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### May 19, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 10

May 19, 1994



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



**HOPE  
FOR HURTING  
HUMANITY**

**June 19  
through  
July 31**

# Baptist Women leaders share unique ministry experience

"Unique," like "new and improved" is one of those labels that has lost much of its meaning in a plethora of over-use. But "unique" accurately describes a recent Mississippi River Ministry project conducted by Baptist Women leaders from throughout the state.

Monica Keathley, Baptist Women/ Baptist Young Women associate for Arkansas Woman's Mission Union, led an enthusiastic group of women in a ministry venture April 28-May 1. Participants included leaders from five associational Baptist Women groups across the state. "The idea," said Keathley, "was to take leaders from five associations and expose them to a Mississippi River Ministry project in the spring and then in the summer and fall they could lead projects of their own."

The team members — Judy Wood from Pulaski Association, Frances Hamilton from North Pulaski Association, Martha Frost from Black River Association, Clemmie Edwards from Caroline Association and Roma Zeltner from Concord Association — worked with Lonnie Latham, director of missions for Bartholomew Association, primarily doing ministry survey work. They also ministered at the Hermitage Migrant Center in Warren.

"The women did surveys in the black community," Keathley explained. "They found out who lived in the community and what kind of ministry someone could come in and do that would help families."

The needs they found ranged from installing light poles to cleaning drains, according to Keathley, but concentrated on personal human needs. "The community's main concerns were something

for the kids to do after school and during the summer, senior adults that could just use some company and needs related to single parents."

In all, the women knocked on 275 doors and spoke to people at 155 homes. The survey results will be used in two different ways. Bartholomew Association will use the information for local ministry projects to meet needs in the vicinity. The second use will be for the women to see needs in their own communities and apply what they have learned.

Clemmie Edwards saw many needs that mirrored those in her own area, and plans to form an MRM team of Baptist Women to meet them. "I kept thinking — my association is just like this. I need to do this where I am," Edwards commented. "It's so much easier to go somewhere else; when you minister where you are, it has to be ongoing and you have to minister to deeper needs."

Edwards affirmed the warm reception the team received in the black community. "They were all so nice and appreciative that someone cared," she said.

Mississippi River Ministry coordinator Tommy Goode, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions department, affirmed the impact of the project. "This is a great strategy on the part of state leaders to be catalytic — to use a ministry for a model," he said. "I think it absolutely unique that Baptist women have done an in-state project like this; it helps affirm that the state is a mission field."

For additional information or a current directory of MRM projects, contact Goode at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5150.

## Cover Story



### Ministry opportunities

Hope for Hurting Humanity, Southern Baptists' simultaneous ministry outreach emphasis, is scheduled for June 19 through July 31. The emphasis is designed to encourage local Baptist churches to sponsor ministry outreach projects. Churches or individuals interested in additional information may contact Sandy Wisdom-Martin at 376-4791, ext. 5137.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# DOMs honor Norman Lewis' vision, ministry

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptists

A high school dropout. An ex-Marine. A drummer in a nightclub band. A snuff salesman. Arkansas Baptists' 1994 Director of Missions of the Year?

Yes, Norman Lewis has been all those things. Lewis, director of missions for Black River Association since 1988, recently was named the state convention's DOM of the Year. And that's quite a change from his younger days.

Although he grew up in a preacher's home and became a Christian at the age of 8, Lewis said a Jackie Cooper movie he saw when he was 11 years old sidetracked his life for a few years.

"My brother and I hitchhiked into town and went to the picture show," he recalled. "Jackie Cooper had a set of drums. That's when the idea was planted." After dropping out of high school and joining the Marines during World War II, Lewis earned several battle decorations including a Purple Heart.

When he returned to the States, Lewis bought a set of drums and began pursuing his musical dream as a nightclub band drummer. During that time, he contracted tuberculosis and had to undergo extensive treatments for a number of years.

Crediting God with turning his life around both physically and spiritually, Lewis explained, "I wasn't doing any good at all until one night in the hospital" when he began to "really mean business" with God.

"The Lord spoke to me while I was flat on my back in the hospital," he said. "I turned my life over to Him and He immediately started the healing process."

As he was seeking to sort out God's will for his life, Lewis spent a few months selling snuff but "just on faith, I quit that," he emphasized.

Describing his call to ministry as "the beautiful working of the Lord," Lewis acknowledged that he knew as a youngster that he was being called to special service. "The movie I went to just sidetracked my life," he reflected. "I've just got some wasted years to account for."

But those events are now part of Lewis' distant past. Since that time, he has graduated from college, earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and served churches in the areas of music, youth, education and administration as well as being an associate pastor and director of missions. He also was honored a few years ago by the Home Mission Board as one of the nation's outstanding evangelistic DOMs.



*Ouachita Baptist University president Ben Elrod and Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore congratulate Norman Lewis and his wife, Pauline, on Lewis' recent election as 1994 Director of Missions of the Year.*

Prior to returning to his home state of Arkansas in 1988, Lewis served four years with the HMB as a director of missions in Nevada. His association there, which covered 36,500 miles, had churches located 125 miles apart.

Pointing out that "very few associations are hunting a 63-year-old DOM," Lewis said he and his wife, Pauline, expected to retire from the Nevada post. But Lewis, who will be 69 in July, noted that his call to serve Black River Association was simply another case of God working out the details. "For six years I've continued to serve here as a director of missions because the Lord led that way and worked it out."

## Counselor, friend and pastor

As Southern Baptist churches observe Associational Missions Week this week, Lewis said he views the ministry of the director of missions as being a counselor, friend and pastor to pastors. He also seeks to nurture similar relationships among the laypeople by taking time to visit Sunday School classes as well as worship services as he crossesroads the association each Sunday.

Sunday School ministry, in fact, is one of Lewis' top priorities. "Sunday School is what builds churches," he insisted. "I can go into a church and set up an organization for growth in two days. I love to do that."

He also spends much of his time seeking to motivate churches to greater ministry, bringing in such leaders as Henry Blackaby, Bailey Smith and Leon Kilbreath. Other projects include planning an associational mission trip to Iowa this summer and providing both physical labor and financial gifts to help complete a new associational

office building which was recently dedicated debt-free and named in his honor.

Lewis "has done so many good things," noted Jimmy Barrentine, director of the state convention missions department. "He has developed a remarkable fellowship among the churches and ministers in the association. He has involved them in missions, ministry and evangelism at significant levels."

Voicing appreciation for his recognition as DOM of the Year, Lewis remarked, "It put the icing on the cake of my ministry. Probably nothing would mean more to me." Pointing out that there are 42 associations in Arkansas, he added, "For all of those who have not received it and for those who never will receive it, I want to accept this humbly for me and for them."

Yet Lewis is not one to pause very long to enjoy his "icing on the cake." Looking to the future, he cautioned that churches and associations "can't keep on just doing what we're doing. It's hard to get it across but churches are going to have to get outside their own walls for ministry. We're going to have to get out there where unwed mothers, kids on drugs and battered women are. The status quo is not going to get it."

It is that type of vision and drive that has earned Lewis the recognition and respect of his peers. "He's a complete DOM," Barrentine affirmed. "He genuinely cares about lost people, pastors, staff members and the churches."

And that's why a former nightclub drummer is now Arkansas Baptists' DOM of the Year.

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

Arkansas Baptists will long be indebted to Harry Trulove for the leadership he has given to the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. The 20-year investment of his life in our lives has produced amazing results. The Foundation now holds in trust over \$42 million. At the time he came to oversee this work, there was something over \$700,000 being managed.

Such figures are sure to evoke many questions. "Where did all of that money come from?" Some has come from churches and associations who have realized that the Foundation can get them a much better return on their money than can be gotten through CDs or savings accounts. Much, if not most of the money, has come from individuals who have left assets to our colleges, mission boards, seminaries, children's homes, Baptist Student Union, the Cooperative Program or other worthy causes. The agencies then place these funds with the Foundation to manage.

"With that kind of money, how can you say that we need to give more to the Cooperative Program or to the mission offerings?" Every penny of this money is held in trust for the specific purpose defined in the management agreement. Federal law prohibits the use of such funds for anything other than the purposes outlined in the agreements. These funds are not available for general use.

"What do you think has triggered this great growth?" Baptists are just learning about their responsibility for their stewardship beyond this life. They are seeing how their assets, large or small, can go on working for the Kingdom of our Lord after they are gone. They are learning about the wonderful service the Foundation provides to help them carry out their wishes at this point.

"How does the future look?" With the good foundation Harry Trulove has laid and the great leadership David Moore is committed to give, we should see even more dramatic growth in the future. They can help you get your house in order.

RONNIE ROGERS

## President's corner

### Perform ministry! (Part III)



4. The pastor must create an environment conducive to ministry by intentionally not doing everything and encouraging others. People must see their ideas as God's way of telling them what He wants them to do. When people sense God has led them to do something, they are more faithful. I must admit, it is a little risky and scary to let go, but it is well worth it. Sometimes ministry is stifled because of our own fear. Let them make mistakes. You will live, they will grow and ministry will happen.

5. Ministry must be defined very broadly. For example, "fulfilling the Great Commission through meeting human needs." Do not discourage any ministry. Remember, some ministry is better than no ministry, and people mature faster when they are ministering than when they are not ministering. I would rather have someone putting tracts in apple pies and giving them away than not ministering at all. An added benefit is, people don't cause as much trouble when they are involved in ministry.

To transition a church from a maintenance mentality to a ministering body is a fragile endeavor; especially in

the small or medium church since they are accustomed to the pastor doing all or most of the ministry. Give time for the fellowship to mature spiritually. Make changes cautiously, graciously and with clear indication how this change will affect persons' lives. It is harder for someone to oppose change when it meets a real need. Also, emphasizing change in order to help people provides a positive atmosphere for change.

6. Do not start something just because it's being done somewhere else. Ministry is to meet needs, not to create programs. A ministry in one church will be nothing more than a program in another church if it does not meet a real need. Do not hesitate to modify an idea to fit your particular area.

7. Pastors must cast the vision. Seek God's vision for your church and area through prayer. Then go to larger churches and glean ideas which you might scale down and use; spend time with your leaders so they can catch the vision and help you lead the church to fulfill it.

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

## Personal perspectives

"Churches are going to have to get outside their own walls for ministry...The status quo is not going to get it."

—Norman Lewis,

Arkansas Baptists' 1994 Director of Missions of the Year

"When you see the power of the Word of God, it changes you. When you've seen God, it doesn't matter if it's overseas, it doesn't matter if it's down the street, it doesn't matter where you're at. You change."

—Danny Lyons,

coordinator of First Church, Russellville's recent mission trip to India

"Baptists in North America must come together so that the world might believe."

—Denton Lotz,

Baptist World Alliance general secretary

# Don't support something stupid

When the lottery was legalized several years ago in Missouri, scores of journalists scurried to write stories about the rare "big winners." My article for the Missouri Baptist *Word & Way* took a slightly different slant.

Under the headline, "Jackpot '86: 19 million losers in first week," I reported about the 19,083,000 losing tickets sold during the lottery's first week of operation. The article noted that the chances of winning the \$86,000 jackpot were only one in 2.4 million and that even the odds of winning a lesser prize of \$860 were a mere one in 48,000.

Not a pretty picture, is it?

