soloist, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 11:25 Message — Charles R. Swindoll, author, radio Bible teacher, pastor, First Evangelical Free Church, Fullerton, Calif.
- 12:00 Benediction — Jim Headrick, senior associate pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

**Seminary alumni meetings**

All six Southern Baptist seminaries will host alumni meetings June 16 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15-17 in Houston.

**Golden Gate Seminary**

Alumni and friends of Golden Gate Seminary will hold a luncheon June 16 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 301B in the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. The program will include a report from seminary president, William O. Crews.

Tickets are \$12 each and may be purchased in advance from the Alumni Relations Office, GGBTS-218, Strawberry Point Mill Valley, CA 94941; phone 415-388-8080, ext. 289.

**Midwestern Seminary**

Midwestern Seminary's alumni will meet June 16 for a luncheon in the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. The program will include seminary updates from president Milton Ferguson.

Advance tickets may be purchased for \$15 from the Alumni Office, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Tickets may be purchased for \$18 each at the seminary booth in the SBC exhibit hall.

**New Orleans Seminary**

New Orleans Seminary's alumni will hold a reunion breakfast June 16 at 7:30 a.m. in the Imperial Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Houston, convention hotel. The program will include recognition of distinguished alumni and a wrap-up of 75th anniversary celebration activities.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$8 each and may be purchased in advance by contacting the Office of Alumni, NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4858. Tickets may be purchased at the seminary's booth in the exhibit hall for \$10.

**Southeastern Seminary**

Southeastern Seminary's alumni will meet for a 12 noon luncheon June 16 at the Houston Hyatt Regency. It is expected that reservations be made early by writing to the Alumni Office, P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, NC 27588. Both advance tickets and those purchased at the door will be \$12 per person.

**Southern Seminary**

Alumni of Southern Seminary will meet June 16 for a 1 p.m. luncheon at the Houston Hyatt Regency.

Roy McClung and Algon Harpe Jr. will be recognized as distinguished alumni.

Advance tickets for the meal are \$14.50 each and may be ordered by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Alumni Relations, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280. After June 1, tickets may be purchased at the seminary's booth in the exhibit hall for \$18.

**Southwestern Seminary**

Carolyn Coggin, James Crane and Lee Williamson have been chosen to receive Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumni Award for 1993. They will be recognized June 16 at a noon luncheon to be held in the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Tickets may be purchased by sending \$12 to Southwestern's Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122. Tickets also may be purchased for \$13 at the seminary's exhibit hall booth.

**Woman's Missionary Union**

June 13-14 • First Baptist Church, Houston

**Sunday Afternoon, June 13**

- 2:30 General Session  
 Call to Worship – Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Call to Order – Carolyn Miller, president, WMU, SBC  
 Hymns  
 Invocation – Marge Caldwell, Houston  
 Greetings – John Bisagno, pastor, First Baptist Church, Houston; Thomas Williams, administrator, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Announcements  
 Message: "... it is the Lord Christ you are serving."  
 David Fuller, home missionary, Cleveland, Ohio  
 Prayer of Intercession – Tom Law, foreign missionary, Paraguay  
 Presentation of National Acteens Panelists – Jan Turrentine, *Accent* editor, WMU, SBC  
 Hymn  
 Testimony: missions volunteer  
 Special Music – Vision, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Message: "... keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." – Mildred McWhorter, home missionary, Houston  
 Prayer of Intercession – Mary Love, foreign missionary, Guyana  
 Musical Meditation – Fred Wilmer, music artist, Mineral Wells, Texas; Choir, First Baptist Church, Houston

**Sunday Evening, June 13**

- 6:00 Simultaneous Banquets – Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama, Houston (reservations only)

**Monday Morning, June 14**

- 9:30 General Session  
 Call to Order – Carolyn Miller  
 Call to Worship – Heart Song, First Baptist Church, Houston; Pam Young, soloist, Brenham, Texas  
 Hymn  
 Invocation  
 Announcements and Introductions  
 Message: "... go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." – Michael and Kathie Chute, foreign missionaries, Hong Kong  
 Prayer of Intercession – Patricia Lane, home missionary, Dallas  
 Hymn  
 Business  
 Executive Board Report – Carolyn Miller, Dellanna O'Brien  
 Hymn  
 Prayer of Intercession – Mary Helen Dixon, development specialist, WMU, SBC  
 Offering  
 Special Music – New Covenant, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Prayer of Intercession – Dottie Williamson, home missionary, Clinton, Miss.  
 Message: "... those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." – Karen Hopper, foreign missionary, Philippines  
 Hymn

Message: "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did." – Beverly D. Scott, professor emerita Department of Urban Planning, Rutgers University, Orange, NJ.  
 Prayer of Intercession – Viola Palmer, foreign missionary, Nicaragua  
 Preview of the Afternoon – Dellanna O'Brien  
 Closing Meditation – Fred Wilmer

**Monday Afternoon, June 14**

- 12:00 Box lunch (reservations only) – Meet the Missionaries, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 12:00 Box lunch and tour of Missions Points in Houston, (reservation only)  
 1:30 AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES – Meet the Missionaries; Mini Prayer Retreat, Mary Ann Bridgewater, member, First Baptist Church, Houston; A.D. Playars, Houston; Houston Baptist University Choir; Seaman's Ministry Project; WMU in The News: The Rest of The Story, Karen Benson, Joyce Mitchell, Bobbie Patterson, WMU staff; Baptist Book Store  
 CONFERENCES:  
 World Hunger ... A Challenge for Mission Action.  
 God's Call to Women in the '90s.  
 You Can Make a Difference.  
 Biomedical Ethics.  
 Ministry to Abused Women and Children.  
 Loving Neighbors Across Time: A Christian Guide to Protecting the Earth.  
 Adult Wellness: Caring for Yourself.  
 Family Violence: When Home Hurts.  
 I Was in Prison and You Visited Me.  
 Drug Awareness for Teens and Those Who Care About Them.  
 3:00 ALL ACTIVITIES REPEATED IN SAME LOCATIONS

