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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

OCT 24 1995



Volume 94, Number 21

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ABSC on-site coordinator Norman Roberts (left) confers with EBC general secretary John Merritt on plans for the partnership.



Joy and Chyun-Kyu Park, natives of South Korea and members of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany, voiced appreciation for Arkansas Baptist partnership efforts.

PARTNERS



IN MISSIONS

As Arkansas Baptists prepare to enter the third year of a missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention, messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will vote on extending partnership activities an additional year, through 1997.

▲ J.R. Duncan, a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Hamburg, ministers to a congregation that includes 15 to 18 nationalities.



◀ Tony Acquah, a refugee from Ghana, found a church home at International Baptist in Stuttgart, Germany



UN delegates urged to seek global spiritual awakening

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

UNITED NATIONS (BP)—The remedy for wars and tribal conflict is not peace treaties but the Prince of Peace, delegates to the recent United Nations International Prayer Breakfast were told.

"Without spiritual awakening on a worldwide scale, civilization is doomed," said Samuel J. Barkat, a Pakistan native and former vice president for academic affairs at King's College, New York.

This year marks the UN's 50th anniversary, Barkat noted as he acknowledged the progress that member nations have made toward their ideals. The United Nations and its organizations have received the Nobel Peace Prize five times.

Yet global and regional conflicts, violence and dehumanizing of individuals persist. "You are leaders and decision makers, but you are part of a fractured and fragmented humanity," Barkat told 340 people attending the 10th annual prayer breakfast.

Scripture describes a state of peace known as shalom, Barkat said, adding that most people live without that peace. Examples of the absence of shalom include ethnic cleansing, racism, religious bigotry, religious oppression and loss of hope, he said.

"We all break shalom. We have done wrong by the failure to show justice and mercy and the misuse of power," Barkat said. "The miracle is God's forgiveness. It is no simple matter; it was very costly to God Himself. The price has been paid. Acceptance is up to us."

The Sept. 18 prayer breakfast was co-sponsored by Christian Ministries to the United Nations Community led by Southern Baptist home missionary Ted Mall and Christian Embassy, a Campus Crusade for Christ organization.

The breakfast, held every fall before the opening of the U.N. General Assembly, is becoming a prestigious event for diplomats to attend, Mall said. Every diplomat who signed the guest register will be contacted for a follow-up visit, he added, noting at least one Muslim and one Buddhist were among those attending.

Mall will use contacts from the prayer breakfast to accomplish one of his main goals: building relationships through which witnessing and outreach can occur.

Another of Mall's goals is to help meet physical needs. Some governments do not pay diplomats enough to survive in New York City, he explained. People receive assistance through local churches and Southern Baptist hunger funds.

Mall's third goal is to build international bridges for the gospel in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board. For example, reopening of mission work in Vietnam and beginning of Southern Baptist work in Mongolia can be traced to connections made at the United Nations, Mall said.

The diplomatic corps in New York, including the ambassadors, their families and support staff, approaches 100,000 people, Mall noted. "They are the ones, who while working in the background, influence the decisions that shape our world...Any strategy to reach our world for Christ would be incomplete without taking this special group into account."

Cover Story

PARTNERS



MISSIONS

Partnership update 6-7

As Arkansas Baptists prepare to enter the third year of a missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention, messengers to the state convention will be asked to vote on extending the partnership through 1997.

Also inside

Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
President's Corner.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5

Arkansas Baptists

Missionary-in-residence.....	9
Nominating Committee report.....	10
Fund-raising proposal.....	11
Arkansas All Over.....	12-13

Nation/World

Disaster relief efforts.....	8
FMB's "White Harvest".....	15
CP gifts set record.....	17
WMU mails "special report".....	18
IRS manual targets ministers.....	20

Lessons..... 22-23

Next issue: Nov. 2



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ABSC president affirms focus on faithfulness

By Trennis Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

When Ronnie Rogers was first elected state convention president two years ago, he had never visited the Baptist Building in Little Rock. A lot has changed since then.

"I was unknown," he reflected. "I had never served anywhere. I spent my hours alone in study and prayer was my focus." That was life before his presidential election in 1993.

Since then, however, Rogers said he has been "catapulted into the center of the convention."

"It has changed everything as far as my schedule," he noted. "This pretty well dictates.... Twice a week, I'm somewhere due to my relationship as being president. Four out of five days a week I do something with the presidency. It's never off your mind."

Acknowledging that he is "pathologically focused," Rogers explained, "When I have tasks to do, I try to hone in on them and do the very best I can." Noting that his presidential role "is relentless as far as the schedule," he added, "It is disheartening that you are not able to make everything fit. Logistically, you couldn't do it all even if you physically wanted to."

Despite the scheduling challenges, Rogers affirmed, "It is one of the greatest privileges a person could be afforded. It is such a privilege to be involved at that level, to have a chance to influence and to be influenced. I made a commitment to enjoy it and I thoroughly, thoroughly have enjoyed it."

Rogers said his presidential service "has changed my view of people who are in great places of leadership" in convention life. "You meet and work with an enormous amount of people," he pointed out. "There is a bond and appreciation which comes about that is very valuable. You get a real appreciation for the bigger picture."

Even as he encounters other leaders with whom he disagrees on specific subjects, Rogers added, "They still are worthy of our prayers because leadership is an awesome, overwhelming responsibility. My prayers for people who are in great positions of leadership in our convention have become more free and more mature."

Rogers' presidency, which will conclude Nov. 1 at the close of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting in Little Rock, isn't the only responsibility that has occupied his time and attention in recent months.

While serving as president, he also has



"Our greatest challenge is to look at ourselves and our culture in light of Scripture and do what is needed for the sake of the Kingdom."

— Ronnie Rogers
President, Arkansas Baptist
State Convention

been elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations, one of the most influential positions in the SBC, as well as first vice chairman of the Midwestern Seminary board of trustees. He also served on Midwestern's recent presidential search committee and is a member of Arkansas Baptists' executive director search committee, providing the opportunity for his influence to be multiplied on both the state and national levels for years to come.

How did he move from being "unknown" to serving in numerous key positions in less than two years? "Humanly, there's really no explanation," he said. "It was God's timing for me to serve and He brought it about. I'm not trying to sound overly spiritual but I do attribute it truly to the Lord."

Noting that his personal goal in life is faithfulness to God, Rogers added, "If I didn't think God was in it, I wouldn't do it. If the Lord puts me in a position, I want to be faithful to that. When He gives me those opportunities, I'm on a mission."

Rogers' mission as president has not been without its detractors. In his

"President's Corner" column in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, he has tackled such subjects as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and women's ordination, consistently emphasizing his conservative views.

"From my perspective, I think the Lord gave me those burdens," Rogers explained. "In a theological world, which we are, sometimes we're afraid to discuss beliefs. We ought not be. That's where you learn and grow."

"As president, I have a responsibility to speak my heart," he added. "I can serve all but I don't have to say what all agree with. I don't want to come across as having it all figured out because I haven't...but everybody ought to be able to operate off their convictions and do it graciously."

"The world doesn't care what we believe unless we believe it enough to do something with it," Rogers insisted. "My parameters are the Scriptures. A line is drawn on inerrancy. It is an issue of the nature of Scripture."

Along with calls and letters expressing concern or disagreement, Rogers added, "There are those who are thankful for someone voicing what they believe. I get a lot of letters that are encouraging me and thanking me for speaking up and speaking truth. That's a great reward."

As Rogers' presidential term comes to an end in two weeks, he looks forward to returning more of his focus to serving as pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs. "No church could have been more supportive of me spiritually," he declared. "Our church fasts and prays for the whole convention. Every day someone in our church fasts and prays for me."

"If there is a disappointment" in serving as president, he added, "I have not been the pastor my heart is to be. Our other pastors and deacons and everybody else has absolutely filled the void unbelievably. They have met that need."

Looking toward this year's state convention meeting, Rogers said he believes Arkansas Baptists' focus on spiritual awakening "is what God wants us to focus on."

"My desire is that at the convention there will be an experience of awakening individually and as a convention," he said. "I really believe God is the answer. Our goal is that we will meet with God."

As state convention leaders make plans to evaluate current convention structure and prepare for ministry into the 21st century, Rogers added, "Our greatest challenge is to look at ourselves and our culture in light of Scripture and do what is needed for the sake of the Kingdom."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

Change! It may be good. It may be bad. It is always certain. Nothing stays the same. Oh, how hard some people work just to try to keep things the same. In fact, a major cause of church conflict is change. Sides are chosen between those who want change and those who do not.

When you read this, I will have begun my 14th year as Executive Director-Treasurer. One of the greatest joys of these years of service has been the opportunity to be involved in changes that impact the ministry of our churches. Many of the changes have been in the interest of strengthening church leadership.

The Church Leadership Support Department, New Pastor-Staff Orientation, termination assistance for pastors and staff, Annual Pastors' Retreat, Preacher's Kid Retreat every other year, fellowship visits to all incoming pastors on the field, bivocational fellowship meetings, publication of *Vision* magazine for church leaders, and dialogue sessions for pastors and lay leaders of the churches are some of the changes. God has blessed these changes. Arkansas Baptists have responded in so many positive ways to the changes. Our convention staff has embraced these and worked hard.

It has worked! How do I know? By three measurements: (1) Participation in most events is setting new records. This year we moved from 1,295 in a single Sunday School Convention to 3,129 in 42 Associational Conventions. We are taking the training to the people. (2) You are calling on us for personal consultations. At the end of August, our 30 field staff had conducted 6,088 personal consultations. You have found our staff to be competent and eager. (3) You have demonstrated your confidence and support by increased giving. According to Southern Baptist Convention figures, from 1976 through 1994, Arkansas increased its giving to the Cooperative Program by 282.46 percent. Only Alabama had a greater increase.

Thank you for enabling us to make the changes we have. God has blessed and you have benefited. I have rejoiced in Him.

RONNIE ROGERS

President's Corner

Spiritual Awakening



This year the convention will focus on spiritual awakening. This is not merely a theme plan or program, but rather the prompting of the Holy Spirit for the hour.

It is based on the belief, as many across the land have, that God may be stirring the hearts of His people for spiritual awakening. Please, pray and prepare for God to visit us at our convention. Awakening is our only hope. Our prayer to our God is one of desperation.

Spiritual awakening is a sovereign move of our Holy God; no human endeavor or prayer can produce it. That doesn't mean there is no human involvement in the process of spiritual awakening other than to be swept up by the power of God.

I think there is only one response (human requirement) and that is summed up in the word "faithfulness." While I believe prayer, witnessing and other endeavors are important, I believe faithfulness is the comprehensive issue.

Faithfulness does not mean that you give more, witness more, go more than anyone else, or pastor a certain size church. Faithfulness means that each of us does what God asks us to do, when God asks us to do it, the way God asks us to do it. This may be as laudable and noble as going to be a missionary in

darkest Africa, or it may be dealing with the slowest checkout clerk this side of the north pole on a Saturday afternoon in a God-honoring manner.

The history of awakenings is replete with meager beginnings like small prayer meetings, some small child, a Welsh coal miner, or some other seemingly insignificant individual or event. To believe that there is a certain formula, place, person, age or status is to miss the heart of revival. Really, revival begins in the heart of an individual where God says pray, witness, help this person, repent of sin or countless other things and the individual obeys. Awakening begins as God moves in what may seem to be an insignificant way and His people respond with faithfulness.

