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May 7, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



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May 7, 1992

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Loneliness is a common attribute of life. There are several reasons why one may be lonely, such as a sense of loss, but there also are practical things the lonely person can do to keep in the mainstream of life. Maurice Hurley, professor at Boyce Bible School, explores the different facets of loneliness.

8 Transition and timelessness

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Day of Prayer* is Sunday, May 17. As the ABN approaches a transitional period with the October retirement of Editor J. Everett Sneed, a historical review reveals that the concerns and strengths of the Newsmagazine have remained remarkably consistent.

20 Trustees to vote on Patterson

Paige Patterson, an architect of the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention, is the nominee for the next president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Patterson currently is president of Criswell College in Dallas, Texas. A special trustee meeting has been called May 14 for a vote on Patterson's selection.

24 1992 Indianapolis SBC

A three-way contest for president and a theme of "Bold Believers in a Broken World" headline the 135th session of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Indianapolis. Pre-convention coverage includes meetings for pastors, wives, DOMS, evangelists, educators, musicians, Hispanic ministers, WMU, and the formation of an African American Fellowship.

31 15 Europe missionaries resign

The recent resignations of 15 Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe have raised new questions among some about whether turmoil in the Foreign Mission Board's work in the region could cause still more missionary departures. The 15 Europe resignations were among 40 recently submitted by missionaries worldwide.

Prayer request

A special prayer request has been made for John and Claudia Brown and their children, following a traumatic robbery April 28 in their home in Maputo, Mozambique, Southeastern Africa, where they serve as missionaries. The family is now in Johannesburg, South Africa. John Brown was born in Pine Bluff and considers Star City his hometown.

Cover story

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Mabee gift awarded 12

The Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., has awarded the Arkansas Baptist State convention a gift of \$295,000 for the improvements at the Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs. The gift is the result of a challenge goal of \$350,000 raised by Arkansas Baptists. Executive Director Don Moore (left) and Assembly Director Freddie Pike accepted the gift.

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Child abuse

J. EVERETT SNEED

The manner in which children were treated by primitive man is totally unthinkable to contemporary Americans. In primitive society, children were sacrificed to heathen gods, female children were left to die, and sometimes every third or fourth child in a family would be killed. Before the Christian era, cruelty to children staggered the imagination.

Yet, today countless thousands of children are the recipients of abusive treatment. The Bible teaches us that "... children are an inheritance from the Lord..." (Ps. 127:3), and parents have a responsibility to train him up "... in the way that he should go..." (Pr. 22:7). We, as Christians, have a particular responsibility in solving this abuse problem.

In the Roman civilization contemporary with Paul, there existed certain features that made life perilous for children. A Roman father had absolute power over his entire family. He could sell his children as slaves, he could make them work in the fields, even in chains, and he could even inflict the death penalty on his children.

Under Roman law in the time of Paul, the father had absolute control as long as he lived. A Roman child never came of age. Even if he were grown and the magistrate of the city, he still remained under the absolute authority of his father. It is true that the father's power seldom was carried to its limits, because public opinion would not have allowed it. But, the fact remains that there were instances in which the father condemned his children to death.

Child abuse may be defined as any habitual behavior that is harmful to the growth and well being of a child. A parent or a guardian may abuse a child psychologically, emotionally, sexually, or simply through neglect. Physical abuse includes any type of repeated or violent assault on the child's body, while emotional abuse includes continual belittling, scolding, nagging, yelling, etc. The annual toll of abuse to children in our nation is estimated as high as 4.5 million.

There are numbers of reasons why parents abuse children, according to psychologists. Some parents simply repeat the treatment they received when they were children. If they were harshly beaten as children, when they become parents, they beat their children.

It also is suggested that parents severely



The most important question is: "What can be done to stop the growing problem of child abuse?" First, we must recognize that it exists even among "nice" people. Solutions will never be found until Christians recognize the problem.

As Christians, we should support legislation which will make it easier for concerned parents to do something about the problem. If we know of an abusive parent and do nothing, then we also become responsible. The laws of several states make both lay and professional people liable for withholding such information.

We should support legislation to provide free psychological help when needed. Children represent the future of Christianity and our nation. Thus, they become everyone's treasure and responsibility.

As a Christian parent, each of us should strive to set a proper example. The balance of freedom versus restriction is an important one. To keep a child too long in leading strings is simply to say that we do not trust him. When we have no trust in our children, we are saying that we have no

punish children because of their own guilt feelings. A parent may think, for example, that other people hold him responsible for the child's failures or misconduct. So, the parent reacts by punishing the child.

confidence in the way that we have trained them.

On the other hand, to trust a child into too much temptation before proper foundations have been laid is irresponsible. The balance between control and freedom is a delicate one indeed, and one that must be carefully managed by a responsible Christian family.

Encouragement also is vitally important to the life of our children. Martin Luther's father was extremely strict. Luther felt that his father's strictness was close to the point of cruelty. Luther said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child—that is true; but beside the rod keep an apple to give to him when he has done well."

The renowned artist Benjamin West said that his mother was responsible for him becoming an artist. One day, his mother left him to watch his younger sister, Sally. While his mother was away, he discovered bottles of colored ink and began to print a portrait of his sister. In so doing, he left blots all over a considerable number of sheets of paper. When his mother came back she saw the mess, but said nothing. She picked up the bits of paper and saw the drawing. His mother said, "Why, it is a picture of Sally!" She then stooped down and kissed Benjamin. Benjamin West often said, "My mother's kiss made me a painter." Encouragement did more than a rebuke could ever do.

It is well to heed the instruction of Paul as he said, "... Ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ep. 6:4). When we as parents follow the simple instruction given by Paul, our future will become more secure.

Arkansas Baptist

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



At our recent New Pastor/Staff and Wives orientation, I was tempted to start a new organization. I would call it the "Philemon Fellowship." Paul said that it was reported of

Philemon that he loved the "Lord Jesus... and all of the saints." We report of many fellow Christians that they "love the Lord Jesus." A Philemon Fellowship would require of their members that they also "love all of the saints." In I John we are told you can't love one and not the other.

A second objective for the fellowship would be what Paul prayed for Philemon—"That you would be active in sharing your faith." This might be a small organization if that qualified one for membership.

A final assertion was made of Philemon. This ought to be in the make-up of this group. "You, brother, have refreshed the heart of the saints."

How long would your list be of those who are known for "refreshing the heart of the saints?" With all of the battle fatigue, burnout, terminations, and struggle, a huge need exists for people who "refresh the heart of the saints." I guess I have another question. Who refreshes the heart of the refreshers?

Who are the refreshers? Ideally, they would be the pastors, and they often are. Sometimes they are the quiet, stackpole type church members whose consistent love and encouragement keep folk going. They are those people described in I Corinthians 13:6-7, who "rejoice in the truth, breathe all things, hope all things, endure all things." They are positive, upbeat encouragers who love and trust folk and who believe God is sovereign and who know he is as active today as ever.

Oh, I need to apologize to my Beta brothers at Ouachita for misspelling fellowship. It would be "Philemon Phellenschippe." Every believer should aspire to be a part of such a rare group.

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

Letters to the Editor

Pornography plague

Perhaps you have heard that a regional convenience store chain (E-Z Mart, with 327 stores in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and Louisiana) had put "adult" magazines in our local stores. The outcry of the Christian community in Gentry and other towns in Benton County was so great that E-Z Mart pulled all pornographic magazines from all their northwest Arkansas stores (E-Z Mart and Spe-Dee Mart). We can make a difference.

I have been in contact with some of the E-Z Mart executives trying to convince them to pull the pornographic material out of all 327 stores. Their position is that they will not do this as long as people in these other communities want it sold (in other words, so long as no protest is heard from

Christians).

I feel that God has used our people to win a victory in northwest Arkansas and that if people around Arkansas would voice their displeasure to E-Z Mart (and other companies) that God would cleanse our state of this evil. We are losing the battle by default and not by defeat. Our silence is allowing Satan to destroy lives, families, and communities.

If there are those who are concerned about this enough to do something, I will be more than willing to help them with names, addresses, and phone numbers of people who make the decisions about what material is sold in E-Z Mart stores.

In Gentry, we discovered that you do not have to live with the plague and poison of pornography unless you choose to do so.—Joe Finfrack, Gentry

Living our legacy of missions

Associations across the convention will observe Associational Missions Week, May 18-24. The theme selected for this emphasis is "The Association: Living Our Legacy of Missions."

This year commemorates the 200th anniversary of William Carey's "deathless sermon." Addressing the Northampton Baptist Association in Nottingham, England, the father of the modern missions movement implored early associational leaders to accept the responsibility and seize the opportunity to share the gospel message with the world.

His message was simple yet profound: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

Baptist associations were an essential force in missions in 1792, and today we continue to live our legacy of missions. Arkansas has 42 associations. Each of these associations has a legacy of missions.

Today the associations in Arkansas are involved in missions in a variety of ways. Starting new churches, ministering to human needs, evangelizing the lost, training church leaders, building fellowship among the churches, involvement in mis-

sions projects such as the Guatemala-Arkansas Partnership and the Iowa Partnership, conducting camps for children and youth, providing help for hurting families—these and many more activities prove that associations in Arkansas are committed to missions, here and around the world.

Thirty-eight of our associations have Directors of Missions. These men provide the leadership that helps our associations to continue the legacy of missions. All of these men have a deep commitment to help churches, and they have a world-wide vision that encompasses all of Arkansas and the world.

As the Associational Missions Week approaches, you might consider expressing appreciation as a church or individual to your associational director of missions. Place the associational ministry and the director of missions on your church's prayer list.

If we want our legacy of missions to continue, we must have a deep commitment to missions at the associational level. Our legacy of missions—let's continue by observing Associational Missions Week, May 18-24.



Observe Associational Missions Week

May 18-24, 1992



Woman's Viewpoint

I remember Mother

Not just on Mother's Day but every day, I remember my mother. As I reflect back on my childhood I recall from my earliest years my mother reading her Bible (this year will be her twelfth time to read the Bible through), praying and very involved in our church, Calvary Church, Fort Smith. But most of all I remember her life. My mother was of the old school of Southern Baptist. Example: You should never go to a movie unless it was a good musical. Never shop, eat out, or do much of anything on Sunday. That was the Lord's day and you are to keep it holy. And that is the way I was raised.

Mother was up early every Sunday morning to put on a roast, potatoes, carrots and all the trimmings. My sister, Lorain and I were dressed in our best dresses with everything matching (shoes, hat, gloves, etc.). Most of the time mother made our clothes. With our Bible, Sunday School book and offering envelope in hand, off to church we would go as a family. We were always at least 30 minutes early because mother was superintendent of the Junior Sunday School department and she couldn't be late.