There are lots of reasons for opposing expanded legalized gambling but the most obvious reason is that gambling is stupid. In our household, our kids know that "stupid" is not an acceptable word — at least not very often. But occasionally it is the one word that most accurately describes a given situation. Gambling is a case in point.

Let's think together for a moment — why do they call it "gambling"? According to the dictionary, "gamble" means "to bet on an uncertain outcome." How uncertain? Based on the above statistics, the only two chances of striking it rich through gambling are slim and none.

Of course, many folks espouse the time-worn excuse that gambling is like any other recreational expense such as eating



## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON

out or going to a movie. If only that were true!

Unfortunately, a significant percentage of the population look at gambling as a simple solution to their financial woes. Many of them pour hard-earned funds into an elusive "get rich quick" dream while family members are deprived of adequate food, clothing and other basic needs. Does that sound like recreation?

As Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee emphasized during a recent *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* interview concerning efforts to expand gambling in the state, "This exploits poor people to make rich people richer. That's all gambling does."

But there is hope. While at least three different gambling petitions are being circulated in Arkansas in attempts to legalize casino gambling, lottery and bingo, two neighboring states have demonstrated

that gambling expansion can be halted.

Voters in Missouri recently rejected a riverboat gambling amendment that would have allowed riverboats to install slot machines and other games of chance. The vote eliminates the bulk of riverboats' potential income, crippling the gambling industry's expansion plans in the state.

Last week in Oklahoma, a state lottery proposal was overwhelming defeated with 60 percent of voters opposing the plan. Oklahoma Baptist executive director Bill Tanner called the anti-lottery campaign "a tremendous effort for righteousness."

According to Oklahoma *Baptist Messenger* editor Glenn Brown, "People didn't buy the big lie that it's going to solve the state's money problems. From the Baptist perspective, a lot of churches began to get...very active locally."

One thing many Oklahoma Baptists did was to purchase anti-lottery ads in their local newspapers. Many of the ads were signed by all the church members opposed to expanded gambling in the state. Brown said he hopes people in other states will look to Oklahoma's example so they can fight lotteries and other forms of gambling.

I hope so too. Let's tell money-hungry gambling promoters that enough is enough. Let's begin by actively opposing gambling petition drives in every city and town in the state. Arkansas Baptists must not allow our silence or inactivity to make us guilty of supporting something stupid.

## Summoned to serve

Your excellent coverage of the 105th annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union was deeply appreciated. The program was outstanding and the theme, "Summoned to Serve" reflected the dedicated lives of the two women who worked together to make that meeting possible—Julia Ketterer and Marjorie Grober.

Mention was made during the meeting of Julia's strong organizational ability and Marjorie's quality of flexibility. A striking example of how God has used the gifts of these two women was very evident at the WMU Executive Board breakfast the last day of the meeting. Marjorie had placed her usual small momenta at each board member's place. Tiny satin pockets, fully lined and fastened with velcro, were waiting for us. Her instructions were: open them and think about what the contents of these little pockets mean to WMU in the years ahead.

A variety of coins tumbled out. Marjorie smiled and watched our puzzled expres-



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

sions as we examined each individual coin, but Julia was the first to see the whole picture of Marjorie's surprise. "Change!" she declared. Marjorie beamed. As she stepped down as president she spoke of the changes that were now taking place in our national WMU. She challenged us to see the opportunities that we would have if we were flexible and allowed change to occur as God leads.

The annual meeting was a great spiritual experience, but there was a daily walk with God from these women and the other participants to make it so. Summoned to Serve—take the change and share the treasure. It's a heavenly pocket. Don't lose it!

• Jo Chesser  
Little Rock, AR

## Stand against gambling

I have been hearing on television and radio about how much Arkansas needs gambling. They are lying. They say it will bring so much money and new jobs to Arkansas. What about all the crime it will bring?

I may be making a big statement but if we here in Arkansas cannot survive without the gambling, I think old Satan has got us and there is no hope for us. The word "gambling" may not be in the Bible but I can prove by the Bible that gambling is sin.

Genesis 3:18-19, Proverbs 28:20-22, Ephesians 4:28, I Thessalonians 4:11 and II Thessalonians 3:9-10 say we are to work for a living. They don't mention the husband who loses all his paycheck by gambling or his wife and children at home hungry and needing new clothes.

Gambling may pass but it will not get my vote. I am a Christian and against it 100 percent.

William Perdue  
Crossett, AR

# Horne urges faithful prayer for Clinton

By David Smith

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK (BP)—Bill Clinton was inaugurated as the nation's president more than a year ago, and his pastor is increasingly certain that Baptists and Christians must pray for the country's leader.

Rex M. Horne Jr., pastor of Little Rock's Immanuel Church, said the primary failure in the United States is not in legislation, but a failure in evangelism.

"I still maintain that God is stronger than government and that prayer is more effective than politics," Horne said in a recent interview with Baptist Press. "I

just believe that the spiritual is much more important than the political. I feel like the political has gotten an undue amount of time among many evangelicals and I believe there is a real danger there.

"No matter how the president responds, our responsibility is to pray. That is the thing that we are to do. It's just unmistakable. And for people not to pray is to be disobedient to Scripture."

Horne encouraged people to trust God and to have "great faith that God is in control."

Henry Blackaby and evangelist Billy Graham both have indicated Clinton's presidency may reveal more about the prayer life of Southern Baptists and other Christians than it will about Bill Clinton himself, Horne said.

"I don't think that Southern Baptists have taken that seriously," said Horne.



Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, continues to stay in close contact with President Bill Clinton.

"Billy Graham talked recently about building a wall of prayer around the president. And again I don't think believers, many across the country, take that seriously.

"Through all this process I see so much my responsibility as a pastor and leader of a church to pray for the president, whoever he is. Regardless of the person who is serving (as president), I really feel a commitment that we should pray. The reason that I can say that is because I don't look on the presidential office in a partisan way."

Horne said he has had opportunity to visit in person and by telephone with President Clinton frequently since Clinton became president.

An article in the April 25 issue of *Christianity Today* quotes the president as saying Horne calls him "every Saturday

night without fail." Horne conceded it has been more difficult in recent months to stay in touch with Clinton, because he is often out of Washington. He said Clinton's aides always make sure the calls get to the president. But when Clinton is away from the White House, Horne said he often just leaves a message and tries not to bother him.

Horne visited with Clinton at the recent National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. He and Southern Baptist leaders, including SBC president H. Edwin Young, also met with the president last year.

"In the several meetings I've had with the president when other people have been present, there has never been anything that's been off limits," Horne said. "In fact, I've encouraged those who've talked with him to do so and discuss whatever they want to. He's very open about that."

Horne said Immanuel Church is doing well and growing even through some negative publicity while Clinton was running for president and since he has taken office. He noted that the picketing, media scrutiny and other challenges provide a unique opportunity "for us not as Bill Clinton's church but as Immanuel Baptist Church to show many, many people, more than we would have the opportunity to show, what we believe the Christlike life is and our belief concerning the teaching of God's Word."

## Clinton details his faith as an 'honest, struggling believer'

WASHINGTON (ABP)—President Bill Clinton believes in Jesus Christ, but not in using the office of the presidency to force his beliefs on others, he told ABC News recently.

Clinton told ABC News religion correspondent Peggy Wehmeyer he's comfortable using language referring to Christ as his Savior. "As a Christian, that's how I know God," he said. "I mean, I know God through Jesus. That's what the Christians do."

What he is not comfortable with, Clinton said, is using his office to say, "You must do that, you must believe that, you must be governed by these laws, because that's what the Bible told me to do to you. I've never wanted to be seen as a Pharisee," he said, while adding that personal faith is important to him.

"I do not believe I could do my job as president, much less continue to try to grow as a person, in the absence of my faith in God and my attempt to learn more about what it should be and to grow," he told ABC. "And it provides a solace and support in the face of all these problems that I sometimes am not smart enough to solve."

The president told ABC he wasn't in the White House long

before realizing that "unless I could mature spiritually, unless I could sort of reach beyond myself, I would not be able to do right by the American people."

ABC's report also highlighted the rift between Clinton and some American evangelicals, including many fellow Southern Baptists, who criticize the president's views on issues such as abortion and homosexuality.

One of the president's critics is Southern Baptist Convention president Ed Young, who met with Clinton last year and pledged to pray for him. "The agenda that he is pursuing is totally, in my view at least, contradictory to the faith that he has professed," Young told ABC.

The president described himself as "an honest, struggling believer trying to grow every day, trying to learn more every day, praying for guidance every day and never pretending to be anything other than (what) I am — a person who has sinned, as a child of God, who has sought forgiveness, searched for redemption and is struggling to grow and struggling to find the guidance of God in this job."

# Russellville volunteers minister in India

By Russell N. Dilday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Two teams of 14 volunteers from First Church, Russellville, recently participated in a one-month missions venture to the Orissa Province of India. The effort resulted in 4,620 professions of faith by Indians and a decision by the First Church congregation to participate in additional missions efforts in the Indian east coast province.

Participants preached in schools, leper colonies and in the countryside, practiced dentistry and distributed food during the trip. The teams went through the church's Volunteers in Missions support program, which pastor Stephen Davis said pays for up to half of participants' travel expenses.

The recent project is indicative of the church's commitment to volunteer missions. Members have made similar missions trips to Russia, Africa, India, South America, South Korea and Belize.

The most recent trip was coordinated by First Church member Danny Lyons, a Russellville physical therapist who also organized previous church missions trips to Africa and India.

Lyons said he was "overwhelmed" by the number of professions of faith that were recorded during the trip. "The main thrust of the mission trip was evangelism; to see people saved and to follow up with those people," Lyons said. He reported that Indian Baptists in the province are strong. "The Orissa Baptist Evangelical Crusade is very organized, they are very solid, very conservative and very diligent with following up with the people."

Team member Steve Morrison, a Russellville insurance agent, preached during the trip and said the group's success was "just God. You can't explain that."

Lyons said the Indian people were "hungry for the Word of God" during the trip. "Steve and I were in churches where 90 people were in the church, we would preach, give the plan of salvation and 65 or 70 would pray to receive Christ.

"And Steve and I would make it hard for them — to make sure they really had accepted Christ," Lyons added. "Four times we would ask them to do something. We asked them to pray, then raise their hands, then stand up and they still came forward."

Davis said the church's main function during the trip was "to follow our basic call that God gave us to go in as evangelists. We don't go in as a building or construction crew. We went in with a dental team and the whole time they are doing that, the gospel is being shared.

"The gospel is the main thing and we

don't do anything where we can't share the gospel," he emphasized. "When we feed you, we're sharing the gospel. When we're planting trees, we're sharing the gospel. That is our bottom line."

Lyons noted that images from the trip continue to stay with all of the members of the group. "We were in a leper colony," he recounted. "A little man walked up on crutches. He had no fingers and no toes from leprosy. I presented the plan of salvation to all of the lepers in the group, and 28 received Christ, but the image I see was of him praying."

## 'Praying for God's vision'

Davis said the church initially became more actively involved in missions as a result of members "praying for God's vision for our church in 1986. The missions ministry of our church, as they prayed, believed that God was wanting us to be available to Him to go anywhere in the world where the gospel needed to be preached; to go as harvesters."

He said members participated in a 1987 missions trip in Brazil as a part of the 1985-87 partnership between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Brazilian Baptists. "We went on that trip and from what happened to us and what happened when we came back to our church and began to share, we realized that this was just the beginning. From there we have had doors opened again in Brazil, Africa, Guatemala, Venezuela and Russia."