Awakening is a sovereign move of God. Thus, we cannot look for a magic formula to make it happen, but we can walk faithfully before God so that we can be a vessel for Him to work in and through; and even if awakening does not come to America, it can come to you, and it can come to me.

Pray that God will bring spiritual awakening to our convention, but first that He might start with you and me.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"Without spiritual awakening on a worldwide scale, civilization is doomed."

—Samuel Barkat, keynote speaker, United Nations Prayer Breakfast

"The world doesn't care what we believe unless we believe it enough to do something with it."

—Ronnie Rogers, president, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

"The task of foreign missions belongs to all of us, not just to those we have sent."

—Wayne and Frances Fuller, emeritus missionaries to the Middle East

Follow Christ's example

As Arkansas Baptists launch a five-year focus on spiritual awakening during this year's state convention annual meeting, the theme for the first year of "Arkansas Awakening" is "Live the Word."

What is the key to genuine spiritual awakening? According to Henry Blackaby, director of spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, "When the presence of God fills the people of God, you have spiritual awakening." Emphasizing the crucial need for such action, Blackaby added, "Anything less than that will not spare America."

Blackaby's view was echoed during a recent United Nations Prayer Breakfast when Samuel Barkat declared, "Without spiritual awakening on a worldwide scale, civilization is doomed."

Looking toward the state convention which begins Oct. 31, convention president Ronnie Rogers voiced his desire that the spirit of the gathering will help pave the way for "an experience of awakening individually and as a convention."

"I really believe God is the answer," Rogers affirmed. "Our goal is that we will meet with God."

How does the convention's "Live the Word" emphasis tie in to spiritual awakening? Personalizing and internalizing the Word of God are vital steps in meeting God and being available to receive His gift of awakening.

But there is more. In addition to studying and living God's written Word, Christians are called to daily follow the example of Jesus Christ — the Living Word. Among the many descriptions of Jesus throughout the Bible, John 1:14 testifies that "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

What does that mean for Arkansas Baptists today? If we are to live the Word and experience spiritual renewal, we must faithfully live the life Christ calls us to — whether at home, church, work, school, play...or in our dealings with our brothers and sisters at the state convention annual meeting.

As we seek to follow the example Christ has placed before us, His earthly life and ministers provide specific goals for Christians to pursue. Among those are:

■ **The Commandment of Christ:** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another," Jesus explained in John 13:34-35. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In practical terms, if our words and actions are not motivated by Christ-like love, we quickly fall short of His command and fail to truly live the Word. A personal inventory of most Christians' lives will reveal attitudes that need a fresh dose of brotherly love. How can we successfully live the Word in the '90s? Christ is clear: "Love one another."

■ **The Compassion of Christ:** Matthew 14:14 introduces the miracle of Christ feeding the 5,000 by noting that Jesus "saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion toward them."

The compassion of Christ is recorded throughout the Gospels. His preaching, prayer life and personal actions consistently reflected a burden for the individuals He encountered each day. In today's "me first" society, personal compassion toward others often seems low on the priority list. Do you sincerely desire to live the Word? Demonstrate compassion in your daily encounters.

■ **The Commitment of Christ:** Paul reminds us in Philippians 2:8 that Jesus "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." While few American Christians can even imagine the level of commitment required to sacrifice one's physical life in defense of the gospel, Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 16:25 that "whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Christ's words are a graphic reminder that we are to dedicate our total lives in commitment and obedience to Him — even if it means sacrificing our physical lives. Exercising that level of commitment to Christ will produce a radical change in the life of any believer willing to truly live the Word.

What are the keys as Arkansas Baptists seek "Arkansas Awakening" through a renewed effort to "Live the Word"? We must obey Christ's commandment, adopt His compassion and live His commitment. As we truly seek to "Live the Word," we can be confident that God's Living Word will guide us each step of the way.

A ridiculous resolution from the NEA

By Bob Terry

Editor, Alabama Baptist

Several years ago, we had the opportunity to work with officials of the National Education Association on a local school project. That experience taught us to appreciate the organization's resourcefulness and the dedication of its leaders to public schools and the men and women who teach in the schools.

Historically, Baptist have been committed to public schools as a way of helping children develop God-given talents and abilities. At that point, Baptist share a concern with the NEA.

This past July at its national convention, the NEA adopted a resolution that will strain relationships with most Baptists and with most communities in the United States. The NEA called on school systems to establish a Gay and Lesbian History Month. The purpose, the NEA says, is to show respect and tolerance for gays and lesbians.

To this writer, the idea is ridiculous. Gays and lesbians have the

same rights as all citizens, legal rights guaranteed by the laws of this nation. But those rights do not include respect for a lifestyle which the Bible describes as perversion.

There is no denying that persons with a homosexual orientation have made contributions to society. But recognizing that fact is not the same as observing a Gay and Lesbian History Month. Such an observance would convey to children that homosexuality is just as acceptable as heterosexual relationships. Homosexuality could be presented as "an alternative lifestyle" instead of as the sin which the Bible calls it.

It is unlikely that one community in a hundred would support NEA efforts to start an annual celebration of Gay and Lesbian History Month. Few places would want to promote homosexuality so openly.

We believe the NEA should focus its attention on the basics of public education and use its resources more responsibly for the good of children. Such resolutions as this take the organization far afield from its historical priorities in public education.

Communication vital to partnership's success

By Russell N. Dillard

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

As Arkansas Baptists prepare to enter the third year of their current overseas missions partnership with the 65-church European Baptist Convention, partnership leaders have witnessed success, but also have renewed a call for prayer and communication between the two conventions.

Doyle Plummer, stateside coordinator for the partnership, said the effort's successes are reflected in the missions projects completed by Arkansas volunteers in EBC churches.

"Since the partnership's inception, we have completed 77 projects with 268 people," Plummer noted. He said the projects have included "three or four construction projects, eight to 10 revivals, six Vacation Bible Schools, 25 retreats, 12 to 15 training events such as Experiencing God, a medical team to Romania, conference leadership and five interim pastorates.

EBC general secretary John Merritt, who will retire in October 1996, said the one-year partnership extension will help bridge the gap between him and his successor.

"Developing a partnership takes time," he said. "Rather than a new general secretary coming in with the burden of immediately developing a partnership, I think it would be far better for the partnership to be extended a year.

"That would give a person time to get his roots in the work, develop long-range plans and add strength to our churches at a time when the leadership of the EBC will be in transition," he said.

"We positively need an extension of the partnership," Plummer agreed. "It takes time to establish a partnership and to establish communication. Until now the weight of the partnership has fallen directly on this office. We are already seeing some churches work more and more directly and our role (as stateside coordinator) becoming less and less."

Norman Roberts, Arkansas Baptists' current on-site coordinator in Europe said the endeavor's strength has been "the people who have come.... This has been a people partnership and I think we have been successful in getting some of our outstanding folks to come and participate."

Plummer cited church-to-church and association-to-church partnership links as another success. "So far, we've made 49 hookups and seven more EBC churches are waiting for Arkansas partners," he noted, adding that churches in Athens, Greece; Prague, Czech Republic; Naples, Italy; and in Bremen, Augsburg, Ansbach and Grafenwoehr, Germany are those still seeking Arkansas partners.

EBC president Race Larissey, pastor of Rhein Valley Baptist Church in Walldorf, Germany, said his church already has realized dividends from their partnership with Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. "(Parkway Place member) J.D. Stake came over and led us in Experiencing God, which we've had two small groups start from that. That's one of the most exciting things happening in the church.



Norman Roberts (left), Arkansas Baptists' on-site coordinator for the Arkansas-European Baptist partnership, confers with EBC general secretary John Merritt. Both men agree communication is a key ingredient of the partnership.

"They also supplied us with all of our Vacation Bible School materials," Larissey said. When a scheduled VBS opportunity failed to materialize, Larissey called Jim Wilson, pastor of Parkway Place, for help. "We had the materials in two weeks."

Other churches have taken a very direct role in helping their partner congregation. Fourteen members of Immanuel Church in Little Rock recently took \$12,000 in matching funds to Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany, and provided extensive renovation to the Frankfurt church's sanctuary, parsonage and education space.

Responding to the visit from the Immanuel volunteers, Bethel's Joy Park said she "learned many things from them. I learned hard work and Christian love."

Echoing participants' positive evaluation of the partnership, Merritt noted, "I think Arkansas Baptists are doing very, very well.

"This is an unusual partnership in that we are trying to partner churches with churches," he said. "You can do more in strengthening churches that are difficult for us to do," he added.

"With a membership of about 4,600 and a modest budget, we don't even have the travel funds for our staff to get to these churches regularly," he said. "Having people from Arkansas actually go and minister...helps these churches that in many cases are isolated from any other EBC church by over 1,000 miles."

Merritt cited Arkansas Baptist women as having a leadership role in the success of the partnership. "Arkansas women have

PARTNERS



IN MISSIONS

"We've completed 85 to 90 percent of what the EBC has asked us to do," he added, "and the variety has been good. The number of people who have participated may not seem large, but the number of projects has been about the same as in past missions partnerships."

With nearly two years of successful partnership projects behind them, Arkansas Baptist will consider a motion during their annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 to extend the partnership an additional year, through 1997.

Interested in becoming a missions partner?

If your church is a missions partner with a European Baptist church or is interested in becoming a partner, plan to attend a partnership reception following the evening service of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Oct. 31 at First Church, Little Rock.

been key in the partnership," he affirmed. "They helped set it up."

Judith Lynn Bloomer, editor of the EBC newsletter, *Highlights*, said she saw the partnership "really working and really making an impact at Interlaken."

"Half of our seminar leadership came from Arkansas," she said. "What that did was not only having EBC people seeing Arkansans leading conferences, but, more importantly for the partnership, it was Arkansans seeing European Baptists at work. Until they come over here, they don't understand and they don't have a real heart for what's happening over here."

While the partnership has produced a number of success stories, Merritt emphasized that prayer and communication must remain a constant focus.

"How can we do our job better?" he asked. "Let me suggest one thing: We say that the foundation of this partnership is prayer. It's one thing to say that the foundation of the partnership is prayer. It's another thing to be praying fervently and regularly for each other."

"Like most things in church life, our greatest need is for spiritual power," Merritt remarked. "Our churches really need to develop to a higher level of functioning, both in membership and spiritual values."

"Partners are very much relational. How often you communicate and at what level you communicate depends so much on what relationship you have," he said.

How often should partnered churches or associations communicate?

"That's a very personal issue," said Roberts, a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. "How often do you talk to your wife in that partnership?"

"The partnerships that are doing extremely well are the ones that are continually communicating," he said. "And communicating prayer needs is one of the most successful of any of the strategies I've seen two partnership churches get involved in."

Roberts said he and his wife, Kay, "are very impressed with those churches that are constantly getting in touch with each other. Not just Arkansas churches, not just EBC churches, but both partners."

"Some pastors really love their partners. They have had a lot of contact, they've had a lot of participation," Bloomer affirmed. She added, however, that "I've also heard some of them who have been working for months and just cannot make that connection with their Arkansas partner. They haven't made the communication."