**Monday Evening, June 14**

- 7:00 General Session  
 Call to Order – Carolyn D. Miller  
 Call to Worship – Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Invocation – Joy Fenner, executive director, Texas WMU, Dallas  
 Hymns  
 Announcements  
 Project Mission Hope: "Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted." – Earl Potts, senior project consultant, Montgomery, Ala.; John King, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.; Will Hodge, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.  
 Prayer of Intercession – Ernest Myers, foreign missionary, CSI  
 Testimony, missions volunteer  
 Testimony, Mike Rouse, Exodus Ministry, Dallas  
 Prayer of Intercession – Rebecca Lewis, home missionary, El Paso, Texas  
 Hymn  
 Special Music – One Voice, First Baptist Church, Houston  
 Message: "... let us not love with words ... but with actions and truth." – William A. Lawson Jr., pastor, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston  
 Prayer of Intercession – John King, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.  
 Closing Meditation – Fred Wilmer, Choir, First Baptist Church, Houston

**SBC Pastors' Conference**

June 13-14 • Second Baptist Church and  
George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston

**Sunday afternoon — Second Baptist Church**

- 1:30 Musical Praise — Newsong, Atlanta
- 1:50 Prayer — Scott Rambo, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 2:00 Message — Michael Hailey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.
- 2:25 Praise/Worship — Jerry Ables, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 2:30 Musical Praise — Joe Atkinson, music evangelist, Dallas
- 2:35 Message — Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas
- 3:05 Prayer/Offering — Joe Tilley, deacon, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 3:10 Musical Praise — Alan Green, music evangelist, Houston
- 3:15 Message — Harold O'Chester, pastor, Great Hills Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
- 3:45 Musical Praise — Newsong
- 3:50 Message — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, suburban Memphis, Tenn.
- 4:20 Benediction — Shane Craven, pastor, Mount Rachel Baptist Church, Dalton, Ga.

**Sunday evening — Brown Convention Center**

- 6:00 Choral Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Bossier, La.
- 6:15 Welcome — Fred Lowery, president, Pastors' Conference; pastor, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 6:20 Scripture and Prayer — Wayne Dubose, pastor, Summergrove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.
- 6:25 Choral Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 6:30 Message — Cal Thomas, political columnist, Los Angeles Times Syndicate, Los Angeles
- 7:00 Praise/Worship — Jerry Ables
- 7:10 Musical Praise — First Light Trio, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 7:15 Message — John Maxwell, pastor, Skylane Wesleyan Church, Injoy Ministries, San Deigo
- 8:10 Praise/Worship — Starlet Crosby Harbin, soloist, Snellville, Ga.
- 8:20 Prayer/Offering — Kenny Alford, pastor, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss.
- 8:25 Choral Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 8:35 Message — Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 9:15 Benediction — Sam Jones, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pittsburg, Texas

**Monday morning**

- 8:30 Musical Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 8:50 Scripture/Prayer — Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- 8:55 Praise/Worship — Keith Martin, minister of music, First North Mobile, Saraland, Ala.
- 9:00 Musical Praise — Keith Martin
- 9:05 Message — Danny Gray, pastor, Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Easley, S.C.
- 9:35 Musical Praise — First Light Trio

- 9:40 Message — Joe Brown, pastor, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.
- 10:10 Prayer/Offering — Michael Catt, pastor, Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, Ga.
- 10:15 Musical Praise — First Baptist Church Ensemble, Bossier, La.
- 10:25 Message — Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
- 10:55 Praise/Worship — Keith Martin
- 11:00 Musical Praise — Michelle Gage, soloist, Rodney Gage Ministries, Euleas, Texas
- 11:05 Message — Rodney Gage, evangelist, Rodney Gage Ministries, Euleas, Texas
- 11:35 Benediction — Cecil Taylor, pastor, West Monroe Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.

**Monday afternoon**

- 1:15 Musical Praise — Say So, Norman, Okla.
- 1:25 Praise/Worship — Jerry Ables
- 1:30 Scripture/Prayer — Mark Brister, pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.
- 1:35 Musical Praise — Dave St. Andre, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Ruston, La.
- 1:40 Message — Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
- 2:15 Praise/Worship — Jerry Ables
- 2:20 Musical Praise — Pat Keith, soloist, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 2:25 Message — Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.
- 3:00 Prayer/Offering — John Yarbrough, secretary, Pastors' Conference; pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ga.
- Musical Praise — Say So
- 3:10 Election of Officers
- 3:30 Message — Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 4:05 Musical Praise — Mark Temple, soloist, Putnam City Baptist Church, Oklahoma City
- 4:10 Message — E.V. Hill, pastor, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Los Angeles
- 4:45 Benediction — Michael Hamlett, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.

**Monday evening**

- 6:10 Choral Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 6:30 Praise/Worship — Jerry Ables
- 6:35 Scripture/Prayer — David Hankins, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La.
- 6:40 Musical Praise — Newsong
- 6:45 Message — Charles Lowery, pastor, Hoffmantown Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 7:25 Welcome — Edwin Young, SBC president
- 7:30 Prayer/Worship — Jerry Ables
- 7:40 Prayer/Offering — Ondi Brum, evangelist, Dallas
- 7:45 Musical Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 7:50 Message — Gary Smalley, president, Today's Family, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 8:30 Choral Praise — Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 8:35 Message — Charles Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 9:15 Introduction of New Officers  
Benediction — New Conference President

# Organizations plan SBC-related meetings

## Church music conference

HOUSTON (BP)—A series of concerts, preaching by Russell Dilday and various workshops will be featured during the June 13-14 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

The conference will meet at Champion Forest Baptist Church in northwest Houston prior to the June 15-17 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The concerts will be performed by musical groups representing local churches, denominational organizations and educational institutions, said Bob Hatfield, conference president and minister of music at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will preach during worship services at 7 p.m. June 13 and 7:15 p.m. June 14 centering on the conference theme, "Find Us Faithful."

Use of drama and instrumental music in worship will be among workshops offered to participants, Hatfield said.

The conference also will offer exhibits by various publishers, music equipment suppliers and educational institutions.

## National prayer conference

HOUSTON (BP)—The fourth annual National Prayer Conference will be held June 10-12 at Second Baptist Church in Houston prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The conference is geared toward helping churches develop and strengthen prayer ministries and also to provide prayer support for Crossover Houston witnessing and ministering efforts in the Houston area to involve convention messengers and local Baptists.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 10, and concludes at noon on Saturday, June 12. Conference registrants will be invited to accept a Crossover Houston witnessing assignment for Saturday afternoon.

There is no registration fee for the conference, which is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Second Baptist Church of Houston and Houston area associations.

Registrations should be sent to The Prayer Ministry, Second Baptist Church, 6400 Woodway, Houston, TX 77057; phone 713-467-9774.