Davis said their focus on India began after a 1990 meeting with Foreign Mission Board trustee Bob Clements, a Texas evangelist, during one of the church's

mission trips in Africa. He said Clements "had a burden" for evangelizing India.

"The church made their first India trip in 1992 and again last year," Davis said. "We saw that India was just wide open for the gospel."

Affirming the church's involvement with FMB officials, Davis said, "It makes all the difference in the world working with the Foreign Mission Board. They make any kind of recommendation needed and do anything they possibly can to make it a smoother situation. They will guide you from front to finish."

Davis said that in addition to the church being able to minister in India, members receive a "bonus" after sending other members on mission trips. "These folks come back to our church and they have a heart and a burden to reach people for Christ in our neighborhoods and they're the best soul winners we have. So sending members out on missions trips creates an unselfish attitude from our members. That's one of the greatest bonuses."

"When you see the power of the Word of God, it changes you," Lyons said. "When you've seen God, it doesn't matter if it's overseas, it doesn't matter if it's down the street, it doesn't matter where you're at. You change."

Davis said the church has made no specific plans for future Indian missions work, but members have discussed establishing an orphanage, drilling wells, agricultural assistance, providing food for residents of Indian leper colonies, helping pay for Baptist seminary students to preach in the leper colonies and helping repair the seminary in Orissa.



Bob Hettinga, minister of administration at First Church, Russellville, witnesses to villagers in the Orissa Province of India during a recent mission trip.



## True Love Waits is grassroots movement, not peer pressure

By Russell N. Dilday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

True Love Waits is not a mass peer pressure movement but a grassroots movement that has grown "under its own momentum," according to Bill Falkner.

Falkner, who has served as Arkansas Baptists' True Love Waits coordinator, recently recapped statewide involvement in the successful Baptist Sunday School Board developed campaign promoting sexual abstinence among teenagers and college students.

Calling True Love Waits "one of the purest examples of a non-bureaucratic program," Falkner explained, "Teenagers just gravitated toward the moral rightness of it."

Although the campaign does not emphasize peer pressure, Jeff Jones, minister of youth at Mt. Olive Church, Crossett, said teens need to see their peers participate. "I think youth need to see they are not the only ones choosing to remain pure," he said.

The campaign has been popular among Arkansas Baptist youth leadership. It was the theme of Joy Explo Dec. 30-31 in Hot Springs, with more than 4,500 participants, and the State Youth Convention April 1 in Little Rock, with more than 3,500 youth in attendance.

More than 2,100 Arkansas youth have signed commitment cards during the campaign pledging sexual abstinence until marriage. The cards will be displayed with cards signed by other Southern Baptist teenagers during the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla.

Falkner, a former associate in the state convention's Discipleship and Family Ministry department, said his office has been receiving "a steady stream of cards and calls about the cards." He said cards already submitted in plastic holders to his office were mailed to SBC coordinators earlier this week. Churches and individuals who wish to have their pledge cards included in the national displays may mail them directly to SBC coordinators by June 10 (see related article on page 9).



Bill Falkner and Nan Maxwell sort through hundreds of True Love Waits commitment cards signed by Arkansas Baptist youth.

True Love Waits planners hope signed cards will reach their goal of 100,000 at the SBC and a total campaign goal of 500,000 cards, combining the SBC count with those signed by young people from 24 other participating denominations and Christian organizations. The national campaign will climax in a July 29 celebration in Washington with signed cards expected to be displayed on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol.

Casey Squires, a member of Ironton Church, said True Love Waits is a reminder that "God tells us to remain pure and that's the way it is. I don't need sex before marriage."

Kevin Hendrix, minister of education and youth for First Church, Heber Springs, said the church recorded 39 signed cards during its recent TLW commitment service. He said the campaign also reaches youth who are already sexually promiscuous.

"True Love Waits provides a way for kids who already have had sex to have a second chance and to stay pure from the moment they make a commitment," said Hendrix. "They may pay the consequences,

but God can forgive them. We have kids like that and it gives them an opportunity to correct their mistake and realize that God can help them stay sexually pure."

First Church, Mountain View held a churchwide TLW emphasis from January through February with a TLW "Celebration Service" and training sessions for youth and adults.

More than 50 youth and 100 adults participated in the sessions. The celebration service featured youth testimonies and "vows" exchanged between 36 youth and their parents.

"The youth received gold wedding bands that they will wear until their wedding night to remind them of their commitment to sexual purity," said pastor Jackie Fendley. He said the rings also are "a testimony to other teenagers who ask what the ring stands for and as a gift to be given to their future spouse, letting them know of their...willingness to wait for that special person God has prepared for them."

Falkner said he approached TLW from two perspectives: as a denominational worker and as a parent. "As a denominational servant, I was captivated by its creativity and spontaneity," but didn't know how youth would accept it. "But when I presented it to my 14-year-old son, he responded with excitement. He said, 'That's the way it ought to be.'"

"I am convinced many teenagers are looking for a way to avoid the traps of promiscuity," Falkner said. "And, in a sense, True Love Waits gives many teenagers permission to say 'no.'"

Falkner said he hopes TLW will help keep a younger generation from making sexual mistakes. "I grew up in the 'free love' generation, and I think we can all agree it's not free," he commented. "Many adults are carrying the scars and guilt of buying into that lie. Many teenagers are avoiding that by choosing to be pure and choosing God's plan for marriage."

He said the BSBS also has developed Christian sex education materials as companion pieces to the campaign. "Southern Baptists have developed some of the finest sex education materials available today," said Falkner. "And it is no mistake that these materials became available with True Love Waits."

Falkner reported that although the campaign has met with success, "it has not been all pie-in-the-sky. I was approached by a parent who asked, 'Aren't we setting up our kids to fail?'"

"We're not making the commitment for them, just presenting an option," he said. "The world is saying, 'You're going to fail,' but more than 2,000 teenagers in Arkansas have said they are willing to trust God, make a commitment and beat the odds."

## Richard Ross details campaign's goals, history

True Love Waits has accomplished one of its two primary goals, affirmed campaign originator Richard Ross, but achievement of the second "is yet to be realized."

"The first goal was to bring a positive challenge of abstinence to unmarried Christian teenagers," said Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. "I think that goal has been realized far more effectively than we ever dreamed.

"There have been hundreds of thousands of teenagers who have made a formal commitment to abstinence," he detailed, "and hundreds of thousands more who have heard this challenge for the first time and are giving it serious thought. In fact, that number could well be in the millions."

### 'Make a moral impact'

He said the second goal is for the campaign "to make a moral impact on the conscience of the nation. They must have evidence. That evidence is signed pledge cards on display June 14 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando and July 29 on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol." The Washington celebration, he said, will include 24 other denominations and Christian organizations that have chosen to participate in True Love Waits.

Ross emphasized that measurable proof is essential to make an impact on America. "I believe that adult society in general has significantly underestimated the willingness of teenagers to make a commitment to abstinence. And the only thing that will make an impact on those adults is seeing

concrete evidence that hundreds of thousands of teenagers have gladly made that commitment."

He said news that more than 2,100 Arkansas youth have signed cards is "a good representation."

Ross also detailed some of the factors that contributed to the campaign, which was introduced in April 1993. "The vision for True Love Waits grew out of the development of the Christian sex education resources. It was the team that developed the sex education resources who birthed True Love Waits.

"From the very beginning, it was our perception that the most practical action a church can take to help teenagers keep a True Love Waits commitment would be for churches to equip parents and youth leaders to take teenagers through this study," Ross recalled.

He said that after the materials were completed, the team met to decide whether to disband. "The group had a strong sense that somehow their work was not done. They felt that as strong as the materials would be, some further challenge must be presented to young people."

In the days that followed, he said, the TLW campaign was mapped out on cafeteria napkins as the members came together to share ideas. "When I presented the framework to (BSSB president) Dr. (Jimmy) Draper, he asked for a written report. We had to hurriedly type it up, for all we had were stacks of napkins. From that stack of napkins came the design to

carry the message to teenagers."

He said no formal market testing of the campaign was performed, but informal testing proved successful. Ross, also minister of youth at Tulip Grove Baptist Church in a Nashville suburb, presented the plan to the youth group. "A large percentage of the group willingly and enthusiastically made the commitment."

He acknowledged that the success of the campaign "surprised" him. "I expected TLW to be well-received by many Southern Baptist churches. I never expected it to be adopted by so great a majority of Southern Baptist churches nor ever envisioned that this would be a dream shared by 24 other denominations and Christian organizations," he said. "And I would never have imagined that it would spread to 150 other countries around the world.

### 'God had a design'

"It has been obvious all during the process that God had a design and scope for this campaign that we simply discovered piece by piece," he added. "There is no precedent for TLW in terms of the coalition of denominations that have joined Southern Baptists in the endeavor nor is there a precedent for the positive media coverage related to a Southern Baptist media campaign."

He said more than 400 news organizations have carried the True Love Waits story. Based on media inquiries to date, Ross said "scores" of reporters are expected to be on hand at both national True Love Waits events.

"They will either report on a surprising turn by teenagers toward abstinence or they will focus on how the campaign failed to meet its goal," he said. "The choice is ours and it comes down to whether churches, Christian organizations and individuals send in their covenant cards for use in the displays."

Defending the use of signed commitment cards, Ross noted, "I have been asked by a number of journalists about the significance of the card. Some have viewed it as a legal contract or document." He said the card "is simply a communication tool" and that it is "a way to make their voices heard in a time of moral crisis in our nation."

He said future plans for True Love Waits include "a continuing effort to challenge new youth who promote into the youth group, teenagers who join churches, and an annual emphasis to strengthen the resolve of teenagers who have made a commitment to stay true to that commitment."

## TLW pledge cards vital to success

With "True Love Waits" officials now projecting that more than 100,000 sexual abstinence pledges have been signed by teenagers and college students, the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored campaign already is successful.

But spokesman Richard Ross emphasized, "If the campaign is to achieve its goal of impacting the moral conscience of this nation, we must have concrete evidence that hundreds of thousands of young people are gladly choosing abstinence until marriage. That evidence is signed pledge cards on display June 14 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando and July 29 on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol."

The cards will be displayed in acrylic card holders. The holders can be purchased by writing: Innovative Acrylic Designs, P.O. Box 1089, Lebanon, TN 37087, or calling 615-444-2263. The cost is \$1.50 per holder, plus a \$3 shipping and handling charge for orders of less than 20.

Southern Baptist churches and individuals who already have their acrylic holders should insert their signed covenant cards and mail them to: The Anderson Company/True Love Waits, 4352 34th Street, Orlando, FL 32811. They must be received by June 10.

Additional questions about "True Love Waits" may be directed to the campaign's toll-free telephone hotline, 1-800-LUV-WAIT.

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Church news

**Oak Cliff Church** in Fort Smith observed Dedication Day April 24 for a new 3,200-square-foot educational addition to existing facilities. The addition will help meet attendance growth needs for preschool and adult classes. The church completed the debt-free building in one year with love offerings and members' volunteer labor. Phil Whitten is pastor.

**North Little Rock First Church** has set May 22 as a "Day of Dedication and Celebration" in recognition of the completion of auditorium renovation. The dedication service will be at 2 p.m. Timothy L. Deahl is pastor.

