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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 22

November 2, 1995

They are Precious

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Arkansas Baptists have an opportunity to support the statewide efforts of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries during the 1995 Thanksgiving Offering.

in His Sight



Arkansas Baptist Children's
Homes & Family Ministries

Arkansas Baptist secretaries hold first annual meeting

The Association of Arkansas Baptist Secretaries held their first annual meeting Oct. 23-24 at Park Hill Church, focusing on the theme, "Take This Job and Love It!"

Sarah Farmer, Baptist Student Union secretary for East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn., and a certified secretary trainer for the Baptist Sunday School Board, was the seminar leader. Janet Huckabee of Texarkana was the keynote speaker for a Monday evening banquet.

President Gayle Paul of Jacksonville welcomed the 76 guests to the banquet which included opening remarks by Bob Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's discipleship and family ministry department.

Holley, whose department sponsors the new organization, commended participants for their partnership in ministry as "listening, caring and ministering individuals."

Association vice president Margie Dopson of Crossett, introduced Huckabee, who emphasized the ministry role of church, association and convention secretaries. "Your occupation is not just a job but an important ministry," Huckabee pointed out to conference participants.

Speaking from Ephesians 6:6-8, she encouraged participants to first recognize their role as a service "unto God" and then to accept their position as important and to

believe in what they are doing. "As you do this you will effectively serve the God who created the church," Huckabee concluded.

A business session included a report from secretary/treasurer Jean Myers of Benton and a national convention report from Terry Blair of Mena. Other officers assisting were district representatives Marty Davis of North Little Rock, Teresa Ford of Hope and Kaye Robertson of Charleston.

Arkansas Baptist secretaries interested in becoming a part of this new organization may send a \$10 membership fee to the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.



Janet Huckabee encourages Arkansas Baptist secretaries to do their work as a service "unto God."

Cover Story



Thanksgiving 3

Arkansas Baptists have an opportunity to support the statewide efforts of the Arkansas Baptists Children's Homes and Family Ministries during the 1995 Thanksgiving Offering which is focusing on the theme, "They are Precious in His Sight."

Also inside

Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5

Arkansas Baptists

Arkansas MSC volunteers.....	6
Partners in missions: part 2.....	8-9
'Biker Sunday' bridges gap.....	10-11
Friendship ministry turns 20.....	15
Arkansans named missionaries.....	19

Nation/World

Iowa organizes convention.....	7
World Missions Digest.....	14
Brotherhood faces transition.....	16
Women's Day of Prayer.....	18

Lessons 30-31

Next issue: Nov. 16

ARKANSAS BAPTIST



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Boys' Ranch offers teens a 'second chance'

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

At age 17 and 14, respectively, Chris and Dan appear too young and too clean-cut to have been addicted to drugs. But the pair, residents of the Arkansas Baptist Boys' Ranch outside of Harrison, are there because each was a "user" who wanted to break their chemical dependency.

"It was either this or jail," said Chris (not his real name), a resident for three and half months. "I used acid in my arm and I wasn't making it at home very well. I had no other chance."

Chris's "chance" was the Boys' Ranch, established in 1989 as a residential facility for boys who are fighting to break their chemical addictions.

Although many Arkansans think of the Ranch as a "treatment center," Ranch case manager Tom Reiff said that is not really the case.

"We don't do treatment here," he said. "We do child care. We recommend they go through a treatment program first, then we take the assessment and see if the boy is...motivated to change anything. We try to take the kids who are motivated, who have a willingness to do something.

"The thing we can do best is to provide a structured environment," Reiff said. "We set the limits and try to make sure the kids stay within those limits, hoping that may kick in some new behavior."

Faith makes impact

Reiff said activities include Bible study, Sunday School, worship service and vespers services during the week. "Some of the boys go to regular school, but the majority of our guys go to the alternative school from 8 a.m. till noon. From noon till 3 p.m., we have different activities such as woodworking, art, community living classes and physical education programs."

The facility's Christian environment also helps break addictions, Reiff noted. "We believe the Christian faith makes an impact on these boys."

That impact, he acknowledged, is difficult to accomplish "even in a year's time. Treatment centers are running anywhere from 14 to 28 days now and they readily admit there is very little done with the kid in that time.

"All you've done is stop him from his using for a short period of time," he said. "Most treatment centers say that ideally they need two to three months with every one of these kids in an acute care program to begin to alter their behavior."

Chris's story appears to be one of success. "I was in a rehab in Little Rock



Teenage boys with a history of drug abuse or family problems learn work skills as well as spiritual insights while living at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries' Boys' Ranch.

and I've been straight, oh gosh, for 10 months now."

He said being at the Boys' Ranch has "helped my self-control. I've been at home and not used. I like this the best. I've been to two other places."

Like Chris, Dan did not have difficulty in choosing to stay at the Ranch. "My mom knew I was doing drugs and stuff, so she said, 'You can either go to a treatment center in Fort Smith or here.' I've been here since January."

Dan, a marijuana user, said the discipline stressed by the Ranch staff "isn't that bad.

It's cool 'cause the stuff, you know, you didn't like doing at your house they make you do up here so you kind of get used to it and it doesn't seem that bad when you get used to it."

Reiff said that the Ranch also cares for more than chemically-dependent boys. "Several years ago we changed from just taking kids addicted to chemicals to taking family service kids who need a home for whatever reason."

The Ranch is one of several ministries supported by the Thanksgiving Offering promoted each year by the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, said John Ross, ABCHEM director of development.

"Last year direct gifts such as the Thanksgiving offering were at an all-time high of \$624,000," he said. "That bought a lot of food and clothing and met special needs for over 500 children served by the statewide ministry of ABCHEM."

Ross said that the offering has been an Arkansas Baptist tradition since 1926. "In the early years, they equated Thanksgiving with a time of giving and so churches chose that time to receive the offering. When we count our blessings for the things we have, it is such a good time to share with those who are less fortunate."

He encouraged churches to promote the offering throughout November and "actually receive the offering the Sunday before Thanksgiving."

The ministry of the Ranch, Ross noted, "cannot illustrate the ministries of the ABCHEM better. Testimonies from boys who have completed the program have said they don't know where they would be if not for the Ranch. Several had tried many secular rehab centers, but at the Ranch they found that the higher power to kick their addiction was God."

Ronnie Rogers undergoes bypass surgery

State convention president Ronnie Rogers underwent quadruple bypass surgery Oct. 27 at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock after entering the hospital last week with chest pains.

Rogers, 43, said hospital officials indicated the surgery was successful and that there was no heart damage. He is expected to return home this week.

Rogers' hospitalization will prevent him from presiding during this week's Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting. In a letter to messengers, he expressed appreciation for "the immeasurable privilege of serving as your president." He said first vice president

Jim McDaniel, pastor of First Church, Brinkley, and David Uth, pastor of Immanuel Church, El Dorado, will share presiding responsibilities. Sam Whitlow, pastor of Chicot Road Church in Mabelvale, will preach in Rogers' place.

Rogers, who said his heart problems "were precipitated by genetics," added that his physicians "say that I will return to 100 percent capacity."

"Although I will not be present with you physically, I will be in constant prayer," Rogers wrote to messengers. "My deep, heartfelt prayer is that God will meet with each of you in a personal and powerful way."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

As reported in other parts of this paper, the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship recently became the Baptist Convention of Iowa. Why should that be of significance to Arkansas Baptists? Two answers jump out quickly. First, our partnership with the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship had this as one of our unwritten, but understood goals. We wanted to help Iowa Baptists gain the strength to become a convention. Second, we wanted to help them reach their goal of 100 churches and church-type missions. Both of these goals have been met.

It was a unique blessing to be present Oct. 20-21 in their convention when they contracted the business that moved them from a fellowship to a convention. This achievement is a great testimony to what it means to work together. Top officials from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board and Annuity Board were present. Convention representatives from Arkansas and Missouri shared in the program. All entities shared in the success.

This is one of the great testimonies of how God's people work together to do great things. Even beyond this historic occasion, Arkansas Baptists will need to help carry out more projects. Our commitment to another five years in the partnership indicates our commitment to do so. In addition, Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong offerings must continue to undergird their work. The competence and commitment of our brothers and sisters in Iowa merit our continued support.

It is hard to build a great, lasting work without many strong hands being joined together. Independent work tends to be personality oriented, unaccountable, tentative and narrow. As we all are being moved along by dramatic change, let us not forsake the process strengths of working together. Working together in associations is as essential today as when they began. Our state and national conventions are essential to the way we Baptists cooperate. At all levels, we can and must work together.

NAN MAXWELL

Woman's Viewpoint

Special people in our lives

People are an important part in each of our lives, some good and some may be not so good. However, all of us have those special people who have influenced our lives, hopefully for the better. At this Thanksgiving season, reflect with me about some of those special people in your life who have made a difference as they have in mine.

Thank you, God, for Christian parents, who not only taught me how to live, but lived what they taught. Thank you for parents that showed me how to love and loved in return. Thank you for a mother, even though my dad has gone to be with the Lord, who every time I talk to her tells me she is praying for our family. That's a rich heritage to pass on to the next generation.

Thank you, God, for my family. Thank you for a husband who loves me, cares for me, is patient with me and is my best friend. Thank you for a husband who takes time out for family outings and even has time just for the two of us. Thank you for a 19-year-old son who is still not ashamed to hug and tell his parents he loves them, who has shown us by his actions, choice of friends and activities that we did do something right in his earlier years.

Thank you, God, for our church family. Thank you that they let us be ourselves and not put us in a "fishbowl." Thank you for people who love and care for their minister and his family and let us know it. Thank you for a praying church who cares for others.

Thank you, God, for friends. Thank you for friends who we can have fun and fellowship with, but are also there when we need them.

Thank you, God, for my fellow workers. Thank you for the love and concern that we have for one another and others and the love we have for the Lord.

Do you have some special people you are thankful for? Use this Thanksgiving season to not only thank God for them, but if you can, let them know personally how thankful you are for each of them. It just might make a difference in your Thanksgiving and theirs.

Nan Maxwell is a pastor's wife and works part-time in the Discipleship and Family Ministry department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Her husband is pastor of South Highland Church in Little Rock. They have one son, a student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Personal perspectives

"The real key to our past, our present and our future is not just our knowledge of who God is, but our relationship to Him."

—Ed Gregory, president, Baptist Convention of Iowa

"If you're anxious to be of benefit to the gospel and reap great harvests, now is the time."

—Larry Lewis, president, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board

"Until we weep over our cities like Jesus did, we will never reach our cities or our state or our nation for our Lord."

—Paul Powell, president, Southern Baptist Annuity Board

'God is at work' in Iowa

Winterset, Iowa, a small farming community near Des Moines, is known as the birthplace of John Wayne and the setting for *The Bridges of Madison County*. As of Oct. 20, however, an enthusiastic gathering of 300 Iowa Baptists and guests gave the community an even greater claim to fame. At 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Winterset, the Baptist Convention of Iowa was officially established.

That decisive moment when messengers unanimously voted to move from the status of being the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship to becoming Southern Baptists' newest state convention marked an event long anticipated by faithful Baptist ministers and laypeople throughout the state.

The historical significance of the event was obvious by the guest list of representatives from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Annuity Board and Baptist Sunday School Board. State convention executive directors from Arkansas, Colorado and Missouri — each of whom has been personally involved in ministry efforts in Iowa — also participated in the two-day celebration.

Why all the anticipation and affirmation of a group of 100-plus Iowa Baptist churches and missions banding together to establish a new state convention? Considering that the birth of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention dates back to 1848 and that the most recent state convention start prior to last month was more than a decade ago, the dramatic impact of Iowa Baptists' declaration that "Our Time Has Come" moves sharply into focus.

Southern Baptists now have 37 conventions representing 47 states and the District of Columbia. The sparsely populated states of Montana and the Dakotas are the only remaining regions of the nation where Baptist work has not yet reached convention status.

According to E. Glenn Hinson's *History of Baptists in Arkansas*, the decision to establish a state convention nearly a century and a half ago "pumped added life into an already vigorous missionary effort of churches and associations throughout Arkansas." The same can be said of Iowa Baptists today.