## Religious educators meeting

HOUSTON (BP)—Futurist Tom Sine, founder of the World Future Society, will be the featured speaker during the 38th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, June 13-14 in Houston.

SBREA sessions on "Creative Approaches to Tomorrow's Challenges," at the Doubletree at Allen Center hotel, will be at 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, June 13, and 8:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday, June 14.

Sine, of Seattle, Wash., also is the founder of Mustard Seed Associates, an organization for assisting churches to respond to challenges of the future, and author of *The Mustard Seed Conspiracy* and several other books.

Christian vocalist Cynthia Clawson of Nashville, Tenn., will be featured both days.

Interest groups will meet at 10:30 a.m. June 14 on such topics as "Surviving the Information Age Explosion"; recovery, family and ethnic ministries; missions involvement; and new member assimilation.

Bill Cromer, professor of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is the current SBREA president; Bill Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, is the president-elect.

## Ministers' wives luncheon

HOUSTON (BP)—Willard Scott, the weatherman from NBC's "Today" show, will speak at the 1993 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston. A broadcaster for more than 40 years, Scott first appeared on Today in 1980.

The luncheon will be at the Hyatt Regency Imperial Ballroom Tuesday, June 15, at 12:15 p.m., according to June Honeycutt of Louisville, Ky., president of the ministers wives' luncheon.

Tickets ordered by May 20 are \$18 and may be obtained by sending a check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the group's recording secretary, Rena Henderson, c/o First Baptist Church, 729 Ocean Blvd., St. Simons Island, GA 31522. After May 20, tickets will be \$20 and may be purchased at the door.

## Directors of missions meeting

HOUSTON (BP)—"Looking Toward Tomorrow" will be the theme of the June 13-14 meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at Houston's Stouffer Presidente Hotel.

Larry McSwain, newly-elected president of Shorter College in Georgia and provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Stan Nelson, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary professor, will be among the speakers presenting a future-oriented look at the work of Baptist associations.

A. Kenneth Chadwick, director of missions for Baptist work in the Salt Lake City area, is the association's current president.

## Shuttle service available

HOUSTON (BP)—A shuttle bus system will be in operation when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Houston June 15-17 to ease traffic and parking problems at the downtown George R. Brown Convention Center.

Messengers from Southern Baptist churches are urged to leave their cars at their motels and hotels to avoid worsening heavy congestion at the convention center, said Herb Hollinger, an SBC Executive Committee vice president serving as convention manager.

The shuttle system "will be the best we've ever had at an SBC meeting," Hollinger stated.

Shuttle buses will run free of charge Sunday and Monday, June 13-14, to take messengers to the convention center so they can purchase shuttle tickets for the remainder of the SBC.

Advance tickets, to be picked up at the convention center, may be ordered from Production Transport, Inc., 5727 Prospect Ave., Suite 1003, Dallas, TX 75206; phone 214-827-0400.

Costs are \$35 for a couple, \$20 for an adult and \$10 for a child.

# Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Staff changes

**Conlan Efurd** has joined the staff of Spradling Church in Fort Smith as youth director. Efurd and his wife, Nancy, are both graduates of Ouachita Baptist University.

**Mike Taylor** resigned April 25 as minister of youth at First Church of Corning. He will join the staff of Adamsville Church in Goldsboro, N.C.

**Patrick Magel** joined the staff of Highland Drive Church in Jonesboro April 12 as youth minister. He is a student at Arkansas State University.

**Al Green** has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Church of Gould. He will go there from First Southern Church of Bearden.

**Trent Blackley** has joined the staff of Nettleton Church in Jonesboro as minister of music. He and his wife, Joi, moved there from Fort Worth, Texas, where he was serving Riverside Church. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Larry Plummer** has joined the staff of First Church in Fort Smith as director of children and bus ministry. He previously has served in Forrest City and Fort Smith.

**Craig Cox** is serving as pastor of First Church in Midland. He and his wife, Suzan, moved there from Whitesboro, Okla., where he served First Church.

**Tom Elliott** is serving as pastor of Antioch Church, Wynne. He was a member of Second Church in Forrest City.

**Marty Light** has joined the staff of First Church of Paragould as youth director. A native of Jonesboro, he is a student at Arkansas State University and a former member of Walnut Street Church of Jonesboro.

**Cecil Goacher** is serving as pastor of Gladden Church, Parkin. He previously was at Antioch Church, Wynne.

**David Mitchell** of Hot Springs began serving April 18 as pastor of Congo Road Church, Benton. He has served as administrator of Second Baptist Christian School in Hot Springs and as interim pastor of Lakeshore Heights Church, Hot Springs. He and his wife, Fran, have three children.

**Tom Darter** has announced his resignation as director of missions for Delta Soc-



*Oak Cliff Church in Fort Smith celebrated the 10th anniversary of service for pastor Phil Whitten April 4 by breaking ground for a new six-room preschool building, estimated to cost \$90,000. Oak Cliff has experienced steady growth since Whitten began serving in March of 1983. Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were (left to right) Stan D'Aubin, building committee chairman; L.C. Goodman, vice chairman; Lee Merry; Whitten; Darrell Taylor, chairman of deacons; Dan Swink; Larry Scheer; and Victory Lauderdale.*

ciation, effective May 15. Darter has resigned, following 18 years of service, to become pastor of Evangel Church in Welton, W. Va.

Darter and his wife, Georgeleann, have been in the delta area for more than 28 years, first serving the Kelso Church. They were at Portland Church from 1969-75.

The Darters were honored May 2 with a reception at Dermott Church.

**Stefan Eubanks** is serving as pastor of Grace Church in Rogers, coming there from Grant Creek Church in Fosters, Ala. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Eubanks and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Kate and Ben.

**Correction:** A reporting error concerning the pastor of Shiloh Memorial Church in Texarkana was published in the April 22 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Bill Baldrige is pastor of Shiloh Memorial Church.

**Correction:** A reporting error concerning Freeling Clower was published in the April 22 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Clower is pastor of Shiloh Church near Arkadelphia and is a counselor for the Upward Bound program at Ouachita Baptist University. His wife, Betty,

is serving as secretary in the school of music at OBU.

## Church news

**Young Musicians** - A total of 421 Arkansas Baptist Young Musicians choir members and their directors convened in four locations April 17 for festivals sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention music department.