**Pike Avenue Church** in North Little Rock will observe its 50th anniversary June 5 with activities, including a 10 a.m. worship service, an 11:30 a.m. luncheon and a 1:30 p.m. anniversary program. Former pastors R.H. Dorris and Zane Chesser and those ordained to the gospel ministry by the church will be speakers.

**Eagle Heights Church** in Harrison will observe "I Love My Church Day" June 5 to

celebrate the dedication of a new 11,300-square-foot office and educational facility. Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore will participate in the special service planned for 10:55 a.m. A dinner-on-the-grounds and open house are scheduled following the morning worship service. Stanton Cram is pastor.

**Walnut Street Church** in Jonesboro is launching a children's church ministry. Mark Crain, Marty Hopkins and Linda Sterling are serving as coordinators.

**Pine Grove Church** of Sweet Home hosted the Baptist Medical Systems program "Early Cardiac Caregivers" April 24. Mike Perkins taught the outreach course that involved community churches.

## Revivals

**McRae First Church** held a revival March 27-April 1 that resulted in 13 professions of faith and 16 baptisms. The revival was led by chalk art evangelist Richard Gifford of West Plains, Mo. Pastor Gary Stewart, who was honored with an appreciation fellowship May 1, reported the church has experienced ongoing revival since the fall,

having baptized 24 people and paid off two \$5,000 notes.

**Owensville Church** held a revival April 17-20 that resulted in nine professions of faith and two additions by letter. Former pastor Clarence Shell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, was the preaching evangelist and Clarence Hill of Hot Springs was the music evangelist. The church voted April 24 to approve a mission/vision statement and long-range plans for the next five years. Larry White is pastor.

**Hardy First Church** held a revival April 17-21 that resulted in 65 professions of faith and 15 other decisions, according to pastor Wes Pruitt. Gene and Joanne Culver served as the evangelistic team.

**Northside Church** in Monticello held a revival May 1-6 that resulted in three professions of faith, two additions by letter, one addition by statement and one rededication, according to pastor Steve Harrelson. Bill Passmore, pastor of Mount Zion Church in Walcott, was the evangelist. Clarence Hill of Hot Springs directed music.

## Staff changes

**Blake McKinney** will begin serving May 29 as pastor of Park Hill Church in Arkadelphia, following his graduation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of North Little Rock, he also is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University where he was an admissions counselor. McKinney has been serving at First Baptist Church in Owensville, Ohio. He previously was minister to youth and a pastoral intern at Second Church in Little Rock. McKinney is married to the former Gayla Graves.

**Gary Arnold** will begin serving June 1 as pastor of Faith Church at Forrest City. Arnold, who has served other Arkansas churches, will come there from Alabama. He and his wife, Charlotte, have two daughters, Kerry and Teresa.

**Bernard Ford** has resigned as pastor of Northside Church in Batesville. He has moved to Hot Springs and is available for pulpit supply. Ford may be contacted at 1013 Mineral, Hot Springs, AR 71901; phone 623-8125.

**David Montgomery** is serving as pastor of Whelen Springs Church. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.



*Ukulele bands from 10 Arkansas Baptist churches gathered at South Highland Church in Little Rock May 2-3 for a "Ukulele Jamboree" coordinated by Allen Moore, minister of music for the host church. The 150 participants learned new musical selections they will use as they minister in retirement centers and nursing homes, as well as at churches, schools and community events. This senior adult outreach program, founded by the senior adults of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock under the direction of Louis Criswell, now involves 20 Arkansas Baptist churches whose band members agree, "We may be senior adults, but we are still being used by the Lord to minister to others."*



Members of First Church of Harrison broke ground May 1 for a 10,500-square-foot addition to the current church facilities. The multipurpose facility will include a fellowship hall, educational space, a kitchen, additional restrooms and an atrium area. The project is estimated to cost \$650,000, plus furnishings. Jim Perkins is pastor.

**Chris Hough** joined the staff of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock May 18 as summer youth intern. A student at Ouachita Baptist University, he recently completed an internship at Second Church in Hot Springs.

**Matt Dunavant** will serve as summer youth director for Wynne Church. He and his wife, Stacey, graduated this month from Ouachita Baptist University.

**Reggie Liseby** has resigned as youth director of First Church in Fordyce to continue his ministries with the Liseby Family Evangelistic Team.

**Vernon Whaley** is serving as bivocational pastor of Western Hills Church, Fayetteville, coming there from Missouri. He is employed by a retail store in Springdale.

**Frank Terry** recently resigned as pastor of Western Hills Church, Fayetteville.

**George Livermore** has resigned as pastor of First Church of Elkins.

**Gale Kelsey** has resigned as minister of youth for Immanuel Church in Rogers to enter the field of evangelism as a full-time youth evangelist. Kelsey, his wife, Missy, and their children, Koby and Klay, were presented a love offering during an evening reception given by the church May 1.

**Doug Sanders** began his ministry with First Church of Monticello April 24 as minister of youth and music. He previously

was minister of youth and music for First Baptist Church of Winona, Texas. A native of Hot Springs, Sanders is a graduate of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kimberly, have one daughter, Jessica.

## Obituaries

**Olamae Patrick Ward**, a member of First Church in Pine Bluff, died May 4 in Pine Bluff at age 76. She was the wife of Ross Owen Ward who has served as pastor of First Church in Ashdown and Second Church of Pine Bluff. A native of El Dorado, Mrs. Ward attended Oklahoma Baptist University and was a graduate of Oklahoma University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She served as Baptist Student Union director at Arkansas College in 1971-1972 and had served in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas under the appointment of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Other survivors include two sons, Ross Owen Ward Jr. of Huntsville, Ala., and Gary Lynn Ward of Garland, Texas; one daughter, Patti Ward Owen of Pine Bluff; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorials may be made to the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association, c/o Jerry Johnson, P.O. Box 17, Weslaco, TX 78756.

## Off-campus classes help equip ministers

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary extension courses make a lot of sense, said Little Rock Center director Carter Tucker, "especially for pastors and staff who want to stay on the job."

"We have in Arkansas many, many students who are bivocational and we have a lot of full-time pastors and staff who have not completed their seminary studies and desperately want to," said Tucker. "This is a way for these men and women to get a seminary education who otherwise just couldn't do it."

Tucker added that off-campus students can, "over a period of years, get your full degree just like you get it on campus." He said by taking all the courses offered and working with Southwestern, "it's possible to get a master of divinity degree in six years with minimal time spent on the main campus."

Rick Hyde, pastor of Third Church, Malvern, said the off-campus center gave him "the advantage of beginning seminary studies while I was still bivocational. If it were not for off-campus studies, I would not have started at all."

He started seminary studies in the fall of 1982 and graduated from Southwestern in 1988. He is now pursuing a doctoral degree from Midwestern.

"There is no excuse for any pastor in Arkansas not to get seminary training," he said. "I would encourage churches to encourage their pastors to go. Make it available to them."

Tucker said the Little Rock center needs more students for the 1994-95 school year. "We need at least 20 students for each class, but we've been averaging 15 to 16. To break even financially, someone has to pick up the tab."

Don Moore, Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director, said that tab is being picked up by the convention, acknowledging that low registration drains convention funds. "When we don't have 20 students in each class, the convention pays for the other positions with Cooperative Program money," he explained.

Tucker said the enrollment process is easy for prospective students. He said interested individuals can contact him at 376-4791, ext. 5249 or call Southwestern at 817-923-1921, ext. 3440.

Off-campus center students pay by the class and class costs are around \$200, said Tucker, adding that limited scholarships are available to Arkansas students. "We don't want anybody not to go to seminary because they just can't afford it," he emphasized. "We're going to help them find some scholarship money to go."

# From Iowa to Israel: Arkansas students prepare to minister



Baptist Student Union members from throughout Arkansas are providing financial support for 75 of their peers to be involved in summer missions, according to Diane Parker, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention BSU department.

BSU members on campuses across the state provide the annual financial support which pays expenses and stipends for students who will participate in the ministry effort May 21 through Aug. 1.

"Participating students will receive about a \$60 per week stipend and receive, lodging and food from local church members in the area in which they are serving," Parker noted.

This summer's BSU ministry fields will range from Israel to Iowa, with students also serving in the Philippines and Australia.

Out-of-state assignments, in addition to Iowa, include Wisconsin, Alaska, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Mississippi, Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii, Texas and Washington, D.C., as well as a team of 11 students who will serve in mission centers in New Orleans.

Ministry opportunities in Arkansas include a team of summer missionaries who will work for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries. Others will be involved in resort ministries and share teams. "For the

most part, they will be working with local churches or associations with youth and children's ministries or missions centers in inner cities," said Parker. She said share teams will be working in Arkansas "spending a week in camp and helping with Super Summer with music and drama." The short-term projects are for students who have to work or go to summer school. They will work in Memphis and Jamaica. The international team will be working with career foreign missionaries.

The students are appointed through state BSU efforts or directly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Parker said students are especially well-suited for missions work. "We think that students have the energy, the enthusiasm and the willingness to be involved in missions and meeting people's needs.

"This is a special time in their lives. Most summer missionaries will tell you it gave them a new perspective on their abilities and ministries," Parker said. "In most cases, summer missionaries will continue to be active in a ministry as a career minister or layperson for the rest of their lives."



*New Orleans: (front row, l to r) Rhonda Sherman, OBU; Ericka Stuckey, HSU; (second row, l to r) Brady McCarley, UCA; Lora Benefiel, WBC; Treva Mansel, WBC; Marcia Starks, OBU; Jacob Gibson, WBC; (third row, l to r) Lee Crow, UALR; Kristi Bowen, UAM; Jamie Harmon, WBC; Tracy Brown, ASU.*



*Short-term projects: (front row, l to r) Natalia Mayfield, WBC; Eyllane Sullivan, UAMS; Rebecca Bearden, WBC, all to the Mississippi River Ministry; (second row, l to r) Melissa Freeman, WBC; Nikki McIntosh, ASU; Leann Scroggins, ASU; Jennifer Jones, ASU; Amy Humphries, ASU; Kim Foust, ASU, all to Jamaica; Roy Smith, ASU, MRM; (third row, l to r) Jonathan Engle, UAF; Michael Mallett, ASU; Craig Miller, ASU; and Greg Palmer, ASU, all to Jamaica.*

## SUMMER MISSIONARIES



**Out-of-state:** (front row, l to r) Amy Berry, UAM, Wisconsin; Jim Jolley, UAM, Alaska; Sheila Smith, OBU, California; (second row, l to r) Michael Fair, UAM, El Paso; Rex Peters, UAF, Pennsylvania; Kim Baker, OBU, California; Duke Walker, ASU, U.S.; Christy Jones, OBU, Pennsylvania/South Jersey; Ale Carnahan, UCA, Chicago; Crystal Taber, WACC, Hawaii; Liani Russell, UAF, Gulf Shores; Melissa Myers, ASU, U.S.; Amy Casey, RMCC, U.S.; (third row, l to r) Brant Steffey, OBU, Grand Canyon; Randy Oxford, ASU, Lake Tahoe; Billy Layton, ASU, Chicago; James Kirchner, WBC, Arizona; Shane Smith, SAU, U.S.