Baptist ministry in the state can be traced to 1951 when Harry Eales began a congregation in his home near Anamosa in eastern Iowa. The group organized into Fairview Baptist Church — Iowa's first Southern Baptist congregation — in 1954. The church affiliated with an association in Missouri and by 1965, churches

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

established throughout the state became a separate association still directly affiliated with Missouri Baptists. In 1972, Baptists in the state formed the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship and by 1983, the statewide fellowship included eight Baptist associations.

Arkansas Baptists entered the picture in 1992, establishing a state-to-state missions partnership with Iowa Baptists. During the past four years, Arkansas Baptist volunteers have conducted approximately 100 missions projects for churches and chapels throughout Iowa. Arkansas Baptist messengers meeting this week in Little Rock will consider a recommendation to extend the partnership through the year 2001.

The real impact of Southern Baptists cooperating together across state lines is captured in the assessments shared by Iowa Baptist leaders. "The churches and associations of our churches and associations in Iowa to help us do missions work in ways we could not do on our own," affirmed Iowa Baptist president Ed Gregory.

"The bond is very evident," agreed Richard Lamborn, Iowa Baptists' missions department director. "One thing that we Iowa Baptists have been impressed with is how much Arkansas Baptists love us."

Beyond the assistance provided by Arkansans and other concerned Southern

Baptists, however, Iowa Baptists have been diligent in their own efforts to spread the gospel of Christ throughout their state. Forty-three of Iowa's 99 counties still have no official Southern Baptist witness. On the positive side, that means Baptists in Iowa have grown from one church 40 years ago to 103 congregations in 56 counties today.

Much of Iowa Baptists' growing success is closely tied to their focus on evangelism and church growth as well as their commitment to Christ-honoring harmony.

"Be it resolved that 'together we have a mission to accomplish. We can make a difference today, tomorrow and for all eternity,'" declared a resolution adopted during the annual meeting. The statement also called on Iowa Baptists to "stay close to God" as congregations seek "to make great strides in the Lord's work in Iowa."

The resolution concluded by affirming that Iowa Baptists' commitment "to reach the people of Iowa could not have been accomplished without the divine will of God, the sacrifice of the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit."

In a time when many Baptist gatherings are known more for discord and dissent than for Christlike concern and cooperation, it is refreshing to see Baptist brothers and sisters focusing on the vital issues of missions and ministry.

"God is at work in a fresh new way among us," declared Gregory, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids. "We have just begun to reach Iowa for Christ."

As Arkansas Baptists gather this week for business, fellowship and inspiration, we can gain a valuable lesson from our missions partners to the north. Whether serving on the local church level, in the state convention or in any other setting, may we constantly be found focusing on the things that matter as we seek to spread the gospel of Christ in Arkansas, Iowa and around the world.



Live the Word
ARKANSAS AWAKENING 1996

NEXT ISSUE:

Comprehensive coverage
of the 1995
**Arkansas Baptist
State Convention**
annual meeting

Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 ♦ First Church, Little Rock

MSC volunteers fulfill unique roles

Workers follow God's leadership in ministry around the state, nation

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Ed Greathouse's latest ministry opportunities can be traced to prayer and a motor home. A long-time missions volunteer, Greathouse was looking for a new direction to channel his energy. When his kids were young, Greathouse and his wife, Marion, loaded their three kids up and took them on mission trips for vacation. Having been involved in construction, both as a contractor and in military and government work, the natural outlet for his volunteer efforts also had involved construction.

After a near-fatal boating mishap in 1981, Greathouse felt that he needed to do more with his life for God. During the mid-'80s, he served with the Christian Service Corps as a construction consultant. He helped churches all over the country from the early stages of acquiring land and building plans to coordinating volunteer construction teams. Often, he would return on a mission trip the next year to see how the church was doing. He worked on projects ranging from an Indian church in Oklahoma to the Uptown Church in the projects of Chicago.

A member and deacon of First Church, Little Rock, for many years, Greathouse worked with the church on a new mission Bible study being started at an abandoned building in West Pulaski County in 1992. Now a small church pastored by Larry DeVorak, the congregation recently went through the "Experiencing God" study by Henry Blackaby.

"I came to understand that God's plan was not a baseball bat," Greathouse said, "He loves people into His kingdom."

Knowing he wanted to do something new in volunteer ministry, Greathouse prayed while sitting in traffic this summer. "Show me today." When he got to church for Wednesday evening services, he saw a motor home parked in front and felt that it was an indicator of what God might have him do. Feeling a call to preach and "an urgency to serve the Lord in some capacity," Greathouse called the Home Mission Board. The board personnel mentioned that Mission Service Corps training was to take place during Jericho Week at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico in two days, but there were no openings and no place to stay.

Acting on faith, Greathouse borrowed his dad's aging motor home and took off. On the road, he had several ministry opportunities because of mechanical

trouble, but made it to New Mexico. "I didn't know what I was doing," Greathouse commented. "But when I got to Glorieta, there was one camping spot with a hook-up available."

A slot in the training sessions also opened up, and Greathouse was further heartened by the presence of Henry Blackaby, who authored the Experiencing God materials that had inspired him to seek further ministry opportunities.



"God's plan is not a baseball bat....He loves people into His kingdom."

— Ed Greathouse

Mission Service Corps
state volunteer coordinator

While attending the training sessions, Greathouse met Bob Mills, Mission Service Corps director for the Home Mission Board. He informed Greathouse that there was a great need for an MSC volunteer coordinator in his home state. Mills directed him to Pete Petry in the Arkansas Baptist missions department, who had been praying for a new coordinator for a couple of years, since the previous coordinators, John and DeDe Ragsdale of El Dorado, had resigned to coordinate volunteers for the Mississippi River Ministry project.

"I thought I'd have to quit everything to do missions," Greathouse noted. "But I found something here in Arkansas, and I could keep my job."

Greathouse started right away as volunteer coordinator, and in September attended the National Volunteer Celebration in Arlington, Texas, with Petry. While there, he networked with other volunteer coordinators and Missions Service Corps volunteers from all over the

nation. He also recently preached for the first time in his home church, following a calling he felt when he was 17 years old. He hopes to be able to preach often in his new capacity.

"Our hope for the immediate future is to fill the eight district consultants — they would coordinate volunteer workers for their district," Petry noted. "We've set a goal of doing that in the next six months. We need people who are open to what God wants them to do."

Among the more than a dozen Mission Service Corps volunteers currently serving in Arkansas is LeRoy Nix, who serves as a Key Church Consultant with the MSC extension section.

Nix also has a long history of volunteerism and has a new assignment. He and his wife, Loretta, had always been involved in mission work in the areas where he was stationed with the U.S. Air Force, from the west to Taiwan. After retiring from the military, Nix served as projects coordinator in the state missions department while working for the state government. Then in 1987, he went to Denver on a one-year assignment as director of the Colorado Baptist Foundation and Church Loans Corporation for the Colorado Baptist Convention, and served as Laitry Abroad Coordinator for Colorado.

In 1989, Nix went to Texas to serve as consultant for missions development to the Corpus Christi Baptist Association, also on a one-year assignment. After returning to Arkansas, he had a great desire to do missions work, but was unable to leave Arkansas except on short-term mission assignments due to family concerns. Then, in July of this year, he began serving as key church consultant, a national assignment that he can handle from his home in Arkansas. He defines key churches and enlists them to participate in the key church program, which is designed to plant new churches and start new community ministries. In addition, Nix is director of the missions development council at his home church, Central Church in North Little Rock.

"Mission Service Corps volunteers are important because they can fill key positions as well as anybody else — they are called to do it — this is not an avocation," Nix explained. "They help propagate the gospel all over the world."

Individuals interested in additional information about Mission Service Corps ministry opportunities may contact Pete Petry in the state convention missions department at 501-376-4791, ext. 5249.

Iowa Baptists establish state convention

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

WINTERSET, IOWA — Declaring that "Our Time Has Come," Iowa Baptists officially organized the Baptist Convention of Iowa during their annual meeting Oct. 20-21 at First Baptist Church of Winterset. The action was a highlight in Arkansas Baptists' current missions partnership with Iowa Baptists.

More than 300 messengers and guests gathered for the historic event at the same church where the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship was established in 1972. Southern Baptist work began in Iowa in 1954 with the establishment of Fairview Baptist Church near Anamosa. Since then, Iowa Baptist work has grown to include 12,000 members in 103 churches and missions.

"We believe this is not just our time, but it is God's time," emphasized fellowship president Ed Gregory, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids. "God is continuing to do His mighty work here in the state of Iowa."

In a display of unity which permeated the two-day celebration, Gregory was unanimously elected president of the new state convention. All other officers also were elected unanimously, including fellowship vice president John Shaull, pastor of the host church, who was elected convention first vice president.

Preaching from I Samuel 7:1-17 in his president's address, Gregory said, "We come to set in place a milestone, a marker on our spiritual journey as God's people in Iowa....In the fullness of His time, God has brought us here today and because He has brought us here, we are here to stay."

Noting that the children of Israel experienced both physical and spiritual victories under God's leadership, Gregory said, "We, too, must never forget that the real key to our past, our present and our future is not just our knowledge of who God is, but our relationship to Him."

Challenging Iowa Baptists to "accept the challenges and responsibilities of the future," he added, "We have just begun to reach Iowa for Christ."

In addition to Iowa Baptist leaders, program personnel included representatives from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Annuity Board and Baptist Sunday School Board.

Arkansas Baptist executive director Don Moore and Missouri Baptist executive director Don Wideman shared greetings from the two conventions which have been influential in helping establish new



Iowa Baptist president Ed Gregory, pastor of Immanuel Church, Cedar Rapids, urged fellow messengers to "accept the challenges and responsibilities of the future."

churches in Iowa. The churches in Iowa organized in 1965 as an association affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention and Missouri Baptists continue to work closely with Iowa churches. The Arkansas convention entered a missions partnership with Iowa Baptists in 1992. A proposal to extend the partnership through 2001 was approved by Iowa messengers last week and will be voted on this week by Arkansas messengers.

Action enhances vision

Affirming that Iowa Baptists' success "just lifts your vision of what believers can do when they work together," Moore added, "I'm real glad Arkansas Baptists can say they have had a part in it." He noted that Arkansas Baptist volunteers have conducted 43 missions projects in 42 Iowa Baptist churches during the past year.

Wideman described Iowa Baptists' move to convention status as "a growth step, a passage and a mark of maturity." He urged church members to continue to expand their ministry because "the people here deserve to hear the gospel and to know the Lord."

In addition to organizing as a state convention, Iowa Baptist messengers adopted a new constitution and mission statement, outlined convention priorities through the year 2001 and approved a 1996 budget goal of \$1,077,973.

The mission statement declares that "the Baptist Convention of Iowa shall exist under the Lordship of Jesus Christ to assist and encourage local congregations in the fulfillment of their biblical mission, and to promote fellowship and cooperation among them."

Priority goals for the next five year focus on prayer and worship, discipleship

and stewardship, evangelism and church starting, and ministry and fellowship. The priorities also include a commitment to "attempt to share the gospel with every person in Iowa and include him/her in a New Testament church."

Wyndell Jones, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Iowa, delivered the meeting's closing message. Preaching from Esther 4:14, Jones emphasized, "This is our turning point in the history of God's people called Southern Baptists in Iowa.... We must move together as an army of God."

Jones challenged Iowa Baptists to reach the unreached people in the state, "call out the called" and become a missionary-sending state.

"We need to think of ourselves as God's people on mission in Iowa," he said, urging participants to "pay the price in prayer that God's will may be our greatest priority."

"Our time has come to be a light in Iowa and to the world," he concluded.

Iowa Baptists also heard words of challenge and encouragement from:

■ Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president: "You've come here by faith and by faith you'll continue to fulfill the Great Commission.... Faith, put simply, is finding God's way."

■ Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president: "God is doing a mighty work all across America. If you're anxious to be of benefit to the gospel and reap great harvests, now is the time.... God is saying, 'I sent you not to raise budgets and build buildings, but to reap.'"

■ Paul Powell, Annuity Board president: "Until we weep over our cities like Jesus did, we will never reach our cities or our state or our nation for our Lord."

'High quality, good fellowship'

Arkansas Baptists discover variety of ways to minister in Europe

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas Baptists are ministering throughout the European Baptist Convention in a variety of ways, both through the missions partnership between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the EBC as well as professionally. And the ways they are finding to minister are as diverse as those to whom they minister.