The festivals included individual choir performances for comments and ratings from adjudicators who also led mass choir performances on selected anthems.

Adjudicators and locations were: Mary Ford from Heavener, Okla., at East Side Church in Fort Smith; Lance Ford of Spiro, Okla., at Central Church in Jonesboro; Rhonda Edge Buescher of Fort Worth, Texas, at First Church of Warren; and Susan Cauley of Pineville, La., at Central Church in North Little Rock.

**Midway Church** was in a revival April 4-7 that resulted in 25 professions of faith, two additions by letter and numerous rededications, according to pastor Bob Richardson. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was evangelist and Bill Jameson directed music.

# We are doing something right.

Through the work of the Home Mission Board and gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, Southern Baptists are doing something right. One hundred percent of the home missions offering goes to support 4,868 missionaries serving Christ and sharing his love in all 50 states, the Caribbean, American Samoa and Canada, and in more than 100 languages.



**We are doing something right in Portland, Oregon.**

Missionaries Troy and Jamae Smith direct the SAFE House, an inner city ministry point where up to 13 drug addicts can come to live and find a way out of the bondage of Satan's addiction.



**We are doing something right in Cambridge, Massachusetts.**

Missionary pastor Dale Cross has led his church, Metropolitan Baptist Church, to start more than 20 churches in its 28 years of existence.



**We are doing something right along the Mexican border in Arizona.**

Missionary Ross Hanna has worked for 22 years overseeing three Baptist centers that minister to refugees.



**We are doing something right by involving 70,000 volunteers.**

Long-term and short-term volunteer mission assignments saved the Home Mission Board more than \$95 million last year.



**We are doing something right in Juneau, Alaska.**

The Glacier Valley Baptist Church has started a church every year for the last seven years in the capital city that is 90 percent unchurched.

Please continue to support these and other home missionaries through your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. If you have not given to the offering this year, please consider doing so now. If you have already given, please consider another sacrificial offering.



**Do Something!**  
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
for Home Missions  
National Goal: \$38 million

This message about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission.

## Midwestern trustees block election, tenure

KANSAS CITY, MO (ABP/BP) — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary blocked the election of one professor and denied tenure to another during their meeting April 19-20.

Seminary president Milton Ferguson warned trustees the confrontation over faculty tenure could foreshadow "the devastation of this institution."

During the meeting, Ferguson withdrew a recommendation to elect visiting professor David May to the permanent faculty, saying May's nomination did not have the necessary trustee support.

May, who has served the seminary as visiting professor of New Testament since January 1991, was to be recommended to the faculty as assistant professor of New Testament.

Trustees did not say why they objected to hiring May. But a seminary source said trustees were concerned about May's view of the inspiration of the Bible.

"I've always understood myself as a conservative biblical scholar," May said following the meeting. "I am disappointed and heartbroken that I am not going to be able to fulfill that calling of God here."

A packet of printed materials critical of May was delivered anonymously to trustees at their hotel. But trustee chairman Sid Peterson said the materials were not a factor in the board's decision. "If anything it would have made us more sympathetic," said Peterson of Bakersfield, Calif. Trustees unanimously passed a resolution deploring the materials.

The writings of theology professor Wilburn Stancil were cited by trustees who opposed granting him tenure.

Arkansas trustee Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, read numerous excerpts from an article Stancil wrote on structuralism, a New Testament interpretation tool.

Rogers said Stancil failed in the article to warn Bible students that structuralism is "theologically bankrupt."

Instruction committee chairman James Jones responded with excerpts from the article that were critical of structuralism, which Stancil described as "a house half built."

"Most decidedly I am not a structuralist," Stancil noted in a written response. "I do not teach structuralism in my class.... I believe the Bible is inspired by God, trustworthy and totally reliable in leading people to redemptive relationships through Christ and in teaching the redeemed how to live."

Prior to the vote on Stancil, Peterson told the board he believed a two-thirds majority was needed to grant tenure—the same margin as needed to elect faculty.

President Ferguson, however, said trustees in the past had required only a simple majority to grant tenure, and under parliamentary procedure that practice should prevail.

Peterson then ruled that a two-thirds majority would be required. The ruling was challenged, but Peterson's opinion was sustained on a vote of 17-13. The

subsequent vote on granting tenure to Stancil was 16-9 in favor, just short of the required two-thirds majority.

Before trustees went on to consider granting tenure to assistant professor Randall Bradley, Ferguson told the board they were debating "the most urgent and critical matter I've dealt with in 20 years."

"You're dealing with the heart of this institution," he said. "I implore you, if you are dissatisfied with the procedure... I would be delighted to withdraw both recommendations for tenure, to set them on the agenda for October, to provide every article written by these men, to provide full opportunity for this whole board to talk with these people."

Trustees voted to approve the withdrawal of Bradley's nomination, then voted to reconsider their earlier denial of tenure to Stancil, allowing Ferguson to withdraw Stancil's nomination as well.

In other business, trustees:

■ Approved a recommendation to name Don E. Hammer as the Leonard Sanderson Professor of Evangelism and Missions, effective August 1. Hammer has been a Midwestern faculty member since 1983.

■ Received a report on transitions in the seminary's off-campus centers in Little Rock and Wichita, Kan. With the completion of the 1992-93 academic year, Midwestern will no longer be involved in sponsoring those programs. However, the seminary's doctor of ministry program conducted in Little Rock will continue.

■ Affirmed a resolution expressing appreciation to Ferguson and his wife, Bettie, for their 20 years of service.

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# Three Southern Seminary trustees resign

By David R. Wilkinson

Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—In a meeting punctuated moments before adjournment by a trio of trustee resignations, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees ushered in a new era at its semi-annual meeting April 19-21.

Trustees bade farewell to retiring president Roy L. Honeycutt and welcomed his successor, 33-year-old Georgia Baptist editor R. Albert Mohler Jr. Mohler plans to begin work at the Louisville, Ky., campus in May before officially assuming the presidency Aug. 1.

The meeting ended tensely with separate resignation announcements from three moderate trustees.

George Steincross, a Liberty, Mo., pastor and member of the board since 1984, said he had been elected as a trustee at a time when "there were those in the (Southern Baptist Convention) claiming they would take over the entities of the denomination." Honeycutt's "premature" retirement, coupled with Mohler's election, "establishes the fact that the hostile takeover of Southern Seminary is complete," he said. Steincross was followed by Georgia pastor Jerry Mahan and retired South Carolina pastor Horace Benjamin who expressed similar feelings.