Our schedule for Sunday each week included Sunday School, church, eat lunch, do the dishes then rest and relax until it was time to go to BYPU and the evening worship service. The paper was not opened until the dishes were done on Sunday. That way our minds were focused on the Lord's day and worship as we went to church.

As a teenager one of the things we did during that relaxing time was to walk to Van Buren and back. Kids wouldn't consider that as fun or relaxation today but we did.

But her life and my training didn't stop on Sunday. Monday was WMU. There was no nursery so I also went to circle meetings and I would sit at my mother's feet on the floor (no, I didn't play). I learned to listen. Of course, as a small child, I noticed other things and got restless but I did listen. I realize now that was the beginning of my love for missions because at age four and five that was a part of my life. I met real missionaries and heard of mission work. Many times when the missionaries would come to speak they would stay in our home.

Wednesday night was prayer meeting time and regardless of the amount of homework, we were to be at prayer meeting. We were not put in another room to do other things but we were

there to listen to testimonies, people praying for each other and studying God's Word. The only Wednesday night I disliked was when there was a business meeting. In our small church there was usually disagreements and I didn't like that. We, as adults, need to think of the impression these things leave on youngsters.

When we had revivals, you guessed it, if the guest minister did not stay in our home, they would always eat at least one meal with our family. Mother would always serve meals like a banquet and we would learn much from these great men.

We always knew what time each meal would be served and would sit down together as a family and Daddy said grace before we touched one bite of food. That was a relaxing and joyful time as we ate and shared together.

One of my fondest memories was when each evening we as a family would sit together and read the Bible and pray. We took turns reading and praying and sometimes when one of us had a hard word to pronounce Mother, Lorain and I would get tickled, but Daddy always got us to realize that all of God's Word is written for a purpose and we are to reverence his Word and not laugh. After I was married and my parents had moved to Little Rock, I knew that Mother and Daddy had their family altar at lunch time each day. Occasionally I found myself dropping by their home about that time, not to eat food but I wanted to share that time of spiritual food again with them as a family.

From my earliest childhood, I was taught the principles of tithing. This carried over into my adult life, and I was fortunate that I married a man that shared these same values. I credit my parents with teaching me that money, talent and tithing should be used for the Lord's work before planning for other things.

As a woman or a mother, what kind of memories will your child, a neighbor's child, or your Sunday School pupils have of your life? Think about the kind of example of living the Word, sharing his love and serving him you will leave for them to write about you later in life.

(Mrs. Wilfong's mother went to be with the Lord on April 4, 1992.)

Betty Wilfong is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock and has been involved in many SBC and state Baptist conferences. She resides in Little Rock with her husband, Leslie.

WILLIAM SUTTON

The President's Corner



In an era when it was considered unmanly to tolerate insults, Abraham Lincoln was mercilessly insulted by members of his own cabinet, his commanding generals, members of Congress and the press. He tolerated and forgave them all. In due course most of them became supporters and offered valuable service to him in his great effort to preserve the Union.

A chained and imprisoned Apostle Paul was so committed to Christ that he rejoiced even when Christ was preached insincerely by those desiring only to stir up trouble for him (Ph. 1:17-18).

Dwarfed by their duties and consumed with obsessions to accomplish their missions, the great president and the great apostle laid aside ego, hurt feelings, personal injustice and pride in favor of victory.

We are in a period of Southern Baptist life when the gift of genuine humility is at a premium. In obedience to Christ we need, as never before, men and women big enough to absorb hurt and stay the course. We need to bond with Christ that, as his servants, we will not return evil for evil, will never reply in rancor to an unkind word and will remain committed under all circumstances to the body of believers.

Our human spirits rebel against the selfless spirit of humility commanded by Christ. Yet, we have tasks before us today which cannot possibly be completed by any except truly subordinated servants. How can we find the means to reduce our self-interest to the point that we can be truly united in Christ? Paul writing in Philippians 2:1-3 urges, "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

In the next few days, pray that those who have been called to God's purposes will answer all of the "ifs" in the above verses. Then may God grant that we be humbled and unified in the name of Christ.

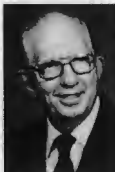
William "Buddy" Sutton, a Little Rock attorney, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Let's talk about loneliness

by W. Maurice Hurley
Special to the Arkansas Baptist

Loneliness is a common attribute of life. John Milton in *Tetrabordon* observed concerning the creation story,

"Loneliness is the first thing God's eye nam'd not good." Thomas Wolfe in *You Can't Go Home Again* expressed, "Loneliness... is and always has been the central and inevitable experience of every man."



Hurley

Very few people can truthfully say that there has never been a time in life when they have not experienced loneliness.

Loneliness can be severe. Coleridge in *The Ancient Mariner VII* comments, "So lonely twas, that God himself scarce seemed to be there." A severe example of loneliness in the Bible must have been the leper. "All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean; he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall be his habitation" (Lv. 13:46). He was separated from his family, his work, his friends, his home, from even the temple and the worship of God in that place. Today myriads of individuals suffer loneliness.

There are several reasons why one may be lonely: (1) The sense of loss. At a time in life when the last child leaves home the parent may develop the "empty nest syndrome." The children not only leave home, but become involved in their own lives independent of the parents. Suddenly life changes and new interests have to be developed. The child no longer comes to the parent for advice in decision making and the parent loses a sense of involvement that they had possessed for years. They may feel useless, unwanted, perhaps even unloved, and a sense of isolation. The children become so involved in beginning their own independent lives that they have a very limited contact with the parent. The parent may experience loneliness.

One of the major challenges that

parents have at this stage in life is a willingness to turn loose. When Jesus was 12 years of age his parents took him with them to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. His parents, supposing that he was with friends began the trip back home to later discover that he was not in the caravan. Returning to Jerusalem they found him in the temple, reasoning with the leaders of the temple. Mary questioned him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Behold your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He replied to them, "Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be about my Father's house (affairs)?" Or as the King James version says, "about my Father's business" (Lk. 2:48-49). Young Jewish men began to assume adult responsibilities in those days much younger than today. One of the things Jesus may have been saying to his parents, "It is now time for you to begin to turn loose."

But turning loose of the last child is not an easy task. If there are not strong emotional ties between the parents, or if the parent happens to be a single parent, the task may be a challenge and

loneliness may be one of the results.

(2) Aging brings repeated loss of friends. Recently when hearing an elderly person complain about losing so many of his friends, someone replied, "but you are also losing your enemies." The loss of close friends can contribute to a sense of loneliness. Those times of communication and fellowship are gone. This is especially acute when a person lives alone and has established a close friendship with the missing person.

(3) The loss of a spouse can cause a period of loneliness. This sense of loneliness is intensified when the living spouse was deeply dependent on the deceased spouse. For many, the loss means living alone after years of living in a close relationship. Many who fail to adjust have a shortened life span afterwards.

(4) Loneliness can come from anything that causes a sense of personal isolation. Many during retirement begin to re-evaluate themselves and their personal worth. Anything that causes a loss of self worth may in turn create a sense of personal isolation and hence loneliness. Jeff was a highly motivated, goal-oriented per-



Staying involved and finding an ongoing purpose for life are ways of dealing with loneliness. Rewarding experiences, such as missions volunteerism, can enrich the lives of those who are affected by loneliness.

son. He retired early and suddenly found himself without deadlines and the challenge of goals that once motivated his life. He began to look back on his life and ask the question, "What have I really accomplished in life?" And, "Where am I going now?" He began to feel worthless and unappreciated. Many of his friends were still deeply involved in meaningful activities. Suddenly he felt isolated and lonely. He did not recover until he had established new goals toward which he could work and feel a sense of self accomplishment again.

Several avenues offer help in dealing of loneliness. (1) **Stay involved.** This is the time when a person needs the support of friends, family and church. Involvement is vital for those who retire. Retirement brings a change in life style. No longer does one have to punch a time clock or fight deadlines. But this does not mean a complete stopping of meaningful activities. It is reported that Henry Ford, late in life, met a young lady whose father he had known and inquired about him. She replied, "Oh, he died." When asked what he was doing at the time of his death, she replied that he had retired two years before. Ford was reported to have replied, "That's the reason he died, isn't it?" Involvement serves many purposes, but one important one is that it helps to overcome a state of isolation which leads to loneliness.

(2) **Never forget who you are.** One of the problems that many retired people face is the loss of self importance. Many come to wonder what they have really accomplished in life. Many come to lose a sense of accomplishment and success. Jesus reminded us who we are when he stated, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:13-14). Also, he indicated that Christians have a special relation to God for they shall "be called the sons of God" (Mt. 5:9). And when he gave to his disciples the model prayer he said, "Pray our Father" (Mt. 6:9).

Some years ago I read of a visitor to the diamond mines of Africa. As he watched the men coming out of the mine at the end of their work shift, they were bowed over from the long hours in the mine. But one young

African came out walking straight and erect. The visitor asked a native why the difference. "Oh," the native replied, "You see he is the son of a former African chief and he has never forgotten who he is."

(3) **Find an ongoing purpose in your life.** The will of God for your life does not end at retirement. Many find the later years of life the most exciting. The Mission Service Corps is replete with people for whom this is true. Aging may call for adjustments in life, but not necessarily a cessation of purpose. Retirement may provide time for activities that could not be accomplished before retirement. A man said recently, "I am looking forward to retirement. Then I will have an opportunity to do some things I have wanted to do for a long time." Then he listed several mission activities he wanted to be involved in. The Apostle Paul, late in life and in a Roman prison wrote, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Ph. 3:14). The apostle lived life to the fullest to the very end of life. In prison he won his guards to Christ, even some of "Caesar's household." He wrote letters to the churches where he had been; letters of encouragement and instruction. He never stopped living and carrying out the purpose of God

in his life.

(4) **Enrich times of aloneness.** Time of aloneness is not the same as loneliness. It is possible to be lonely in the midst of a crowd. Loneliness is a state of mind. Times of being alone may be times of enriching life. Jesus often sought times of solitude alone away from the crowds and from his disciples. These were times when they gained renewed strength. These can be times when one can be aware of the presence of God. In the midst of Jesus' commission to his disciples he gave the assurance of presence when he said, "And lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age." These quiet times of prayer and Bible study can be occasions for gaining strength and spiritual guidance, as well as dispelling loneliness. This can be a time of renewing an awareness of God's love and caring. And, "If God be for us who can be against us?" Those who have anchored their lives in Jesus are never alone.

W. Maurice Hurley, former minister of missions and pastoral care at North Little Rock's Park Hill church, and former chairman of the department of psychology at Ouachita Baptist University, currently teaches at Boyce Bible College, a Little Rock extension of Southern Seminary.