Norman Roberts, on-site partnership coordinator, noted that Arkansans can serve despite "differences between churches in Arkansas and the EBC."

"They're much different," he emphasized. "Most of the members are young in their leadership responsibilities and they continually need a lot of help."

Many Arkansans have chosen to help EBC ministries by establishing church-to-church partnerships, conducting leadership training, completing construction projects and sending educational materials.

Nelson Wilhelm, director of missions for Concord Association, recently conducted Experiencing God conferences at International Baptist Fellowship in Essen and International Baptist Church in Cologne, Germany. He also used the trip as a fact-finding tour of the churches, which have entered into a missions partnership with Concord Association.

Meeting with Cologne pastor Calvin Hogue, Wilhelm said, "We wanted to initially come over here and kind of feel things out and lay some groundwork."

"More important than the Experiencing God conference," Hogue said, "is the people in my church finding out that someone in America is praying for them and concerned about them."

"A great number are refugees or displaced persons," he explained. "They have left their countries because they could not make a living or were finding things unbearable. They've come to Germany and found money to live on, but are not accepted."

Concord Association supplied the two churches with Experiencing God workbooks and tapes. "We asked the people at home to buy materials," Wilhelm said. "That way more people are automatically involved with each of the churches."

Wilhelm said his two-week trip focused on teaching. "I did not want to come over here on a fact-finding tour by itself. I don't think that is good use of God's money. I wanted to come and not only find out what we are doing, but also give of myself spiritually while I am here."



A team from Immanuel Church, Little Rock, transformed the sanctuary of partner church Bethel International Baptist in Frankfurt, Germany, during a recent construction trip.

Other Arkansans have participated in the partnership through construction and renovation projects in EBC churches.

Harry and Carolyn Christen, members of First Church in Heber Springs, worked with other members of First and Levy Church in North Little Rock at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

"We sheetrocked, and did some plastering on bathrooms for ceramic tile in educational space," Christen said. "We got here on Sept. 18 and worked through Sept. 26." Christen, a member of Church in a Day and Nailbenders in Arkansas, said he doesn't have any expertise in construction. "I just drive nails," he laughed.

Fourteen members of Immanuel Church in Little Rock participated in a renovation project in late August with their partner, Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany. The group built a wall in the sanctuary, a sound booth cover, tiled floors and painted.

Bethel's interim pastor, Jack Robinson, said that because of the Immanuel group's work, "The front has been transformed," he said. "The people are very grateful."

Deacon chairman Fred Wallstead said

the Immanuel group "were the 14 most wonderful people. When it was all over you knew that they were here."

The volunteers "were as good or better than the work," Wallstead added. "They brought over matching dollars so now we have carpeting. It was done with high quality and good fellowship."

Many partnerships have focused on education. Bob Marsh, interim pastor of International Baptist Church in Stuttgart, Germany, said their partnership with First Church, Stuttgart, Ark., yielded an August Vacation Bible School.

"These kids from Africa, India, Germany, Hungary, they couldn't believe you come every day, have fun, Kool-Aid and cookies and sing," he said.

"Has our partnership been a help to the church?" he asked. "Yes, it has and the potential is still to be unfolded. Just their coming over for a VBS was worth everything and if the partnership closed out, that was still worth everything."

Several Arkansans also have chosen to invest a part of their lives serving European Baptist churches. J.R. Duncan, pastor of International Baptist Church in Hamburg, Germany, is a 1973 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

"We have been in Germany a year and a half," he said. "With 276,000 internationals in our city, there are tremendous opportunities."

Bruce Smith and Brandon Barnard, recent graduates of OBU, are both serving one-year terms as EBC youth ministers. Smith at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Hoensbroek, Netherlands, and Barnard at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern.

"They haven't had anyone to work with them in over a year and so their commitment level is low," Smith said. "But we're going to start with discipleship and find out if these kids want to be committed."

Prior to his interest in serving overseas, Smith said, "I didn't know Arkansas had a partnership and these churches need a lot of help. We appreciate what First Baptist, Bryant, has done helping this church out and we are fairly well off with what we have, but there is still a lot of need."

Barnard said that Faith Church also has been without a youth minister, "so they were kind of down. The first two Wednesday nights I had three students. Then we had 23, then we had 29 and the fifth Wednesday was a See You at the Pole emphasis and we had 47 students. Six received Christ and 10 made other commitments."

"They are excited about their faith and learning about God's Word," Barnard said, "and I'm excited about teaching them."

EBC partnership calls for Arkansas interims

As members of Central Church in Hot Springs, Emmett and Dorothy Pipkins heard of the need for an interim pastor and wife at their partner church in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Their response to the question, "Who can serve?" was, "We can." The Pipkins recently returned home after he served six months as interim pastor of East Bavaria Southern Baptist Church.

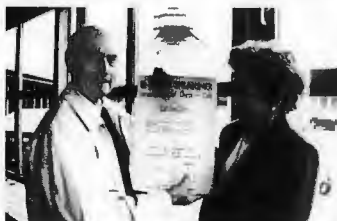
Stateside partnership coordinator Doyme Plummer noted that Pipkins was the first of five Arkansas Baptists who have served or are serving as interim pastors in Europe as part of the missions partnership between the European Baptist Convention and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"European Baptists have a frequent turnover in their pastoral force," Plummer said. "There may be a gap of two to six months in pastorates. Our interim pastors can serve a useful service."

He said those who "feel led of the Lord" to fill in as interims will encounter different situations in each church. "Some churches are able to call pastors directly and pay for housing, transportation and a stipend.

"Some can pay housing and local transportation but not living expenses or air transportation," he added. "Those people would need some support from their own finances or another source."

For those willing to stay at least two years, he said, "You can apply for the



John Ashcraft, interim pastor of International Baptist Church in Celle, Germany, shows "English-Speaking" posters he and his wife, Nan, are using to attract internationals to the church.

International Service Corps of the Foreign Mission Board. Then all expenses would be paid, including transportation and back. This requires an application process through the FMB-like foreign missionaries."

Pipkins said he brought back memories of members they grew to love. "I didn't believe you could develop relationships in six months' time," he said, "but you can."

John Ashcraft, a member of Calvary Church in Little Rock, is currently serving as an interim pastor in Europe. He and his wife, Nan, are serving a three-month term as interim pastor and wife at International Baptist Church in Celle, Germany.

The avenue to reaching new members of different nationalities, he said, "is the

English language. So we have two or three things on the front burner. Nan is teaching a Bible class in a British housing project and we're starting a conversational English class."

Ashcraft, a pastor in California for 35 years, said he had volunteered "a couple of years ago" for foreign missions service, "adding that the FMB "wanted us to commit for two to three years."

"Well, I'm in my 70s and didn't know if I had three years," he laughed. "I jestingly said if they'd guarantee me that I would live three years, I'd go."

Plummer offered him a shorter opportunity through the partnership. Ashcraft said it changed his perspective on interim positions. "Southern Baptist pastors need to get out of Arkansas. I think most fellas, when they go, are not the same person," Ashcraft concluded.

Bob Marsh, interim pastor of International Baptist Church in Stuttgart, agreed. Noting that interim pastors "are desperately needed," he added that the experience is a tremendous growth opportunity for the pastors.

Marsh, a former Georgia pastor, said, "You are probably going to work harder here than you ever worked back in the States. If there are pastors who are looking to put themselves into something that really matters, come as an interim. We take things for granted back in Georgia and Arkansas."

Meet Arkansans in EBC churches...



Kathleen Matthews
SA Leader
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Wiesbaden, Germany

"I grew up on the cradle roll of First Baptist, Paragould," Kathleen Matthews said proudly. Matthews, the wife of a U.S. Air Force serviceman, leads the EBC's Girls in Action efforts as a volunteer. She also has been a member of First Church in Arkadelphia, Second Church in Hot Springs and First Church in Fayetteville. She teaches GAs and leads a First Place group at Immanuel. "Finding a place to serve meant a lot when I came over here. It was just a series of events which go back to my Arkansas Baptist Sunday School teachers, my professors at Ouachita and every place I have been to church: There have been Arkansas Baptists that have influenced my life. My experiences have built one on another — your basic building on Bible knowledge, missions and learning how to outreach. The Arkansas Baptists that I have had in my life have brought me to this point. Ten years ago I would have never spoken in front of a group or taught a Sunday School leadership conference. Now I'm the EBC representative for GAs. That's amazing." When asked if she ever feels homesick, Matthews replied, "Homesick? I miss my family and my friends and I miss Wal-Mart."

Bruce Smith
Youth Minister
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Honesbrook, Netherlands

A Little Rock native who grew up in Archview Church; Bruce Smith joined the congregation of Emmanuel in September as youth minister, serving a one-year term. He said his interest in missions was sparked as a member of a MasterLife group at Ouachita Baptist University that met with Terry Carter, assistant professor of religion. Reflecting on his current ministry role on the Sunday he joined Emmanuel Church, Smith said: "One day he (Carter) asked if I were interested in doing something like this. I went home and prayed about it and talked it over with my parents. I applied but didn't expect to hear anything. Two days later, I got a fax from this church saying that they had been praying that this position would be filled. Until today, it hasn't felt like home. I've dealt with leaving a fiancée behind. I came because this is where God wanted me to be. Today's the first day I've really felt that this is home."



'Biker Sunday' helps bridge ministry gap

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The low roar of more than 120 motorcycles filled the Sunday morning air in North Little Rock as a group of bikers turned onto Pike Avenue and headed toward the church in the bend of the road.

Instead of passing by, though, each biker pulled into the church's front parking lot and revved his cycle's engine until the church members gathered on the front lawn could not hear themselves talk.

The engines were cut off. Church members stared as the bikers dismounted and pulled off helmets, leather jackets and sunglasses. Then the silence was broken.

"Hi 'all!" called a churchgoer.

Bikers and church members embraced and greeted each other warmly, exchanging greetings and renewing relationships made over the past several years. It was the sixth annual "Biker Sunday" held Oct. 15 at Levy Church in North Little Rock. The visiting bikers, many of them members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, attended worship services that morning, followed by a catered barbecue luncheon with church members and an evening service.

Although many of the bikers appeared in road-worn leather and denim, subtle differences in their appearance began to appear. Many wore patches with slogans such as "Prayer Warrior," "Jesus Number One," or CMA's large "Riding for the Son" motto on their backs.

Bikers and church members heard CMA national president Herbie Shreve deliver the morning message. The group's national headquarters is in Hatfield and was begun in 1975 by Shreve's father, a Southern Baptist pastor. There are more than 400 CMA chapters with 55,000 members in the U.S., plus members in 32 other countries. Arkansas has eight chapters with about 1,000 members.

Pastor Otto Brown said Biker Sunday began at the church when member Dewell Grisham, Arkansas' state coordinator for CMA, approached him about a ministry opportunity.

"Dewell and I got together and Dewell said, 'Can we do a Biker Sunday?' Brown recalled. "I prayed about it and felt like the Lord would have us to have a Biker Sunday."

Brown described the revival-type services as "a rally" which helps church



Herbie Shreve, an evangelist and national president of the 55,000-member Christian Motorcyclists Association, visits with Otto Brown, pastor of Levy Church in North Little Rock, during the church's annual "Biker Sunday" revival and rally Oct. 15.

"Witnessing to bikers differs in that they are usually already aware they are sinners....It's a pretty slow ministry because there's a lot of planting and sowing."

— Herbie Shreve
National president
Christian Motorcyclists Association

members "relate to the CMA organization."

In addition to opening the church's doors to the annual Biker Sunday, Brown said the congregation "allows the CMA to meet here on Monday night for Bible study." He said the Bible study "started out with 12 people in the group and now we're running 50 to 60."

Grisham, state coordinator since 1982, said the Bible studies use the Navigator series curriculum, an interdenominational

Bible study. "We don't dwell on denominations because we are a non-denominational group," he explained.

Church member J.N. West, a former Bible study leader, serves as a host for the study. "We started out meeting in homes," he recalled. "After the third home we were running out of room."

West said the church's ministry to bikers "opens the eyes of other individuals" to the Christian faith.

"One evening at Monday Bible study there was a lady walking down the sidewalk and she wanted to know, 'Why all the bikers?'" he noted. "They are here for Bible study," I said. Her remark was, 'I didn't know the two went together.'"