**Iowa and Washington D.C.:** (front row, l to r) Amy Charles, ASU, D.C.; Christine Ashby, ATU, Iowa; Alicia Pack, UAM, Iowa; (second row, l to r) Brian Cash, UAF, Iowa; Mert Hershberger, UAF, D.C.; Jimmie Glover, WBC, Iowa.



**International:** (l to r) Jason Cunningham, OBU, Israel; Jana Lovell, UAF, Philippines; Wesley Johnson, WBC, Taiwan; Brad Kinsey, UAF, Australia; John Marshall, UAF, Philippines; Joey Cobble, UALR, Israel.

**Arkansas:** (front row, l to r) Deanna Covington, ASU, Resort; Shannon Betts, WBC, Emergency Shelter; Jenny Cheney, WBC, Share Team; Carolyn Topping, WBC, Share Team; Mary Boswell, UAF, Share Team; Ann Richey, OBU, Emergency Shelter; (second row, l to r) Leonard Wake, SAU, Children's Home; Sloan Standridge, WACC, Share Team; Kelly Jones, PCCC, Share Team; (third row, l to r) Todd Richardson, UAF, Children's Home; Jimmy Austin, ASU, Boys' Ranch; Leland Reed, UALR, Resort; Jason Newton, HSU, Resort; Steve Grappe, HSU, Share Team.



# Baptist leaders affirm common identity

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist World Alliance

WASHINGTON (BP)—Do Baptists in North America have a common identity? Or care?

Leading North American Baptist historians, theologians and leaders said yes to both questions during the April 24-25 meeting of the North American Baptist Fellowship at First Baptist Church in Washington.

Ten Baptist denominations in North America form the NABF, one of six regional groups of the Baptist World Alliance.

NABF speakers agreed Baptist identity historically centers around believers baptism, religious liberty, separation of church and state, and dissent. Along the way, missions, evangelism, voluntarism, fundamentalism and leadership also became part of Baptist identity.

"In many ways, we are so different," said Daniel E. Weiss, general secretary of the American Baptist Churches, USA, "how can we find an identity?"

But being different is what appeals to many African American Baptists. "Diversity and inclusiveness has the best opportunity in the Baptist family," said Wallace Charles Smith, senior minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, "and black Baptists are still positive to dissent."

"We are struggling to find our new identity," explained John Binder, general secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, made up mostly of German immigrants.

"I always believed being a Baptist meant we were regenerate believers, baptized by immersion, believed in religious freedom and, for us, had a strong German identity," Bindersaid. "But with our church planting strategy, we have a strong multi-ethnic group and we are struggling with our identity."

## Theological Identity

Timothy George, dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., said he believes there is a theological answer and identity for Baptists, although he agrees that a common identity for Baptists "is a complex issue."

George, who spoke on "Affirming Baptist Identity in Denominational Life," noted that Baptists were historically a "communal" and "covenanting" people who "confessed" their faith, "but all three are marginalized today."

He said he believes "soul competency, where every man has his own church," and an "anti-intellectual pietism which polarizes sound doctrine and holy living"

## 'Reclaim Baptist distinctives'

WASHINGTON (BP)—Baptists in North America must address "the issue of who we are"; otherwise, "there may be little need for us collectively," William Brackney told the North American Baptist Fellowship during its April 24-25 meeting at First Baptist Church in Washington.

Brackney, principal of McMaster Divinity College in Ontario, Canada, and chairman of the Baptist World Alliance's study and research committee, spoke on the theme, "Affirming Baptist Identity in National Life."

## Recapture fire and vision

Contending there is a critical need for Baptists in North America to recapture some of the fire and vision of their founders, Brackney said Baptists need to regain their energy level to fight church-state issues, do evangelism, return to congregational life, pay more attention to leadership development and respond to critical world issues.

"Baptists in North America have in many ways, become weary in well doing," Brackney said.

"What has happened to our concern for separation of church and state and the principles of voluntarism?" he asked. "Whatever happened to the public witness for our faith? Whatever happened to our sense of the urgency of the proclamation of the gospel?"

Brackney warned that Baptists have "capitulated to the mainstream," which has carried them off "into organizational complexity."

"Baptists never belonged there and it has not served us well," Brackney said. He called on Baptists to "reclaim our radical congregational nature and follow Christ where He will lead us, beginning with where we live and work."

Baptist distinctives of separation of church and state, religious liberty and voluntary support of churches "were rooted in Baptists' British origins and blossomed in an unusual way in the North American context," he said.

Apart from their foreign heritage, Baptists in North America became perhaps the most diverse denominational group using the same name.

"Southern Baptist identity, American Baptist identity, black Baptist identity, ethnic Baptist identity, Conservative Baptist identity, Bible Baptist identity and Independent Baptist identity" are just a few of the many Baptists in North America, he said.

Warning that Baptists today are more divided than ever and have strayed from their beginnings, Brackney declared, "Our nations need us now as much as ever for what we historically espouse. Let us not shrink or subdivide from the task."

characterize much of Baptist life today.

Baptists' confessional structures, orthodox convictions, evangelical faith, Reformed roots and free church identity "are five strands among which we may unify," George said.

"We do have orthodox convictions," he said, as "Baptists stand in continuity with the dogmas of the early church in the confession of faith of the canonicity of Scripture, the Trinitarianism of God and the Christology of Christ."

Baptists are evangelical and affirm the doctrines of the Reformation of justification by faith and "Scripture alone," George said. "Baptists believe in conversion and repentance."

In the 18th century, "Baptists were identified with the evangelical awakening with the emphasis on conversion and repentance, and leading Baptists such as Billy Graham, Carl Henry and Charles Colson are leaders in 'the post-

fundamentalist renaissance,'" George said.

"Grace, transcendence, salvation, God-centered worship — how we understand the world and our relation to it" are all part of the Reformation which has strong roots in Baptist life, George said.

"While the purposes of God are not tied to any denomination, God has used the Baptist denomination," George declared. "We dare to hope, because we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have left us a precious legacy."

George said Baptists have "precious cargo," the hope of the world, and "that's why we persist in staying together and coming together."

"Baptists in North America are the largest Protestant group in North America, but are the most divided," cautioned Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. "Baptists in North America must come together so that the world might believe."



## Baptist family joins stream fleeing Yemen

SANAA, YEMEN (BP)—Southern Baptist representatives Charles and Linda Renew joined a stream of Americans fleeing Yemen May 7 after a Scud missile fired at the presidential palace sailed over their home and knocked plaster off the ceiling.

Two other Southern Baptist families were scheduled to leave the Red Sea nation last week, amid the spreading civil war. Edna Lindholm and her two children and Rodney and Diana Armstrong and their five children were to leave by military flight.

Lindholm's husband, Al, is staying to pack for furiough, scheduled to begin next month. The Armstrongs, assigned as International Service Corps workers, already were near the end of their term of service.

U.S. Embassy officials were advising Americans to gather in the capital city of Sanaa for evacuation by military flights.

Forty-one Southern Baptist workers had decided as of May 9 to stay in the country for now. Thirty-six of them were inside the 22-acre Jibla Baptist Hospital compound, a Southern Baptist-owned facility near the city of Ibb — well removed from the fighting.

An armed guard was stationed outside the hospital compound. Because of the situation, Southern Baptist workers and other expatriates were not venturing outside. The hospital opened in 1967 and has gained prominence throughout the region.

The two remaining Southern Baptist workers and their families in Sanaa — Stephen and Kandi Edwards and Drew and Martha Whitson — reported the battle had moved away from the capital city, although they were still hearing bombs at a distance.

## World Day of Prayer focus: Hazara people

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The Hazara, an unreached people who live mostly in the central mountains of Afghanistan, are the focus of the 1994 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. Southern Baptists are encouraged to join other "Great Commission" Christians in praying and fasting for the Hazara from 6 p.m. May 20 to 6 p.m. May 21.

At most, only about 500 Christians live among the world's 2.5 million Hazara. Most people in Afghanistan are Sunni Muslim, but the Hazara are part of the Shiite sect, the branch of Islam that prevails in Iran. The Hazara also differ from other Afghans in their cultural heritage. Some historians believe the Hazara are descendants of Genghis Khan's conquerors, who overran Afghanistan in the 13th century.

Today the Hazara live tough lives as mountain farmers, shepherds and goatherds in the central highlands of the Hindu Kush mountains. Christian researchers estimate they are one of Afghanistan's most impoverished ethnic groups. Because of their Mongolian appearance and religious differences with most Afghans, the Hazara generally suffer discrimination.

Christians working among the Hazara request specific prayer that they might learn the Hazara language in order to spread the gospel. They also request prayer for Christian workers who are now translating the Gospel of Luke into the Hazara language, as well as protection and divine guidance for Christian workers who are preparing radio broadcasts so the Hazara people can have an opportunity to learn of Jesus for the first time.

## BWA official congratulates Mandela

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Baptist World Alliance congratulated Baptists in South Africa and Nelson Mandela, the new president of the Republic of South Africa, on the nation's peaceful elections establishing majority rule.

The BWA also called on Baptists in the predominantly white Baptist Union of Southern Africa and the predominantly black Baptist Convention to follow their country's lead in peace and reconciliation.

"It is with great joy we received the blessed news of your peaceful elections and the majority rule that freedom has brought to your country," wrote Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, in letters to Vincent Jones, general secretary of the convention, and Terry Rac, general secretary of the union.

To Mandela, Lotz wrote, "Let me assure you of our continued support and prayers for you and your people in this struggle to make all people free."

"It is obvious that the Christian Church has played a major role in achieving this significant example of a peaceful change of governments," Lotz added, noting that the BWA had supported Baptists in their struggle to fight apartheid "and have prayed for this day for many years."

## Volunteers needed for Japan projects

MEMPHIS, TN —The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is calling for volunteers with construction experience to serve on two major projects in Japan in a first-ever partnership with the Foreign Mission Board and its mission there. The work will be done by teams consisting of six to 10 men and two women. Each excursion, which includes a tour of Tokyo, will last six weeks.

The first project begins June 1 and involves the construction of a three-story church. Teams will depart the U.S. on June 1, July 13 and Aug. 31. Young men are especially needed for the first two teams.

Plans for the second project call for the construction of eight buildings to house Japan Baptist Convention staff and their families. Teams will depart the U.S. for six-week stays, beginning on Aug. 3. Housing project teams will continue to arrive through April 1995.

The cost of each six-week excursion is \$525, which includes airfare from most major U.S. airports. Additional information is available from the state convention Brotherhood department, phone 376-4791, ext. 5158.

## Delayed shipment aids Kenyans, Rwandans

DALLAS (BP)—Delayed delivery to Kenya of a water well-drilling rig proved to be "God's timing" for helping that drought-plagued East African nation, and it could be a boon to Rwandan refugees, according to leaders of the Texas Baptist Men missions organization.

In 1991, Royal Ambassador youth from around the state gave to support TBM's "Kenya Project." Their offerings helped provide funds for the purchase of a water purifier and well-drilling equipment.

Around Christmas of 1992, it appeared the machines — along with two self-contained field kitchens — were bound for Somali refugee camps in Kenya. At the time, about a half-million Somalis occupied tent cities along the Somalia/Kenya/Ethiopia border.

However, the 8.5-ton container housing the equipment inexplicably was misplaced on the dock in Houston. When it eventually was shipped to Mombasa, Kenya, delivery was held up by a governmental dispute over tariffs.

This spring, the shipment finally was released. Three Texas Baptist volunteers journeyed to Kenya to set up the equipment and provide training to Southern Baptist missionaries and Kenyan Baptist workers.