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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Day of Prayer May 17, 1992

Transition and timelessness

As the *Arkansas Baptist* approaches a transitional period with the October retirement of J. Everett Sneed, a historical review reveals that the concerns and the strengths of the Newsmagazine have remained remarkably consistent since its inception. Editors have been plagued by financial woes, circulation and printing problems; they have been blessed with the steadfastness of Arkansas Baptists, the stalwartness of Christian co-laborers, and the knowledge they are promoting the Lord's work. Here are a few examples of editors' thoughts through the years as they and the paper moved through these transitional periods.

Compiled by Colleen Backus

From the retiring editor

"Concerning my retirement from the position, it is neither fitting nor possible that I should write at great length. The coming and going of men in the kingdom of God is of small importance. Men may come and men may go, but the Lord's Word goes on forever."—Arthur J. Barton, June 9, 1904



To an unknown successor

"You have the finest place in the world to develop a critical spirit. In my judgment no field gives a better chance for this than to be editor of a religious paper. Few editors retain the spiritual force and power they had before coming to such position. Where is the editor who, after ten years, possesses the evangelistic fires he had at the beginning? He becomes more cautious, critical and deliberate. He becomes a man who lives to think for thousands than to touch individuals with soul appeals."

—E.J.A. McKinney,
January 2, 1919



After a decade

"I have given the best years of my life and the best there was in me to this work. They have been years of hard work, but to me it was glorious work, and as I look back over the previous ten and a half years I am filled with gratitude and my heart cries, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!' I have been closely associated with the highest, the holiest and the noblest and the best in all the land in promoting the best, most important, most worth while enterprise at which mortal men work. And it has been a blessed fellowship."—J.S. Compere, December 19, 1929

Rendezvous with death

[Editor B.H. Duncan, editor from 1947-57, was diagnosed in 1956 as having leukemia.]

"So it is by the grace of God that a degree of strength has been afforded me during the past several months to carry on my work and maintain the standard of the *Arkansas Baptist*. The promise of Hebrews 4:15 has not failed us during these experiences. Its trustworthiness has been demonstrated in the crises of the past few months."—B.H. Duncan, Aug. 16, 1956

In praise of readers

"As enjoyable as being a state Baptist editor is, the assignment is never easy. It is a job that takes all a fellow has and makes him—and not infrequently his readers—wish he had more to give. . . . And bless you, dear reader. You are the salt of the earth or you would have never read this far. You pay the greatest tribute to the editor in reading his stuff, whether you swallow it or not."—Erwin L. McDonald, Oct. 28, 1971

The historical effect

"The positive effect of a Baptist state paper is illustrated in many ways. In J. S. Rogers' *History of Arkansas Baptists*, he deals with the question of why there were so few churches present for the organization of the state convention in 1848. Dr. Rogers said, 'There was no state Baptist paper to announce such a meeting and urge attendance.' Soon after the formation of a state convention, the Baptist state paper was developed."

—J. Everett Sneed, June 6, 1991

Pray for the board members of the Arkansas Baptist as they seek a new editor, for the staff during the transition, and for Dr. Sneed as he looks to the future.



Photo appeared in the November 29, 1951 edition.



Cover photo for the August 31, 1967 edition.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Del Stone has joined the staff of Second Church in Conway as administrator.

Ken Overton, who served as a missionary to Brazil from 1988 to December 1991, began serving April 19 as pastor of First Church of Marked Tree.

Gary Burden resigned April 26 as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Shirley.

James Burleson of Little Rock has joined the staff of First Church in Maumelle as minister of music, having previously served at Chicot Road Church, Mabelvale, and Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

Tom Davis has been called as pastor of New Bethel Church, Conway.

Kevlin Floyd will begin serving May 15 as summer youth minister for Markham Street Church in Little Rock. A member of First Church in Jacksonville, he is a student at the University of Central Arkansas.

Bill Powell is serving as pastor of Coal Hill Church.

Ray Legge is serving as pastor of Midway Church, Palestine.

Author Barber is serving as pastor of Harris Chapel Church, Wynne.

Douglas Applegate joined the staff of Mulberry First Church April 13 as associate pastor and minister of youth. He previously served as pastor of First Church of Turrell.

Martin Babb of Little Rock joined the staff of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock April 20 as minister of education and youth.

Terry Carter, a professor at Ouachita Baptist University, is serving as interim pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

Thomas Warren Simmons of Clinton recently died at age 87. His funeral services were held at Plant Church where he was a member. A retired Baptist minister, Simmons had pastored several Arkansas Baptist churches, including churches in Plant, Lexington, and Rupert. Survivors are his wife, Grace Simmons; a son, Tommy Simmons of Clinton; three brothers; a sister; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Roger Wagner joined the staff of Philadelphia Church, Jonesboro, May 1 as

minister of music and youth, coming there from First Church of Lake City.

Joseph Council Denton of DeQueen died April 20 at age 73. A retired Baptist minister, he was serving as pastor emeritus of DeQueen First Church from which he retired in 1977. He had pastored churches in Texas and Arkansas, as well as serving as interim pastor of churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Council of DeQueen; a daughter, Betty Jane Calhoon of Elaine; two granddaughters, Bonnie Jo Harper of Elaine, and Belinda Jane Calhoon of Long Beach, Calif.; one brother; and two sisters. Memorials may be made to First Church of DeQueen, or Practical Nursing Program at Cossatot Technical College.

Don Shirey began serving March 15 as pastor of First Church of Curtis, coming there from Crossville, Ala. Shirey has attended Florida Baptist Theological College in Gainesville, Fla. He and his wife, Anessa, have a two-year-old daughter, Avangelina.

Jessica Sallis recently won first in her division at the University of Arkansas at Lit-

tle Rock's Department of Music and Mary's Music annual Little Rock piano competition. On March 12, she won second place at Ouachita Baptist University's Performing Artists competition sponsored by the Friends of the School of Music. Jessica, a junior, is a member of and serves as pianist for Oak Cliff Church, Fort Smith. She is the daughter of Tom and Bobbie Sallis of Fort Smith and the granddaughter of Pat Huston of Little Rock, organist of Rosedale Church in Little Rock.

Wylie Jones resigned April 12 as pastor of Delaware Church to move to Lake Jackson, Texas.

Daniel Green of Weatherford, Texas has been called as pastor of London Church. He will begin his ministry in mid July upon graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jim Lovelady is serving as interim pastor of Mary's Chapel, Armored.

Angela Adams, a junior business administration major at Williams Baptist Col-

ABN photo / J. Everett Bnead



The Belview Church, Melbourne, dedicated its new 11,600 square foot facility April 26. The facility was erected at a cost of \$200,000, but has a replacement value of approximately \$400,000. The building was constructed with the help of the Arkansas Nalibenders and other volunteer labor. The auditorium will seat 320 people and the building contains 14 Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall and kitchen, a nursery, a prayer room, a library/conference room, and three offices. The auditorium is fully carpeted and has a baptistry. The facility has central heat and air. All of the windows are tinted and the picture window behind the baptistry is constructed with a cross. Tim Porter is pastor.

lege, recently was selected as the 1992 NAIA District 17 Emil S. Liston Scholarship Award winner. Adams, who is captain of the Lady Eagles basketball team, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Adams of Trumann. She also was recently named a NCCAA All-American player, as well as a NCCAA all-tournament team member. The Emil S. Liston Award, sponsored by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, recognizes outstanding athletic ability, as well as academic accomplishments.

Martin Thielein, a former Arkansas pastor, has resigned as consultant and editor at the Sunday School Board, effective June 14 to accept the pastorate of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Greg Jones of Fouke began serving April 1 as minister of youth at Cornerstone Church, Texarkana.

Alan Parks resigned April 30 as associate pastor of youth and music at First Church, Piggott, to move to Beaumont, Texas.

Donal Elmore has resigned as pastor of Haw Creek Church, Waldron.

Paul Dean McDaniel is serving as pastor of Friendship Church, Mena.

Greg Meshell, a student at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, has join-

ed the staff of First Church of Stamps as youth minister.

Jerry Cothren has accepted the call to serve as director of missions for Green County Association with offices in Paragould. Cothren currently is serving as pastor of Cord Church. He also has pastored churches at Plumerville, North Little Rock, Greens Ferry, and Wynne. Cothren is a graduate of Southern (Williams) Baptist College and Arkansas College, Batesville.

Terry Hatfield of Wynne is serving as bivocational minister of music and youth for First Church of Parkin.

Briefly

McJester Mission, sponsored by First Church of Pangburn, held its first service May 3 in the old McJester School. David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, was speaker.

Knobel First Church will dedicate a new education/fellowship building May 17 at 2:30 p.m. A fellowship meal will be

service at 1 p.m. All former pastors and their families are invited to attend. Gene Carpenter is pastor.

South Side Church of Pine Bluff will celebrate its 75th anniversary May 22-24 with all former members and staff members invited to attend. J.R. DeBusk is pastor.

Mount Olive Church in Crossett women held a spring retreat April 24-25 at Beech Springs Camp, Smackover. Ina Miller of Jonesboro was guest speaker.

Second Church in Pine Bluff recently elected Raymond Hensley, Charles Moore and Matt Lovelace to serve as trustees.

Glenwood First Church women held a banquet April 23 that featured Betty Files of Hot Springs as speaker.

Charleston First Church mission team will be in Anderson, Ind., May 30-June 6 to assist the Redeemer Church with a crusade, a people search, training, construction, and laying out a baseball diamond.

Brookland Church, Jonesboro, celebrated its 95th anniversary May 1-3 with a revival led by Don Dunavant and Huel Moseley. Melvin York is pastor.

Central Church of Jonesboro ordained Boyd Hall, who will be serving in Botswana, to the ministry April 19. Rex Holt is pastor.

New Hope Church of Jonesboro ordained Owen Wilson to the ministry April 26. Pastor Don Vuncannon preached the ordination message.

Harmony Association Executive Board voted April 14 to work in cooperation with the mission church in Las Vaca, Guatemala. This effort will include fund raising, property renovation, and the sending of construction, medical, and evangelism teams. Bill Lewis is director of missions.

Sherwood First Church held an Encounter With Christ Crusade April 12-15 that resulted in 16 professions of faith and 31 rededications. Bruce Edwards of Mansfield, Texas was evangelist. T. Scott Hinton is pastor.

Mandeville Church, Texarkana, ordained Pastor Ron A. Ladd to the ministry March 15.



Claud Road Church, Pine Bluff, held a noteburning and rededication service March 29 with Pete Petty, associate director of ABCS Missions Department, delivering the message. The 10,000 square foot facility was gutted by fire Dec. 22, 1991, causing approximately \$171,000 damage, covered by insurance. During the refurbishing program completed by Central Arkansas Disaster and Restoration, the church continued to pay on its \$2,300 indebtedness to the ABCS Missions Department, completing payment five years ahead of schedule. Participating in the service were (left to right) Frank Armstrong, Pastor Randy Magar, George Brown, and Morris Conrad, church treasurer.