West emphasized the importance of churches reaching out to those who have adopted the biker lifestyle. "Most people who ride the bikes have been mistreated, mishandled or at least feel like they have been at one time or another by churches — not just this church or that church, but churches in general. People just have to quit looking down their long noses. They're searching just like you or I are."

Herman Snipes, a Little Rock "tattoo artist" and biker is an active member of the Monday Bible study. Noting that the study helps bikers "feel welcome," he added, "Anybody can come and socialize and we can get to know each other 'cause we're all Christians. No matter what you look like, we're still with Christ."

Biker "Brother Dave" Keegan, a Little Rock postal carrier, also affirmed the church's open arms. "The group here represents Jesus Christ and what He's done for them. The only way we can express it is to be in a place where people will have us."

During the morning worship service, biker Pete Gray shared his testimony about how God helped him overcome mental illness and

the drugs used to control his condition.

"All through my life, things people call normal — making the bed, going to the store or not being scared of people in general — that's something I couldn't do," he said. "I had problems all through my life. They had to put me on extreme doses of medication that I took every day for five years."

Then, he recalled, his sister asked him to go to church. "I accepted Christ that

FAITH IN ACTION

night. I asked the Lord what was wrong with me all my life and He told me, 'You were demon possessed.'

"That night I told my mother, an LPN, I don't want to take my medicine anymore," he noted. "She said, 'Are you sure?' I told her that if I hadn't experienced what I experienced tonight, I'd keep on taking it forever. That's rational thinking, something I never did before. I have not had one bit of medicine since 1982."

The church's CMA partnership has not been a one-sided experience. Last year the CMA Bible study raised funds and sent Brown on a CMA mission trip to Nicaragua and Honduras.

"It was a tremendous experience," Brown said. "They raised money to buy motorcycles in the countries. We gave the seven bikes to pastors who had no way of getting around other than riding a bicycle or riding a horse, a donkey or walking."

"Motorcycles are an excellent tool for the spreading of the gospel," Brown pointed out. "Each pastor in Honduras had 10 to 12 congregations they were responsible for. They were overwhelmed and excited that a group from the U.S. would raise the money and buy them bikes. This year CMA will be giving out 100 bikes around the world."

"Our purpose is to go where the bikers are," Grisham emphasized. "There's a lot of hurting people out there, especially bikers. We go to rallies to tell them about Jesus."

"We don't push ourselves on them," he added. Noting that members participate in rallies not only as Christians, but as bikers, he said, "That gives us an open door to get into their rallies. If we went as



Dewell Grisham (right), a member of Levy Church in North Little Rock and state coordinator for Christian Motorcyclists Association, serves barbecue to a fellow biker following morning worship services at the church's sixth annual "Biker Sunday."

Christians up front, we would not be accepted."

"Witnessing to bikers differs in that they are usually already aware they are sinners," Shreve said. "In the biker world, they know and boast of the fact that they sin. It's much easier knowing step one, 'Admit you are a sinner.'"

Shreve said "earning the right" to witness to bikers is a thrust of the organization. "You can't go up to a biker and say, 'Heaven or Hell, turn or burn.'"

"You have to come up to a biker and talk about chrome, talk about leather and all that stuff," he said. "Build a relationship, biker to biker, so that he has confidence

and trusts you to bear his soul to you. As a result, it's a pretty slow ministry because there's a lot of planting and sowing."

"It does work," Shreve declared. "We don't go out and say, 'We had 150 today come to the Lord.' We go out and say, 'Thank God they let me talk to them today.'"

"This is something I believe in — getting the Word to the bikers," remarked biker Joel Norwood of Malvern. "I don't just come to Biker Sunday. I hit the runs and the rallies, the swap meets. Wherever they're at, that's where we go to witness and minister to the bikers."

He said part of "earning the right" to witness to other bikers is that "we used to be what they are now. I came out of that life. God called me out, cleaned me up and put me right back into it."

"A lot of them boys are boys I used to do drugs and alcohol with and I still see them," he said. "The difference is instead of doing the lines of dope with them, now I can tell them what Jesus has done for me."

Norwood said he appreciates Levy Church's willingness to host Biker Sunday. "What's the difference in the way a person dresses or what? God is no respecter of persons. He doesn't look at the clothes. If a church looks at the clothes, they better take another look at themselves."

Challenging other churches to evaluate their openness to those in need, Norwood said, "I've heard, 'You can't come here because you've got long hair.' 'You can't come here 'cause you wear black leather.' That ain't what God said. God said salvation is for all men. Maybe we're a throwback to what the early church was, 'cause you will find us not inside the walls, but out on the highways and byways like God called us to do."



Levy Church's front parking lot fills up with two-wheelers from Harleys to Hondas as bikers arrive for their annual joint worship service with church members.

Church news

Melbourne First Church observed the 105th birthday of former pastor W.O. Taylor Oct. 22 by inviting him to preach for the morning worship service. Taylor preached from John 21:19 on "Follow Me." Mary Gillihan of Mountain View presented special music.

Kingsport First Church will honor pastor Nick Hartness Nov. 5 in recognition of 10 years of ministry. A noon fellowship meal will follow Sunday School and the morning worship service. A 2 p.m. musical program and reception will conclude activities.

Bayou Meto Church of Jacksonville will honor Louis and Marleigh Jeffers Nov. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. in recognition of his 32 years of ministry as music director. The Jeffers are charter members of the church where he also has served as a deacon and in other leadership positions.

Hot Springs Second Church has launched a Christian counseling ministry. Glen McGriff has joined the staff as a non-therapeutic clergy counselor. He previously was director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's crisis support ministry. McGriff is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and Luther Rice Seminary.

Black Oak Church in Mount Zion Association will hold an 11 a.m. memorial service Nov. 12 to honor U.L. Heywood and Margie and Arvie Douthit. Estate gifts of more than \$300,000 were left to the church by the three individuals.

Higher Ground Church recently was constituted in North Central Association and is temporarily meeting in associational camp facilities. Plans are in process to locate land for building in the Dennard area. Willis Hinkson is serving as pastor.

Calvary Church in Little Rock's music ministry will present "Come Ye Thankful People" as a Thanksgiving concert Nov. 20. The event will be at the Robinson Center Auditorium in downtown Little Rock beginning at 7 p.m. The concert, featuring Joni Eareckson Tada as guest artist, will include choral selections presented by the 70-voice worship choir, children's choir, soloists, ensembles and handbells. Jeff Bennett is minister of music.

Obituaries

Elvis Lavoy Edwards, age 55, of North Little Rock died Oct. 12 following a lengthy illness. Edwards, a member of Crosspoint



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Church in North Little Rock and a U.S. Army veteran, was the husband of Jackie Edwards who serves as children's consultant in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department. Other survivors are three sons, Jim, Bo and Brian, all of North Little Rock; his father, Raymond Edwards of Sherwood; one brother; one sister and three grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Crosspoint Church.

Velma Best, age 89, of Fayetteville died Oct. 12 at Parkway Health Center in Little Rock. She was a retired secretary for the Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas, a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and a member of Fayetteville First Church where her funeral services were held Oct. 16. Survivors are a daughter, Doty Studdard of Little Rock; a sister; and two grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Baptist Student Union in Fayetteville.

Nellie Boyce Chambers Reed of Benton died Oct. 24 at age 86. Her funeral services were held Oct. 26 at First Church of Benton where she was a member and had taught Sunday School throughout her adult life until almost 80. In addition, she was a member of the church choir and was involved in the work of Woman's Missionary Union. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, John Orville Reed; five children, Pauline Reed Bethel of Benton, Helen Reed Scott of Little Rock, Dan Reed of Little Rock, Glen Reed of Rogers and Carlena Lambert of Springdale; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Staff changes

Rodney R. Reeves has accepted the call to begin serving Jan. 1, 1996, as pastor of Central Church in Jonesboro where he has been serving as interim pastor since May 7. He currently is chairman and associate professor of religion in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Williams Baptist College. He previously has been a staff member of churches in Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as interim pastor of Arkansas churches. Reeves has served as president of the Faculty Council at the college and as

president of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, southwest region. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, and has completed additional studies with Oxford University. Reeves and his wife, Sheri Kaye, have two children, Andrew Scott and Emma Elizabeth.

Robert Greene began serving Oct. 15 as pastor of First Church of Yorktown. A native of Warren, he previously was pastor of Corinth Church near Wilmar.

David Smith is serving as pastor of Bluffton Church in Arkansas River Valley Association. He currently is working on a diploma in pastoral ministries through the Southern Baptist seminary extension program. Smith and his wife, Sally, have two married daughters, Diana Borengasser and Velvet Sperry, and one son, David II, a student at Louisiana Tech University.

Jimmie E. Hefner II has joined the staff of Bryant First Southern Church as associate pastor. He has served the past 15 years in churches in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. Hefner is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jamie, have five children, Jeanna, Justin, Jordan, Jacob and Jennifer.

Sam B. Wakefield has accepted the call to join the staff of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock as minister of music and education. He will come there from First Church of Ozark where he has served as minister of music and senior adults since 1991. He previously has served on the staff of First Church of Harrison, First Church of Rogers, First Church of Hope and First Church of Paris. Wakefield is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. He and his wife, Peggy, have two sons, Brent, a senior, and Nick, a freshman, both at Arkansas Tech University.

Steven Cole has joined the staff of First Church of Maumelle as minister of music. He previously was a staff member of Trinity Church in Benton. A native of Fort Smith, Cole is a senior music major at Ouachita Baptist University.

Mark Simmons is serving as music director for Ridgeway Church in Nashville. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Doug Hibbard is serving as youth director for First Church of Dierks. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Pat Ratton is serving as interim director of childhood education for Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. She recently

retired as preschool director for the Sunday School department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Jon E. Secrest is serving Lakeshore Heights Church in Hot Springs as interim minister of music. He is assistant professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University.

Tom Greer will begin serving Nov. 5 as interim pastor of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock. He is a professor of humanities at Ouachita Baptist University.

Harold Russell has been named director of daily ministration for First Church of Osceola. Russell, who is chairman of the deacons, will organize a program that will provide practical services to all church members.

John Marshall resigned Oct. 29 as pastor of East Side Church in Fort Smith to become pastor of Second Church in Springfield, Mo. Marshall previously has served churches in both Arkansas and Missouri. He and his wife, Ruth, have two children, John II, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Rebekah, a student at the University of Arkansas.

Bob White resigned October 15 as minister of music for First Church of Warren. White and his wife, Angie, and their son, Robert, are moving to Monroe, La., where he has accepted the call to serve as minister of music for Parkview Church.

Bobby Jeffers resigned Sept. 10 as minister of music at Pine Grove Church in Little Rock, following 17 years of music ministry. The church honored Jeffers and his wife, Cindy, with a fellowship Sept. 17. The Jeffers and their two children, Bobby Allen and Andrew, reside in Jacksonville.

Kevin Stewart has resigned as pastor of First Church of Horseshoe Bend to serve as pastor of Central Church in Owasso, Okla. Stewart is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Diane, have a daughter, Faith.

Tim Moore has resigned as minister of education and youth at Crosspoint Church in North Little Rock. He and his wife, Julie, and their three children, T.J., Micha and Emily, will continue to reside in North Little Rock.

Darwin Meighan has resigned from the staff of First Church in Hot Springs to become pastor of Hillcrest Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, Matt and Melissa.

Lee Dobson has resigned as music and youth director at First Church in Hartford, as well as music director for Buckner Association.

Miller urges Women on Mission to 'focus on reaching the world'

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

"We as Women on Mission have a mandate to bring the world to know Christ as Savior and Lord," declared Carolyn Miller, president of national Woman's Missionary Union.

Miller, the featured speaker for Arkansas Baptists' first Women on Mission Retreats Oct. 19-21 at Camp Paron, acknowledged that bringing the world to know Christ is a difficult task but WOM members are God's people who have been called to serve.

"He not only has asked us to take up the cross but to deny self as we do it," she emphasized. "It will be no more difficult for us to win the world than it was for Christ to be ridiculed, spat upon, carry the cross, be beaten and nailed to that cross for our sins.

"He was victorious and we will be too if we will deny self and become accountable witnesses as God has called us to do," she added. "To share the good news we must leave the confines of our comfortable church walls, take a risk and move out into the world, becoming 'change agents.'"

She noted that Christian Women's Job Corps and materials on hunger, AIDS, child abuse and cultural diversity are emphases being promoted by WMU for the next three years.