"The biggest need is to communicate," Roberts reiterated. "Where we've had successful partnerships between churches, it is because the leadership in the churches or associations have communicated a lot."

Meet European Baptists...

Richard Anthony

Sunday School director
Immanuel Baptist Church, Wiesbaden

According to Immanuel Church pastor C.W. Bess, Sunday School director Richard Anthony may have the longest-running consecutive membership in any EBC congregation. Reflecting on his membership in the church, Anthony said, "I came to Wiesbaden in 1968 after being discharged from the military and began work for the Air Force. My wife and I were looking for a church. One day I had to get my car inspected. I went over to a street in Wiesbaden and there was a garage on one side of the street and a church on the other. I went home very happy and said, 'Honey, I found a church.' They accepted me so graciously. I felt God had sent us a church home. It was Immanuel in another location. Our membership then was about 400 people. Right now our membership stands at 250 people. We've had a lot of (military) drawdowns and changes in membership. God has always sent us good people...our pastors have been the best. I feel that the Lord is blessing us and calling us out to do His will. The spectrum of the church has broadened since the drawdown. From an American fortress in a faraway land, we are now open to everyone. It is so good to see people of different occupations, variations and everything come to know the Lord."



Jennifer Permenter

Member, International Baptist Church, Stuttgart



Jennifer Permenter, a Louisiana native, came to Stuttgart two years ago to study music. She discovered International Baptist Church there and became active in an English-speaking Bible study for singles. "I'm a music student at the Opernschule (opera school) in Stuttgart. I had only come planning to stay for a year and it kind of ended up being more. I visited a couple of evangelical churches but I wasn't very content there. It's still a little too formal. I found this church different because, for one thing, here I am sitting with someone from Ghana and someone from Holland. It is amazing the nationalities and mentality -- the German mentality is so different. For example, when I learned my first phrase, a greeting meaning 'Great God,' I would walk through the park and I would greet people with, 'Great God' and they would just look at me. They are not as friendly. Without this church I would be a lonelier. Even when you can speak the language, hearing a sermon in your mother language means you are fed."

Race Larisy

President, European Baptist Convention
Pastor, Rhoda Valley Baptist Church, Walkdorf

Like many EBC congregations, Rhein Valley Church has suffered membership losses resulting from the American military drawdown in Europe. Pastor Race Larisy said another reason for the losses was "Operation Desert Storm. That put a fear in Americans living abroad. They were told, 'Don't gather together as a big group.' We had a bomb threat here one Sunday at the church. During the worship service we had 12 German policemen and two police dogs sniffing all over the building. I told the congregation that we had to leave and we had a packed house that day. While we were having combined services of 200 to 220, we do really good to have 40 to 50 now." Larisy also noted the church's unique setting. "The location of the building is upstairs over a German beer pub. It was a former dance hall. I remember clearly the first time walking in the building and walking up the stairs to the sanctuary and saying, 'Boy, I left a brand new building to come here?' But you have to set aside those material things and realize the church is not the building but the people."



Baptists minister to hurricane victims

FORT WALTON BEACH, FL (BP)—Florida Panhandle's barrier islands took a direct hit from Hurricane Opal Oct. 4, leaving homes, businesses and high-rise condominiums resembling sand castles torn to pieces by crashing waves.

The storm surge of 140 m.p.h. winds devastated the coastline for more than 120 miles from Mexico Beach — just east of Panama City — to Pensacola Beach. The category four hurricane caused 19 deaths in four states — Florida, Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina — forced approximately 4,400 people out of their homes, and produced an estimated \$1.8 billion in damages to insured property in Florida alone.

Government officials, concerned for safety of persons amid the crumpled shoreline infrastructures, closed off access to the Florida Panhandle's Okaloosa and Holiday island communities, leaving residents, who responded to mandatory

evacuation notices, stranded on the mainland.

The storm was the second hurricane in as many months to plow through the Panhandle area, coming on the heels of Hurricane Erin which struck in August. The route of the two storms intersected at Pensacola Beach, where residents had just completed repairs caused by Erin.

Even before the third-costliest hurricane in U.S. history — behind Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and 1969's Camille — teams of Florida Baptists were racing toward the path Opal was stalking. The night Opal struck, three assessment teams waited at Blue Springs Baptist Assembly in nearby Marianna. At daybreak, they fanned out to Fort Walton Beach, Panama City and Pensacola to assess damages and determine where Baptist resources could best be used.

By nightfall, 24 hours after the storm struck, three feeding units dispatched to

assigned areas prepared to feed storm victims. The feeding units were staffed with volunteers from Orlando, Palm Coast and the Panhandle.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, where Opal also wreaked havoc, two Georgia Baptist feeding units went to work at Central Baptist Church in Douglasville and First Baptist of Pine Mountain. Another 50 volunteers helped with clean-up.

The Texas Baptist Convention's feeding unit was dispatched to First Baptist Church of Niceville. Alabama Baptists' unit was stationed at Enterprise, Ala., and sent meals by Red Cross Emergency Relief Vehicles into the affected area.

According to Baptist officials, the units initially served nearly 3,000 meals a day, with the peak expected to reach 10,000 a day. For many Panhandle residents, Baptists offered them their first hot meal following the storm.

Chris Richards called the response "wonderful." The day before, Richards and his son, Jason, had eaten a box of crackers after a fallen tree had knocked over their refrigerator.

His parents, Howard and Delores Richards, had been forced to evacuate their Okaloosa Island home just before the hurricane struck.

"We haven't been back since the storm," Delores Richards said. "We don't know anything about the place and we have nowhere else to go."

Hardest-hit areas include Pensacola Beach; Navarre Beach, where the eye of the storm crossed and destroyed nearly 75 percent of the homes; Destin, where high-rise condominiums on Holiday Isle were buffeted and stripped by 15- to 20-foot waves; Okaloosa Island, which sustained winds of 140 m.p.h.; and Panama City Beach where beachfront homes received extensive damage.

Early assessment of damage to Baptist property revealed that 10 Florida Baptist churches sustained minor to moderate damage. Steeples are off three churches and several report roof damage. First Baptist of Panama City Beach sustained the most severe damage as Opal's winds took a corner off its fellowship hall.

Many residents on Pensacola and Navarre beaches have returned to where their homes were only to find an empty lot and no belongings.

Jim Brown, on-site coordinator of the Florida Baptist disaster-relief response, said volunteers will be stationed on area islands to determine what needs can be met by convention resources as the blockades are removed. "I think we will have unique needs and opportunities for ministry once these beaches are opened," Brown said.



Southern Baptist missionary Mark Smith loads relief supplies onto an airplane bound for the Caribbean islands of St. Maarten and Antigua.

Volunteers needed for St. Maarten, Antigua

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—Urgent needs still exist for Southern Baptist volunteers to help rebuild homes and churches damaged by recent hurricanes on the Caribbean islands of St. Maarten and Antigua.

The most pressing needs are for Southern Baptist volunteers to work stints of one or two weeks from now until mid-December on St. Maarten. The rebuilding is part of a Southern Baptist relief effort there and on the nearby island of Antigua, both wrecked

by Hurricane Luis' 140 mile-per-hour winds in early September. The project is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

"There's a desperate need for volunteers, especially on St. Maarten," said Mickey Calson, national disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission. "We need people willing to do 'handyman' type work. It's not elaborate construction." Volunteers may contact Beth Huneycutt at 1-800-280-1891.

Ouachita officials launch \$40 million capital campaign

Ouachita Baptist University unveiled the largest capital campaign in its 109-year history Oct. 12.

Ouachita president Ben Elrod was joined by OBU trustee chairman John L. Heflin and donor Bernice Jones of Springdale in announcing the three-year, \$40 million campaign.

"This may well be the most singularly important day in the history of Ouachita," Elrod remarked. "The willingness of our institutional family to seek \$40 million after pledging and giving nearly \$28 million over the last five years is the most ambitious undertaking in the history of the school."

Ouachita's "Window of Opportunity" campaign is the second phase of the university's Decade of Progress campaign, which began in 1990. The initial phase concluded last year and exceeded its challenge goal of \$26.7 million. The Decade of Progress campaign is unrelated to the direct appeal to churches by OBU and Williams Baptist College being recommended to Arkansas Baptist messengers this fall (see article on page 11).

Heflin, who will serve as national chairman of the Window of Opportunity, announced that \$15 million in gifts and pledges has already been raised in the new campaign, with \$8 million earmarked for the construction of the Harvey Jones Science Center and more funding designated for the creation of the Bernice Young Jones School of Fine Arts.

Jones said she is pleased to be able to play a part in the university's development. The Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trusts of Springdale has been a major supporter of Ouachita, with a number of gifts and grants, including the Harvey and Bernice Jones Performing Arts Center and Harvey Jones Endowed Chair of Business and Transportation Studies.

"Ouachita has achieved regional recognition in recent years," Elrod noted. "We seek through this campaign to maintain and strengthen our recognized position as one of the top 10 liberal arts institutions in the South."

"It is our desire to stay affordable for students in Arkansas," he added. "To do this, we must build our endowment funds, and the campaign will be primarily for that purpose."

Missionary-in-residence has a 'heart that beats for missions'

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

For most people, 28 years is a long time to spend in one job — especially if the job is in Africa. But for Southern Baptist missionaries Gerald and Barbara Schleiff, Africa was where they both desired to be and it was the setting through which God worked in their lives.

Schleiff was born in Fort Smith and also lived in Charleston and Jonesboro. While attending Ouachita Baptist University, he sensed God's call to mission service, perhaps in Africa, during a Baptist Student Union event. After graduation, he taught school in Hackett. On a visit back to the OBU campus, he met an incoming freshman named Barbara Robertson, from Monette. Schleiff reminisced that they shared a calling to missions, both to Africa. The couple married in 1959.

Continuing to teach, Schleiff also served as pastor of two small churches before enrolling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Applying to the Foreign Mission Board, he found out missionary service required two years of field experience. He served Calvary Church in Hope for those two years and the Schleiffs were appointed as missionaries in July 1967.

"The week of the appointment service, we were the only couple without a destination," Schleiff recalled. Once the decision was made, the Schleiffs went to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where they have served since.

After language study, Schleiff served as a school principal and an evangelist in Sanyati from 1969-72. "We had a missionary station about 57 miles out in the bush," he noted. "There was a school and a hospital."

For the next three years Schleiff served as an evangelist and church developer in Sessami, Gokwe, Rhodesia, also a bush mission station. "You just went to the end of the world and turned left," Schleiff joked.

After a furlough in 1977, the Schleiffs returned to a country embroiled in turmoil. "Rhodesia was nearing the end of a really hot war, so we decided to stay in town and work at the seminary," he explained. In April 1980, the government of Rhodesia

was overturned and the country became Zimbabwe.

Schleiff has continued in seminary work at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Gweru since that time. He has taught preaching and pastoral ministry, was dean of students and director of field ministry. "I got every student out in the field on the weekend," he commented. "You start a lot of new churches that way."

"Over the last four years, we've put men where there were beer halls and turned them into churches. Once the key people were converted, they just took over the beer halls."

Mrs. Schleiff worked with young people, teaching young girls in high school, and "all kinds of kids" in their home, Schleiff pointed out. As a church and home worker, she teaches Bible studies, ministers in counseling, leads MasterLife sessions and serves as a seminary hostess. "She is a gifted counselor," Schleiff affirmed.