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Mabee gift awarded

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., has awarded the Arkansas Baptist State Convention a gift of \$295,000 for the improvements at the Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs. The gift is a result of meeting a challenge issued by the Mabee Foundation in April 1991. On that date the Convention needed \$645,000 to reach its goal of \$2,195,000 for the construction of a new Worship Center and renovations of the dormitories and family units. The Mabee Foundation agreed to the gift of \$295,000 if the Convention could raise the additional \$350,000 needed to complete the campaign by April 10. ABCS Executive Director Don Moore said, "Many Arkansas Baptists and several different church groups gave generously so we could meet this challenge by the Mabee Foundation. Without the help of all these gifts, we would not have made it. We will always be grateful for what they have done for the youth and children of Arkansas." Moore also expressed gratitude to the Mabee Foundation for their challenge gift which made possible the reaching of the campaign goal.

The Worship Center was completed in time for summer camps in 1991. The dormitory renovations will begin immediately after camps this summer. One dormitory building was completed last June to use as a demonstration unit to show what the improvements would look like when completed.

The more than 7,500 campers pre-registered for this summer will not have the benefit of the improvements but should be able to enjoy them in the summer of 1993. Assembly Director Freddie Pike said "Continued improvements are dependent on the payment of pledges received throughout the campaign. We cannot spend the money for improvements until we have the money in hand." Work should begin on the first of the dormitory units by September.

Loss recovery workshop

Beginning Again, a loss recovery workshop, will begin at Little Rock Immanuel Church on Sunday, May 17, for eight weeks. Any person who has suffered the loss of a mate by death or divorce is encouraged to attend. The group will meet from 4-6:15 p.m., and child care will be available for birth through sixth grade. For more information, contact Diane Swaim at 376-3071.



ABCS Sunday School Department and Siloam promotion personnel (back row, left to right) Leab Voque, Larry Sherman, Gwen Sherman, Pat Raitton, Sandy Hinkson and Glen Hinkson look on as ABCS Executive Director Don Moore and Assembly Director Freddie Pike accepted the Mabee Foundation check for Siloam Springs. (Personnel not pictured: Jackie Edwards and Brenda Seal.)

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College Digest

Ouachita Baptist University

School of Business created—The establishment of a School of Business has been unanimously approved by the OBU Board of Trustees. The project will be funded by Frank D. Hickingbotham of Little Rock, founder and CEO of TCBY Enterprises, Inc. The School of Business was an outgrowth of the success of the university's division of business and economics; 21 percent of students are already majoring in the business division.

Faculty promotions—Six faculty members at OBU have been promoted to higher academic rank by recent action of the Ouachita Board of Trustees. Promotions include: Lavell Cole to professor of history; Fran Coulter to professor of history; Jim Dann to assistant professor in physical education; Byron Eubanks to assistant professor in philosophy; Douglas Reed to associate professor of political science; and Randall D. Wight to associate professor of psychology.

Early Academic Orientation—This summer OBU will offer three Early Academic Orientations (EAO) for freshman and transfer students who will enter as students at the university during the 1992 fall semester. The dates for the EAO's will be June 20, July 10, and Aug. 8. For more information, persons should contact the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, OBU, P.O. Box 3755, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; telephone 246-4531, ext. 196.

Listed on honor roll—OBU has been notified that it has been listed for the second consecutive year on the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Free Enterprise Teaching. The honor roll identifies schools that have "an institutional commitment to traditional Western political and economic philosophies."

OBU honors two—The OBU Board of Trustees has voted to confer an honorary doctor of laws degree on Judge Edward Maddox of Harrisburg, and to recognize Dr. T.W. Hunt of Nashville, Tenn., as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus award. The two men will be recognized at the university's spring commencement exercises on Saturday May 9.

Publications workshop—The OBU communications department will sponsor its 22nd Annual High School Publications Workshop, July 13-15. For more information contact William D. Downs Jr., OBU, P.O. Box 3791, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; telephone 246-4531, ext. 207.

Communications honored—OBU's

Signal campus newspaper, *Ouachitontan* yearbook and communications department chairman William D. Downs Jr. each received honors at the annual meeting of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) and College Media Advisers (CMA) held in New York City March 18-22. The *Signal* was awarded "Medalist" honor, the highest of five award classifications offered by CSPA. The 1990 *Ouachitontan* received six individual awards, and Downs was awarded the prestigious James Frederick Paschal Award for outstanding service to the Arkansas High School Press Association.

Old Washington Seminar—The Pete Parks Institute for regional studies at OBU is sponsoring for the 10th consecutive year a summer school course to emphasize the history and culture of southwest Arkansas, northeast Texas, and north Louisiana. The course, "Folkways of the Arkansas Red River Region," will be taught at Old Washington Historic State Park in Hempstead Country from June 1-26. For more information, contact Tom Greer, OBU P.O. Box 3658, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; telephone 246-4531, ext. 553.

Summer school registration—Registration for the first OBU summer school session is scheduled for Monday, June 1 from 9-11 a.m. in Evans Student Center. Classes will meet from June 1-July 2. Registration for the second summer session will be on Monday, July 6 from 9-11 a.m. Classes for that session are slated from July 6-Aug. 6. For more information, call 246-4531, ext. 578.

Williams Baptist College

Lady Eagles place—The WBC Lady Eagles basketball team recently placed second in the National Christian Colleges Athletic Association's championship tournament hosted by Bartlesville Wesleyan College in Oklahoma. It was the first time in the college's history that an athletic team had ever qualified for a national championship tournament.

Professor addresses meeting—Rodney Reeves, chairman of the department of religion and philosophy, recently participated in the southwest regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Dallas, Texas. He presented a paper entitled "To be or not to be? That is not the question: Paul's choice in Philippians 1:22."

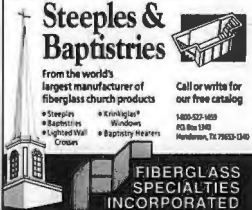
Offers correlated studies for master of divinity—WBC now offers correlated studies for a master of divinity advanced standing degree at Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Eligible students can receive up to 18 hours of master's level credit for upper level courses taken in the WBC religion department. Those interested can contact Rodney Reeves at 886-6741, ext. 156.

Gibbens honored—Jerry Gibbens, professor of English and chairman of the division of humanities at WBC, was recently honored for his 25 years of service to the college. Gibbens joined the WBC teaching staff in 1967 as an instructor in English; in 1973, he was named chairman of the humanities division and was promoted to professor of English in 1988.

Oxford professor visits WBC—Michael Hurst, senior professor of modern history and politics at Oxford University in England, recently spent a week on the WBC campus. The Oxford professor lectured to small groups and was the guest of honor and speaker at WBC's sixth annual academic awards banquet.

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PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

1992 Acteens Encounter

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"I was excited to see how many new organizations attended the Acteens Encounter," declared Angela Lowe, Acteens director for Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union. "It also was encouraging to see an increase in the number of girls participating in Studact. Many of these girls want to go to their home communities and be missionaries where they live."

Lowe was evaluating the Acteens Encounter that took place April 3-4 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. This was the largest encounter that had taken place in a number of years with approximately 850 in attendance. This represented 91 churches and a growth of approximately 250 over the previous year.

Lowe attributes the increase to a prayer strategy which was instituted prior to the 1992 encounter. All of the WMU board members were assigned specific associations to pray for. The state WMU staff was assigned associational assessment visits. "I contribute our growth to our prayers and the fact that God blessed them," Lowe stated.

The encounter program consisted of three sessions. Each of the general sessions was opened with a flag procession to portray the theme "God's Love Encircles the World." In the first session, the song "Love in Any Language" was played as the flag procession entered the church.

Immediately following the flag procession 1 Corinthians 13:1 was read. It says, "If I could speak with the tongues of every language and did not show love, I would be as a clanging cymbal." At the close of the reading of the Scripture, a cymbal crashed.

Vignettes were then used to reveal girls showing love and not showing love. This was followed by five Acteens representing five different language groups.

The first general session was closed by spotlighting girls who had been involved in various mission action efforts. For example, the Activator team who worked in Guatemala gave a report.

Ten conferences followed the general session. Each girl had opportunity to participate in two of these which represented



Ozark First Church Acteens: (left to right) Cassandra Reeves, leader Tracy Clary, Leslie Cooke, Twanna Jones, Debra Hanna, and Melissa Wilbitt.

state, home, and foreign missions.

On Saturday morning, the encounter opened with pictures showing various types of mission action involvement by Arkansas Acteens. "We were striving to

show those in attendance things that they could do right in the communities where they live," declared Lowe.

There also were three conferences for senior high girls. These were: Togo Today, the Baptist Young Women Enterprisers who visited the former Soviet Union, and Activators.

Junior high Acteens attended conferences on "Making the Most of Yourself," "The State of Hunger in Arkansas," and "What the Bible Says About Today's Issues."

Eleven 12th grade girls received special training in "Backyard Bible Clubs" and went to the Pines Apartments at Geyer Springs and Baseline Road, Little Rock, where they ministered to 28 children.

There also were two leadership training conferences for the 100 Acteen leaders.

Girls who had completed Studact activities were recognized for their work in the closing session.

The encounter closed with a challenge and call to commitment by Karen Simons, SBC WMU editorial manager, who spoke on "Will You Share God's Love?" There were at least two girls who made professions of faith and one re-dedication.

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Participants at the Golden Age Evangelism conference.

Golden Age Conference

Record number attend Eureka Springs event

On April 2-3, 1,032 senior adults made their way to Eureka Springs and filled the Four Runners Inn Convention Auditorium for the annual Golden Age Evangelism Conference sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Coming from 79 churches from every corner of the state, the record number of Golden Agers enjoyed a program format of inspiration, information, and fellowship. Earl Stallings from Sun City, Ariz., co-author with his wife, Ruth, of the book *Seniors Reaching Seniors*, spoke of the loss of senior adults by illustrating that "it is difficult for us to see our kind and gentle grandmothers and grandfathers as lost." Yet, the truth is, they are lost. Stallings also spoke of developing skills to evangelize senior adults in every community and challenged the group to use their organizations and activities to reach out to lost and unchurched senior adults. One of the greatest forces for prayer in our churches is senior adults. Paul McClung, associate in the Evangelism Department, introduced to the group a prayer strategy for senior adults called "Team-3 Senior Adult Prayer Teams" which guides senior adults to form teams of three. With each team member praying for three unsaved senior adults, plus their church, church staff, and their senior adult group. A brochure describing this strategy is available through the Evangelism Department. Dan McBride, a musician, humorist, and motivator from Jacksonville, Texas,

captured the enthusiasm with his humor and music. Called the "Will Rogers of the Religious World," he provided entertainment with inspiration, laughter with learning and for weary Christians the medicinal benefit of a merry heart.