"Go home, become energetic, be flexible and make Women on Mission become alive and new to your congregation," she urged. "Place God at the center of your planning as you focus on reaching the world."

Missions Mosaic, the new magazine to be used in Women on Mission (formerly Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women), was introduced to participants through conferences led by Sheri Burnett of Little Rock and Carolyn Shell of Clinton.

Burnett led sessions related to the publication's World Issues section, noting that the information offers women a firsthand view of missions from around the world. "As the daughter of the late Marjorie and Glendon Grober,

world missions has always been very important to me," she said. "I have been privileged to see missions firsthand in Brazil, Russia, Guatemala and Europe.

Encouraging members to personalize world missions by emphasizing that "within the United States 90 different language churches are meeting each Sunday," Burnett added, "Encourage members to reach out locally to those with different cultural backgrounds through literacy classes and other ways."

She said additional world missions program resources readily available to

WOM members include the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and the Foreign Mission Board's International Prayer Strategy Office, as well as daily newspapers.

"Building Bridges" was the focus of the conference led by Shell who encouraged participants to become visionary and build bridges by ministering to internationals, children and non-Christians.

"You also can build bridges through praying and giving, as well as

corresponding with Southern Baptist missionaries and becoming involved in volunteer missions," she noted.

Shell said she is excited about involvement in Women on Mission. "We needed a change and we need to progress," she declared. "Women need to 'risk the journey' and become involved in building bridges to reach a lost and dying world."

Other retreat features included praise and worship led by Cindy Gaskins of Fort Worth, Texas, and Susan Lafferty, fulfilling missionary to Pakistan, and missions conferences led by Lafferty and Dottie Williamson, an SBC home missionary to Ocean Springs, Miss.

Monica Keathley, state WOM director, said the retreats were designed to refresh the spirits and renew the vision of those leading missions education organizations in Arkansas churches. "I am encouraged by what I am seeing and hearing concerning Women on Mission," she said. "I believe this new program will renew the missions vision of women across Arkansas."



FMB missionary dies in bout with malaria

GAGNOA, IVORY COAST (BP)—A 32-year-old Southern Baptist foreign missionary died Oct. 14 at her home in Gagnoa, Ivory Coast, during a bout with malaria.

The missionary, Holly Larm, of Highland, Mich., was appointed to work in the West African nation in 1992 with her husband, Allen. The couple had just completed local language learning requirements. She was assigned to a church and home ministry.

"We're grieved over Holly's tragic death," said FMB president Jerry Rankin. "This is a reminder to Southern Baptists that we must not be negligent in praying for our missionaries as they serve in places of danger and risk where health and safety can't be taken for granted."

Larm was born July 7, 1963, in Livonia, Mich. Besides her husband, she is survived by two children, Amber, 9, and Luke, 7, and her parents, William Munce of Highland, Mich., and Marsha Munce of Novi, Mich.

Bread for World declines cuts in hunger aid

WASHINGTON (BP)—At a time when violent civil unrest is producing hunger for 100 million people worldwide, Congress is cutting foreign assistance programs which could help, Bread for the World charged in its annual hunger report.

Bread for the World officials said proposals passed by both the House of Representatives and Senate would reduce development funding and other aid which helps reduce poverty. The House approved a funding cut of 35 percent in the overall foreign aid appropriations bill, while the Senate's cut was 24 percent. A conference committee soon will determine the final figure.

In a statement released at the conference, Bread for the World president David Beckmann said, "In a world of Rwandas and Liberias, slashing and burning the best of foreign aid is clearly not the answer. By spending a fraction of what it cost to send troops into Somalia and Rwanda, we could help prevent hunger and conflict on the entire continent of Africa. A little forethought now can prevent mass grave-digging later."

In 1994, there were reports of 164 armed conflicts in the world. Since World War II, violent civil conflict has become the prime cause of starvation, Bread for the World reported. In such strife, food is used as a weapon, crops are destroyed and farmers are killed or drafted into battle, the report said.

Stanford named HMB volunteer of year

ALBUQUERQUE, NM (BP)—Orela Stanford, director of the ladies daytime ministries for the Neighborhood Center in Albuquerque, N.M., has been named this year's volunteer of the year by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps department.

Stanford, 62, teaches sewing classes to immigrants, providing a service and teaching as well as Christian fellowship.

"I think they feel safe there," she said, acknowledging that some students are illegal immigrants. "Most of them are scared to death of (the department of) immigration, but they'll come to sewing class."

MSC volunteers serve at least four months in home missions work. Those who work at least two years are classified as home missionaries.

Center director Ken Goode praises Stanford's energy and tenacity. "She knocks over stones that other people wouldn't even think of kicking over," he said. "She knows everybody and is not bashful about asking for what she needs."

Stanford doesn't see herself as extraordinary, Goode added. "She feels like it's amazing to her that God uses her the way He does."

Baylor kicks off \$1 million missions goal

WACO, TX (ABP)—Baylor University recently kicked off a \$1 million endowment campaign to fund short-term overseas missions projects for faculty and students.

Planners of the Global Missions Ventures campaign hope to sponsor at least two faculty members each quarter and 100 students each summer in direct missions projects in Third World nations, said Milton Cunningham, director of denomination ministries at the Baptist university in Waco, Texas.

The campaign's goal is to raise \$1 million over the next two years, Cunningham said. In addition to sending faculty and students overseas, interest from the fund could also provide scholarships allowing church leaders from developing nations to attend classes either in Baylor's undergraduate degree programs or its George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

The endowment campaign was established at the recommendation of a global task force established 18 months ago to look at ways to involve Baylor more directly in world missions.

At the banquet kicking off the campaign, Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said missions is an important key to spiritual vitality. "If our churches have become dead, it is because they are not involved in missions," Lotz said. "If fire is not burning in our individual lives, it is because we are not involved in the mission of Jesus Christ."



An estimated 1.2 million Rwandans fled ethnic slaughter in their homeland during the past year. Southern Baptist workers cared for 450 of the 20,000 Rwandan children who were orphaned or separated from their families.

Friendship International celebrates 20 years

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Friendship International, a ministry to internationals from more than 85 countries, celebrated its 20th anniversary Oct. 20 during a banquet at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. The central Arkansas organization was founded by a women's group from First Church of Little Rock.

The ministry effort began when Elaine Moore realized the loneliness and the need to be accepted by four internationals from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, France and Germany who were attending her church.

"At times I knew they were discriminated against and that there must be more in this community with the same circumstances who needed to be ministered to," Moore reflected. "I knew my life had been enriched beyond words because of my relationship with the internationals in my church and others in the city and therefore felt an organization for them was a must."

Moore, the first director of Friendship International, traveled from her current home in Alabama to participate in the celebration. She emphasized that involvement in Friendship International enables members and teachers to not only share cultural differences, but allows their families to broaden their outlook on life.

"Personal relationships and learning experiences that have come from such diverse backgrounds could never have come in any other way," she noted. "I am so grateful I could return and be a part of this anniversary celebration and to be with Irene Murphy who assisted me in launching this program."

Sharing culture, heritage

Murphy, who remembers her childhood in Hamburg, Germany, as a time of total destruction, hunger and poverty, said she and her twin sister were on the verge of starvation before they were sent by the Red Cross to Switzerland for six months to be nursed back to health. Eventually immigrating to the United States, she reflected on the excitement she felt upon first seeing the Statue of Liberty as her plane was landing in New York City. "Still feeling the tears and sadness of leaving my parents, brothers and sisters behind in Germany, I nevertheless was incredibly excited about my new adventure of coming to this country," she recalled.

Murphy noted that throughout the nation's history, immigrants have learned from each other by sharing the best of their culture and heritage. "The first settlers who came to these shores gave their best



Eloise Hinds (at podium) leads participants in singing "Building a Bridge of Love," a theme song she wrote for Friendship International.

fibers to weave together a strong fabric of different shades of people and they called it America," she declared.

"To that America I wanted to belong and contribute," she emphasized. "But I remained an outsider very much alone, speaking limited English, moving a lot and becoming very shy even though I became an American citizen within the first seven years I was here."

Murphy, who married Jim Murphy, now a retired military colonel and retired law professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School, said that something wonderful happened to her after she moved to Little Rock. "Here I found a church where they accepted me just as I was. Having been raised at home in a church by tradition, I accepted by conviction Jesus as my Lord and Savior in First Church of Little Rock."

Soon after joining the women's prayer group, Murphy joined Moore in an effort to recruit other internationals for a program designed to meet their needs through English as a second language classes as well as instruction on cultural exchanges, relationships, citizenship, drivers education, cooking, arts and crafts, general education and piano lessons.

Murphy, who has completed her college education since the launching of Friendship International, as well as becoming a mother and grandmother, is the 1995-96 co-director of Friendship with Ann Rice, a member of First Church, who is serving as director.

"The Great Commission has been obeyed right here," Murphy stated. "The women in central Arkansas have held high their light of Christ to help foreigners find

their way into a new culture and society.

"They have loved us regardless of nationality, background, culture and other religious beliefs," she said. "Internationals who have returned to their home countries have taken with them the message that they met loving, Christian people who cared."

Bible studies taught by Lil Robinson of Immanuel Church in Little Rock have been instrumental in leading numerous internationals to salvation. "This is one thing I do for the Lord that when I go home I know I am doing something that is vitally important to His kingdom."

She told of one international from Okinawa who had become a Christian through the Bible study class and then returned to her native country, leading her entire family to faith in Christ. "This was one missionary that didn't cost Southern Baptists anything to send," she affirmed.

Deena Chavko of India, immediate past co-director of Friendship International and a nurse at University Hospital in Little Rock, praised those involved in the outreach program for "making me feel at home for 17 years."

Members dressed in native costumes and carrying the flags of their native homelands added a dramatic touch to the anniversary celebration, as did their music of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "Building a Bridge of Love," written by Eloise Hines. Hines, Martha Rosenbaum and Tom Bolton, all of First Church in Little Rock, led musical selections during the evening. Robinson and David Napier, associate pastor of the host church, welcomed the 400-plus participants.

Transition is major concern as Brotherhood trustees meet

MEMPHIS, TN—Convention restructuring and transition remained a primary topic of concern among trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission as they met Oct. 20-21 at the Commission's offices in Memphis. During the meeting, trustees adopted a motion recommending a pay incentive for current employees and a resolution of support for employees.

The Brotherhood Commission is slated to merge with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Radio and Television Mission into the North American Mission Board. The merger was proposed by the Southern Baptist Convention's program and structure study committee in their "Covenant for a New Century" adopted in June by SBC messengers. The merger will be official pending a second vote on bylaw changes during the SBC next June in New Orleans.

Brotherhood Commission president James Williams told trustees during his report, "It has been a very difficult six months for us, with the roller coaster-type moments that come along the way."

The most visible effect of the transition

period, he emphasized, is staff morale. He said past and "anticipated" resignations continue to plague the work of the 88-year-old agency. "The transition has caused a number of our staff people to think about the future. Between now and the first of January, we could have as many as eight resignations."

Trustee chairman Donley Brown of Jefferson City, Mo., agreed that "probably the greatest impact that I see right now is the impact it's having on our staff."

Addressing the problem of employee resignations, trustees unanimously adopted a motion recommending a financial incentive for employees. The motion, presented by the Commission's nine-member transition team, asked trustees to approve "the provision of a salary bonus (in a range of up to 25 percent of the employee's annual salary) for Brotherhood Commission employees who remain in the employ of the Commission until July 1, 1997."

Trustees also passed a resolution affirming employees. It pledged "to provide the employees spiritual, emotional and financial support to the fullest extent

of the empowerment of the trustees."

In other business, trustees approved a revised development plan that will insure the "transportability" of funds raised to support Brotherhood ministries after they become part of the proposed North American Mission Board.

The action of the program and structure study committee also prompted one resignation among trustee ranks before fellow trustees encouraged him to reconsider.

Speaking prior to the president's dialogue on Saturday, the trustee said he was submitting his resignation because "I feel maybe we've been led along on a chain and they're asking us to fulfill their agenda." He said he was "disturbed" that "they did not consult, (nor) ask for insight into the formulation of plans."

"I cannot make decisions to dismantle this agency with a gentle and quiet spirit," he said, voicing concern that "what we say doesn't make any difference."