All three trustees resigned effective July 31, the date of Honeycutt's retirement.

While Benjamin could not be reached for comment, Mahan and Steincross indicated following the meeting that their resignations also were prompted by the

refusal of the board's academic personnel committee to recommend three faculty members for endowed chairs, a process trustees have never challenged before.

The controversy flared after a list of faculty promotions had been approved without discussion and one faculty member was recommended for a chair in New Testament.

Virginia trustee Julian Pentecost, retired editor of the *Virginia Religious Herald*, questioned why the academic personnel committee's report did not include three other nominations from administrators for endowed chairs in the school of theology.

Committee chairman Richard White replied the committee had "simply taken no action" on those recommendations.

The committee's recommendation was then approved, with David Garland named to a chair in New Testament and Douglas Smith named to a chair in church music.

The nominations of professors Gerald Keown, Raymond Bailey and William Hendricks were not presented.

Keown, who received a promotion in separate action, expressed appreciation for "the confidence shown in me by the dean, the provost and the president by nominating me to this chair," adding he would "let the trustee actions speak for themselves."

Bailey and Hendricks also thanked seminary administration but made it clear they felt slighted by trustees.

"I feel that this is a clear abrogation of the covenant which exists between the trustees and the faculty," said Bailey, who also lamented "the continuing assault on the Baptist tradition of dissent and academic freedom."

Hendricks said, "It is apparent that among the trustees independent voices and independent opinion are not valued. I have plenty of both and plan to use them freely."

In other actions during the three-day meeting, trustees:

■ Elected Honeycutt chancellor, effective Jan. 1, 1994.

■ Elected Richard White, pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., as trustee chairman. Arkansas David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, was elected second vice chairman. Miller defeated William Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, by a vote of 30-25.

■ Approved three new faculty members without opposition. Elected were Carey Newman of Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla., as assistant professor of New Testament; Marvin W. Anderson of Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., as professor of church history; and T. Vaughn Walker, part-time assistant professor at Southern Seminary and pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, as full-time associate professor of black church studies.



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## Two deans resign at Southern, provost accepts college presidency

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—The deans of two of the four schools at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, citing ideological differences with president-elect R. Albert Mohler and seminary trustees, are resigning.

William B. Rogers, dean of the school of Christian education, announced he would remain at Southern as a professor but would step down July 31 as dean because of Mohler's stance against women as ordained pastors.

Milburn Price, dean of the school of church music, has been named dean of the school of music at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Price said he is leaving, also on July 31, mostly because Samford offers new career challenges. But he said another factor was a "narrowing of the boundaries as to what is an acceptable expression of faith, or what is an acceptable perspective of faith," at the seminary.

In another administrative change, seminary provost Larry L. McSwain has been elected president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

McSwain, 52, has been a faculty member of the Louisville, Ky., seminary since 1970. In addition to provost, he is professor of church and community at Southern and previously has been dean of the seminary's school of theology and director of master of divinity studies.

McSwain received unanimous approval of Shorter's 21-member presidential search committee April 17 and the full trustee board April 23.

In a letter of resignation Rogers submitted April 15, he wrote: "I believe that being Baptist and being Christian means that I must advocate freedom for each believer in Christ to identify gifts and define calls to mission and ministry without regard to gender. I find no evidence that Jesus taught exclusiveness related to gender and ministry, rather He taught a profound inclusiveness."

Although the seminary has no official position against the ordination of women, Rogers said Mohler's private views would have an impact on the institution.

Price, who said his personal views would be "very inclusive," said his resignation was less a reaction to Mohler's election and more a reaction to the general academic climate on campus.

"My decision was also influenced by what I perceived to be a diminishing tolerance on the part of trustees for diversity of thought and diversity of approach," Price said. "For me, those qualities are very important."

Mohler said some staff changes can be expected with any administrative transition. He said he had not requested blanket resignations of the executive staff.



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# FMB trustees name first woman area director

By Robert O'Brien  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

COLUMBUS, OH (BP)—Foreign Mission Board trustees affirmed a Southern Baptist Executive Committee resolution on Woman's Missionary Union while naming the board's first woman area director during their April 19-21 meeting.

Trustees also appointed or reappointed 42 missionaries, re-elected their chairman, voted to enter Syria and heard reports on advances into World A—the fourth of the globe that has had little or no Christian witness.

Trustees unanimously affirmed an SBC Executive Committee "Resolution of Concern and Commitment" on WMU, approved in February.

The Executive Committee's resolution affirmed the Woman's Missionary Union's many contributions to promoting missions over the past 105 years. But it called on the WMU to cooperate only with the Southern Baptist Convention's Home and Foreign Mission boards. It said the committee would honor the WMU's status as a con-

vention auxiliary as long as it "pledges its faithful and solitary support of the missions offerings and missions programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards."

FMB Interim president Don Kammerdiener said he believed the FMB trustees should affirm the resolution, earlier endorsed by the Home Mission Board, "in a positive and affirming spirit."

"I believe the time has come for us to stop living by our fears rather than by our faith," he said. "Trust begets trust and suspicion begets suspicion.... Sooner or later in our denomination, someone or some group will step forward to declare a unilateral truce in our spiritual civil war. I encourage us to be the ones to do it."

He urged passage of the resolution to affirm "all that our relationships have meant in the past and as an expectation that those relationships will be even stronger in the future."

In other action, trustees departed from the custom of nominating a chairman to a second one-year term without opposition, but re-elected John Jackson of California

in a 44-30 ballot over Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas.

Faye Pearson, 52, a missionary in Taiwan for 24 years, was elected area director for mission work in East Asia. An associate area director since 1988, she will oversee the work of some 500 missionaries in Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, South Korea and Taiwan. Kammerdiener recommended her for the post from a "short list" of candidates brought to him by a trustee search committee.

She is the first woman to be elected as an area director. Five other women are associate area directors, one woman has served as a regional vice president, another has been vice president for communications and others have held administrative posts overseas and on the home office staff over the years.

Pearson won election by show of hands, with about a dozen of the 77 trustees present voting against her election. Some trustees opposed a woman in such a major supervisory post on biblical grounds. But only one spoke against her election at the board meeting.