The Schleiffs also raised two kids on the mission field. Their son, Mark, works for Baptist Health in Little Rock. He and his wife, Angie, have two children, ages six and four. The Schleiffs' daughter, Kiki Sherry, lives in Hugo, Okla. She and her husband, Doug, are the parents of a one-year-old daughter.

Besides enjoying the grandkids while currently on furlough, Schleiff is serving as missionary-in-residence for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's stewardship and annuity department. "He is personalizing mission support by preaching in churches, speaking to mission groups and promoting the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon offering," noted James Walker, department director. "He is an excellent long-term missionary whose heart beats for missions."

After furlough, the Schleiffs will not be returning to Zimbabwe, however. "The Zimbabwe government feels there has been enough evangelization from the outside," Schleiff explained. "The convention is in place and we have worked ourselves out of a job."

But Schleiff, who turned 60 this year, is ready for a new challenge in a different part of the world. In January, the Schleiffs will return to the field, working with the Foreign Mission Board's Cooperative Services International, serving central and southern Asia, where he will work as a strategy coordinator.

"When we left Zimbabwe we knew we were moving, but not where," Schleiff commented. "Somewhere, we knew the Lord had a place for us."



Gerald Schleiff

Arkansas Baptists nominated for service

Executive Board

Terms to expire in 1998

Arkansas River Valley.....	Jeff Paxton, Dover
Ashley.....	Jack Carpenter, Hamburg
Bartholomew.....	James "Sonny" Tucker, Monticello
Black River.....	Tim Hight, Newport
Buckner.....	Randy Hogan, Waldron
Caddo River.....	Joe Bagwell, Mount Ida
Caroline.....	Thomas Hoskins, Biscoe
Central.....	Charles McAllister, Hot Springs
Central.....	John Haughton, Hot Springs Village
Clear Creek.....	Robbie Jackson, Clarksville
Concord.....	Mike Love, Charleston
Concord.....	Dale Bascue, Fort Smith
Faulkner.....	William R. Canary, Mount Vernon
Greene.....	Bengy Massey, Paragould
Harmony.....	Gary Akers, Pine Bluff
Independence.....	J.R. Mull, Mountain View
Liberty.....	Eugene Johnson, El Dorado
Mount Zion.....	Johnny Hutchison, Jonesboro
North Arkansas.....	Scott Cox, Berryville
North Central.....	Tom Shaw, Clinton
North Pulaski.....	Marvin Peters, North Little Rock

Northwest.....	Rick Booyer, Garfield
Northwest.....	Pat Robinson, Cave Springs
Northwest.....	Dennis Cottrell, Siloam Springs
Ouachita.....	Brad Justice, Hatfield
Pulaski.....	Ray Turnage, Little Rock
Tri-County.....	Wayne Jones, Forrest City
Washington-Madison.....	Ralph Burrage, Springdale
Washington-Madison.....	H.D. McCarty, Fayetteville
District 1.....	Nadean Riley Bell, Bentonville
District 6.....	Patricia Sorrells, Brinkley
District 7.....	Janet Huckabee, Texarkana

Terms to expire in 1996

Calvary.....	Morgan Cox, Augusta
Little River.....	Don Pope, Ashdown
Caroline.....	Melvin York, Des Arc
Garland.....	Gene Ellis, Hot Springs

Terms to expire in 1997

Arkansas Valley.....	Fulton Amonette, Clarendon
Southwest.....	Scott Neathery, Hope
District 3.....	Jo Nell Malloy, Leachville

Children's Homes and Family Ministries

Terms to expire in 1998

Tommy Cunningham, West Memphis
Steve Fowler, Conway
Christie Robinson, Hot Springs
Dean J. Anderson, Greenwood
Ralph Bowers, Harrison
Wanda Rowell, Mena
Term to expire in 1996
Ledell Bailey, Searcy

Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis

Terms to expire in 1998

Murray Benton, Helena
Bryan Moery, Wynne
Oral Edwards, Forrest City

Arkansas Baptist Foundation

Terms to expire in 1998

Dan Bowers, Harrison
Warner Garner, North Little Rock
Jay Shell, Little Rock
Byron Eiseman, Little Rock
Norma Gershner, North Little Rock
Term to expire in 1996
Mark Tolbert, Wynne

Historical Commission

Terms to expire in 1998

District 5, Clarence A. Allison, North Little Rock
District 7, Agnes Coppenger, Arkadelphia
Member-at-large, Fred Savage, Walnut Ridge

Terms to expire in 1996

District 1, Wanda D. West, Rogers
District 4, Jim Bolin, Mansfield

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Terms to expire in 1998

District 1, Karen Ramsey, Fayetteville
District 2, Glenda Miller, Heber Springs
District 8, Lucie Hagins, Fordyce
Member-at-large, Robin Cook, Waldo
Member-at-large, Karl Cunningham, Mena
Term to expire in 1997
District 7, James C. Alcock Jr., Hope

Baptist Student Union Advisory Committee

Terms to expire in 1998

District 2, Tim Cypert, Yellville
District 3, Dorothy Jackson, Jonesboro
District 5, John Greer, Conway
District 5, Ed Hinkson, Little Rock
District 6, David McCord, Hazen
District 8, Sharon Stanley, Warren
Term to expire in 1997
District 6, Mark Vaughn, Brinkley

Ouachita Baptist University

Terms to expire in 1998

Richard A. Wells, Bentonville
Jack Hazelwood, Little Rock
John Stipe, Forrest City
Gail Pennington, Arkadelphia
Mike Vinson, Corning
Paul Sanders, Little Rock
George Dunklin, Pine Bluff
Bryan Smith, Van Buren

Williams Baptist College

Terms to expire in 1998

Jeff Sanders, Garfield
Frank Shell, Clinton
Bob Fielding, Cherokee Village
Grant Ethridge, Lavaca
Carter Dryer, Jonesboro
Larry Sloan, Walnut Ridge
Cody Fowler, Brinkley
Jeff Teague, El Dorado
Terms to expire in 1997
Care Norman, Heber Springs
Duaine Blackmore, Foreman

State Joint Committee Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists

Dillard Miller, Mena
John Finn, Parkin
Don Moore, Little Rock
Kerry Powell, McGehee

Charter/Bylaws Committee

Terms to expire in 1998

David Napier, Little Rock
James E. Harris, Little Rock
Term to expire in 1998
Robert Young, Hot Springs

2000 Convention

Date: Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2000
Place: Second Church, Hot Springs

1996 Convention Preacher

Preacher: Kerry Powell, McGehee
Alternate, Charles McAllister, Hot Springs

ABSC to consider fund-raising appeal

Messengers to vote on campaign proposal for Williams, Ouachita

By **Trennis Henderson**

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

How will proposed fund-raising campaigns for Williams Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University impact Cooperative Program giving among Arkansas Baptists? That's the bottom-line question for many Arkansas Baptist leaders as the recommendation is forwarded to messengers during the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 state convention annual meeting in Little Rock.

The initial proposal, presented by the Williams trustees to the state convention Executive Board's finance committee, calls for Williams to be allowed to directly solicit Arkansas Baptist churches for three-year financial pledges to increase endowment and complete capital improvement projects on campus. The plan was amended by the finance committee to allow Ouachita Baptist University to conduct a comparable campaign following the completion of the Williams' effort.

The amended recommendation was adopted in August by the full Executive Board on a 36-23 vote following discussion about the potential impact on CP funds in the state. In addition to the Executive Board action, convention approval is required before any Baptist agency or institution can solicit funds directly from churches.

According to Williams president Jeroel Swaim, the goal of the WBC campaign would be to raise \$3.5 million, with 60 percent designated for endowment, 39 percent for capital improvements and 1 percent for fund-raising costs.

"The primary goal of the campaign is the institutional endowment for scholarships," Swaim explained, noting that the college currently is "awarding approximately \$450,000 of scholarships a year." He said primary capital improvement goals include renovation and expansion of the college's science building as well as upgrading student housing and the administration building.

Noting that the proposed campaign would give Williams officials "an opportunity to speak more directly to the churches about our mission and goals," Swaim added, "As we seek to strengthen our role as a senior college and enhance our overall ministry to the convention, this gives individual churches an opportunity to be vitally involved and to assist the college in positioning itself for ongoing ministry in the 21st century."

Prior to the current proposal, Southern (Williams) Baptist College and Ouachita had a joint fund-raising campaign from

1971 to '74. In another statewide fund-raising effort, the Third Century Endowment Campaign for Baptist Student Union ministry was conducted in 1977-81.

State convention executive director Don Moore, who voiced concern that "repeated special appeals" may have a negative impact on Cooperative Program support, added however that "an occasional special campaign can give some exposure to the churches so that they may even be more supportive through the Cooperative Program in the years ahead."

Noting that it has been more than 20 years since the convention's two colleges have made direct financial appeals to Arkansas Baptist churches, Moore said, "For various reasons, critical needs do exist at Williams Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University. It is my feeling that if there is ever going to be a time when a special appeal is justified, the time is now."

A financial analysis conducted by Dan Jordan, the state convention's director of business services, found that from the start of the Ouachita-Southern campaign in 1971 to the end of the Third Century campaign in 1981, CP giving in Arkansas exceeded the convention budget for 11 consecutive years. In fact, CP giving increased an average of 11.25 percent per year from 1971 to 1981.

Evaluating the financial study, Jordan said, "A cursory review of the receipt his-

tory (during the two campaigns) tells me that if there was an effect on Cooperative Program giving, it was positive."

On a comparative basis, however, Jordan acknowledged that the decade of the '70s "was a prosperous time in terms of income growth, budget planning and meeting goals for our convention." While CP giving has continued to increase each year during the '90s, the average CP growth during the past five years has slowed to 4 percent annually.

Affirming the need for messengers to "exercise caution" concerning special financial proposals, Ouachita president Ben Elrod added, "If a denomination has a very clear understanding and agreement of priorities and allows its areas of top priority every once in a while to do such things as this, I think it has a stimulating effect and tends to personalize the Cooperative Program."

"We will endorse any reasonable plan that the Executive Board and convention approve," Elrod said. "As in any kind of venture, there always are possibilities for good and negative results. We would hope whatever is voted on or done brings positive results."

Emphasizing that discussion about the issue has been "healthy," Moore encouraged messengers "to be as informed as possible and be prepared to make as wise a decision as possible about the Executive Board recommendation."

Search committee still 'hard at work'

Arkansas Baptists' executive director search committee is still hard at work, according to committee chairman Billy Kite. The nine-member committee began its task after state convention executive director Don Moore announced in March that he will retire by Feb. 29, 1996.

Kite, director of missions for Ashley County Association, said the group has been meeting regularly. "We are continuing to make progress," he affirmed. "We're on target."

Citing the importance of confidentiality during the search process, Kite declined to share specific details about how the committee is conducting its work. During an interview in July, he did report that 19 resumes had been received by the committee prior to the June 28 nomination deadline.

Noting that the committee's goal is

to have a candidate to recommend to the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board during the board's Dec. 12 meeting in Little Rock, Kite added, "That's our objective but we're not bound by that."

During the Executive Board's September meeting, board members approved the search committee's request for the current committee to remain intact until a new executive director is elected. Since Executive Board policies specify that the nominating committee be composed of the board's operating committee, that action will allow the committee's work to continue as long as necessary without gaining or losing members who may rotate on or off the operating committee.