The music for the conference was coordinated by Glen Ennes, associate in the Church Music Department. Senior adult choirs and ukulele bands from Mountain Home First Church, Little Rock South Highland Church, Hot Springs First Church, Jonesboro Walnut Street Church, Pine Bluff Immanuel Church, and Texarkana Beech Street First Church performed throughout each session of the conference. On Thursday evening, the whole conference moved to the historic downtown city auditorium where Anita Bryant, one of America's most versatile entertainers, presented a two hour program of songs and testimony. Anita's new book, *A New Day*, was released at the conference and after the show, time was set aside for her to autograph books purchased by the participants. The Golden Age Evangelism Conference is sponsored annually by the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and has as its purpose to challenge senior adults to reach out to the thousands of unchurched and unsaved senior adults in Arkansas. Next year's conference will be held at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View on April 1-2, 1993.—Paul McClung, associate, ABSC Evangelism Department

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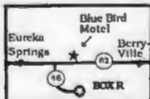
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New BSU director at Phillips County

Terry Baker Garrison began serving as Baptist Student Union director at Phillips County Community College, Helena, May 1. Terry serves as a

substitute teacher for the Barton Schools, teaches third and fourth grade Sunday School at West Acres Church, and has experience as a physical therapy aide.

Mrs. Garrison will work with the BSU on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each day there will be a meal served by the BSU or by some local church. It will be followed by a brief devotional time.

Garrison's goals include developing a positive relationship with the students. Currently there are approximately 15 active members of the BSU. She also hopes to increase the number of students who will be involved with the BSU.

Terry is married to Fred Garrison Jr. who is a deacon of the West Acres Church, West Helena. He also currently serves as supply pastor for the Lambrook Church.

The Garrison's have two children, Holly, 11, and Brock, seven.



Garrison

Missionary couple appointed

J. Richard and Dena Veazey were among 38 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 7 in Littlejohn Coliseum at Clemson University in South Carolina.

The Veazeys will live in Colombia, where he will promote religious education and music.

Born in Monticello, Veazey is the son of the late James and Eloise Veazey. While growing up he also lived in McGeece and Gould. He is a graduate of University of Arkansas in Monticello and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has been band director at Stuttgart Junior High.

Mrs. Veazey, the former Dena Wilcox, grew up in Indiana. She is a graduate of University of Arkansas in Monticello. She



The Veazeys

also has been a private piano teacher in Stuttgart.

The Veazeys have two children. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in June for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Arkansas Mother of the Year

Lucille Rose Caldwell, a member of Wynne Church, has been named 1992 Arkansas Mother of the Year by the Arkansas Association of American Mothers.

Mrs. Caldwell, widow of Preston Caldwell, is the mother of 10 children. On her philosophy of parenting, Mrs. Caldwell said, "While changing diapers, I dreamed of diplomas for each of my children. My wish

was to live long enough to see all of my children educated." Not only did she accomplish the task of educating all of her children, but the last three received degrees after the death of her husband.

Peggy Vining, a member of Little Rock Lakeshore Drive Church and president of the Arkansas Association of American Mothers, accompanied Mrs. Caldwell to Los Angeles, Calif., to the National Convention of American Mothers, April 22-27.



Caldwell

Arkansas ACTS honored

FORT WORTH—Three Arkansas ACTS affiliates were honored at the seventh annual American Christian Television System Awards ceremony held at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, April 23.

ACTS of Jonesboro received recognition in the category of Event Coverage—Special for the AAU/Carrier Jr. Boys National Championship basketball game, and in the category of Religious Series for Press On.

Little Rock ACTS TV-27 received top Spot of the Year and Promotional Announcement honors for its TV-27 *Promo*, and Short Feature honors for the *Rick Caldwell Profile*.

Acts of Texarkana was recognized in the category of Human Interest Series for its *Positive Alternatives* program, according to Debrah Little, national marketing direc-

tor for ACTS.

The nationally televised awards ceremony, called "Night of Honors," was held in association with ACTS' broadcasting counterpart, FamilyNet. Local ACTS affiliates—including cable television systems and local churches—were recognized for excellence in television production, public relations, and channel management. The gala event was the highlight of three days of ACTS and FamilyNet National affiliates meetings.

ACTS is a satellite-delivered, 24-hour-a-day television programming service operated by the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention providing inspirational program primarily to cable television systems throughout the United States. ACTS currently provides programming service to over 600 affiliates with more than 24 million confirmed potential viewers.

McLean elected state BSU president

Nathan McLean, a student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville was elected State BSU President at the April 3-5 BSU Leadership Training Conference at Camp Paron.

Kim Chebahatz of Southern Arkansas University, Kim Holmes of Arkansas State University, LeAndra Hopper of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Rebekah Kinney of Ouachita Baptist University were elected as state vice presidents.

"Shaping the Future" was the emphasis for this annual training meeting for approximately 300 student officers, leaders and BSU directors from Arkansas campuses. Bob Hartman, consultant with the Department of Student Ministries in Nashville and David Bell, contemporary Christian musician, The Carpenter's Crew and Master's Creation from Arkansas State University were among the program personalities.



McLean

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Ministers' Wives retreat held

The first retreat for Ministers' Wives was held March 27-28, at the Holiday Inn West in Little Rock. Sixty-four women representing all parts of the state attended. The theme was "Blessed to be a Blessing," and Mrs. Landrum Leavell was the keynote speaker. She led in a time of inspiration and encouragement as well as in a question/answer time.

Margaret Ward, executive director of BeautyControl Cosmetics, presented a Total Image Solution presentation. A delicious banquet and luncheon provided a

delightful time of fellowship for the ladies.

The second retreat is being planned for April 23-24, 1993. Sandy Hinkson is the chairwoman, and she is enthusiastic about a very positive response.

Spring ACDF retreat

"Breaking the Chains that Prevent Change" is the title of this year's spring retreat for adult children of dysfunctional families (ACDF) to be held May 15-16. The event is sponsored by Living Beyond, the support group ministry of Conway Second Church, and will be led by Pastor Larry Pillow. For more information, call 327-6565.

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SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Trustees to vote on Patterson

by Herb Hollinger & Art Toalston
Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Paige Patterson, an architect of the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention, is the nominee for the next president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Roger Ellsworth, Benton, Ill., pastor and chairman of the seminary's trustees, told Baptist Press April 20 Patterson, 49, was the choice of the search committee and had accepted the committee's invitation.

Patterson, in chapel at Criswell College in Dallas April 21, confirmed he will accept the seminary's presidency and begin work there about July 1 if elected by SEBTS trustees. Patterson has been president of 375—student Criswell College and associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas since 1975.

A special trustee meeting has been called May 14 at the Wake Forest campus, Ellsworth said. Patterson will meet with faculty and students of Southeastern before the trustee meeting and possibly as early as the week of April 27 in keeping with trustee policy.

The announcement confirmed speculation going back before President Lewis Drummond's official retirement notice earlier this year. He will retire June 30 after four years as the seminary's fourth president. Many trustees, students and others urged Patterson's election as president to help the struggling institution with financial, enrollment and accreditation problems.

Ellsworth said Patterson fit the four considerations the search committee felt were primary for a new president: student recruitment, faculty recruitment, financial development and accreditation.

"Dr. Patterson's experiences in these areas are such that he will make a very fine president," Ellsworth told Baptist Press.

In recent years declining enrollment, a faculty exodus and financial struggles have plagued the seminary which was put on probation by its regional accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools late last year.

Patterson, in his chapel statement, told of reading the words of Jeremiah 6:16: "Thus says the Lord: Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is, and walk in it; that you will find rest for your souls." He then referred to Paul Palmer, who entered North Carolina in 1720 as the colony's first Baptist preacher. Palmer's itinerant ministry of evangelism and church planting was "so

anointed of God," Patterson said, that the colony's governor complained to church leaders in London he was "powerless to prevent or withstand the great tide of religious enthusiasm" resulting from Palmer's preaching.

"As I thought of Palmer and those early North Carolina churches with such appealing names as Tar River, Bear Creek, Lower Fishing Creek, Sandy Run, Kehukee and Shiloh, I found the prospect of returning to these 'old paths' — not just the places but also the faith and the fervor of Paul Palmer and others like him — to be a challenging and exciting opportunity."

Patterson said he called Ellsworth April 20 with "my conviction that, if elected by the board of trustees . . . God had freed me and indeed called me" to accept the SEBTS presidency "with full awareness of the sacredness and magnitude of the task, the sacrificial labors of many who have traversed these paths before me, my own limitations and the abundant provisions and enabling power of Almighty God."

Late last year Patterson declined an in-

visitation from Jerry Falwell to become president of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. On Oct. 28, 1991, trustees of Criswell College voted to fire Patterson as president but he was later reinstated following protests by students, alumni and high-profile SBC pastors.

In a news conference after his chapel statement, Patterson said he was never fired as Criswell College president, as some thought, but was offered the chancellorship, which he declined.

Patterson, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, earned a bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and master's and doctorate degrees in theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was managing editor of the "Criswell Study Bible," has authored five books and is a consulting editor for The New American Commentary series of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

He also is a trustee of the SBC Foreign Mission Board but said he would resign because of his new position.

Before moving to Dallas, Patterson was pastor of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ark., from 1970-75.

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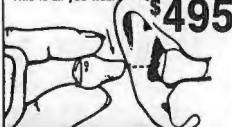
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Richard Jackson — North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Chuck Kelley — New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La.

Rick Warren — Saddleback Valley Community Church, Mission Viejo, Calif.

For registration and additional information call 615/251-2294

The Nationwide Church Growth Conference is coordinated by the Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board, in cooperation with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.



Across the Country

Newton takes position with World Vision

ATLANTA—Jim Newton, public relations director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named director of media relations for World Vision International, based in Monrovia, Calif. Newton has worked for the HMB for 11 years.

Samford selects Drummond as professor of evangelism

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Lewis A. Drummond, retiring president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named the first Billy Graham professor of evangelism and church growth at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity, effective July 1.

Committee seeks successor for Illinois exec

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—A search committee is seeking names and resumes of potential successors to Illinois Baptist State Association executive director Maurice L. Swinford, 64, who will retire May 30, 1993. Recommendations and resumes should be sent to Garrison at 225 Dorchester Drive, Belleville, IL 62223.

The Arkansas Baptist's

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Arkansans nominated

NASHVILLE—Nominees to serve on the boards of agencies, commissions, seminaries, and key committees have been selected by the 1992 Committee on Nominations. They will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Hooster Dome in Indianapolis, June 9-11. The following is a list of nominated Arkansans.

Home Mission Board—Ronnie L. Mayes, pastor of First Church, Beebe, to a term expiring in 1996; replacing Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, who is ineligible for re-election.

Historical Commission—Carel Norman, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Van Buren, to a term expiring in 1996; replacing Ray Granade, Arkadelphia, who is ineligible for re-election.