Speaking during the president's dialogue, Williams called for unity in purpose among trustees. "It's going to take all of us to get this done," he declared. "The Great Commission of our Lord is bigger than how we're orchestrated or structured. And that's going to be the commitment of the Brotherhood Commission."

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Personalizing missions is focus of FMB conference

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Personalizing missions for people in the pew plays a key role in reaching the world for Jesus Christ.

That message was sounded to participants in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's third annual Creative Access Network conference Oct. 10-12 in Richmond, Va. About 60 Southern Baptist pastors, church staffers, laypeople and directors of missions attended.

Participants heard how their churches could "adopt" an unreached people group

through the Foreign Mission Board. So far, about 20 Southern Baptist churches have done that. Harp's Crossing Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., is one of them.

Dennis Watson, the church's pastor, challenged other participants to do the same. His congregation of 800 has made a 25- to 50-year commitment to the Asian people group they've adopted. That involves praying, giving and going.

"It's not the task of the FMB to do missions for Southern Baptists, because the

Great Commission was given to every believer and every church," FMB president Jerry Rankin told participants. Instead, he added, the FMB should "mobilize the resources of Southern Baptists to help them...reach the world for Jesus Christ."

That's what the Creative Access Network is all about, Rankin said. The network exists to help Southern Baptist churches find ways to make missions more personal for church members.

"We're exploring some new ground, breaking open some old paradigms," Rankin said. "We can't expect Southern Baptists to support an agency out of denominational loyalty. We need to give them the opportunity for total and personal involvement in missions."

Conference leaders shared ways local churches can do that through the FMB. "Prayer is the biggest thing you can do for missionaries," said Joe Bruce, area director for Middle America and Canada. "Your missionaries are in spiritual warfare. They are your infantry...And no army in the world would send its infantry into battle without supporting them with...heavy artillery. That's what missions praying is."





Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president for overseas operations, presented an evangelism plan for the 21st century, "On Mission with God to the Last Frontier." He said 2,466 people groups worldwide have never had a chance to hear the Christian gospel. Adopted by board trustees in August, the plan calls for taking the gospel to unreached people without neglecting already responsive "harvest fields."

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Baptist Women's worldwide Day of Prayer set for Nov. 6

BIRMINGHAM, AL (WMU) — Baptist women around the world will gather Nov. 6 to observe the 47th Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

The annual event, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, calls on Baptist women to pray for their Baptist sisters around the world, many of whom live under intense persecution because of their faith and in severe economic conditions.

The prayer emphasis also challenges the women to give sacrificially to aid ministry efforts among the world's women. In 1994, the offering totalled \$430,000, half of which was forwarded to the BWA Women's Department for worldwide projects. The other half went to support ministries sponsored by the six continental unions.

This year's day of prayer will involve an estimated 25 million Baptist women from 100 countries and 156 Baptist women's unions and conventions affiliated with the BWA Women's Department. The 1995

theme is "Celebrate the Hope in Christ" and will focus on the needs of women in Africa.

"The Baptist Women's Day of Prayer provides a wonderful opportunity for Baptist women to remember their sisters around the world," said Mercy Jeyaraja Rao from Vishakapatnam, India, president of the BWA Women's Department.

"It is a beautiful experience to know that from the beginning of the day to the

late hours of the night, Baptist women are gathered around the world praying for each other," she shared.

The program for the 1995 day of prayer is included in the current issue of *Dimension*, WMU's magazine for church and associational leadership.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the BWA Women's Department at 6733 Curran St., McLean VA 22101-6005; phone 703-790-8980.



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Two Arkansas natives named home, foreign missionaries

Two Arkansas natives are among several individuals recently appointed to missions service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board.

The FMB recently appointed 77 new missionaries, bringing their worldwide missionary force to 4,131 in 130 countries. The HMB approved 16 new missionaries, bringing the total number of home missionaries to almost 5,000.

Jean Jones has been named as a

representative of Cooperative Services International, the FMB's international aid organization. She will live in east Asia, where she will be involved in coordinating CSI-related projects in developing nations.

A former Southern Baptist worker in Hong Kong, Jones is a native of Lawrence County. The former Wanda Jean Allison, she is the widow of Homer E. Jones. Her brother, Clarence Allison, and his wife, Alta, are retired Southern Baptist workers

who served in east Africa more than 30 years.

Jones grew up in Walnut Ridge and considers First Church there her home church. She is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and also attended Arkansas State University. Jones, who has four grown children, will have a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Paragould native Paula Montalbano and her husband, David, have been appointed by the HMB as home missionary associates to Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Montalbano, the former Paula Barlow, will serve in family and church ministry. She has been a bookkeeper in Valdosta, Ga., where her husband has served as pastor for five years.

He will be an associational missionary serving the Southern Baptist New England Baptist Association. The Montalbanos have two children, Paulette McCarter, 25, and Jonathan, 17.

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Ouachita Baptist University

OBU makes honor roll - Ouchita has been listed on the seventh annual John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges and Universities. The Pennsylvania-based foundation annually recognizes more than 100 institutions of higher learning, both public and private, for the honor. It is the sixth consecutive year that the Templeton Foundation has selected Ouachita for the honor.

Elrod re-elected CSIEC officer - OBU president Ben Elrod was recently elected to a second term as vice chairman of the board of directors of the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC). The vice chairman is, by tradition, chairman-elect and at the end of a second term succeeds to the chairmanship.

Homecoming events planned - Homecoming activities at Ouachita, scheduled for Nov. 3-4, will feature a football game, class reunions, a campus carnival, a prospective student emphasis, alumni buffet, campus tours, social club reunions and a musical variety show.

This year's Tiger homecoming celebration includes the 17th annual Tiger Tunes, a musical variety program sponsored by the Ouachita Student Foundation. The production will be staged Nov. 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Performing Arts Center. The pre-game homecoming ceremonies will begin at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 4, followed by a football game between the Ouachita Tigers and the Harding University Bison at 2 p.m.

Williams Baptist College

Eagles to join Tennessee league - The Eagles of Williams Baptist College have been granted membership in the Tennessee Collegiate Athletic Conference. The TCAC voted unanimously to add Williams and Lee College of Cleveland, Tenn., to its membership. The Eagles will join the TCAC as competing members for the 1996-97 season.

"We're delighted to be accepted by a conference as prestigious as the TCAC," said WBC athletic director Carol Halford. "The institutions in the conference are strong and credible, both in athletics and academics."

Music prof to write for band book - Gay Spears, associate professor of music at Williams, has been commissioned by the editors of Neil A. Kjos Music Co. to write a setting of an authentic Latin folk melody for its *Standard of Excellence* band method. This method, a best-selling method book, seeks to provide band directors with concert band music that will meet the objectives of the national standards in music education and that will provide multicultural as well as musical teaching opportunities.

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Crow named Little Rock area director for Children's Homes

Kelly Crow has been named as the Little Rock area director for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries effective Nov. 1. Crow succeeds Charles Flynn, who became the ABCBFM's program director earlier in the year.

Crow, a former military and civilian policeman, will conduct intakes for children being placed in ABCBFM care and manage the work of the Little Rock area office, which includes Emergency Receiving Homes in Little Rock, Sherwood and Judsonia.

"Those three shelters typically average about 200 children and battered women each year," Flynn explained.

Crow earned the bachelor of art in religion degree from Mobile (Ala.) College (now the University of Mobile), the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the master of science in social work degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. He will earn the master of art in church social services from Southwestern in December.

In addition to his military and police experience, he has served at the Texas Baptist Home for Children in Waxahachie, Huguley Hospice in Fort Worth and as a foster parent.

Flynn noted Crow's experience as a factor in his selection to head the Little Rock office. "One thing we were drawn to was his specialization in administration."

"While that is important to us," he added, "Kelly is compassionate. His experience as a foster parent gives him insight into the needs of hurting children and his career as a police officer will give him intuition into human nature and working with people."

"As a cop, you see the worst of everything," Crow agreed. "Knowing it exists will help. I don't know why I was a cop before I was called to the ministry. But He gives us the baggage for a reason."

He also cited work experience at the Texas Baptist Children's Home and as a foster parent as "two eye-openers that prepared me for this ministry."

Crow said he first became interested in children's work when he was a policeman in Alabama. "When I was a cop, I used to ride by the Alabama Children's Home and I'd say, 'I wish I could work there.'"

"The children's ministry is only half of the story, though," he noted. "There is the family ministry aspect also. There is a breakdown in the family. While there has been a politicization of the subject and people are sick of hearing it, it still needs to be answered. I will be working with single moms and dads, too."

Crow and his wife, Patricia, have four children, including two daughters still at home. He said his family is "looking forward to the ministry aspect of the Little Rock office as much as I am."

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Midwestern trustees elect 4 VPs, 2 faculty

KANSAS CITY, MO (BP)—Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected four vice presidents and two new faculty members during their semiannual meeting Oct. 16-17.

The 35-member board elected Lamar Cooper vice president for academic affairs, Martin King as vice president for institutional advancement, Gary Ledbetter as vice president for student development and Michael Whitehead as vice president for business affairs. Cooper also was elected dean of the faculty and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

A new position, assistant professor of spiritual formation "to enhance the spiritual formation of students, faculty and all seminary families," was created at the request of seminary president Mark Coppenger. Trustees elected Donald Whitney, pastor of Glenfield Baptist Church in Glen Ellyn, Ill. Whitney is a former Arkansas Baptist pastor.

Ronald Rogers, a visiting professor of missions on leave from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was elected associate professor of missions. Rogers, also a former Arkansas pastor, has been a missionary to Brazil since 1987. He is a

graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

Coppenger noted that all four new vice presidents are considered conservative leaders in Southern Baptist life.

Cooper, 53, has been director of denominational relations for the SBC Christian Life Commission since 1989, following nine years as dean of graduate studies for Criswell College, Dallas.

King, 44, is the public relations and development officer for the SBC Home Mission Board.

Ledbetter, 40, is the editor of the *Indiana Baptist*, and the convention's director of student work. A native of Arkansas, he also is chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission and a member of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

Whitehead, 45, is the general counsel and director of Christian citizenship and religious liberty concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Trustees approved a new faculty questionnaire which will be given to all prospective faculty. It includes questions about the person's support of the Baptist Faith and Message, the seminary's basic

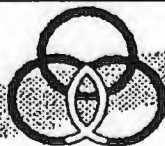
theological document, as well as whether the candidate can support the SBC's position in opposition to abortion, exclusion of churches actively supporting homosexual behavior and opposition to women's ordination and women as pastors.

Trustees also voted to ask the SBC Woman's Missionary Union to "back away" from its decision in July to publish missions materials for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The resolution, brought by chairman Lewis Adkison, requests the WMU to "once again... identify with the heart of Southern Baptist missionary work." It expressed "deep regret" and "disappointment" in the decision by the "WMU leadership to give increasingly open support to those who criticize and oppose our SBC work."

They also met in an executive session to discuss a severance package that administrators gave to an employee fired this summer for writing an article for *The Door*, a satirical Christian magazine.

David Thompson was fired as an adjunct professor after writing an article titled, "You Might Be a Fundamentalist If..." a takeoff on comedian Jeff Foxworthy's "You Might Be a Redneck, If..." routine.



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Seminary trustees urge Texas Baptists: Don't cut CP share

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees have approved a resolution affirming Texas Baptists' plans to plant 1,400 new churches but expressing regret over a proposed reduction in national Cooperative Program funding in order to fulfill the state goal.

Instead, trustees proposed that Texas churches be challenged to designate an additional one-half percent of their budget for new church starts.

The action was taken as the Baptist General Convention of Texas prepares for a Nov. 13-14 meeting in San Antonio that will include a vote on a BGCT executive board proposal to cut \$1.5 million in giving to SBC national and international ministries in order to fund 1,400 new Texas Baptist churches in the next five years.

According to seminary officials, if such a cut becomes effective in January 1996, Southwestern would receive \$51,245 less in the current fiscal year and \$87,900 less in fiscal year 1996-97.