"We couldn't understand why the container couldn't get to people who needed it, but it all worked out according to God's timing," said Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men. "The drought in Kenya is worse now than it was when the shipment was first planned. And it looks as if the equipment intended for Somali refugees now may be used to help refugees from Rwanda."



## State ministers' wives retreat provides inspiration, challenges

By Millie Gill  
Arkansas Baptist

Participants attending the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Retreat left committed in new ways to "Celebrate the King!" as a result of the inspirational and challenging sessions led by guest speaker Lawanna McIver of Dallas.

Using Proverbs 3:5-6 as her focal Scripture passage, McIver encouraged participants to let the retreat be a sharing experience that would enrich their lives and refuel them in service to the King. "I suggest your guideline become, 'What I am is God's gift to me and what I become is my gift to God,'" McIver challenged.

"God's gifts to you include eternal life through salvation, the Holy Spirit to guide you, a home, a family and a church," she continued. "Now it is up to you to use these gifts and become a gift to God."

"As you do this, God will affirm and assure you, especially if you let the Holy Spirit guide you in establishing priorities, values, emotions and decisions," McIver said. "If you do not follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit then your services will become burdens and create within you an unforgetting spirit."

Sparking sessions with humorous experiences from her 30-year role as a pastor's wife, McIver encouraged the ministers' wives to be both forgiving and loving even in "scarring situations." She shared that Corrie ten Boom had been her mentor in forgiveness as she sought a "brand new field" of service in thanksgiving to God as her husband, Bruce McIver, recovered from open-heart surgery.

"God opened for me the field of a professional book club reviewer, permitting me to touch lives in secular settings that could never have been touched within the four walls of a church," she said.

"God may be ready to do a brand new thing with you if you will become His gift and make yourself available to Him for a new adventure in faith or a new plateau of

service," McIver concluded. "You must listen and make yourself available to obey the nudges of service. God initiates for you."

Nan Maxwell of South Highland Church in Little Rock was chairman for the second annual retreat held April 29-30 in Little Rock. She was assisted by Belinda Gantz of West Rock Church in Little Rock, Vicki Bedford of Pleasant Hill Church in Rogers, Sandy Hinkson of Markham Street Church in Little Rock, Kathy Frazier of First Church in Scranton and Nancy Jordan of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Inspirational music for sessions was provided by Bedford, Karen Brown of First Church in Fordyce and Rachel Preston of First Church in Stamps.

Among participants' responses to the retreat were:

■ Isabel Loe of Cornerstone Church in Texarkana: "This retreat was excellent! It was marvelous to be with sisters that share the joys and burdens that come with the high calling that Christ has given us. It has refreshed me in spirit and given me a peace that I haven't had for months."

■ Marilyn Bell of Canfield Church in Lewisville: "This retreat was a personal renewal to God's service. It gave me a new focus in ministry to be all God wants me to be."

■ Dea Dickerson of Calvary Church in Walnut Ridge: "The retreat was a time to truly 'Celebrate the King' for being in control of our lives and placing each of us in the special place of ministry where we are."

■ Vicki Wickliffe of First Church in Malvern: "The retreat was a very helpful way of sharing and getting to know other ministers' wives. I really enjoyed sharing our common feelings and problems and joys of ministry."

The 1995 retreat is scheduled for March 3-4 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Little Rock. Beverly Terrell, a speaker and soloist from Houston, Texas, will be the leader. Kerri Evans of Yarbro Church is chairman.

## Pastors' wives support groups offer fellowship

Pastors' wives can sometimes be the loneliest people in town, said Nancy Jordan, adding that "everyone needs someone to share with and know there is confidentiality."

Jordan, state coordinator for Arkansas Pastors' Wives Support Groups, said the support groups offer wives of Arkansas Baptist pastors an opportunity to "share their feelings, ideas and experiences in order to strengthen and encourage one another."

The groups are sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Baptist Sunday School Board church leadership support departments.

Jordan, wife of ABSC church leadership support department director L.B. Jordan, said support groups of up to eight women are formed within Baptist associations.

She said the groups can "provide participants individual growth, fellowship and caring from peers, a confidential network for sharing and can enhance their self-worth."

The groups are led by trained conveners, said Jordan, adding that each group determines the time, length and discussion topics and visitors are not allowed to attend.

There is no cost for the groups, but members may purchase an optional handbook for \$17 each.

For more information, contact Nancy Jordan through the church leadership support department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5148 or at 228-0631.

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# Teenage cancer patient's salvation sparks revival

Morgan Cox, pastor of First Church, Augusta, is convinced that ministry and evangelism are inseparable. That belief was confirmed recently as he witnessed a revival in the church that sprang from one evangelistic visit.

Cox said that several months ago, a church member related the need to visit Tommy (not his real name), a 14-year-old Little Rock resident being treated for cancer at Children's Hospital in Little Rock. "I went to see Tommy, shared the gospel with him for about an hour and he was saved," said Cox.

But the story of the church's revival was only beginning.

"Tommy and his family moved to Augusta," related Cox. "And they moved into a home one block from our church."

After the family moved in, Cox asked Tommy's mother and father, Jerry and Pam, to visit his office at the church, "and they were gloriously saved." The list of conversions kept growing as the parents told friends and family members about Christ.

"Jerry then brought his daughter Linda to the office and Linda was saved," Cox said. "Pam then called and said she had been talking to a friend, Sue, about Christ. I'd given Pam a marked New Testament and she used it in leading Sue to the Lord. I went with her and talked to Sue and it became evident that she had been saved."

Others won to faith in Christ in the next few months including Tommy's grand-

mother, an uncle, an aunt, Pam's friend and a cousin.

Cox said the church was scheduled to have a revival, "but I was about to call the evangelist and tell him there was probably no need to have a scheduled revival because God had already brought a revival to our church on His own."

"We had been praying for revival for a solid year," he recalled. "We'd been praying extremely hard and it should not have shocked us that we had it. We told God we wanted His perfect will to be done and if His will included people being saved, we were for it."

"We went ahead and had the revival," he said. "And we never expected what happened every night of the revival. The church was packed to capacity and we had to put chairs in the aisle."

"The first night I didn't even have counselors available because I didn't expect what happened," said Cox. "During the revival we saw 20 people saved and one rededication. Out of all of the people that were saved, 11 or 12 were relatives or acquaintances of this family."

He said it is "wonderful to see how God has poured out His Spirit on this

extended family. They have been so obedient to the Scriptures and I cannot praise God enough for their dedication and enthusiasm for the Lord."

Clarence Shell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, said the Augusta revival is a good example of how evangelism and ministry go hand in hand. He noted that "Evangelism Through Ministry" is among Arkansas Baptists' 1994 "Perform Ministry" goals.

Shell said sharing one's faith can be easy when people "discover who the evangelistic prospects are, build relationships with them by caring and share the good news of salvation with them."

"We are aware most people have a fear of sharing with others," he commented. "This can only be overcome as they realize God does not give us a spirit of fear but of love, but it can only come as one makes a commitment to be available to the Lord."

"During the 15 months I've been here, I've seen 44 people go through the baptismal waters," recounted Cox. "I have to believe that is a revival, not just a natural occurrence of events. God says if we sow the seeds, He shall bring the harvest and I truly believe we have seen a wonderful harvest."

He asked other Arkansas Baptists to "pray for us and all these new converts that they will be faithful disciples and we will be faithful in discipling them in helping them mature in their faith."

Cox said he doesn't want any of the credit for the revival. "There is nothing more discouraging than to hear a minister of the gospel boast about leading people to Christ. I just hope that this will be a source of inspiration and encouragement to anyone who reads this and that God will be glorified for the wonderful things He has done and is continuing to do."



## YOUTH GROUPS

### Hope Migrant Mission Center Needs Your Help!



During the summer months, the Hope Migrant Mission Center ministers to thousands of migrant farmworkers. Center director Paul Roaten counts heavily on Arkansas Southern Baptist church volunteer groups to staff the center.

If your youth group is interested in helping with recreation and fellowship, clothing and health kit distribution, housekeeping chores, worship leadership or grounds maintenance, call Paul Roaten at 777-8219. There are several weeks in June and July which are open for volunteer assignments.

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# Horne named SBC tellers chairman

*Additional convention information released*

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, has been named chairman of the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention Tellers Committee. Horne, appointed to the position by SBC president H. Edwin Young, will chair the 25-member committee during the SBC annual meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla. The tellers are responsible for tabulating votes taken during the annual meeting.

Young appointed Bill Melton, pastor of Dove Circle Church, Eureka Springs, as a member of the SBC Credentials Committee. The 28-member committee reviews and rules upon any questions concerning the credentials of messengers.

Young also named four parliamentarians for next month's annual meeting. They include chief parliamentarian Barry McCarty, pastor of Lakota Christian Church in Cincinnati, as well as attorney Joe Reynolds, a member of Second Baptist Church in Houston; Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.; and John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

In other convention-related action, Resolutions Committee chairman Tommy Lea, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has called for a preview of resolutions proposed for the annual meeting. Lea said copies of proposed resolutions may be mailed to the SBC Executive Committee, Convention Relations Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203.

Ministry opportunities prior to the SBC include Cross Over Orlando and Woman's Missionary Union mission projects.

Cross Over Orlando "promises to be one of the most challenging and exciting Cross Overs 'yet," according to Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis.

This year, 173 churches and 1,200 volunteers have signed up to participate in the door-to-door thrust, and a two-day telephone campaign will be used to recruit prospects for three church starts.

Since being introduced with door-to-door visitation in 1989, Cross Over activities have grown to include rallies, street evangelism with creative arts, block parties and church starting efforts.

"In recent years one of the highlights of the Southern Baptist Convention has been the evangelistic thrust," Lewis said. "I look forward to participating, and hope hundreds or even thousands of other Southern Baptists will as well."

To volunteer for door-to-door visitation, street evangelism or block parties, contact Bobby Sunderland at the HMB at 404-898-7688.

To participate in the June 11-12 phone campaign to help start churches, contact Ronnie Reynolds, home missionary and church starter strategist for Greater Orlando Baptist Association, at 407-293-0450.

National WMU leaders are seeking volunteers interested in participating in mission projects June 6-10 in Orlando. The projects precede the WMU annual meeting, which will be held at First Baptist Church in Orlando, June 12-13.

While the mission projects are scheduled for Monday through Friday, any amount of time volunteers can contribute will be appreciated, said Pat Ferguson, mission project coordinator for WMU.

WMU mission project volunteers will work with US-2 missionaries assigned to the Orlando area by the HMB. The US-2 missionaries work in resort ministries and church starting/evangelism.

Volunteers will receive assignments in advance and will be told what supplies to bring. For information about the projects, call 205-991-4083 or write Pat Ferguson, WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

Alumni, former students and friends of Ouachita Baptist University will gather June 14 for a time of fellowship during the SBC. The fellowship will be held following the Tuesday evening SBC session at approximately 9 p.m. in Room 6-B of the Orange County Convention Center.

Phil Hardin, director of alumni affairs and assistant to the president, said several members of the OBU administration and staff will be on hand to greet guests. The informal reception is free of charge.

## Some people are too busy eating out to go to church.



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## Camps offer musical fun for seniors, youth

Camps for youth and senior adults at Ouachita Baptist University July 25-29 will highlight Arkansas Baptist State Convention summer music programs.