As the search process continues, Kite said, "We continue to be unified. The climate has been absolutely superb as we've done our work."

Church news



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GIL.

Old Union Church at Benton will observe homecoming Oct. 29 with a morning revival service led by pastor Roy McLeod and music director Allen Thomas. A potluck luncheon and 1:30 p.m. musical program featuring the Hawkins Family of Hot Springs will conclude activities. Revival services will also be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 25-28.

Walnut Valley Church of Hot Springs will dedicate a new facility, housing a sanctuary, three classrooms and a nursery, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. Pastor Lewin Newcomb will be the speaker and the church choir, directed by Lola Davis, will provide special music. Harold Alford has served as building committee chairman, assisted by George Alford and George Linington.

Rehobeth Church of Moorfield, the oldest active church in Arkansas, celebrated its 169th anniversary Oct. 1. Danny Veteto, director of missions for Independence Association, was the featured speaker and special music was presented by the Maranatha Quartet of Jonesboro and Larry Poff, a member of Calvary Church of Batesville. A special feature of the celebration was the presentation of the Ray Morgan deacon memorial plaque to his widow, Edna Morgan. Pastor Bill Williamson made the presentation.

Dardanelle First Church recently received a gift of property from Aileen Ragland who deeded her family home to the congregation. Deacon chairman Arthur Lee Banks presented a plaque to Miss Ragland in appreciation for her faithfulness to the church. The property, which is adjacent to the church, will be available for any future expansion of the congregation's current facilities.

El Dorado Second Church observed Herbert and Christine Trull appreciation Day Oct. 15 in recognition of their ministry to the church since 1962. He served the congregation as music director from 1962-1975.

Mount Ida First Church observed "Granny Day" Oct. 1 to honor Ena Whittington for 45 years of service in the church nursery. She was recognized in the morning worship service as well as at a reception.

Augusta First Church observed Myrl Duncan Day Oct. 1 in recognition of her 50 years of service as church secretary.

Wynne Church honored preschool director Kathy Branch Sept. 24 for 25

years of service. Branch, who has resigned her position, was honored with a reception and presented with a gift.

Park Place Church in Hot Springs has launched G.R.O.W. (Going to Reach Our World) as a new outreach visitation ministry. Members of the four outreach teams will have a corresponding support team which will provide child care and coordinate an evening snack for those who go out on visitation. Mike Petty is pastor.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock held a Royal Ambassador recognition service Oct. 1 in which 23 members received their RA vests and 16 received a missions patch for their work at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello where they cleared brush, restored a fence and painted acres of fencing. RA leaders are Jim Vaughan, Jane Turner, DeeDee Watson, Randy Naylor and Jim Ewing.

Ordinations

Southside Church in Paris ordained Allen Newsome and Tommy Bauer as deacons Sept. 17.

Brush Creek Church of Springdale ordained Jeff Hunter and William McGarrath as deacons Sept. 17.

Harmony Church of Perryville ordained Dale Boyette and J.C. Daniels as deacons Sept. 17.

Abbott Church ordained pastor Keith Stewart to the ministry Sept. 24.

Russellville First Church ordained Johnny Burnett, Tommy Havens and Tom Walker to the ministry Sept. 24. Burnett recently resigned from the church staff as minister to students to take a similar position at First Church of Gallatin, Tenn.

Hazen First Church ordained Randy Raper as a deacon Sept. 24. Elected to join the deacon ministry was David Campbell who had been ordained by another church.

University Church in Jonesboro ordained Jim Whaley to the ministry Oct. 1. Whaley is pastor of Rowes Chapel at Caraway.

South Highland Church in Little Rock ordained Tony Wittenburg as a deacon Oct. 8.

Camden First Church ordained Keith Everett as a deacon Oct. 8.

People

Gary and Elouise Hawkins, Mission Service Corps workers at Thornburg Church near Perryville and who will be married 50 years Oct. 31, will observe their golden anniversary with a reception hosted by their children Nov. 4 at Brookwood Church in Oklahoma City. Hawkins previously has been pastor of Arkansas churches, including First Church of Jasper and Pickles Gap Church near Conway.

Obituaries

Geraldine Harkrider Woodall, age 59, died Oct. 4 at a Hot Springs hospital. She was the wife of Harry Woodall, who has served as pastor of Arkansas churches, including First Church of Jessville and Antioch Church of Royal. The Woodalls, Southern Baptist home missionaries, served in Central Association with Christian ministries 1968-75. She had served for 18 years as executive secretary to the superintendent of Hot Springs National Park Service. In addition to her husband, and other survivors are two daughters, Janie Woodall Smith and June Woodall, both of Hot Springs; a brother; and two sisters. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Staff changes

James R. Swedenburg has announced his retirement as director of missions for Central Association, effective Dec. 31. He and his wife, Joyce Marie, are former Southern Baptist missionaries to South Korea and Taiwan. Swedenburg, who has served the association since 1986, previously was director of missions for the Greater Pittsburgh (Penn.) Association and Greater Cleveland (Ohio) Association. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, Alabama and Pennsylvania and formerly served with the U.S. Air Force. He is a graduate of Marion Military Institute of Marion, Ala., the U.S. Air Force Personnel School at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, Samford University of Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary. The Swedenburgs have three children, Michael Reece, Steven Lyle and Joye Denise. The couple, to be honored with a retirement reception Dec. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the family life center of First Church of Benton, will continue to reside at 2218 Chivers Drive, Benton, AR 72015; phone 501-794-1330.

Pete Nunez began serving Oct. 1 as pastor of Iglesia San Juan Bautista, a Hispanic mission of First Church of DeQueen. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, he will be establishing the Angel Martinez Theological Training Center which will offer theological training for Hispanic pastors and laymen. Nunez, a graduate of the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, led music for the late Martinez for 33 years.

Jim Drake began serving Sept. 17 as associate pastor for worship and students at Lake Hills Church of Fayetteville, coming there from First Church of Alvarado, Texas. He previously was minister of music and

youth at Ryanwood Church of Fort Worth, Texas. Drake is a graduate of Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Diane, have two daughters, Taylor and Mattie.

Rick Manning has joined the staff of Highland Drive Church in Jonesboro as minister of music and education. A native of Jonesboro, he is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Mid-America Seminary. He previously served on the staff of First Church of Charleston. Manning and his wife, Dana, have two children, Rachel and Cameron.

Joe Isbell has joined the staff of Egypt Church as youth minister. He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children, Jack, Joey and Jaylena.

Wade Strawn of Morrilton is serving as youth minister for First Church of Dardanelle.

Bob Gray will retire Oct. 31 as minister of education at First Church of Blytheville

because of health reasons. He and his wife, Chris, will continue to reside in Blytheville. Gray, who has served the church for 12 years, will continue to be involved in the church's outreach program while she will continue to be involved in the young adult Sunday School department.

Bobby Jeffers resigned Sept. 24 as music director of Pine Grove Church, Sweet Home. He and his wife, Cindy, and their sons, Bobby Allen and Andrew, are residing in Jacksonville.

L.B. Jordan is serving as interim pastor of Mount Olive Church in Crossett. He retired Sept. 30 as director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department. Jordan and his wife, Nancy, are residing in Arkadelphia.

Kyle Farmer is serving as interim minister to youth for First Church of Clarksville. He is a senior at Arkansas Tech University.

Baptist Men, RAs spruce up Monticello Children's Home

Approximately 140 Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors joined forces Sept. 16 to "put their hands to the good work," performing maintenance and repair work at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello. The work day, which planners called the "Nehemiah Project," took its name from the second chapter of Nehemiah regarding the rebuilding of Jerusalem: "Then they said, 'Let us arise and build.' So they put their hands to the good work."

The weekend activities began with the RA Camp-O-Rama in the back pasture of the Baptist Home property. On Saturday, the group repaired and painted the Home's horse arena, as well as performed auto repair, mowing, painting, plumbing and carpentry.

Participants also at a catfish lunch and heard a challenge from Little Rock Baptist speaker Hunter Douglas to continue performing future Nehemiah Project activities.

"It's been a great day," affirmed project coordinator Warren Burleson. "It's good to go to this kind of work in other states and countries, because it's needed. We must work here, in our own backyard, not just because it's needed, but because it's our responsibility."

Harry Black, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department, agreed. "I was thrilled with this project," he remarked.



RAs and their leaders paint during the Children's Home "Nehemiah Project."

"The RAs accomplished more than anyone expected. Not only did we paint all of the arena fence we were assigned, we painted grass, dirt and each other," he laughed. "Our Baptist Men did a great job as well."

"What a wonderful day," noted David Perry, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. Voicing appreciation for the project participants, he added, "The Nehemiah Project resulted in multiple blessings. Our campus was improved, our staff encouraged and our kids witnessed a real example of Christian compassion in action."

Home business manager Larry Toller indicated that participants performed "the equivalent of at least four months work in a single day."

He said that participants plan to hold future projects twice a year. "In the spring the work will be more localized, helping with maintenance needs of other ABCHEM ministry locations throughout the state," including the Baptist Home, Promise House in El Dorado, the Boys' Ranch in Harrison and Emergency Receiving Homes.

For more information about future projects, call Toller at 501-367-5358.

African athletes discover victory in Christ

HARARE, ZIMBABWE (BP)—Six thousand athletes — visions of the Olympics spurring them on — came to the All Africa Games in Zimbabwe to compete.

A small band of Baptists — visions of another kind of victory encouraging their tireless efforts — moved quietly amid the hubbub of churning cleats, splashing water, the ecstasy of victory and the agony of defeat.

Baptists challenged athletes from 49 countries and spectators at the games, a preliminary for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, to think about what winning really means as they run the race of life.

They explained how a relationship with Jesus makes one a winner in life. More than 600 people responded by accepting him as Savior during the event. Volunteers included some 100 African Baptists from eight nations, 15 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and 10 Southern Baptist volunteers from five states.

Religious freedom abuses noted in Europe

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Despite enhanced religious freedoms in Europe, incidents of intolerance and discrimination continue, according to participants in a Sept. 27 briefing sponsored by the Helsinki Commission.

Some governments in Europe have laws preferring one religion, and officials turn a "blind eye" to harassment and discrimination on the local level, the commission said.

"Minority faith traditions encounter bureaucratic roadblocks to practicing their faiths and are often the objects of harassment, which is unchecked by civil authorities," said Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., who chairs the commission.

Baptist conflict in India addressed by BWA

WASHINGTON (BP)—With the help of a Baptist World Alliance reconciliation team, 55 Kuki and Naga Baptist leaders came together in Manipur in the Indian state of Nagaland Sept. 16-17. Participants agreed to condemn violence and to work for an end to the shooting and looting that has plagued their land and Baptist work there.

They also agreed to exchange pulpits on Nov. 26 and asked Baptists around the world to pray for peace in Manipur on that day.

In a statement issued after these historic meetings, the Kuki and Naga leaders resolved "to condemn all kinds of violence at all levels and solve all disputes and difficulties through negotiations and non-violence."

They also agreed to "encourage their church leaders in particular, and the public in general" in a spirit of confession, forgiveness, reconciliation and reconstruction and hold reconciliation workshops for church and youth leaders.