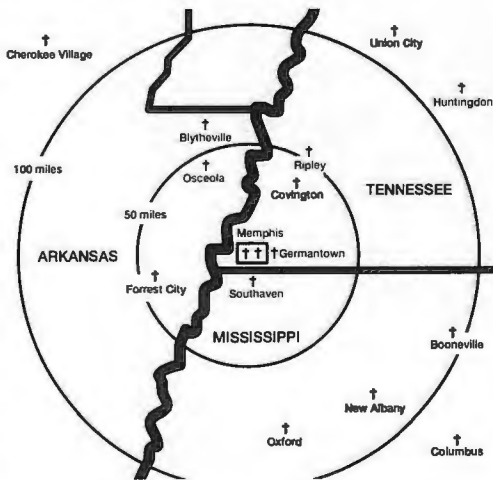
The resolution urged the BGCT to "understand the impact such action would have on missionaries and the financial hardship that will occur to students at Southwestern and other SBC seminaries." Calling for Texas churches to give an additional one-half percent of their budget through the BGCT designated for church planting, the resolution adds, "This would enable both the planting of churches in Texas and the continued essential funding of all Southern Baptist causes by maintaining the present SBC Convention Cooperative Program funding formula."

Seminary president Ken Hemphill noted he wants to affirm Texas Baptists and the concept of Cooperative Program funding. "If Texas Baptists are challenged to give sacrificially to plant churches, they will respond. Our interest is not only Southwestern but the broader work of Southern Baptists around the world."

"We can't tell Texas what to do," said trustee Larry Brown, "but any time a situation has a negative impact on Southwestern, we have to respond, to speak on behalf of the institution we're trustees of."

In other action, Jack Terry, dean of Southwestern's school of religious education, was elected vice president for institutional advancement. He replaces Jay Chance, who resigned to become vice president of The Lockman Foundation.

Trustees also approved the Lewis and Betty Drummond Chair of Spiritual Awakening and Formation. Evangelist Billy Graham has accepted the position of honorary chairman of the endowment fund drive for the \$1 million chair.



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NATION

Justices examine gay-rights measure

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments Oct. 10 in a dispute over a Colorado law that says state and local governments may not act to protect homosexuals from discrimination.

A 1992 amendment to the Colorado constitution bars laws and policies protecting the civil rights of homosexuals. Colorado voters approved the amendment in a referendum, by a vote of 53 percent to 47 percent. It has not been implemented, however, because of a court challenge from state residents and the cities of Denver, Aspen and Boulder. Amendment 2 would nullify existing anti-discrimination ordinances in those cities.

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled the amendment unconstitutional, saying it infringes on the right of gays to participate equally in the political process. Colorado officials are asking the Supreme Court to overturn the decision. Opponents say it would deny gays equal protection under the law. Supporters say forcing employers or landlords to hire or rent to gays could violate the rights of citizens who oppose homosexuality on religious grounds.

The Colorado Supreme Court rejected the state's religious claim in 1993. The

state court acknowledged that Colorado has an interest in protecting the religious freedom of landlords and employers who hold religious objections to homosexuality but ruled the amendment was not tailored to serve that interest. Permitting religious exemptions to anti-discrimination laws would be an equally effective but less-restrictive solution, the court suggested.

In other actions, the Supreme Court refused to hear arguments that the First Amendment bars a Florida county's ordinance against Christmas Day alcohol sales and a California city's restrictions on residential picketing.

In the Florida case, the high court let stand a state appeals court ruling that Clay County's 14-year-old ordinance outlawing alcohol sales on Christmas did not violate the First Amendment's requirement of church-state separation. Left standing in the California dispute was a state appeals court finding that San Jose's ban on demonstrations within 300 feet of a targeted residence did not violate picketers' free-speech rights. The ordinance, challenged by abortion foes arrested for parading close to a physician's home, applies to all demonstrations, not just abortion protests.

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Illegal copyright violations common in many churches

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Copyright violations are both unethical and common in Southern Baptist churches, according to leaders who work in music and legal concerns for Baptist organizations.

"In my experience with many Alabama Baptist churches, a lot of music libraries contain copies of photocopied music," said Keith Hibbs, associate director of the Alabama Baptist State Convention church music department.

Hibbs said some church members believe they are safe in copying music, as long as it is not for the purpose of selling it. "It does not matter whether the intended use is resale," Hibbs said. "It is still illegal."

Jim Cordell, church music director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said he also sees "a lot of violations" and—in some cases—entire music libraries have been created from photocopied music.

"Most of these violations are not intentional," Cordell added. "Some churches just don't know."

However, Cordell said he suspects some music leaders in small churches don't want to be told what they're doing is wrong.

"They want to consider themselves the exception to the rule....They have tight

budgets, and they have the idea that if someone writes for God or for the church, it should be free."

Consequently, these people tend to ignore the fact that Christian songwriting is a livelihood for many musicians, Cordell said, adding that "while the word 'stealing' seems a little strong, that's really what it is."

Larry Cannon, a legal consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, agreed. "The only difference between photocopied music and shoplifting music out of a bookstore is that you're not getting the white piece of paper the music is printed on in the store...."

"Some people who wouldn't think about walking into a bookstore and stealing a sheet of music are doing basically the same thing anyway," noted Cannon, who is an attorney.

How can a church know whether it is violating copyright law? A rule of thumb Cordell suggested is to ask, "Am I copying to avoid buying the music?"

Some music publishers now work together to offer licenses for churches to reproduce music. While these do not permit choir directors to purchase one

anthem and make 20 photocopies, they do permit restricted reprinting.

One such organization is Christian Copyright Licensing International of Portland, Ore. A small annual fee to CCLI registers a church and allows the church to reprint music for congregational singing.

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Accepting resumes — for full-time pastor. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Gillett, AR 72055.

Receiving resumes — for music and education minister. Natural Steps Baptist Church, Roland, AR. Mail resumes to Bill Blakenship, committee chairman, 24809 Saddlerench Lane, Roland, AR 72135.

Accepting resumes — for full-time pastor. Send to: East Side Baptist Church, 1605 Wisconsin St., Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

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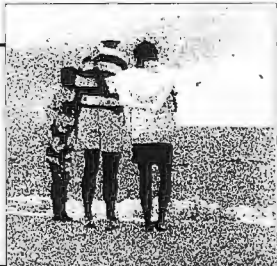
Building relationships and bringing men together in churches will be among training topics at the Promise Keepers Men's Ministry Leadership Seminar Nov. 10-11 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Seminar planner Ken Palmquist, a member of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, said the seminar will "utilize leading experts in the area of men's ministry" providing "models and resources that will lead you in developing an action plan that you can implement to impact the men you care about." He said the seminar will deal with topics such as "How a Man's Past

Affects Him in the Present" and "Developing an Effective Men's Ministry."

The seminar will feature keynote speakers Charles Cooper, pastor of Hi-Praz Fellowship in Chicago and Willie Peterson, a research consultant with Urban Evangelical Mission in Dallas.

The seminar cost is \$25 per person for pre-registered participants and \$35 at the door. Sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact Palmquist at 1-800-349-0588 or locally at 835-4031 in Little Rock.



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MISSIONARY NOTES

Jimmy and Carlene Cobb, Baptist representatives to Canada, are in the States (address: 1945 SW Atwood, Topeka, KS 66604). He is a native of McGehee and she is the former Carlene Melton of Oklahoma. They were appointed by the FMB in 1991.

Stephen and Kathy Dewbre, missionaries to Southern Africa, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 110118, Hadison Park, Kimberley 8300, South Africa). He considers North Little Rock his hometown. She is the former Kathy Thy of Iowa. They were appointed in 1989.

Mark and Laura Shook, Baptist representatives to Mexico, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in Russellville. The former Laura Dunham, she considers Houston her hometown. They were appointed in 1994.

Roy and Judith Hawkins, missionaries to Venezuela, are in the States (address: 323 E. College, Broken Arrow, OK 74012). He was born in Parks, and lived in several towns in Arkansas. She is the former Judy Palmer of Oklahoma. They were appointed in 1973.

Carlos and Shannon Ichter, Baptist representatives to Germany, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Brunhilden Strasse 23, 85579 Neubiberg, Germany). Son of retired

Southern Baptist missionaries, he was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and considers El Dorado his hometown. The former Shannon Bowen, she also considers El Dorado her hometown. They were appointed in 1995.

Carl and Twila Lee, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: 1402 Linden, Denton, TX 76201). He is a native of Texas. The former Twila Turner, she was born in Texarkana. They were appointed in 1967.

MK calendar

Missionary kids with birthdays in November attending college in Arkansas:

■ Nov. 3 - Neil Langston, OBU Box 4260, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Botswana.

■ Nov. 12 - Sarah Beal, OBU Box 4376, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; junior from Venezuela.

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Loss of sight doesn't impair student's ministry vision

By Mary Ellen Price

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Arkansas native Julie Lawrence is reminded daily of what it's like to walk by faith and not by sight.

Often referring to the contemporary Christian song, "Trust His Heart," the 24-year-old seminary student uses her blindness as a testimony that when individuals don't understand God's plan, they can trust His heart.

Lawrence, a North Little Rock native, is studying for a degree in Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Her call to ministry began in 1989 when she attended a Foreign Mission Board appointment service. She remembers thinking, "These are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. It was like God saying, 'Julie, I can use you, too.'"

At that time, Lawrence could see even

though eyesight problems were a part of her life. As a teen, she was already laying a foundation for ministry as she worked with mentally retarded individuals at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

In November 1989, however, her vision problems became insurmountable and she lost her sight, at age 19.

Despite the adjustments her blindness requires, Lawrence remains steadfast and even more convinced God has a role in ministry for her. "My blindness is part of my testimony and my calling into the ministry," she said.

Serving as a summer missionary in 1992 in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada, formed her call, she said. "The congregation I was serving in Canada had never been around a special needs person. I realized then that it's not neglect, people just don't know how to minister to those with special needs. I knew this is where God could use

me. He was calling me to educate pastors, ministers of education, leaders and laypersons."

After graduating from Ouachita Baptist University in 1994, Lawrence enrolled at Southern. As part of her field education, she works with the special education consultant at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

She speaks candidly about physical and emotional barriers that prevent churches from effectively ministering to special needs individuals. "Many churches are not accessible, lacking elevators and ramps," she noted. "In addition, literature is not made available through tapes and braille." Other barriers include church members' own insecurities about how to approach a special needs person.

The best thing a church can do to effectively minister to special needs individuals, Lawrence says, is to be aware of the need, acknowledge it, be honest with the person and don't ignore the person just because you don't know what to say.

"I still get angry about my blindness," Lawrence acknowledges. "I just don't like it, but I'm really grateful that God is able to use my fears and anger. He is using my struggles for His victories."

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Convention Uniform

Grace on trial

By Tommy Robertson, director of

Missions, Liberty Association

Basic passage: Acts 15:1-35

Focal passage: Acts 15:1-21

Central truth: Grace has always been a problem for many people. It was a problem in the first century when Gentiles began to be saved.

■ *The problem.* In the midst of all the exciting events in Antioch, Satan tried to deal the work a death blow. Men came from the church in Jerusalem and began to teach that salvation was not only by grace but by works (circumcision and keeping the law). This struck at the Gentiles who had no background in Judaism.

Paul and Barnabas had been preaching that salvation was by grace through faith and not by works. Very quickly there was a serious dispute about which was right. Paul, Barnabas and others were sent to Jerusalem to discuss this with the apostles and come back with a definitive answer. This question had to be settled quickly for the gospel itself was at stake.

■ *The trial.* In Jerusalem the dispute broke out again. Believers who were Pharisees said Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses. So the apostles and elders met to consider the issue. In the midst of the discussion, Peter began to recount his experiences at the house of Cornelius. God had saved the Gentiles by faith and given them the Holy Spirit just as He had the Jews at Pentecost.

Peter reminded them that the Jews had not been able to keep the law perfectly and they should not place that same yoke on Gentiles. They also believed that salvation was by grace for the apostles had experienced this themselves. Barnabas and Paul related the miracles God had performed through them. God had obviously saved them by grace and not works.

Finally, James, the leader of the Jerusalem church, said that they should not make it difficult for the Gentiles turning to God. He agreed they should not require them to be circumcised or keep the law to gain salvation. Yet he wanted them to leave their pagan backgrounds. They should avoid food polluted by idols, refrain from sexual immorality, eat no meat from strangled animals and consume no blood.