Stewardship Commission—Harvey McClellan, retiree and member of Immanuel Church, Rogers, to a term ending in 1996; replacing Lloyd A. Sparkman, Russellville, who is ineligible for re-election.

Southern Seminary—David Miller, Heber Springs, nominated to an additional term, expiring in 1997.

New Orleans Seminary—Arnold A. Burk, Russellville, nominated to an additional term, expiring in 1997.

Southeastern Seminary—Dale E. Thompson, Fort Smith, nominated to an additional term, expiring in 1997.

Midwestern Seminary—Richard L. Proctor, Wynne, nominated to an additional term, expiring in 1997.

Golden Gate Seminary—Grant Etheridge, pastor of First Church, Lavaca, will be nominated for a 1997 term to replace Stephen P. Davis, who has declined to serve another term.

Committee on Committees—Marsue Fields, homemaker and member of First Church, Russellville; Gene Thomas, minister of Magnolia Church, Crossett.

Resolutions Committee—Rex Terry, attorney and member of First Church, Fort Smith. Terry is a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Annuitant Board decides against CBF exhibit

DALLAS (BP)—The Annuitant Board confirmed April 16 it has decided not to exhibit at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 29-May 2.

The Annuitant Board joins seven other SBC agencies who changed their plans.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Chairman defends Pressler as FMB trustee

by Art Tolson
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations said he feels "even greater confidence in the way our Southern Baptist system works" as the 68-member committee released its 1992 nominees for trustees or directors of SBC-related agencies and institutions.

Chairman Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church in Moore, Okla., also defended the nomination of Paul Pressler as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board. Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge in Houston, has been a key leader of the SBC conservative movement and last year concluded two terms on the SBC Executive Committee.

"Judge Pressler is a man who loves God with all his heart and has a tremendous heart for missions," Boyles said. "He has served tirelessly for years to the best of his ability in our denomination. I respect him for his commitment to the Word of God."

Pressler told Baptist Press he hopes to "be part of a support team using the knowledge I have acquired through active involvement in world missions to assist our staff and missionaries in what I consider to be the greatest mission program in the world."

His missions involvement includes preaching in more than 20 countries in Latin America, Europe and Asia, he said. Last summer, he spent a month in the then-Soviet Union and Romania preaching in churches and accompanying Baptist leaders in Moscow, Kiev and Arad, Romania, in meetings with government officials about religious freedom and restoration of church properties.

As a new trustee, Pressler said, he will not be involved in the search process for a successor to R. Keith Parks, FMB president who has announced retirement in October when he turns 65. Pressler also said he will miss his first trustee meeting, June 22-24 in El Paso, because he will travel with fellow members of First Baptist Church in Houston to Romania for an evangelistic campaign in Arad. The effort will include services in a large sports stadium with First Baptist pastor John Bisagno preaching.

Pressler was nominated for the FMB board by the two Texas representatives on the Committee on Nominations, Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, and Luan Stallings, a layperson

from Big Spring. Baptist Press could not reach either committee member for comment about Pressler's nomination.

Boyles said his experience as Committee on Nominations chairman "has reconfirmed in my mind, in my heart that we have the best denominational system the world has ever known. It is fair, it is equitable in representation. And the agencies and boards receive the best each convention has to offer."

The committee recommends members for the SBC Executive Committee and trustees for the Foreign and Home mission boards, the six SBC seminaries, the Christian Life, Radio-TV and other SBC commissions and several other SBC organizations.

It consists of two people from each of the 34 state or regional conventions qualified for SBC representation. One is a layperson; the other is from the clergy or denominational work in the state.

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Presidential ballot to highlight Indy SBC

'Bold Believers in a Broken World' 1992 SBC Theme

by Herb Hollinger & Art Toalston
Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)— A three-way contest for president, a possible visit by the vice president of the United States and a theme of "Bold Believers in a Broken World" headline the 135th session of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Indianapolis.

Moving its annual meeting to one of the newer areas for Southern Baptist work, the SBC will meet in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, said to be one of the best arenas for a meeting this size. Registration Secretary Lee Porter is projecting an attendance between 17,000 and 18,000 messengers. With spouses, visitors, and guests, total attendance could approach 23,000 to 25,000, SBC officials told Baptist Press.

But there are some concerns. Vice President Dan Quayle, a native of Indiana, is scheduled to bring personal greetings at the start of the annual meeting June 9. However, he is "not able to nail down a commitment of this sort until closer to the date," said Mark Coppenger, SBC vice president for convention relations. "We'll list him on the program in hopes that he will be able to join us."

Interestingly, the SBC presidential contest could generate plenty of interest. Three pastors have announced — Jess Moody of Van Nuys, Calif., Nelson Price of Marietta, Ga., and Ed Young of Houston. Both Price and Young are well known conservatives while Moody has not openly taken a side in the 13-year SBC battle between conservatives and moderates. Conservatives have won every presidential election since 1979.

Presiding at the Indianapolis convention will be Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, who will become president of the SBC Executive Committee following the annual meeting. Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, will conclude two terms as SBC president and nearly 14 years as pastor of the Texas congregation.

Building on the theme, "Bold Believers in a Broken World" based on Ephesians 4:12, the convention will see and hear a multitude of high-profile speakers, musicians and choirs. A large-scale area evangelistic campaign, Crossover Indianapolis, will precede the start of the annual meeting as will the Pastor's Conference, the SBC Woman's Missionary

Union annual meeting and dozens of satellite meetings.

Among the myriad of actions, expected to draw particular interest are motions concerning the disposal of \$300,000 in a capital expenditures fund set aside in 1968 which has been claimed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as well as the SBC Christian Life Commission. The Executive Committee of the convention will recommend it be given control over the fund to disburse as it determines the need.

Also, bylaw change proposals are expected from the Executive Committee aimed at barring churches which approve homosexual practices. The Executive Committee passed a resolution in February aimed at two North Carolina churches and bylaw changes are expected in Indianapolis in an attempt to keep messengers from those churches from participating in the annual meeting.

Convention officials are gearing up for expected protests at Indianapolis from gay and lesbian support groups.

Another expected debate is expected over the issue of membership in Masonic lodges. The issue of Freemasonry was brought up last year in Atlanta and referred to the Home Mission Board for study. HMB directors recently decided not to deal with the question and will refer it back to the Indianapolis annual meeting for messengers to decide what to do.

Pastors

A look at "The Church in the 21st Century" will be the thrust of the Pastors' Conference June 7-8 prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11.

The conference, which began in 1935, will feature 14 speakers during four ses-

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sions in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis.

Jack Graham, Pastors' Conference president and pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, paraphrased the meeting's theme saying, "As we approach the 21st century, what will it take for the church to reach this and the coming generations for Christ?"

Preachers for the opening session will be Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis; O.S. Hawkins, former Pastors' Conference president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill.

The Monday morning session will feature Jim Henry, another former Pastors' Conference president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando; Larry Thompson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and national director of the 1992 SBC-wide Watchman National Prayer Alert; James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga.; and Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church in North Spartanburg, S.C.

Preachers at the Monday afternoon session will be Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas; Dallas evangelist Jay Strack; Joseph Stowell, president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago; and Fred Lowrey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La.

The evening session will feature Kenneth Cooper, fitness author, founder of the Cooper Clinic in Dallas and a member of Prestonwood; Ed Young, one of three likely nominees for SBC president and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston; and Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas.

Wives

The Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives organization will hear Deanna McClary, former model and nationally acclaimed vocalist of Pawleys Island, S.C., at their annual luncheon June 9.

The ministers' wives group holds its lun-



"Bold Believers in a Broken World" will be the theme of the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11 in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. Some 20,000 messengers representing Southern Baptist churches from across the country are expected for the annual three-day session that may include a three-way contest for SBC president, action on the issue of homosexuality and a visit by Vice President Dan Quayle. A large-scale evangelistic campaign, "Crossover Indianapolis" will precede the convention sessions, along with various meetings of SBC-related organizations.

cheon each year in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The luncheon will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom.

Each person attending the meeting will be given a copy of "Commitment to Love," written by the guest speaker.

Denise Behymer of Council Road Baptist Church in Yukon, Okla., will provide the special music.

Tickets may be ordered by May 20 by sending a check for \$17 to Linda Myers, First Baptist Church, 106 Bluegrass Commons Blvd., Hendersonville, TN 37075. Tickets will be \$19 at the door.

DOMS

"Discovering Divine Directions" will be the theme of the 31st annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associa-

tional Directors of Missions prior to the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

The June 7-8 DOM meeting will explore, "How do you find where God is at work?" said conference president Glenn Hickey, director of missions of the Pulaski Baptist Association in Little Rock, Ark. Answers to the question "should provide us clues for developing our mission strategy for the future for local Baptist associations," Hickey said.

One of the meeting's key emphases will be volunteerism. Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, will speak on "Divine Directions... in Volunteerism" during the 2:15 p.m. Sunday session, June 7.

Jimmy Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will speak on divine directions at the SBC agency during the 4 p.m. session June 7, while Preston North, DOM of the Eastern North Dakota Baptist Association, will speak on divine directions in that state.

The 6:30 p.m. program June 7 will feature foreign missions including comments by R. Keith Parks, retiring president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Other meetings will feature a panel discussion on volunteerism and addresses by several DOMs from throughout the nation.

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Evangelists

A program "to showcase some of our denomination's most effective evangelists" has been planned by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, according to the organization's president, Steve Hale, an Evansville, Ind.-based evangelist.

Theme for the conference's June 10 meeting, in conjunction with the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention, will be "Finding Him Faithful... Yesterday, Today, and Forever!" The evangelists' meeting will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome's Hall D.

An evangelist has been selected for each time frame, Hale said. Veteran evangelist Angel Martinez of Fort Smith, Ark., will speak on the "yesterday" aspect of the theme.

The "today" preacher will be evangelist Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala., while Scott Camp of Del City, Okla., will be the "forever" preacher.

A first-ever wives' luncheon, at noon June 10 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, has been added to this year's meeting, Hale noted. Marthe Besley, wife of the late evangelist Manley Besley, will be the featured speaker.

The luncheon will be free to evangelists'

wives, thanks to funds provided by Indiana Baptist churches, Hale said.

The conference's annual business meeting has been changed to a breakfast, at 7:30 a.m. June 9 in the Hyatt Regency, from the traditional evening banquet format.

Educators

A past, present and future look at "empowerment" will be the focus of the 37th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association June 7-8.

The SBREA, which will meet at Adam's Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, is among several annual meetings of ministry-oriented organizations prior to the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in the Hoosier Dome.

"Empowerment — Learning from the Past, Ministering in the Present and Forging the Future" will be the theme of the meeting. Bill Gambrell, minister of education at First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., is the current SBREA president.