Music Arkansas, for youth who have completed grades 7-12 will feature music classes, creative worship, an honors choir and a talent show. SummerSing VII, for senior adults age 55 and older, will feature

worship, instruction, and programs for "non-musicians."

Rob Hewell, director of the ABSC church music ministries department, said Music Arkansas "is a highlight of the year for youth music and the department." He said the program also will include "the development of leadership skills in young people along with special-interest classes

in other areas such as sign language, worship planning and music technology."

Each church is responsible for sending one counselor for every one to 10 campers of each sex.

SummerSing VII will feature participation in the SummerSing VII Choir, "the highlight and climax of the camp," according to Glenn Ennes, an associate in the department. The choir will be led by Bill Anderson, senior design editor for the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department.

The program also will include music classes for music reading, beginning and advanced ukulele, handbells and voice as well as classes for non-musicians.

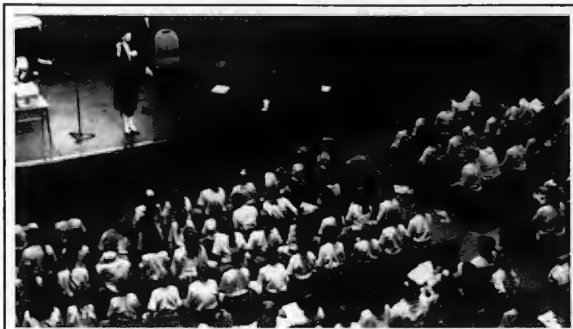
Recreation times will be included in the program, offering golf, water aerobics, crafts, the Great Peanut Brittle Tour and a picnic at DeGray State Park.

Ennes said SummerSing participants may stay in dormitory housing on the Ouachita campus. Rooms are arranged by suites, with two rooms joined by a bath.

The costs for SummerSing registrations postmarked by June 27, with the cost for registrations postmarked after June 27 in parentheses are: \$100 (\$110) per single participant, \$180 (\$190) per married couple and \$95 (\$100) per person when a church group of 10 or more registers. The cost includes lodging, meals and materials.

The costs for Music Arkansas registrations postmarked by June 27 are: \$85 (\$95) per camper and \$80 (\$90) per counselor with an additional \$5 (\$15) per camper for campers without counselors.

For more information about Music Arkansas, contact the ABSC church music ministries department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5121. For more information on SummerSing VII, contact the department to request a promotional video or see the April issue of the *Senior Musician*.



"Jesus is the song...to me" filled Ouachita Baptist University's Jones Performing Arts Center as 646 fourth, fifth and sixth graders and sponsors lifted their voices in the closing worship celebration of the 45th State Young Musicians Festival April 16. Festival director Madeline Bridges of Nashville, Tenn., led the three anthems and hymn and special guest author, J. Paul Williams of Little Rock, was on hand to autograph copies of his anthems.

### Baptist Book Store

### AUTOGRAPH SESSION

## William C. Viser

### Author of *Darkness Among Us*

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Viser, a professor at Ouachita Baptist University, has spent 20 years studying and writing about the occult. For 10 years, he lived in Rio de Janeiro as a missionary to many involved in Macumba, a voodoo-influenced cult. He is also an experienced youth minister and pastor.

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# Fellowship declines cuts for SBC seminaries

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, NC (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship won't end all funding of Southern Baptist seminaries but will encourage participating churches to direct their contributions toward Fellowship-endorsed theological schools.

Angered by the March 9 firing of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president Russell Dilday, Fellowship members at their annual meeting debated then defeated a motion to exclude all Southern Baptist seminaries from all Fellowship funding plans.

Although the proposal was endorsed by the group's administrative committee, only about a third of those voting May 7 approved the plan — far short of the two-thirds necessary for enactment.

However, a less stringent proposal was immediately passed. It suggested that churches dissatisfied with Southern Baptist handling of the theological education redirect their Fellowship contributions to the group's Vision 2000 budget, which already excludes all six Southern Baptist seminaries in favor of the Fellowship's own efforts in theological education.

The debate over seminary funding was the only disputed matter in an otherwise quiet Fellowship gathering, which registered 4,337 participants and attracted 6,000 people to the largest session — fewer than anticipated.

During the May 5-7 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., the Fellowship appointed 10 new missionaries, adopted a six-month budget and heard reports on its various areas of ministry. Members also worshiped and attended workshops on 104 topics, ranging from self-care for ministers to hospitality evangelism and from desktop publishing to "sister images" in the Bible. An extended pre-assembly

institute examined Christian responses to homosexuality.

The Fellowship, formed in 1990, sponsors its own missions program and supports a variety of other ministries but also allows participating churches and individuals to send funds to traditional Southern Baptist causes. In 1993 the Fellowship received \$11.2 million from 1,225 churches and 2,510 individuals. Southern Baptist causes received about a fourth of the funds.

Money for the SBC's six seminaries is included in two of the Fellowship's three funding plans. Last year Fellowship members sent \$492,037 to the SBC's seminaries.

Many Fellowship members wanted to respond to Dilday's firing in some way. "Because of what happened to Russell Dilday, the hour is now," said Gary Parker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo., who first proposed the action to defund all SBC seminaries.

Several said changing the budgets was unnecessary because the SBC may soon require all its agencies to refuse Fellowship funds. A vote on such a proposal, now under study, could come as soon as next month during the SBC annual meeting.

Although many top SBC leaders have encouraged the Fellowship to leave the convention, there was no talk about a split during the annual assembly. However, Fellowship leaders did talk of the relationship between the Fellowship and the SBC.

Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, retired executive director of the SBC Women's Missionary Union, described her journey from lifelong SBC leader to Fellowship moderator — the group's highest elected position, a role she assumed during the assembly.

"I lost something that had defined my whole life," she said of the SBC. "I admitted it would not come back. I walked from my past to something that would be my future."

But, she said, Fellowship members are not required to desert their denominational past. "I cannot, I will not, do that," she said.

"The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship must reclaim our past. We must not try to duplicate it. We must not try to hold onto what is no longer there. But we must not build a shrine to it, constantly longing for the 'good old days' that will never come again."

The \$8.9 million budget adopted at the meeting is for the first six months of 1995, when the Fellowship will shift to a July-to-June budget cycle. The budget anticipates about 63 percent of receipts will go to Fellowship ministries, while about 37 percent will go to SBC causes. The largest portion of the budget — \$4.2 million — will fund the Fellowship's global missions program.

Also at the meeting Patrick Anderson, professor of criminology at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, was chosen moderator-elect to succeed Crumpler.

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# CLC, BJCPA attorneys debate merits of graduation prayer

By Tom Strode

SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Public school graduation ceremonies provide opportunities for schools to demonstrate tolerance for religious diversity, two Baptist church-state specialists say, but they disagree on whether student-initiated, student-led prayers should be permitted.

"Commencement prayers are socially profitable," says Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Critics fret that prayers will fracture our pluralistic society along religious lines, whereas secular programs will preserve peace. But how does religious censorship build religious understanding? Schools can teach tolerance for diversity by letting students lead in prayer."

Prohibiting public prayer at graduation ceremonies furthers tolerance, counters Brent Walker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"As we approach public school graduations this year, we should make every effort to avoid politicizing the sacred act of prayer to Almighty God," Walker says. "Let's use this season as an opportunity to teach our students a lesson about civic toleration and mutual respect for our religious differences, not to give them a lesson in how to run roughshod over the Constitution and the rights of others."

The church-state lawyers presented their arguments in the April 26 issue of the Kentucky Baptist *Western Recorder*. Whitehead and Walker argue the pro and con sides, respectively, to the question "Should public schools have a prayer at commencement?"

Critics of commencement prayers have described them by such terms as "least

common denominator" and "worthless," but graduation prayers should reflect the convictions of the one praying, the CLC's Whitehead says.

"Don't ask Baptist students or any other students to pray 'non-sectarian' mush to a brand-X god," he wrote. "Let there be real, robust prayers, in Jesus name, by whosoever will. Let God grade the prayers, not church-state 'experts.' Let God decide when and how to release real power for real revival in our land."

The BJC's Walker responds to such a suggestion: "In our pluralistic nation involving hundreds of religious traditions, how can this be done? It can't. Even if it could, how would you like it when it comes time for the Satanists to pray?"

In communities where Baptists are in the minority, religious freedom still should reign, Whitehead noted.

Both lawyers cite the Supreme Court's 1992 *Lee v. Weisman* decision, which declared school-sponsored graduation prayers unconstitutional, but Whitehead says the opinion did not ban student-initiated, student-led prayers. The following year, the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of a ruling which okayed a vote by a Texas high school senior class to include a student-led prayer at commencement.

While private prayer at commencement is permissible, Walker argues, "substituting a student to pray at a graduation ceremony doesn't cure the constitutional problem."

While Whitehead agrees majority vote does not determine rights, he insisted "there is no constitutional right to stop students from praying at a commencement just because I find the prayer offensive or disagreeable. In such cases, majority rule is the fair and democratic way to decide community desires."



## Convention Uniform

### *Express Christ's Love*

By Ledell Bailey, DOM,  
Calvary Association  
Basic passage: Galatians 6  
Focal passage: Galatians 6:1-10;  
14-18  
Central truth: Live a life of love.

In this last chapter of Galatians, Paul writes of living the life of love, especially in the context of a fellowship of believers. He makes some practical applications of Christian love in the area of relationships with other Christians.

He tells us first that love can be applied in the case of a brother caught in a sin. He tells us that such a person should be dealt with gently in order to restore him. He also warns us to keep an eye on ourselves for we, too, may be tempted to sin.

Paul continues by telling us that love can be expressed in bearing one another's burdens. Many of us try to bear life's burdens alone. They can be borne better with the help of God and our Christian family. We must learn how to accept the help of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are taught in these verses that love is expressed also in sharing with others what we have learned. In church life today there is a great need of practicing this kind of mutual sharing and support.

Paul also brings into focus the law of the harvest. We may feel sometimes that the efforts of expressing love have been in vain. This is not true, for the harvest is sure to come. He tells us not to despair for the harvest will come.

God's people should be the model for the love that is desperately needed in life today. This love is the kind that will always seek the best for the ones that are loved. A practice of this love will indeed modify and control our behavior toward all people.

Paul concludes his letter to the Galatians by telling them what really matters in his life—glorying in the cross. For him there were two realities: an old rugged cross and a new creation. He finishes the epistle just as he began it with those words which were characteristic of his life—grace and peace.

## Life and Work

### *Pressing toward the goal*

By Mark Baber, pastor,  
First Church, Marion  
Basic passage: Philippians 3:12-21  
Focal passage: Philippians 3:12-14,  
18  
Central truth: We are all called to pursue Christ with a passion.

Even though he had experienced years of personal growth and successful ministry, Paul was still keenly aware of his continued need for spiritual growth (v. 12). Aware of his need for growth and development in the life of faith, he revealed the driving passion of his life—to pursue with all of his energy and press toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

What is involved in pressing toward the high calling? Close study of verses 12-21 will reveal several possible answers to that question. Pressing toward the high calling requires:

■ A single-minded devotion. In verse 13 Paul said, "This one thing I do." This suggests that the apostle had reduced the focus of his life to one vision that centered around knowing Christ more intimately. All of the things that he did were motivated by this one passion. When our roles and relationships are brought under the umbrella of a focus on the Lordship of Christ, we are then on the road to passionate pursuit of the high calling.