FMB provides funds for former Yugoslavia

BELGIUM (BP)—Southern Baptists continue to help victims of fighting between ethnic groups that once formed Yugoslavia, most recently through \$254,500 in relief.

Through the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptists are helping to feed more than 75,000 people within the Yugoslavia war zone during September and October.

Also, missionaries will use \$100,000 to provide emergency food for homeless refugees in Serbian Yugoslavia. About 250,000 refugees fled from the Krajina region of Croatia into Yugoslavia during August. Krajina had been held by Serbians since 1991 but was retaken by Croatian forces in a four-day offensive.

"Most, if not all, of these people have absolutely nothing except the clothes on their backs," said Southern Baptist missionary Randy Bell. Funds are being directed to the most pressing needs identified: food, housing, bedding and hygiene.

Rwandans need aid to resume ministry

WASHINGTON (BP)—Schools, clinics, churches and the office of the Baptist Union of Rwanda all need to be repaired for Baptist work to move ahead in Rwanda, according to Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid. He said Baptist pastors also need food, medical care and bicycles to get around.

Following a recent fact-finding visit in Rwanda, Montacute said the mostly Tutsi Baptist leadership needs extensive help, especially as they continue burying the dead from the massive human destruction in their country from warfare between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes.

Missionaries sought to serve in Austria

VIENNA, AUSTRIA (BP)—Southern Baptists are seeking two new Foreign Mission Board missionary couples to start churches in Austria, to fill the first personnel requests from there in five years. They will help Austrian Baptists meet their goal of 10 new churches by the year 2000.

One church planter would begin work where virtually no Baptist witness exists. A second would work with an existing church to develop cell groups, intending to start new congregations. New missionaries will work with seven other Southern Baptist missionaries already assigned to Austria. The board now has more than 450 missionaries in Europe.



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FMB targets \$10 million for former USSR

By Mark Kelly

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 11 endorsed a plan to seize emerging opportunities for the gospel created by the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union.

To take advantage of these opportunities, trustees are asking Southern Baptists to participate in "White Harvest '96" by meeting an ambitious \$100 million goal for the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

During their Oct. 9-11 meeting in Richmond, Va., trustees approved a \$202.6 million budget for 1996 that injects \$10 million into an intensive effort in the countries of the former Soviet bloc. FMB trustees earmarked \$90 million of the upcoming 1995 Lottie Moon offering goal for the board's basic budget and the additional \$10 million for White Harvest.

The board also conferred emeritus status on 77 retiring missionaries, appointed 25 new missionaries and reappointed 4 others, bringing the total missionary force to 4,131.

White Harvest money would follow a special infusion into the region this year of \$4.8 million from the Cooperative Program.

Seventy years of communist repression devastated Baptist work in countries dominated by the Soviet Union, said John Floyd, director of FMB work in Europe. The collapse of the Soviet Union reopened doors for the gospel.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to intensify Baptist work in these countries," Floyd said. "They've been stagnant for 70 years. Now they (Baptist unions) have the opportunity to do something, but they don't have the resources. Bad economics, devalued currency, high prices and spiraling inflation are keeping them from capitalizing on the spiritual hunger and responsiveness in these countries."

Floyd cited a recent volunteer medical missions trip into Russia that registered 828 decisions for Christ in two weeks. Team members said they could have won 300 or 400 more people if they'd had enough translators.

The \$4.8 million from the Cooperative Program and the \$10 million projected from the 1995 Lottie Moon offering will buy houses and automobiles for new FMB missionaries pouring into these countries. It also will fund evangelism projects, new church starts, literature production, land purchases, church construction and renovation and theological education.

The annual Lottie Moon offering will

Fullers named emeritus missionaries

Arkansas native Frances Fuller and her husband, Wayne, were among 77 retiring foreign missionaries honored during the recent Foreign Mission Board trustee meeting in Richmond, Va. The 77 missionaries, who were granted emeritus status, represented a total of 2,205 years of missionary experience.

Mrs. Fuller, the former Frances Anderson, was born in Wynnecand attended college in Batesville before earning degrees from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (now University) in Ruston, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and Hollins College in Roanoke, Va.

The Fullers were appointed as representatives to Lebanon in 1963. She was most recently the director of Baptist Publications International in Larnaca, Cyprus, where her husband served as treasurer. A former pastor in California, he holds degrees from Golden Gate and the University of California, Berkeley.

"In our 30 years in the Middle East,

we lived through so many battles of so many wars that we can't even sort them out in our memories," the Fullers reflected. "We often were afraid and depressed. That's why we want everyone to know that God gave us joy in obedience. And we had a wonderful, happy time. We truly love the Middle East, especially Jordan and Lebanon, and the very worst event of our lives was our forced

departure from Lebanon in 1987." Recalling that Baker James Cauthen told them during their missionary appointment service to "build bridges in the Middle East which others could use as they followed us," the retiring missionaries added, "Just as we crossed bridges built by others, we left some for the younger servants who walk behind us.

"If we could tell Southern Baptists one thing," they concluded, "it would be this: The task of foreign missions belongs to all of us, not just to those we have sent."



Wayne Fuller



Frances Fuller

provide 46 percent, a projected \$90 million, of the board's 1996 basic budget. In 1994, Southern Baptists gave 99.9 percent of the \$86 million offering goal. They would need to give 16 percent more this year to reach the \$100 million goal.

Board members also considered a proposal to cut costs by reducing the number of trustees from 89 to 55 through a new formula, implemented by attrition, that allocates one trustee position to each cooperating state and additional positions for each 500,000 members of Baptist churches in a state. The trustees voted to delay action on the proposal until their Dec. 11-13 meeting in Memphis, Tenn.

Noting several state Baptist conventions are debating their levels of Cooperative Program support, Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry told trustees Southern Baptists must close ranks and fix their attention on bringing a lost world to Christ.

"I hope and pray our state leadership will see how very strategic it is that we stay together with our focus on reaching our world and our nation," he said. "It's not a

win-lose proposition. Either we will win together or we will lose together.

"There is no other group on the face of the earth that has the opportunity and the talent to make the impact on the world Southern Baptists can," Henry said. "God has given us this moment — unlike any moment in history — to touch people who've never been touched before. Let's not miss it."

During the meeting, Henry signed a letter challenging Southern Baptists to "pray about what would be a Christ-honoring Lottie Moon gift for your family" and "do all that's in your power to help reach the full \$100 million goal for worldwide missions needs."

FMB president Jerry Rankin told trustees, "We are moving into the final years of Christian history. God is moving to fulfill His purpose of extending His kingdom to the ends of the earth.

"It's time for us to depart from our traditional way of doing missions and accelerate the action — reaping the harvest and taking the gospel to every nation and people group," he urged.

CHURCH GROWTH

Walnut Street, Jonesboro, earns third Eagle Award for Sunday School growth

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro recently was presented its third Sunday School Growth Spiral Eagle Award, recognizing the church's ongoing success in several specific areas of growth. Since receiving its first Eagle Award in 1984, the church has grown from a Sunday School enrollment of 445 to 1,152.

"It was the only Eagle Award earned in Arkansas this year," noted Milton Redeker, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department. Redeker presented the award to the congregation during Sunday morning worship services Aug. 20.

He said the award "takes a lot of effort" on the part of the church. "It is very difficult to get one and it's almost unheard of to get three. Walnut Street is the only church I know of to receive three Eagles."

Redeker said to qualify for an Eagle, a church must excel "in seven different elements," including attendance, baptisms, space and budget.

"A church has to project a goal for each of these areas and a date they will reach that goal," as part of the award process, Redeker explained.

Bruce Raley, Walnut Street's minister of education, said earning the award, is "just a constant emphasis on enrollment more than anything else. We keep enrollment before the people and enroll whenever we can."

The reason for emphasizing enrollment, he said, is that it impacts the other areas of the church. "Sunday School attendance is affected by enrollment. Worship attendance is affected by enrollment. Offerings are affected by enrollment. Therefore we keep our enrollment before our people."

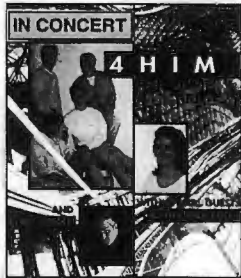
"We began using the Sunday School growth spiral as a growth tool in 1984 to see where we needed to be," he explained. "Some years we have not had terrific growth."

Raley said receiving the Eagle "is good for our church to see that growth is taking place. It is something our Sunday School teachers work toward."

He said the congregation "anticipates hitting our goal for the fourth Eagle in January 1996. You have to hit the goal and maintain it for at least six months" to qualify for the recognition. To reach the goal, the church will need to enroll another 37 Sunday School members.



Milton Redeker (left) presents an Eagle Award to Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro. Pastor Tommy Snyder and education minister Bruce Raley accept the award.



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CP gifts top previous record

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention has ended its 1994-95 fiscal year with a record \$145,739,489 in Cooperative Program gifts, surpassing by nearly \$3 million the record given last year, according to SBC Executive Committee president Morris H. Chapman.

For the SBC's fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the \$145.7 million total for 1994-95 is 2.01 percent, or \$2,872,706, above last year's record gifts of \$142,866,782.

"Southern Baptists again have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission," declared Chapman. "Back-to-back years of record CP giving are answers to prayer! This report shows that Southern Baptists will not be distracted from their determination to support our missionaries around the world and seminary students preparing to go throughout the world."

The 1994-95 total also is more than \$9 million above the SBC's program allocation budget of \$136,539,730, an increase of \$9,199,759 or 6.74 percent.

In addition, designated gifts rose to \$132,830,194, also a record, compared to last year's \$127,828,517 — an increase of \$5,001,677 increase or 3.91 percent.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

Since the year-end totals surpassed the basic budget, the overage was distributed in a special SBC-approved method: 37 percent or \$3,150,095 to the Foreign Mission Board; 31.5 percent or \$2,681,837 for a capital needs budget benefiting the Home Mission Board, the SBC's six seminaries and the Radio and Television Commission; and the remaining 31.5 percent of the overage, called "program advance," distributed according to the regular program allocation budget percentages to all the SBC entities.

When the final totals are given, the two SBC mission boards will receive more than \$230 million from Southern Baptists during 1994-95. The FMB received more than \$163 million during the year, including \$68 million from the basic budget and more than \$90 million in designated gifts. The HMB received more than \$67 million, including \$26 million from the basic budget and more than \$40 million in designated gifts.

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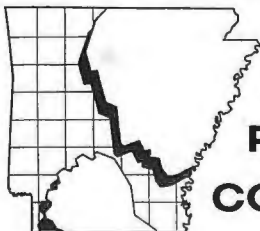


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WMU 'special report' addresses FMB concerns

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—Woman's Missionary Union has released a "WMU Special Report" in response to an Aug. 25 letter mailed to Southern Baptist churches by Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin.

The four-page WMU report includes a letter explaining WMU's plans to produce "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and 10 short articles on ways WMU is working to support the missions efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention Home and Foreign Mission boards.

The WMU report was sent to pastors, directors of missions, WMU directors and SBC leaders at an estimated cost of \$8,800.

A letter on the cover of the WMU report notes, "For those churches who request it, we will make available in our coed

materials a supplement which will give information about Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missions work and their missionaries. This is a cost-recovery project and will be marketed only by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

The letter then states WMU's intention to continue its historic relationship with the HMB and FMB. "Every magazine, video, book, or other product published by WMU supports the work of our mission boards.