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## FOREIGN MISSIONS

# FMB plans to cut jobs at home due to rising costs, falling revenue

By Marty Croll

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will cut home office positions to compensate for falling revenue and rising costs expected in 1994, according to interim president Don Kammerdiener.

Kammerdiener said it's too early to forecast how many of the board's 464 full- and part-time employees will actually lose their jobs — or when.

"You may hear rumors as the possibilities are considered, but I urge you to wait for the facts as they develop," Kammerdiener said in a memo to board staff. "We will strive to minimize trauma to staff members without compromising our service to the Lord and His work through the Foreign Mission Board."

Kammerdiener hopes to make final decisions this month, he said. Before then, each of the board's eight vice presidents will review with the president what func-

tions should be reduced or eliminated in 1994. "Identifying the reductions now will allow us to fill vacancies that arise with staff members who may be displaced," Kammerdiener said. The board also will consider offering out-placement and other services to employees who lose their jobs.

In his memo, Kammerdiener referred to the downward trend of Cooperative Program giving and the projected shortfall in gifts to the 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The shortfall and rising costs "leave the Foreign Mission Board with less buying power," he said.

"Sixty-eight percent of the \$22.4 million home office budget for 1993 provides salary and benefits for the staff. Therefore, it will be necessary to scale down these budget items which will require the elimination of some home office jobs."

Overseas field budgets will need to be trimmed also, he said.

The SBC Executive Committee voted in February to send the Foreign Mission Board next year a projected \$69 million, or about \$1 million less than this year.

It's too early to know how Southern Baptists will respond to the 1993 Lottie Moon Offering late this year and how much of the foreign missions budget the offering will support. Projections show the 1992 offering — to be counted at the end of May — will total about \$1.5 million less than it did the year before.

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## RTVC trustees vote to adopt 'flat' \$10 million budget

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees set 1993-94 budget limits at \$10 million and accepted a year-to-date financial report showing income and expenses under budget during their April 19-21 meeting.

Trustees also revised refinancing terms for a \$4.5 million loan balance, heard encouraging TV audience numbers and reports of new programs and elected new officers during sessions at a Dallas-Fort Worth airport hotel.

Noting that this is the third straight year to recommend a "flat" budget, executive vice president Richard T. McCartney said it would be prudent not to increase the budget until additional income is in sight.

With year-to-date expenses running at

97 percent of budget, McCartney expressed confidence in the commission's ability to operate soundly and within its resources.

Jerry Stamps, vice president for business services, reported progress in negotiations to refinance the \$4.5 million balance on a \$10 million loan made in 1986. Trustees approved a resolution which adjusted authorized term limits and cleared

the way to accept a lender's favorable fixed-rate loan offer.

Dallas W. Bumgarner, a Maryland pastor, was elected trustee chairman. Elected as recording secretary was Arkansas Gary Underwood, media director at Beech Street First Church of Texarkana and executive vice president of Beech Street Communications Corporation, the FamilyNet affiliate in Texarkana.

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■ Pray for peace within our churches. Conflicts, church splits and forced termination of pastors and staff members continue to bring untold pain in our convention. Pray that Arkansas Baptists will learn acceptable, positive ways to manage disagreements and conflicts.

■ Friendship International Bible School. Pray for more teachers for the Friendship International Bible School in Harmony Association.

■ Medical Clinic. Pray for physicians to donate their services at the free medical clinic sponsored by Fianna Hills Church in Fort Smith each Thursday evening.

■ Answered prayer. Pray for the new leader who has agreed to coordinate the Habitat for Humanity project in Dixonville.

■ Valley Springs Church fire caused by arson. Thank God for the way the church worked together. Praise God for the man-

ner in which the local Methodists, Assemblies of God and others have opened their doors to Valley Springs Church to provide temporary worship facilities.

■ Mississippi River Ministry. Thank the Lord for John and DeDe Ragsdale who are full-time volunteer coordinators for MRM.

■ Literacy Missions. Thank the Lord for Gail Williams who is serving as full-time volunteer Literacy Missions coordinator.

■ Hermitage-Bartholomew Migrant Center. Pray for more volunteers, especially someone to help with youth and children's activities. Pray for young persons from migrant families, that they may be able and willing to stay in school. Pray for director Ariel Hernandez and his wife, Elda.

■ MasterLife in correctional institution. Pray for Phillip Glassco who is leading the first MasterLife group in one of our correctional institutions. Pray for other volunteers who can help expand this area of our prison ministry.

■ The Caring Center, North Pulaski. Praise the Lord for the individual who was saved recently. Pray for more volunteers to work in the Caring Center.

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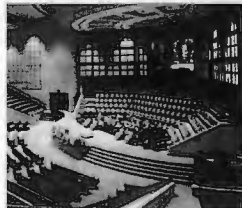
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## Convention Uniform

### Capturing opportunities

By Larry Grayson, minister of music, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock  
 Basic passage: John 4:1-42  
 Focal passage: John 4:4-30  
 Central truth: Jesus' experience with the woman at the well gives insight into effectively sharing our faith.

Have you missed an opportunity to share your faith recently? Were you even perhaps unaware that an open door was before you to tell someone of the love of Christ? Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well contains great insight that should aid Christians in becoming a prepared witness.

The first observation from today's passage is to understand that most witnessing opportunities will not be convenient. Jesus was tired (v. 6), and a confrontation could have been ignored for a more convenient opportunity when He was not so physically worn. We must not seek convenience, but make the most of every opportunity (Eph. 5:15-16).

Secondly, Jesus had no concern for social barriers (v. 9). Samaritans and Jews did not associate with one another, yet Jesus chose to share with this Samaritan woman because He saw her need that was greater than any society-imposed barrier. The imperative for Christians is to see others as He sees them. We must take the initiative (v. 7) if we ever hope for others to become vulnerable enough to admit they have needs in their lives.

Thirdly, we must be prepared for non-believers to think what we share is a bit unbelievable! The woman at the well must have thought it ridiculous that Jesus offered her "living" water. Human comprehension cannot grasp that which can only be experienced through a personal relationship with Christ and through understanding given by the Holy Spirit. The Samaritan lady thought Jesus offered her a life of ease (v. 15). The reality of His offer was not to remove labors, but to give power to cope with life's difficulties.

A water jar was a necessity of life at the time of this writing. Upon realizing she had found the Messiah for whom she had been searching, the woman left what was previously so important (v. 28) in the excitement of sharing what was now and forever most important. Is anything in life more important than living for Christ and sharing Him with others?