Keener Pharr, who has been in religious education work since 1946, will speak on the "past" aspect of empowerment during the meeting's opening session at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 7.

Art Criscoe, director of management of the Sunday School Board discipleship training department's support section, will speak on the "future" aspect of empowerment during the 2 p.m. session June 8.

SBREA will hold a first-ever breakfast for state and regional religious education association presidents June 8.

Music

Church musicians will be offered "Joy for the Journey" during the 36th annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference prior to the June 9-11 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

The June 7-8 music conference's theme focuses on "joy in Christian service, joy for the long haul," said Bob Hatfield, conference president and minister of music at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., the past 13 years.

Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis will host the music conference and members of the congregation will share Sunday evening worship June 7 with conference participants.

Gary Fenton, Dawson Memorial pastor, will preach during worship times Sunday evening and June 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.



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Hispanic ministers

Hispanic ministers will gather for fellowship and worship — and to work at establishing a Hispanic congregation in the Indianapolis area in connection with the sixth annual Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference.

More than 350 Hispanic Baptists are expected to attend the conference prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11, said Bob Sena, conference coordinator.

The 6:30 p.m. conference Sunday, June 7, will meet at the Chapel Wood Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

For more information about the conference, contact Sena at (404) 299-3475 or (404) 934-9617.

African American Fellowship

The African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention will hold its organizational meeting June 8 and honor Emmanuel L. McCall, longtime Home Mission Board liaison with black churches.

The fellowship has met for a luncheon or dinner, a program and dialogue for some 10 years in connection with the annual SBC meeting, said E.W. McCall Sr., one of the fellowship's organizers and pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif. (The HMB's McCall and pastor McCall are no relation.)

This year, the group will vote on a constitution drafted by a 25-member steering committee that met in September in Dallas, McCall said. The steering committee also is recommending a slate of officers, headed by Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brenarwood Baptist Church in Houston, as president and McCall, of St. Stephen's, as first vice president.

The fellowship's organizational meeting and program will begin at 11:45 a.m. June 8 at the Holiday Inn, Union Station, in Indianapolis, host city for this year's June 9-11 annual SBC meeting.

The proposed constitution will create a 20-member executive board to act in behalf of the fellowship between SBC meetings, McCall said.

The African American Fellowship June 8 program will begin with a devotional

period at 11:45 a.m. led by Wille Simmons, pastor of Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church in Los Angeles; his wife, Marva; George May, pastor of Southpark Baptist Church in Houston; and E.W. McCall Sr.

After a luncheon, a program honoring the HMB's McCall will be led by H.E. Anderson Sr., pastor of Singing Hills Baptist Church in Dallas, and Ratliff.

The fellowship's business session will be at 2:15 p.m.

WMU

Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will honor R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, during its annual meeting June 7-8.

The five sessions of the meeting will be in the Indiana Convention Center of the Hoosier Dome beginning Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The Sunday evening session begins at 7 p.m. Monday sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Theme of the meeting is "Lead Me, Lord."

Parks, who recently announced plans to retire in October, will bring the closing message of the meeting. WMU will honor Parks during the Monday evening session. That session also will include a commitment service, the first ever included during a WMU annual meeting.

William O'Brien, director of the Global Center of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., and husband of WMU Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien, will bring the special music prior to Parks' address.

All living former WMU national leaders will participate in the program: Carolyn W. Crumpler and Alma Hunt, former national executive directors, and Helen Fling, Christine Gregory, Dorothy Sample and Marjorie McCullough, former national presidents.

Silent Touch, a deaf praise and worship group from Louisville, Ky., will present the theme interpretations at the beginning of each session.

A leadership profile will be a part of each session. These profiles will highlight the following women leaders: Billye Brown, professor emerita of the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing; Judy Hayes, registered nurse, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Carol Childress, research manager, Tyler, Texas; Martha Wood, mayor of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Sheryl Brissett-Chapman, executive director of Baptist Home for Children, Bethesda, Md.; and Linda Freeman, Southern Baptist missionary to Ecuador.

During the annual meeting, nine Southern Baptist missionaries will talk about God's leadership in their lives: Ann

Griffith, New York, N.Y.; Jim Queen, Lincolnwood, Ill.; Heberto Becerra, Manhattan, N.Y.; Fred and Lavada Loper, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Peter Chen, San Francisco, Calif.; Ethne Stainer, Yem; Thomas Canady, Honduras; and Bonnie Wiggs, South Korea.

Reports will be given by Catherine Allen, president of the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance, and Dorothy Sample, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union.

Dellanna O'Brien will present reports during each session. Carolyn D. Miller, national WMU president, will bring an address during the Sunday evening session.

An offering for the Second Century Fund, WMU's permanent endowment fund, will be taken. The Second Century Fund was created by WMU during its centennial year as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently. Only the interest earned on the principal is given each year in grants to develop women's missions endeavors worldwide.

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Convention Uniform*Receiving God's grace*

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: 1 Peter 5:1-11

Focal passage: 1 Peter 5:5-10

Central truth: It is in the midst of problems that we become prime beneficiaries of God's grace.

Success in our life relates to the grace we receive from God. Philipians 2:13 indicates that grace is the desire and power to do God's will. An acrostic for grace is God's riches at Christ's expense. Paul's prayer was that grace be multiplied to every believer. How do we get grace? In verse 5, Peter indicates there is one way—to be humbled.

Though they are not pleasant, there are great benefits to be derived from the problems we confront in life. The very experiences of problems we can't solve ourselves breaks our pride and prepares us to be recipients of God's grace. In the midst of our problems we seek to find quick solutions, while God is concerned with building character in our life and shaping us into the image of Jesus.

Our problems are often the result of previously disobeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit. God uses the problem to apply pressure on us to obey. If we fail the test of obedience, he raises up new and larger problems. While we are looking for ways to get out from under pressure, God is using pressure to motivate us to maturity.

It is in the midst of problems that we gain new insights into Scripture and the ways of God. This prompts Paul to say in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God concerning you in Christ Jesus."

There are those who look upon problems as a sign that one is not a child of God or at best an unblest child of God. This is particularly true of the health and wealth gospel crowd. This is certainly not biblical. Hebrews 12:6 declares that whom the Lord loves he chastens. When everything is going well we are not easily motivated. In the midst of trials we are motivated to look to the Lord. Proverbs 6:23 says the reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

In the midst of trials it is a good practice to read from Psalms and Proverbs. It's also encouraging to read biographies in Scripture and biographies of other Christians.

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Life and Work*You can't kill a dead man!*

by David Blase, First Church, Nashville

Basic passage: Mark 13:9,11-13; Revelation 2:8-11

Focal passage: Revelation 2:8-11

Central truth: Christians should be willing to die for Jesus.

The church at Smyrna was a great church. Jesus had only good words for them. This is the only one of the seven churches that did not get some criticism from Jesus. They were loyal even though they were persecuted.

Jesus reminded the church that he had been dead but had come back to life (v. 8). They had been saved by him, therefore they need not fear death. He would make sure that they lived on for all eternity (Jn. 11:25,26).

In one area, years ago, Christians were being persecuted. They were tortured and put to death. The persecutors were amazed at the way the Christians faced death. They sang and rejoiced and died without fear. When asked their secret, a believer said, "You see, sir, we have already died in Christ, so you cannot kill us. We are already dead!"

Christians are in a spiritual warfare. The three enemies are the world, the flesh, and the devil. While the battle is not against flesh and blood (Ep. 6:12), the enemies are personified in real human beings. Jesus warned the church that the "devil will cast some of you in prison" (v. 10), but that "devil" would be in human form and would have a name and address!

Moslem soldiers believe that martyrdom will usher them into paradise. Early Christians believed the same thing (v. 10). They believed a martyr was in a special category.

Paul said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Ph. 1:21). He believed that to be absent from the body meant to be present with the Lord (2 Co. 5:8). If he lived it was good and if he died, it was even better. The enemy cannot defeat a person who is like that. This kind of a Christian does not fear death.

As our nation becomes more anti-Christian, more churches will be persecuted and individuals will be ridiculed and some may even be killed for Jesus. The courage of the early martyrs may once again be seen in the lives of believers here in America. May God help us to be a people of faith life those dear saints in Hebrews 11, who loved not their lives unto death.

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Bible Book*Spiritual development*

by Dennis M. Dodson, First Church, Monticello

Basic passage: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:2-3,8-12

Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:2-3,8-12

Central truth: Spiritual development involves our relationships with others.

Paul's relationship with the Christians at Corinth had been disturbed by opponents who had made false charges about his ministry and his motives. Knowing that his ministry and their spiritual development depended upon the restoration of their relationship, Paul's correspondence with the Corinthians dealt with that concern.

Restrained affections toward him on the part of the Corinthians prompted Paul to call upon them to improve their relationship (6:11-13). Then he changed abruptly from a concern for inclusion to one of exclusion in calling for Christians to restrict their associations that would compromise their faith or hinder their witness. A series that compares opposites concludes with a recognition of the church as the temple of God.

The promise of the Lord's residence and relationship requires believers to come out of their idolatrous associations, to separate from their idolatrous activities, and not to cling to idolatrous articles. As Warren Wiersbe commented, "Like a skillful physician, we must practice 'contact without contamination,'" to keep this commandment while keeping the Great Commission.

God has a special reception and relationship, like a father to his children, for believers who cleave from the world to be close to him and clean for his service. His promises are incentives for believers to cleanse themselves of all defilement of flesh and spirit and perfect their holiness in the fear of him, which means spiritual development.

Paul returns to his request for a place in the hearts of the Corinthians. He had given them a permanent place in his heart. There was not reason for them to deny him their affection.

Paul's regret for the sorrow he had caused the Corinthians by his letter was brief because of the brevity of their sorrow and its benefit to them. He rejoiced that their sorrow was a godly sorrow that caused them to repent and repair their relationship with him.

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Convention Uniform

Add to your faith, virtue

by Jim McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: 2 Peter 1:1-14

Focal passage: 2 Peter 1:5

Central truth: A life of virtue demands continual removal of dross from our lives.

The eight character qualities mentioned in verses 5-8 come in ascending order. The first step in the Christian life is an act of faith, trusting our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. The next step from faith is to virtue or personal purity.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares, "blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God." Purity of heart is singleness of purpose to do the will of God. Purity in the absence of all dross. The virtuous or pure in heart are those whose mind, will, and emotions are submitted to God. These will see God when others are blind to him, even in times of pain.

If we don't see God, we can be sure there is impurity in our life. Sensual music, books, magazines all dull our spiritual sensitivity. They distort our focus, twist our view of God, and lay a foundation for mental insanity.

Perhaps the greatest threat to virtue is television. Television is built on an amusement format. Muse comes from the Latin word think. A is the Latin prefix meaning not to. Thus, amuse means not to think. In watching television, we drop our guard to purity of heart and gain instant access to wrong values.