"These are days of missions advance," the letter concludes. "It behooves us to join hands with all Great Commission Christians to spread the gospel to every part of the world.

"Our primary responsibility as an organization is to make Southern Baptists aware of these needs, then trust the Holy Spirit to lead them to respond. We would

do nothing that would diminish the participation of Southern Baptists in the effort to win the world to Christ."

The 10 articles included in the report highlight WMU's new organizational changes, its ongoing promotion of SBC Foreign and Home Mission studies, the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings, and emphasis on prayer for home and foreign missionaries.

The report also notes new WMU initiatives in mission support, including Christian Women's Job Corps and Project HELP emphases on social issues such as AIDS.

O'Brien and Rankin reportedly have "agreed to disagree" about WMU's production of the CBF supplements as well as Rankin's letter urging prayer for WMU leaders to reverse their decision.

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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

North Pulaski Association to sponsor banner festival Nov. 6 at Park Hill Church

North Pulaski Association will host a first-time event in the Southern Baptist Convention, an associational banner festival, according to event planner Ron Selby, minister of music at Levy Church. The North Pulaski Association Banner Festival will be held Nov. 6 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

The festival, said Selby, "was conceived in thought in early 1995" and was "adopted by the Music Directors Fellowship in the summer of 1995. We hope that those who appreciate the beauty and ministry of banners will attend this unique service."

"The event will represent the work of approximately 10 churches," he explained. "Eight of these churches have banner ministries and the banner work of each church is varied and unique."

"The banners will remain on display after the worship service," he said. "This

time will allow those who create banners and those who have an interest in beginning a banner ministry the opportunity to closely inspect the banners and share ideas."

Selby said the highlight of the event "will be an evening worship service that will include a mass choir of the members of Levy Church, Central Church in North Little Rock and First Church in Sherwood, and the presentation of selected names of God through a processional of banners." The choir will be led by Johnpaul Mocca, minister of music at First, Sherwood, and congregational worship will be led by Bruce Rodnick, minister of music at Central, North Little Rock.

The evening worship service will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Selby at 501-753-7347, or the North Pulaski Association Office at 501-834-6060.

Foundation offers free estate planning

Representatives from the Arkansas Baptist Foundation will be available to help Arkansas Baptists with free information on estate planning during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Little Rock.

Foundation president David Moore said he and vice president Paul White will be available to help anyone with information on planning their estates. In addition, said Moore, the two men will "execute or update the wills of Arkansas Baptist ministers and their wives and will write

drafts of documents for donors and assist them in working with an attorney. This is a service provided without charge to full-time staff ministers and their wives."

"We are trying to fulfill the role we perceive for ourselves," said White, "in helping Baptists become better stewards of their estates."

White said they will be available all day Monday and Tuesday afternoon. He said interested individuals are invited to stop by the Foundation booth at the convention to schedule a meeting time.

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New IRS training manual targets ministers

By Keith Hinson

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP)—Ministers in America have a new resource from the Internal Revenue Service to help with tax planning and preparation.

In an unprecedented move, the IRS has publicly released a training manual that teaches IRS examiners how to audit ministers' tax returns.

The publication is part of the IRS's "Market Segment Specialization Program," in which the IRS has targeted 31 "industries" — including ministers — for scrutiny.

For the most part, the 27-page manual echoes key advisories and warnings sound for years by experts in ministerial tax law:

■ Car allowances are taxable, unless the minister documents mileage and expenses to the church. A minister who simply receives a lump sum for car expenses — with no requirement to turn in mileage logs and receipts — is under a "nonaccountable" plan, and the sum should be included with wages on Form W-2.

■ The vast majority of ministers should receive Form W-2 after the end of a tax year, not Form 1099. "In those very limited cases in which a minister is an independent contractor, such as in the case of a traveling evangelist, the issuance of a Form 1099-MISC is appropriate," the manual adds.

■ A minister is considered an employee, not an independent contractor, if the church has the right to tell the minister when, where or how to work. "Actual control need not be exercised by the employer, provided the employer has the right to control the employee," the publication says.

The issue is important to preparation of tax returns, because only independent contractors are supposed to report primary income on Schedule C. An employee who

improperly reports income on Schedule C may face substantial tax payments, penalties and interest, if audited.

■ Ordination does not guarantee a church staff member will be eligible for tax benefits available to ministers. The manual cites a 1968 case in which the U.S. Tax Court ruled that a certain minister of education was not a minister for tax purposes.

"The petitioner held a master's degree in religious education from a Baptist theological seminary," the manual notes. "Although his church commissioned him after he assumed the position, the court interpreted the commissioning to be for tax purposes, as it did not result in any change in duties."

In ruling against the minister, the court said he "did not officiate at baptisms or the Lord's Supper, ... nor did he preside over or preach at worship services. The court concluded that the evidence did not establish that the prescribed duties of a minister of education were equivalent to the duties of a Baptist minister."

For any church staff member to be considered a minister for tax purposes, job duties must include "sacerdotal functions" and/or "conduct of religious worship," the manual suggests.

■ A church may not give a minister a tax-free allowance to help pay income taxes or Social Security (self-employment) taxes. "If the church ... pays amounts in

addition to salary to cover the minister's self-employment tax or income tax, these are includable in gross income," the manual notes.

■ A church may not voluntarily pay an employer's share of Social Security for a minister during the tax year on an ongoing basis, while withholding the other half from the employee's salary. Ministers are not eligible for this benefit and must instead pay the full amount of their own self-employment taxes.

■ A minister who receives money for services rendered — such as weddings, funerals or counseling — must report the amounts as income on Schedule C and Schedule SE. Even though the amounts are not tax-deductible to the person paying the minister, the amounts are subject to income tax and self-employment tax on the minister's annual return.

■ A minister must pay income and self-employment taxes on compensation above and beyond regular salary, such as Christmas bonuses or "love offerings" — if the money is given by or through the church.

A free copy of the manual — titled "Market Segment Specialization Program: Ministers" — may be obtained by writing to IRS Freedom of Information Reading Room, P.O. Box 795, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044. The manual may also be obtained by faxing a request to the IRS FOI Reading Room at 202-622-9069.

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Southern to end social work degree; trustees reject transfer to Samford

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary unanimously decided to discontinue the master of social work degree and continue seeking a home for the Carver School of Social Work, apparently rejecting a transfer offer from Samford University.

In their regular board meeting, Oct. 9-10, at the Louisville, Ky., campus, trustees spent an hour in a closed-door session before deciding to discontinue the social work program, based "on the realization that considerable differences exist in the structures, processes and issues of social work education and theological studies."

An offer from Samford, a Baptist-affiliated college in Birmingham, Ala., to transfer the school was announced last month as the solution for the Carver school's status before negotiations hit a snag.

Seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr., declining to give any details about the problem with the Samford offer, said there was "not a mutual understanding." Mohler later confirmed that seminary officials are discussing a possible transfer of the school

to Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky.

Some campus sources have speculated that differences with Samford arose concerning transferring endowment funds for a teaching position and student scholarships and other assets.

Trustees decided to consider other offers for the Carver school and authorized the administration and a special study committee to bring a plan for approval to the trustee executive committee.

Trustees voted to "continue conversations and negotiations with the goal of reaching an agreement which would allow the continuation of the Master of Social Work program at another appropriate institution and which would best protect the interest of students currently enrolled in the program." The Carver school currently has 63 students and two full-time faculty members.

Speaking to the matter of discontinuing the social work program, Mohler said there was a "basic conflict" between theological education and social work "world views."

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Convention Uniform

Purposeful living

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association
Basic passage: Acts 11:19-30, 12:24-25
Focal passage: Acts 11:19-30
Central truth: Purposeful living involves doing positive things for others around us and through them for the Lord.

■ *Purposeful living involves witnessing.* The persecution following the stoning of Stephen drove the Christians out of Jerusalem and Judea. Some went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. Some preached only to Jews because they had not been convinced of the impartiality of God. Some went to Antioch and began telling the good news of Jesus to the Greeks. A great number believed in the Lord.

Purposeful living always should include witnessing. In doing this, we must be careful not to avoid some as being beneath our efforts. The commission is to all.

■ *Purposeful living involves encouragement.* When the Jerusalem church heard that Greeks were being converted, they sent Barnabas to investigate. They could not have chosen anyone better. Barnabas, being led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, saw that God's grace was truly working in the lives of the Gentiles. This brought joy to his life and he began to encourage them to be true to the Lord. Barnabas was always encouraging others, so much so that they called him "son of encouragement."

Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Paul because there was too much work for one man. He undoubtedly was even a source of encouragement to Paul and began to involve him in a wider field of service. If we are to count as we should for our Lord we should be encouragers to our fellow Christians along the way.

■ *Purposeful living involves assistance.* During this time a prophet who had come from Jerusalem predicted a famine over all the Roman world. Since the Spirit was guiding him, the believers took him seriously and determined to provide help for the brothers in Judea. They sent their gift by Barnabas and Saul.

If we are to please our Lord we will not only talk about the needs of others, we will help them. At times this may include helping financially just as the Christians at Antioch did. Every Christian should seek to live, not carelessly, but with determination and purpose so that we can count for our Lord in our day.

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Life and Work

Let's brag about Jesus

By Mike Petty, pastor,
 Park Place Church, Hot Springs
Basic passage: Mark 5:18-20,
 Matthew 28:16-20, John 3
Focal passage: Matthew 28:1-20
Central truth: Everybody needs to know about Jesus and every Christian needs to tell them.

What is your greatest possession? Your spouse, house or job? Oh! I know! It is your grandchildren, right? (That's why you call them "grand," isn't it?) No, the greatest possession any believer has is Christ. And as quick as we "brag about our 'whatevers,'" we should brag on Jesus.

This lesson aims at the heart of the church. Just why does it exist, if not for the worship of the Lord, reaching of the lost and equipping of the believer? When one is saved, they cannot help but "get in on what God is doing" and tell others what He has done for them (Mark 5:16-20).

In order for a church to become all the Lord desires her to be, every believer in that church needs to participate in the:

■ *Genuine worship of the Savior* (vv. 16-17). Here is where the church begins, honoring her Head in obedience to His every command (v. 16). Note how the disciples would "worship" the Lord, regardless of the lack of faith in others (v. 17). Worship is to be Christ-centered, not seeker-centered. Worship is to focus on Jesus, to honor and glorify Him, and that may cause the unbelieving discomfort (John 5:23). Honoring our Lord involves the heeding of His instructions to share Him with the world. We are to become a:

■ *Going witness for the Savior* (vv. 18-19). The term "go" should be understood as "having gone." We live in the world, so as we do, make disciples. We are to be sensitive to the spiritual condition of those we work with, live near or meet. Everyone needs to hear the good news of salvation and every saved person is to be involved in seeking to bring people to Jesus. He has all power to equip us to carry out His message of salvation to the world.

Once a person is saved, the church is to baptize them. All of God is involved in salvation. The Father sent the Son who purchased our salvation and sent the Spirit to lead us to salvation (John 15:26, 16:7-8). He gets all of us, and we get all of Him. But then we are to experience a:

■ *Growing walk with the Savior* (v. 20). Which means we are to mentor faithfulness, not just the faith.