## Life and Work

### Dangers of church growth

By Roy F. Lewis, pastor, Forest Tower Church, Hensley  
 Basic passage: Acts 5:17-42  
 Focal passage: Acts 5:17-20, 29, 38-42  
 Central truth: God expects His church to grow, but such growth comes at a price.

Churches always talk about wanting to grow, and such desires are usually sincere. Yet few church leaders and members are willing to pay the price necessary for such growth.

The early church grew rapidly, and the popularity and success of the apostles' preaching was widely known. The growth of the church thus became a threat to the influence of the Sadducees (v. 17) and resulted in action against the apostles (v. 18).

God intervened in the imprisonment of His servants (v. 19), but the angel of the Lord sent them back to the temple to continue preaching the same thing that had resulted in their previous arrest (v. 20).

In spite of such danger and the intense pressure from the council, Peter and the other apostles continued their preaching (v. 29). They declared the authority of God over that of men. They acknowledged the necessity of obedience to God, and the words used indicate the mandatory nature of obedience.

One member of the council, Gamaliel, recognized the logic of their contention, and advised against putting them to death (v. 38-39). Still, the apostles were subjected to a severe beating (v. 40).

Such punishment is usually sufficient to discourage the most faithful servants, but not these servants (v. 42). They had paid a price for their service, but they continued undaunted.

How could they continue to lead the church to grow, in the face of such severe opposition and such painful suffering? Their attitude gives the answer (v. 41). There was no self-pity and no consideration of defeat. They had made a commitment to follow Jesus, and any suffering which might be necessary was considered a badge of honor.

Churches today that achieve growth are those that have fearless leaders and committed members, each of whom is willing to pay the price.

## Bible Book

### Future troubles and glory

By Marvin Reynolds, DOM, Mississippi County Association  
 Basic passage: Isaiah 33:1-39:8  
 Focal passage: Isaiah 35:1-10  
 Central truth: For God's people the best is yet to come.

Isaiah prophesied the destruction of Sennacherib, king of Assyria, and his army (Isa. 33:1). After defeating other cities of Judah he threatened to destroy the city of Jerusalem. His threats against Hezekiah and Jerusalem are in chapters 36 and 37.

One Assyrian army officer boasted that one of his men could defeat 2,000 of the Jewish soldiers. However, it only took God one angel to destroy 185,000 of the Assyrians in one night (Isa. 37:36). Sennacherib was later killed by two of his own sons (Isa. 37:38).

Chapter 38 records Hezekiah's prayer to God and God's answer to add 15 years to his life. In chapter 39, Isaiah tells Hezekiah of the coming Babylonian captivity of Judah.

Though future troubles were in Isaiah's prophesy, there also was future glory. The immediate future glory would be the defeat of the Assyrians. However, this was a mere foretaste of the greater glory depicted in Isaiah's Messianic prophesy in chapter 35. This chapter foretells the glorious future for all of God's children.

The desert will blossom as the rose (Isa. 35:1). All physical ills will be healed (Isa. 35:5-6). Streams will flow in the desert (Isa. 35:6b). There will be a highway of holiness (Isa. 35:8). No danger will be there (Isa. 35:9). The redeemed will sing praises to God with joy and gladness forever (Isa. 35:10).

Isaiah 35:10 pictures God dwelling with His people as their hearts overflow with joy and their voices are filled with praise to Him - praise for His amazing grace that spared not His Son. Psalms 22:3 says that God inhabits the praise of His people.

An elderly missionary had given most of his life serving God on a foreign field. He was now returning home by ship to his homeland to stay. He expressed to his wife his disappointment that no one was at the dock to welcome them home. She suggested he pray about the matter. Later the wife inquired about what God had told him. With a smile he replied that the Lord had said, "Missionary, you are not home yet." Glory, what a home it is that awaits the Lord's redeemed.

## Convention Uniform

### You are invited

By Larry Grayson, minister of music, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock  
 Basic passage: John 7:37-52  
 Focal passage: John 7:37-52  
 Central truth: Jesus offers an invitation to respond to Him today and never thirst again.

The setting for this passage is the final day of the Feast of the Tabernacles. One of the ceremonial features of the feast was the carrying of water from the pool of Siloam to the Temple as an expression of thanks for water during the days in the wilderness as well as a prayer for rain for the coming year. Jesus capitalizes on their recognized need for water and the experience of thirst to extend an invitation to those people and to us.

Jesus asks if we are thirsty. Do you thirst today for abundant life; for life that has replaced guilt and turmoil with peace; for a life that has dispelled gloom and despair with hope and joy; for a life that is full of forgiveness and love? This was and is His invitation...to come to Him and never experience spiritual thirst again (v. 37). The invitation is for anyone regardless of where you are or where you have been. What is your response to His invitation?

The response of some of the crowd was one that brought about confusion and division because they tried to understand God-sized concepts with human comprehension and wisdom (vs. 41-43). The response of the chief priests and Pharisees was that of outrage and ridicule because the life Jesus offered was an interference with their present lifestyle (vs. 47-49).

Temple guards had been sent to seize Jesus. After hearing Jesus, they were in awe of His words and His wisdom (vs. 45-46). Records do not indicate that they ever moved beyond the stage of being impressed with the power of God.

Nicodemus was also present. You remember that He had earlier inquired about how to experience salvation but realizing the demands of discipleship, walked away. Perhaps he was being convicted and felt that the good deed of protecting Jesus through the legal system of the day would somehow ease that burden (vs. 50-51).

Some responded by recognizing Jesus as the Christ and accepted His invitation to never thirst again. What keeps you from responding to Him in the same manner today?

## Life and Work

### The stoning of Stephen

By Roy F. Lewis, pastor, Forest Tower Church, Hensley  
 Basic passage: Acts 6:8-15; 7:55-60  
 Focal passage: Acts 7:55-60  
 Central truth: A layman with a vision can change the course of history.

Stephen was a deacon, not a preacher, but his impact and influence on the early church is one of the outstanding examples recorded in the New Testament.

He had been selected for service as a deacon because he was full of the Holy Spirit. That same fullness of the Spirit enabled him to see the glory of God in a special way and to recognize the presence of Jesus (v. 55).