Thus, Peter says "give diligence" to build these character qualities into your life. We are to do this in order that our calling and election will be sure. If we neglect these character qualities we lose a vision for the Lord and lapse into complacency. As we gain them we attain a sure calling, a safe walk with the Lord, and we know and experience his kindness and peace.

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Re. 1:8).

As Peter wrote this letter he identified himself as an apostle and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He knew the dangers new Christians faced in regard to impurity and false doctrine. As an apostle he let them know his authority was from God. As a servant, he identified himself with them as a sinner saved by grace.

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Life and Work

Strong words

by David Blase, First Church, Nashville

Basic passage: Revelation 2:12-17

Focal passage: Revelation 2:13-16

Central truth: Jesus is intolerant of false doctrine.

If the people in Pergamum had a Memorial Day, they remembered the famous martyr, Antipas (v. 13). He was a faithful man who died because of his love for Jesus. The Greek word *martus* can be translated "witness."

In the church at Pergamum there were faithful members who stood firm in their faith (v. 13). Some, however, were compromising with the devil. The fight against Satan and his followers has always been risky business. In the wars of America, men and women have fought and died for righteous causes.

Jesus was disappointed with the church because they permitted false, sinful doctrine. He called it the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Those who taught the doctrine of Balaam (1 Nu. 31:15,16; 22:5; 23:8) taught that Christians could marry unbelievers (v. 14), associate with the occult (v. 14), be sexually promiscuous (v. 14), and not be affected. These false teachers did not believe in separation (1 Co. 5:9-11; 2 Co. 6:14). Some in the church today teach the doctrine of Balaam.

Jesus had some strong words for those who taught the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (v. 15). They taught against the priesthood of the believer. This sect was founded by Nicolas who was one of the seven deacons (Ac. 6:5). Somewhere along the way this group left the doctrine of Christ. The Apostle Peter knew that every child of God was a priest (1 P. 2:9). When churches forget that Christianity is a "lay movement," they suffer.

Cult and sect groups are everywhere today. We need to remember that the Bible is God's final revelation to man. Christians need to study it (2 Ti. 2:15) and hold fast the form of sound words (2 Ti. 2:13).

Jesus calls on churches to repent (v. 16). He gives a solemn warning to churches that refuse to repent. Precious promises are given to the churches who are overcomers in the faith (v. 17). In the last days of spiritual apostasy the church must be on its guard. This is not a time to give in to false teachers, but rather, to earnestly contend for the faith (Ju. 3).

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Bible Book

Motivations for giving

by Dennis M. Dodson, First Church, Monticello

Basic passage: 2 Corinthians 8:1-6,8-15,20-21

Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 8:1-6,8-15,20-21

Central truth: The motives for giving are a factor in the meaning and the measure of the gifts.

A major ministry of Paul on his third missionary journey was the special relief offering for the Christians in Judea who had been impoverished by persecution and famine. In this letter Paul prompts the Corinthians to perform what they had promised about the offering. From the letter we learn that the motives for giving are a factor in the meaning and the measure of the gifts.

Paul began by challenging the Corinthians with the example of excellence in the grace-giving of the Macedonians. The activity of God's grace caused the Macedonians to give of their own accord beyond their ability and Paul's expectations during a great ordeal of affliction. Their grace-giving caused Paul to urge Titus to complete the gracious work he had begun in Corinth.

Upon commending the Corinthians for abounding in other works of grace, Paul challenged them to abound in the grace of giving. Excelling in certain aspects of the Christian life does not excuse one from excelling in others. The Corinthians were not to regard this as an order by Paul, but as an opportunity to prove the sincerity of their love. Jesus exemplifies grace-giving as an expression of love (Ep. 5:2).

Paul pointed out to the Corinthians that it was expedient, to their advantage, for them to finish what they had begun a year earlier (Ac. 20:35). Verse 16 indicates that Titus was earnest to complete the collection for their giving.

The desire of giving is to culminate in the deed that is determined by one's ability. The gift of the hand that is truly a gift of the heart is acceptable to God regardless of the amount (Mk. 12:43-44).

Grace-giving provides equality for the extremes of affliction and abundance. This principle has the church as the body of Christ functioning in unity for the benefit of all of its parts. Abundance is for helping, not hoarding, as the manna illustrated (Ex. 16:18).

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15 Europe missionaries resign

Possibilities of others foreseen

by Erich Bridges

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The recent resignations of 15 Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe have raised new questions among some about whether turmoil in the Foreign Mission Board's work in the region could cause still more missionary departures.

The 15 Europe resignations were among 40 recently submitted by missionaries worldwide.

"Some people are looking at their lives and whether they need to stay in missions or not," said Tom Warrington, FMB associate area director for Europe. "Suddenly they get word that the area director and vice president and president have resigned or retired and that makes their decision for them. That kicks them right over the edge. It won't surprise me if we get more of them. I think it will come."

Warrington referred to the early retirements of FMB Europe vice president Isam Ballenger and area director Keith Parker in protest of FMB trustee actions—particularly the defunding of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland—and to the announced retirement of board President R. Keith Parks.

Missionaries resign for many reasons—personal illnesses, needs of their children or of families back home, frustration with difficulties living abroad, unmet expectations of missionary service, a sense of God's leading elsewhere and greater career mobility among the "baby boom" generation.

Missionary resignations went up and down from 1980-90, averaging 132 or 3.7 percent of the missionary force each year but rose annually from 1985-89 before dropping in 1990. The combination of fewer missionary appointments and slightly higher rates of resignations and retirements later in the decade concerned board mission planners.

However, the overall attrition rate of 3.8 percent from missionary resignations and deaths at the beginning of the '90s was still below most other missionary-sending agencies.

Missionary administrator John Deal, who himself has resigned in disagreement with trustee or board actions, said he doubts the recent spate of resignations in Europe is a direct result of the mission board's troubles.

"I think the majority of these had other reasons," he said. "I don't think any of the others I know about really decided to

resign because of the controversy. Many of them were quite upset and disturbed about it but I think many of them have genuine reasons other than this."

Board trustee Steve Hardy, chairman of the trustee committee overseeing Europe, said he had "questioned the staff very carefully concerning these resignations. The Deals are the only couple who are clearly resigning because of the controversy. At least two of the couples are resigning due to medical or personal situations that need to be resolved, and they have indicated that when those are, they will want to be reappointed to return to Europe. I'm not greatly concerned about the resignations at this time."

Of the 15 most recent Europe resignations, only Deal and his wife, Revonda, 25-year veterans of foreign mission work, publicly stated they were resigning because of disagreements. They join missionaries Charles "T" and Kathie Thomas in Romania who earlier announced their resignations for similar reasons.

"We're just tired of all that's going on" at the Foreign Mission Board and in Europe missions, said Deal, 55, of Dothan, Ala. "Good energies are being spent on other things. We feel like what we're doing is really not accomplishing what we'd like to do."

Deal manages the field office for Southern Baptist mission work in Europe, based in Thalwil, Switzerland. From 1987-91 he was the board's associate director for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, based at FMB offices in Richmond, Va. Before that, the Deals spent nearly two decades in Singapore, Malaysia and Jordan. Their resignations take effect Aug. 1.

"We hated to resign, but it's done," said Deal. "It really is time—time for us, anyhow. It's a difficult thing when people have to leave. It's not a thing lightly done. I just think the direction (of the board) has changed from what I would like to move in. You either stay and try to change it or honestly move on. . . . I don't know how (FMB turmoil) affects other areas; I just know what it's done here. Traditionally we've worked in a partnership way with these people over here. We feel like that's not the future."

"The bomb hit Ruschlikon but the fallout has spread out into Europe," Deal observed. "Many seem to think that defunding (the seminary) was just a simple matter and would soon be over but it was not. It just seemed to kind of ripple in all directions."

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ALBANIA

Baptists begin work

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Missions Board

TIRANA, Albania (BP)—Baptists are poised to begin ministry in Albania, once said to be the most atheistic country in the world.

The European country of 3.3 million people formerly remained aloof from Western, Soviet and Chinese influence and banned all religions. But its strict communist regime has finally fallen domino-style like those in other Eastern European countries.

In March Albanians voted for democracy. On April 9 Sali Berisha, a heart surgeon, was elected as Albania's first non-communist president. Southern Baptists expect to send their first missionaries to Albania later this year. But a Scottish Baptist missionary couple already has located a residence in Tirana and will be moving there this spring with two small children. Chris and Malri Burnett, both physicians, are missionaries with the Baptist Missionary Society of England.

Cooperating with the European Baptist Federation, the Burnetts will help coordinate work by Baptists throughout the country in a wide range of ministries. Karl-Heinz Walter, the federation's general secretary, said he hopes coordination of all Baptist aid and evangelistic outreach in Albania by the federation will help maximize ministry by different Baptist groups and reduce friction and overlap.

Extensive contacts with a wide range of Albanian government officials have been made cooperatively by Walter; John Keith, Eastern Europe representative for the Canadian Baptist Federation; and Paul Thibodeaux, Eastern Europe administrator for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Walter, Keith and the Burnetts visited Tirana in April to meet government representatives and secure an apartment—a difficult task in a city with a housing shortage.

Harald Edvardsen, a Norwegian Baptist pastor and electrician, is in Tirana to renovate the apartment. He had to get supplies and equipment from Italy since little



(BP) photo / Mike Creswell

An Albanian woman clutches her bread rations as other hungry people crowd a State-run bakery in Tirana, Albania; 270 tons of flour sent by Southern Baptists, Canadian Baptists and the Baptist World Alliance arrived in two shipments during April.

is available in Albania.

Albania needs all the help it can get. Decades of isolationist communism have left it virtually with no economic system. Unemployment reportedly hovers at 80 percent. Virtually all factories have closed. A year ago one American dollar exchanged for 10 leks, the national currency. By mid-April the black market rate was 90 leks for \$1.

Rioting broke out in several locations before the March elections. Order has been restored by police and soldiers throughout Tirana, although gunfire is still heard at night in the city. Theft is rampant.

The first half of a shipment of 270 tons of flour sent by Southern Baptists, Canadian Baptists and the Baptist World Alliance arrived April 8 at the state-operated bakery just outside Tirana. The rest was expected by month's end. The European Baptist Federation also has promised to send urgently needed medical supplies.

Baptists are far from being the first Christian workers in Albania.

A group called the Albanian Encouragement Project is an umbrella organization helping coordinate the work of 25 mission groups, including Campus Crusade for Christ, Youth With a Mission, and numerous Europe-based groups.

But Christians aren't the only ones setting up shop in Albania. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and members of the Baha'i faith also have sent workers to Albania. Some Christian workers expect Muslims to make a strong effort to re-start the once-dominant Islamic faith in Albania.