■ A wise forgetfulness of the past (v. 13). Perpetuating memories of past failures is the ruin of many in the quest to grow in Christ. Paul learned to forget his past failures. It may be impossible to totally erase them, but we need not be haunted by them. Paul could "forget what lies behind" because of the forgiveness of Christ. So can we. The same forgiving love that made Paul a free man is available to us.

■ Nurturing the right forward look. The "heavenward" calling was a positive motivation for Paul to press on during his present difficulties. With the right forward look Christians can find deep wells of motivation and inspiration that will help them deal with present challenges.

■ Living as a friend of the cross (v. 18). Paul describes enemies of the cross as people who are destined for destruction, who make a god of their stomach (bodily desires) and who take pride in what should be their shame. One who pursues Christ with passion is a friend of the cross. Friends of the cross have a destiny filled with promise and they glory in what Christ has done for them on the cross.

## Bible Book

### *A prayer for the church*

By John T. Evans, pastor,  
Yarbro Church, Blytheville  
Basic passage: John 17:1-26  
Focal passage: John 17:20-26  
Central truth: Jesus desires unity in His church so that it can reach a lost world.

In this High Priestly prayer, Jesus petitions the Father concerning Himself and His disciples. Then He prays for those who will believe in Him because of the word of the apostles (v. 20). That includes us.

Jesus twice expresses His desire that the world will believe in Him and in God who sent Him (vv. 21, 23). Both times He prays that believers would be one just as He and the Father are one. He believed that this would help the world to believe (vv. 21-23).

As Jesus wants the church to evangelize the world and to accomplish this end, He desires that those who believe in Him would be in complete harmony and unity. Regrettably, this unity seldom exists in the church. The reason is that there are ones who have as Jude, verse 4, put it, "crept" into the church. They have not believed in the word of the apostles nor have they believed in Jesus (Jude 4). These are the ones who deny the inerrancy of God's Word and would prefer to cut out of the Bible things which they do not believe.

Jesus is not praying for us to be one with these unbelievers (v. 20) even though they may have "crept" into the church. Rather, His prayer is for salvation to come to them (vv. 21, 23).

True unity and complete oneness will only come to the church when all who hold membership in the church are truly members of Christ. A church full of men and women who truly believe in Jesus and in His Word and are surrendered to Him will be one in unity, harmony and in love. That type of church will lead the world to believe in Christ and the Father who sent Him. That group of people will someday be where Jesus is in heaven and will see Him in all His glory (v. 24). Until then we must declare Him to a world that does not know Him (vv. 25-26) and "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3).



## Convention Uniform

### God remembers

By Ledell Bailey, DOM,  
Calvary Association  
Basic passage: Exodus 1-2  
Focal passage: Exodus 1:8-11; 2:1-9;  
23-25  
Central truth: God remembers His  
promise to His people.

The book of Exodus has always been a fascinating portion of God's Word to me. As I look at this book, I see the faithfulness of God in keeping the Covenant He had made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I see here, also, the importance of human freedom. One can see, too, the hand of God at work in fitting everything into His plan.

In the first chapter of this book, we see how the Israelites were blessed of God in the increase of their number. This number became so great that it became a threat to the rulers of the people of Egypt.

They could not have the Israelites becoming so numerous that they would leave Egypt and become an ally to other nations. Thus they sought to curb their growth by increasing their labors. In addition to this, an order was given to kill the boys that were born.

God always intervenes at the right time. This is seen in the preservation of Moses, who would later become the deliverer of Israel.

It is significant to note that God's great work in history began with the birth of a child. The patriarchal history of Israel began with the birth of Isaac. The nation's history began with the birth of Moses. The history of the kings of Israel began with the account of Samuel's birth. The beginning of the New Testament is marked by the birth of Jesus.

God can, and does, overrule the evil designs of all who would dare oppose Him. God's action is seen in verses 2:23-25. "God heard," "God remembered" and "God knew" are action words that tell us something very significant is about to happen and the happening begins to unfold.

God's dealing with His nation Israel is a reminder to His people today that His promises are sure. He has not forgotten the covenant He made. He is at work fulfilling His purpose even though He works in mysterious ways to do it.

## Life and Work

### Develop church fellowship

By Mark Baber, pastor,  
First Church, Marion  
Basic passage: Philippians 4:1-9  
Focal passage: Philippians 4:2-9  
Central truth: Right attitudes and  
behavior contribute to growth in  
fellowship.

As Paul begins to close the Philippian epistle, he gives instructions on how to develop the fellowship of the church.

His first challenge (v. 1) was a call to stand firm in the Lord. There is a need to stand firm because of opposition to the life of faith from without and within the fellowship. The list of things that divert us from our calling is endless. Personal faith and the growing fellowship of the church is enhanced when believers stand firm in their faith-walk with the Lord.

From verses 2 and 3 we are further instructed to stand in unity. The particular situation to which Paul referred in this context was a conflict between two of the sisters at Philippi. These sisters had at one time labored with Paul in the cause of the gospel. The first thing to suffer when conflict arises is the proclamation of the good news. Recent Southern Baptist history provides evidence of the truth of this statement. Fellowship and the propagation of the gospel are enhanced when we find ways to get beyond differences and stand in unity.

Fellowship is further developed as believers learn the value of intentional rejoicing (v. 4). Joy is an attitude of life that can be intentionally nurtured and cultivated. Paul did not tell the Philippians to feel joy. He issued an imperative that called them to rejoice. We rejoice, however, not in circumstances (good or bad) but "in the Lord."

A fourth way to develop fellowship is in the gentleness of our lives and witness (v. 5). The gentleness to which Paul refers has to do with forbearance in our relationships with people in the church. It is both an attitude and an action. When we are gentle, we treat people in a way that goes beyond what they may deserve.

In verses 6-9 Paul encourages believers to stand strong in prayer and attitude. As believers learn to pray about everything and worry about nothing, they come to experience the peace of God. Further, the mind that is trained to focus upon what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable (v. 8) is a mind that will issue forth in peaceful living.

## Bible Book

### The Divine Caretaker

By Ed Harrison Jr., pastor,  
Dollarway Church, Fine Bluff  
Basic passage: John 18:1-27  
Focal passage: John 18:8-9  
Central truth: When danger  
approaches, we are saved, safe and  
secure by faith in Jesus.

In this passage, we find that Jesus is betrayed by Judas, restores the ear of the servant of the high priest, is denied by Peter three times and questioned about His doctrine by Caiaphas, the high priest.

Jesus was always fulfilling the Scripture and here is one that is often overlooked. In verse 8 where we read, "Let these go their way," Jesus comes to the defense of His disciples as He fulfills the promise He prayed in John 17:12. He seeks to protect them from danger.

It's good to know that we are saved, safe and secure by faith in Jesus and that He has never "lost" one of His followers. These three points of protection are great evidence of His divine care. Even when danger comes against us or we disobey the Lord and deny we ever knew Him, He never loses one of His own.

Being saved and never to be lost again is great comfort to the people of God, because "greater is He that is within us, than he that is in the world." Just knowing that we have the victory over sin, Satan and self should challenge the people of God to go their way doing the will of God.

Jesus, knowing what He faced and what was about to happen, did not want the disciples to be arrested or placed in danger, so He sought to deliver them, because they are His.

Second, being safe in the divine care of Jesus is a great comfort. Just knowing that He is watching over us and praying for us and interceding on our behalf should cause us to jump for joy.

Third, being secure in the divine care of Jesus is a great comfort. Knowing that danger is always out there, many today are living in fear and are faced with danger that causes them to worry. From crime in the streets to rebellion in the schools to disobedience at home, not much is safe and secure anymore. It is good to know that we have the message from Jesus that He has never lost one of His own. He is the divine caretaker.

If you or someone you know needs comfort today, remember 1 Peter 5:7: "Casting all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you."



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### Oklahomans soundly defeat state lottery proposal

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Oklahomans bucked a national trend and fought back a campaign by the state's governor when they resoundingly defeated a state lottery proposal May 10.

With 60 percent of the vote against state-sponsored gambling, Oklahoma became only the second state in the nation to turn down a lottery in a statewide vote. The first was North Dakota. There currently are 38 states with lotteries.

Oklahoma's anti-lottery forces were an unusual mix of 13 different groups, including Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, Catholics, horse racing interests, business leaders, state legislators and newspapers.

Although 200,000 voters signed initiative petitions to vote on a lottery, the final vote was 417,532 (59.8 percent) to 280,152 against it. It lost in 74 of the state's 77 counties.

Early in the campaign, polls had shown that up to 70 percent of Oklahomans wanted a lottery, but Baptist layman Forrest Claunch, who led Oklahomans Against the Lottery, said he was not surprised by the final result. "It matched our prayer," he explained. "A 60-40 vote was the very thing we hoped for. We would have accepted any victory, but we wanted a clear mandate from the people."

### Henry succeeds Johnson at National Student Ministry

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Bill Henry, associate director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry, has been named director of the department, according to Roy Edgemon, director of the discipleship and family development division. Henry, 47, will succeed Charles Johnson, 60, who will take early retirement July 1.

Meanwhile, as part of ongoing efforts to streamline operations for financial stability in the division and the board as a whole, Edgemon said four National Student Ministry positions have been eliminated. These include three professional and one support staff position. Affected employees will receive career transition and placement assistance, along with severance pay based on years of service.

Henry joined the board in 1984 as supervisor of the program section of NSM. Earlier, he served 13 years as associate director of the student department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He also directed the Baptist campus ministry at Peabody College (now part of Vanderbilt University) of Nashville for one year.

### Former Oklahoma Baptist executive Joe Ingram dies

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Joe Lynn Ingram, 74, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died May 8 at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He had been hospitalized since April 10 after becoming ill while touring England. His ailment was diagnosed as Legionnaire's Disease.

Ingram was Oklahoma Baptists' chief executive from 1971 until his 1986 retirement. Since then he had been president and CEO of Baptist Healthcare of Oklahoma, which owns or leases and manages 14 hospitals in the state. Ingram joined the state convention staff as assistant to executive secretary T.B. Lackey in 1961. Prior to that he was pastor of churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. He was a native of Russellville.

Ingram is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jacque; a daughter, Krista of Tulsa; a son, Stephen of Austin, Texas; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### Planned Parenthood awarded \$1 million in clinic case

HOUSTON (ABP)—A jury in Houston awarded Planned Parenthood more than \$1 million in punitive damages May 9 from groups that protested at Houston-area abortion clinics during the 1992 Republican National Convention.

The verdict, coupled with the finding that the groups and their leaders acted with malice, allows the judge to consider making permanent the restrictions she placed on how close protesters can demonstrate around clinics.

Rescue America leader Don Treshman vowed never to pay the judgment. "We believe this is a totally invalid verdict," Treshman said, adding that it would not change anti-abortion activists' tactics. "I would go to jail rather than pay a dollar to the people who profit off the blood and mangled bodies of babies."

Jurors said Treshman must pay Planned Parenthood punitive damages of \$155,000; Rescue America must pay \$355,000; Keith Tucci, former Operation Rescue leader, must pay \$150,000; and Operation Rescue \$355,000.

Defense attorney Richard Schmude said the verdict will be appealed. "The judgment is a long way from being final," he said. "I think this is a message of vindictiveness and hatred, and this will not stand."