Stephen referred to Jesus as "the Son of man" (v. 56), which is the only place in the New Testament where that title is used by anyone other than Jesus Himself. It apparently indicates Stephen's understanding of the Messiahship of Jesus.

Most New Testament references of Jesus after the ascension picture Him as seated on the right hand of God, but Stephen saw Him standing (v. 56). This may represent Jesus' willingness to be a witness for Stephen, just as Stephen had done for Him, since witnesses always stood in court. Or it may have simply represented Jesus' sympathy for Stephen and His readiness to receive Stephen into the divine present. In any case, it revealed the high regard in which Stephen was held.

In describing his heavenly vision, Stephen precipitated his own death (v. 57-59). Yet, even while dying, he continued to minister to the very people who were stoning him. His prayer (v. 60) is often compared to the similar prayer offered by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to the crucifixion.

Present at the stoning of Stephen was a young Pharisee named Saul (v. 58b) who was later to become Paul the Apostle. Many scholars believe that Paul's account of his conversion experience includes an implied reference to the death of Stephen. If so, it means that Stephen's vision and faithfulness to Christ had a part in Paul's conversion and ministry.

Thus, Stephen may have set in motion a series of events which literally changed the course of Christian history.

## Bible Book

### Comfort for God's people

By Marvin Reynolds, DOM, Mississippi County Association  
 Basic passage: Isaiah 40:1-44:23  
 Focal passage: Isaiah 40:1-11; 40:31; 43:10-12; 44:6  
 Central truth: God comforts His people with His truths.

The setting for chapter 40 is Babylon. The time is near the end of the captivity of God's people. In Isaiah 40:1-2, God calls for the prophet to comfort his people with words of good news. God had pardoned their sins. They would soon be free. Better days were ahead. They were to return to Jerusalem, having laid waste for nearly 70 years (Jer. 29:10). Jerusalem was to be rebuilt and the worship of God restored.

Isaiah 40:3 speaks of a voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Though this is a picture of a way being prepared by God for His people to return to Jerusalem, it also is one of many messianic passages in the book of Isaiah. Matthew 3:3 makes it clear that Isaiah 40:3 is a reference to John as the forerunner of the Messiah.

The design of the entire prophecy in Isaiah 40:1-44:23 is to comfort God's people who are afflicted and oppressed. These truths were given to comfort God's people, not only for that day, but for all of God's people at any given time.

One truth designed to comfort is the sovereignty of God: I am the first and I am the last and beside me there is no God (Isa. 44:6). Some other references to God's sovereignty are Isaiah 40:12-28 and Isaiah 42:5.

Our corrupt world is coming apart. What a comfort to know our trust is in a sovereign God. He never sleeps and is in complete control at all times.

Another great truth that comforts is God's love and protection for His people. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd. He shall gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom (Isa. 40:11). Other references are Isaiah 41:10 and Isaiah 43:25.

God's reward for those who trust in Him is also a truth of great comfort. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength (Isa. 40:31).

According to Isaiah 43:10-12 and 44:8 we are chosen to be His witnesses. What a comforting truth. What a privilege. Chosen to be witnesses for our great, sovereign, loving Savior, Jesus Christ.



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## Yeltsin apologizes to Christians for church persecution

MOSCOW (BP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said the Russian government accepts full blame for abusing the Christian church during the communist years and has apologized for it. Yeltsin made the statement during an April 21 meeting at the Kremlin with Russian religious leaders.

Baptist leader Vasilii Logvinenko expressed appreciation for Yeltsin's statement. Baptists were one of the most persecuted religious groups during communist days, he said. Many were imprisoned for their faith. Even today the word Baptist is suspect among some Russians, he said.

The patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church attended the meeting and told Yeltsin his church wants to have peace with the government. Leaders of Pentecostals, Adventists, Jewish groups and others also were present at the special meeting.

## Church's revival services continue despite prison riot

LUCASVILLE, OH (BP)—What a way to start a revival — on Easter Sunday, the day hundreds of prisoners in one cell block of the state prison, within a mile of Cook Road Baptist Church, started a riot that concluded last week.

That was the setting at the Lucasville, Ohio, church about 85 miles south of Columbus. The church's six-day revival went on despite the sudden riot, and three people professed faith in Christ and were baptized while the standoff continued nearby.

Cook Road Baptist Church is the only Southern Baptist church in the tiny, unincorporated village of Lucasville. The nearby correctional facility's power plant, warehouse and several guard towers are easily visible from the backyard of the church.

## Annual Gallup index shows 'religiousness' on rebound

PRINCETON, NJ (ABP) — "Religiousness" in America appears to have ended a long-term decline and could be on the rebound, according to an annual index compiled by The Gallup Poll.

"The Princeton Religion Research Center Index" is a composite average of eight measurements of religious behavior and opinion that have been studied by Gallup over the past 50 years. The index is based on about 40,000 interviews with a representative nationwide sample of American adults.

The latest figures available — for 1991 — place the index at 656 on a scale of 1,000. A rating of 1,000, the report notes, is "an obviously unattainable goal that could be reached only when every single person in the country made a total commitment to God and church."

However, the latest rating of 656 is the highest since 1987 and reflects a small increase over the all-time low of 650 recorded in 1988.

## Opponents of homosexual rights criticize meeting

WASHINGTON (BP)—While homosexual leaders expressed elation after their recent, historic meeting in the Oval Office of the White House, opponents of homosexual rights described it as wrong morally and unwise politically.

In the first such meeting a president has had with homosexual leaders, President Bill Clinton reaffirmed his intention to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military and his support for homosexual rights legislation, participants said afterward.

"This meeting symbolized the entry of lesbian and gay people into the mainstream of American life," said Tom Stoddard, executive director of the Campaign for Military Service, a group seeking to end the military ban, "and it is the president of the United States, who, through his moral leadership, permitted that to happen."

Others did not share his perspective. "Clearly, 'moral leadership' is in the eye of the beholder," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Most Southern Baptists would consider facilitating the entry of homosexuals into the mainstream as neither moral nor leadership."

## Southern professor dies following battle with cancer

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Ernest White, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1980, died at his home April 17 following a lengthy battle with cancer.

White, 63, was the Louisville, Ky., seminary's Gaines S. Dobbins professor of church administration and leadership. He also directed the school's Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church. Prior to joining the seminary faculty, White was pastor of Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., for 18 years. He was also pastor of four other Missouri churches and one Kentucky church during his 30-year pastoral ministry.