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Bible Book

Doing what God wants

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain,
 Baptist Memorial Medical Center,
 North Little Rock
Basic passage: Nehemiah 1:1-2:18
Focal passage: Nehemiah 1:3-11;
 2:3, 8, 12, 17-19
Central truth: The holy work the Lord gives us may be very down to earth.

■ *Verses 1:2-3.* Jerusalem was surrounded by aggressive enemies willing to use force. The city was unprotected and appeared to be on its own with no help in sight. The restoration begun under Ezra had come to a halt and gone backwards.

■ *Verses 1:4-5.* God sent Nehemiah to help. His characteristic first move was to pray. He was also very down to earth and practical. He would assess problems well, make detailed plans and then organize the work and workers to solve the problem. But first Nehemiah always turned to the Creator who entered into covenant with His people.

■ *Verses 1:6-11.* As Nehemiah prayed, he turned to Scripture for direction. He drew on Deuteronomy 9:29; 12:5; 28:64; and 30:1-4. These Scriptures led him to honest confession of sin while being inspired and upheld by God's covenant love. That love in the past brought judgment in order that it might also bring forgiveness and restoration. The Scripture that told him of general truth about the past also inspired him to claim their truths for the present walk with God.

■ *Verse 2:3.* Four months later, a scared Nehemiah drew the king's attention and asked him to reverse his policy so Israel could be restored. His requests to the king were clear and detailed. So it was clear that Nehemiah had used the four months to research and plan the project.

■ *Verse 2:8.* However, the decisive factor once again was the good hand of God. Answered prayer would always be at the heart of Nehemiah's ministry. A parallel truth is that there is no room for laziness or sloppy thinking for those who pray with biblical faith and commitment.

■ *Verses 2:12, 17, 18.* Again we see the sanctified, uncommon sense of Nehemiah as he did his homework by privately investigating the situation. Only then did he approach those needed to repair the wall and issue his challenge. Along with the challenge he told them of the heavenly commission from the Lord and of the earthly commission from the king.

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Convention Uniform

A gospel for everyone

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association
 Basic passage: Acts 13-14
 Focal passage: Acts 13:42-48, 14:27
 Central truth: The Jewish people were the first to hear the gospel, but the good news was intended for the world. Acceptance of this was exceedingly slow.

■ *The refusal of the gospel.* As Paul and his companions traveled on their missionary journeys, their practice was to go to the synagogue and preach the gospel to those with a background for understanding it. Then, when the Jews refused to hear, the evangelist would turn to the Gentiles. This is what happened at Pisidian Antioch.

Paul in his message told them that forgiveness of sins is through Jesus Christ. Through Him, they could be justified from everything they could not be justified by the law. Only through the blood of Christ can man's sin be forgiven and through this be justified before God. This intrigued the people who heard it and they invited them to speak again the next Sabbath day. The crowds gathered to hear them for God's Spirit was moving in their lives, but this made the Jews jealous and they began to be very critical of what they were saying.

The response of Paul and Barnabas was firm. They told the Jews they were led to preach to them first so they would have the opportunity of eternal life, but when they refused to hear the messengers would turn to the Gentiles. They also reminded the Jews of God's statement in the writing of Isaiah (v. 49:6) that He had made them a light to the Gentile world that salvation might go to the ends of the earth. The tragedy was they refused to believe.

■ *The reception of the gospel.* Unlike the Jews, the Gentiles began to believe. They were joyous. This was the greatest news they had ever heard. They realized their sin could be forgiven and they would not have to fear death any longer.

Luke said they honored the word of the Lord and those God had led to eternal life believed. When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, they gathered the church together to report to them. The marvelous news they were eager to share was that God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. The door was truly wide open and the Gentile world would continue to believe, right up to the present day.

When God swings open the door of opportunity, we dare not try to close it.

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Life and Work

It is time to forgive

By Mike Petty, pastor,
 Park Place Church, Hot Springs
 Basic passage: Genesis 37:2-4, 26-28;
 50:15-21
 Focal passage: Genesis 50:15-21
 Central truth: Those who belong to a forgiving God are themselves forgiving.

When I was a child, my brother, two sisters and I were responsible to "do our chores." On one occasion, our mother had divided the last portion of ice cream into four bowls and put them in the freezer for us to enjoy after we had completed our "lists." One of my sisters completed her tasks before I did and proceeded to enjoy her ice cream. Thinking her portion too small, she had a second bowl. Since I was the last one to finish my jobs, it turned out to be my ice cream my sister had consumed. It took years for the Lord to bring me forgive her. You say, "Oh, how silly!" Well, what are some of the things Satan has not allowed you forgive?

Unforgiveness has a way of producing a toxic dose of the venom of bitterness. It never seems to harm the one you may now despise as much as it eats away at you. They may not even be aware of the "crime" they have committed, yet we never seem to see past it. What should we do?

It seems apparent to me that Joseph had forgiven his brothers long before they came on the scene. Though his forgiveness was not received until his brothers were broken over their sin and repentantly asked Joseph for forgiveness, Joseph's own freedom from this sin is seen long before they came to him.

From his trustworthiness in Potiphar's house to his integrity in Pharaoh's dominion, Joseph grew in spiritual maturity. Even his reply (v. 20) reveals this maturity. One does not come to such a perspective of the sovereignty of God overnight.

The completeness of Joseph's forgiveness is seen in three areas: First, his willingness to comfort his brothers in their anxiety over what he might do (vv. 19, 21); second, he reminded them that God is in control (v. 2); and third, his commitment to care for their future by providing for them and their families (v. 21).

We too are to 'get rid of all bitterness ... (and) be kind and compassionate to each other, just as in Christ God forgave (us)' (Eph. 4:31-32). When we do, let's sit down and enjoy a bowl of ice cream together and celebrate His grace.

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Bible Book

A strategy for success

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain,
 Baptist Memorial Medical Center,
 North Little Rock
 Basic passage: Nehemiah 2:19-4:23
 Focal passage: Nehemiah 2:19-20;
 3:1, 5; 4:1, 4-6, 9, 11, 14-18
 Central truth: God's work is always opposed. His people must pray and work, trust and stand guard.

■ *Verses 2:19-20.* As always, once God's people make a commitment to a good work, opposition begins and grows. During those times it is crucial that we focus on who gives us our calling. Our success is dependent on the power of the God of heaven and not on the weakness of the opposing powers on earth.

■ *Verses 3:1, 5.* The work was organized and divided out. We quickly see the character of the Israelites. Most of the people were enthusiastic and committed to the task. Priests and district officers set aside their positions of privilege to do manual labor. Some families took on extra portions of the wall to repair. Professionals such as goldsmiths, perfumers and merchants became day laborers. They accepted the task of clearing away rubble, mixing mortar and hauling large stones.

And this great mixture of people worked side-by-side to accomplish the goal in spite of their great socio-economic differences. Things that often divide them were clearly seen to be unimportant in view of the importance of the task.

Of course, there are always those who were too good to help (v. 5). "The petty are always more concerned about their status than about the need."

■ *Verses 4:1, 11.* God's work creates opposition. Along with partial success at rebuilding the wall, the opposition intensified from ridicule to plans for war. The enemy was committed. The Israelites had to be even more committed. So must we.

■ *Verses 4:4-6, 9, 14-18.* Nehemiah, with pious practicality, turned the threats against the work over to God. Then he led the people to work with all their hearts. They focused on the task and not on the opposition. As the danger grew, Nehemiah again prayed and posted a guard. When things escalated to possible war, he reminded the Israelites that they serve the Lord and must be willing to enter the fight. Once the danger was checked, he knew they must be vigilant because the enemy is. So the Israelites were to be ready to fight at a moment's notice. So must we.

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Christian groups protest NEA stance on homosexuality

WASHINGTON (BP)—A recent National Education Association resolution advocating acceptance for homosexuality and lesbianism — and “the celebration of a Lesbian and Gay History Month” — is drawing fire from Christian groups across the country.

A Southern Baptist association in eastern Tennessee recently passed a resolution promising to pray for teachers who oppose the NEA's action, while Concerned Women for America reports a groundswell of outrage from its members.

The NEA, at its annual summer convention attended by 8,700 delegates, adopted the resolution aimed at “raising the awareness and increasing the sensitivity of staff, students, parents and the community to sexual orientation in our society,” including calling for “accurate portrayal of the roles and contributions of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people throughout history, with acknowledgement of their sexual orientation.”

Wayland to establish New Mexico campus at Glorieta

PLAINVIEW, TX (BP)—Wayland Baptist University will establish a New Mexico campus at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, offering an associate degree at the campus and allowing Texas, Hawaii, Arizona and Alaska students to complete portions of their course work for baccalaureate degrees at the site.

Wayland's trustees accepted an invitation from the New Mexico Baptist Convention and Glorieta, operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, to develop and operate the campus. Classes could begin as early as next year. Glorieta also will continue as one of Southern Baptists' two national conference centers.

Mike Arrington, BSSB executive director for corporate affairs, said Sunday School Board officials “are enthusiastic about this partnership opportunity and look forward to working with Wayland to finalize remaining details.”

ACTS announces three-year pact with F&V channel

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—The Faith and Values Channel (F&V) and ACTS (American Christian Television System), the cable television service operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, have announced a new three-year programming agreement.

A joint statement Oct. 2 from Nelson Price, chief executive officer of F&V, and Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC, reads: “Both parties believe the arrangement helps the channel fulfill its purpose of providing interfaith and evangelical programming with a broad viewership appeal to the American public.”

“I'm pleased with the agreement,” Johnson noted. “I think our position is the finest in the industry for evangelicals.” The agreement follows earlier announcements that negotiations had been at an impasse. Specific details of the agreement, however, have not been released. ACTS has been on F&V since October 1992.

Atlanta church votes to keep Charles Stanley as pastor

ATLANTA (ABP)—Members of First Baptist Church of Atlanta voted Oct. 1 to retain Charles Stanley as pastor despite his pending divorce. In a members-only meeting behind the locked doors of the church's sanctuary, Stanley told about 5,000 people it is not God's will for him to leave.

Stanley said God told him, “You keep doing what I called you to do, where I called you to do it, until I tell you to do something else.”

“If God wants to move me, He can move me instantly,” said Stanley, 62. “If God tells me I'm finished at First Baptist, I'll move. I'm not going to step down in disobedience to God....If you want to move me out, you live by it,” he challenged church members.

The recommendation to keep Stanley as pastor passed easily on a show-of-hands vote. Observers estimated the margin at greater than three to one.

Stanley, and his wife, Anna, have been separated since 1992. Stanley, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, told the congregation in August that he will step aside if the divorce becomes final. The divorce trial starts Nov. 27.

Cecil Sherman to retire as Fellowship coordinator

ATLANTA (ABP)—Cecil Sherman has announced he will retire as chief executive of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship next June. Sherman, 67, has held the post of CBF coordinator since 1992. He announced his resignation, effective June 30, 1996, at the opening session of a meeting of the group's Coordinating Council in Atlanta.

Sherman is the first executive of the Fellowship, which was organized in 1991 by moderate Baptists. Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, the Fellowship's past moderator and retired executive director of the national Woman's Missionary Union, will chair an 11-member search committee to seek Sherman's successor.