The issue was decided. They would continue to preach salvation by grace, through faith and not works. The purity and truth of the gospel had been preserved. Our message is exactly the same today.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Loyalty is a choice

By Mike Petty, pastor,

Park Place Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: Ruth 1:1-2:12; 4:9-1

Focal passage: Ruth 1:16-18

Central truth: Godly loyalty leads to God's blessings.

The loss of a spouse or a child can devastate one's life. God understands that and is committed to bringing healing to the hearts of His people. Naomi and Ruth became God's agents of healing in each other's life. He gave them the joy of the mutual benefits of encouragement, love and loyalty. While Naomi's loss compelled her to return to her homeland, God moved in Ruth's heart and gave her an apparent love for her mother-in-law. Their bond would become something that cultural heritage or death could neither weaken nor destroy. Such a strong union does not occur without commitment to see it come about. In this case, it was Ruth who exercised such determination (v. 1:16-18).

When Naomi urged Ruth to return with her sister back to her natural family, Ruth answered with what would become "the classic" for declared loyalty. Her answer reveals a life committed to God. Notice:

The break from the past (v. 16a). One cannot have mixed loyalties and benefit from the blessings of total commitment to a relationship. The past loyalties to any false belief must be severed in order for us to discover the Lord's best in our future. The Lord, your spouse and your family deserve your whole-hearted devotion.

The stake on the future (vv. 16b-17a). Ruth declared her willingness to follow what she had become convinced was the right thing to do. Naomi's influence led Ruth to declare that Naomi's faith, family and future would be her own. She was committing herself to the sovereign will of God for her life. It was no small matter for her, nor should it be for us. Note:

The oath to the Lord (v. 17b). In a day when "pre-nuptials" and "loopholes" are being written into contracts, we need to be reminded of the accountability one has to "their word." Such accountability is not to the courts or "one's self." It is an accountability unto God. Ruth showed full understanding of her commitment to Naomi when she pronounced her own sentence if she should turn her back on her word.

Many marriages (and other relationships) will not only "be saved," but prosper if both parties decide to exercise a commitment to be loyal to God and one another.

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Bible Book

Correcting injustice

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain,
Baptist Memorial Medical Center,
North Little Rock

Basic passage: Nehemiah 5:1-7:73b

Focal passage: Nehemiah 5:1-4, 9-13; 6:2, 6-9, 13-16

Central truth: God's work is always opposed. Sometimes we are the opposition and need reforming.

Verses 5:1-4. We are not sure when this happened during Nehemiah's 13 years as governor. At some time during his administration we see that the greatest threat to God's people may come from among the brethren and not from external sworn enemies. The danger during the building of the wall was blatant and lasted 52 days. This new danger was more subtle and built up over a period of years.

They had been willing to work as equals, as brothers while building the wall. But in the everyday business of living with each other, they sold out to their greed. Some of the brethren had their back to the wall, for their families were starving and needed money for food. The rich unmercifully demanded interest and required the families' land as collateral. The poor then had to sell their young into slavery to repay the debts. The rich became richer and the poor became poorer.

Verses 5:9-13. In true prophetic fashion, Nehemiah charged them with this wrong. He based his demands on their unique relationship with God based on grace. Therefore their relationship with each other should be based on grace.

It may be legal and good business, but still be wrong. Those who are calculating need to factor in brotherly love, generosity and compassion. Exploitation of the needy is not good business. It is a bad witness.

Verses 6:2, 6-9. Success in building the wall did not stop the external threat. Nehemiah's enemies plotted to kill him but failed. Then they spread lies about him to eliminate his effectiveness through fear of the king.

Verses 6:13-14. They then attacked Israel from within by bribing a man to pretend to be Nehemiah's friend and give him bad advice. Even some of the prophets and a prophetess sold out.

Verses 6:9, 16. Nehemiah's characteristic response is to pray and to stay true to the principles that have guided him to this point. The end result is that the enemies of Israel became discouraged and intimidated (see Philippians 1:12ff).

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Convention Uniform

Help wanted

By Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association
 Basic passage: Acts 15:36-16:40
 Focal passage: Acts 16:6-10
 Central truth: The guidance of God reveals to us the place where help is needed. He has a way of leading us where the need is greatest.

■ *Prevention may show where help is needed.* In the midst of the second missionary journey, Paul and his companions were suddenly unable to perceive where the Lord wanted them to go. Luke tells us they traveled throughout Phrygia and Galatia because they were prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching in the province of Asia. They tried to enter Bithynia but the Holy Spirit would not allow them to do so. Not knowing what else to do, they traveled on to Troas on the Aegean Sea.

The Lord was leading them, but they didn't understand it. He was leading by preventing them from going where He didn't want them to go. There are many times when the Lord guides us the same way and, because we don't understand, we become frustrated and decide God is not leading us at all.

■ *Need may show where help is needed.* Troas was the end of the line on the Aegean Sea. Now Paul had to wait until he knew God's will. During the night Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia begging for help. Paul then knew that God had been leading all the time. He realized the need was great in Europe where he had never been. So they sailed away and went to Philippi, the leading city of the area.

This was to be an important work in Paul's ministry, for out of this experience came the church that loved and helped him across the years. He came here because the Lord showed him the vast need. God may, at times, show us His will by revealing a need that we are to help meet.

■ *Confirmation assures us the need was real.* God confirmed many times over that Philippi was where Paul fit into the divine will at this time. The conversion of Lydia and the jailer and the healing of the slave girl certified that it was time to move into Europe. In years to come he would know beyond the shadow of a doubt that he had truly obeyed God's will.

God needs our help today, and He has a particular place for us to work. If we follow His guidance from day to day He will continue to assure us our work is not in vain. Are we willing to help today?

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Life and Work

Integrity: what happened?

By Mike Petty, pastor,
 Park Place Church, Hot Springs
 Basic passage: Job 1-2; 6:24-30; 27:1-6
 Focal passage: Job 1:1-5, 8
 Central truth: A believer's integrity is non-negotiable.

It is believed that the book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. If so, we can see that God recorded the story of this man's life to serve as a call to all to trust Him and faithfully exercise the character qualities He produces in the lives of His children.

Today our nation suffers from having believed the lie, "Character does not matter." From Hollywood to the White House, from celebrity morals to the clergy messages, we are bombarded with conflicting values. Christians need to rise to the challenge and demonstrate the qualities of biblical integrity.

Integrity is a personal quality. However, like most things belonging to Christians, it is not private. One cannot hide his or her character; it will display itself in every area of life, especially in our values.

Job was a man who possessed integrity. Job 1:1, 8 reveal that he was: "blameless," (not guilty of open sin); "upright" (pure in his heart before God); "feared God" (having a deep desire to please God); and "shunned evil" (careful not to engage in anything sinful). These qualities give irrefutable evidence of the integrity Job possessed.

His integrity manifested itself in various areas of Job's life. He was a man of faith (vv. 1, 5). He was a family man (vv. 2, 4-5). He was a man of fortune (v. 3). His faithfulness to maintain integrity in these areas "qualified" him as a man ready for the fight (v. 8). One reason God chose to put Job on display before the heavenly audience and the earth was to demonstrate that such integrity was genuine.

Do you have a life and testimony which gives a godly influence before our world ("blameless")? Is your heart pure before God ("upright") and do you love Him with a profound desire to please Him in all things ("fear God")? If so, then you will stand before our world with integrity and speak out against its evil and of that which is right ("shun evil").

Remember, the world will not like the person whose character reflects the holiness of God. Yet when they stand against you, take courage. Even their displeasure, disdain and destruction are trials that serve to deepen and strengthen the qualities of genuine faith (Rom. 8:18, 35-37).

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Bible Book

Word leads to repentance

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain,
 Baptist Memorial Medical Center,
 North Little Rock
 Basic passage: Nehemiah 7:73b-10:39
 Focal passage: Nehemiah 8:1-2, 9-12,
 17; 9:1-3, 6-9, 23, 29, 31; 10:29
 Central truth: Building projects must include building the community's spirit through commitment.

Verses 8:1-2, 8. A few days after the completion of the building of the wall they now turn to building the community spiritually. They do so by turning to God's Word given through Moses. Ezra, a great student of the Word, began to teach, making sure all who were capable of understanding did so. To worship or serve without understanding is ritual, not reality.

Verses 8:9-12. Often hearing the Word reminds us of our failures, particularly when seen in the full light of what God has done for us. So the people wept and grieved. They were comforted with the reminder that this holy day from the Lord was an occasion for joy. The goal of God's Word is to give us joy and motivate us to minister to those who are in need. Their response included emotion and action. It was personal and interpersonal.

Verse 8:17. They then celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles that spoke of God's grace: Grace that was seen in the completed harvest. Grace that was re-experienced as they acted out the journey to the promised land. Their whole existence was based on God's grace. Even the wall offered security only as long as it was secured by the miraculous work of God.

Verses 9:1-3. The shift is now from feasting to fasting. God's Word is a blessing and message of grace. The Word also calls for responsible behavior.

Verses 9:1-3, 6-9, 23, 29, 31. This gives a summary of their history with God. The Lord who called them is the creator. He initiated the relationship with Abraham, rescued them from Egypt and gave them the Word at Mount Sinai. He brought them to the promised land in spite of their failure. The Lord, faithful to the covenant, has blessed, judged, rescued and offers them a future based on grace. However, that grace must be responded to with commitment.

Verse 10:29. The commitment that is expressed in chapter 10 is a summary of the covenant responsibilities given in the book of Deuteronomy. They must affirm their heritage for it is their future hope and present meaning for living.

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SBC leaders protest Disney benefits for homosexuals

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—A Walt Disney Co. decision to provide health insurance to live-in partners of homosexual employees is stirring strong criticism from Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

"This is extremely disturbing to Southern Baptists across the country," said Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee. "It's a travesty that Disney is no longer a pro-family industry." Disney "clearly has joined forces with others in the entertainment industry intent on waging war against biblical beliefs and family values that have been the backbone of this country," Chapman added.

The new Disney policy, announced in a newsletter to the company's 70,000 employees the week of Oct. 2, will go into effect Jan. 1. While covering live-in partners of homosexuals, it will not cover live-in partners of heterosexuals. Disney spokesman John Dreyer said the decision "brings our health benefits in line with our corporate nondiscrimination policy."

The SBC annual meeting was held in Orlando, Fla., in 1994 and is scheduled to be there again in 2000. Chapman said contractual obligations already in place for convention facilities likely will prevent a change in site for the annual meeting in 2000.

He added, however, that "it is certain that Southern Baptist families who attend the annual meeting could be extremely selective when making choices about spending recreational funds with organizations that oppose their basic beliefs."

Baptist Press, WMU launch home pages on the Internet

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Baptist Press and Woman's Missionary Union are providing Southern Baptists' first "home page" offerings on the Internet's World Wide Web.

The address for Baptist Press' home page, which began Oct. 2, is <http://www.goshen.net/BaptistPress>. The address for WMU's home page, which was announced Oct. 16, is <http://www.wmu.com/wmu>.

The home pages are in addition to Southern Baptists' primary computer service, SBCNet, coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board. SBCNet, operated over the CompuServe network, now has more than 6,000 Baptist users.

Each home page is a database. Baptist Press, for example, can be searched by topics, names, dates and key words. Baptist Press also is available to individuals with Internet access at colleges or universities via the computer mailing list of ICLnet, operated by the Institute for Christian Leadership. For America Online users, Baptist Press is carried daily in the Christianity Online forum operated by *Christianity Today*.

The WMU home page provides an overview of WMU's age-level missions organizations and selected products. Viewers can view the cover of various resources and read a brief description of each. Other features will promote various WMU activities.

Deficit forces editor/campus minister cut in New York

EAST SYRACUSE, NY (ABP)—The Baptist Convention of New York is eliminating its office of communications and campus ministry in a reorganization aimed at cutting costs. Chip Lockwood, editor of the *New York Baptist* and state student director, will lose his job by Dec. 31.

Lockwood, who has worked at the convention 19 years, said he endorses the plan approved by the convention's executive board. "I have not been forced out or coerced but have been confronted by my own observations regarding the future of the Baptist Convention of New York and my personal future," he noted.

Responsibility for the paper will be transferred to the executive director's office. The campus ministry portion of Lockwood's assignment will go to the missions division.

An audit revealed an \$111,000 deficit for the New York convention in 1994. Leaders blamed the shortfall on inadequate giving by churches, overspending in several line items and slow accounting. The executive board adopted a number of steps aimed at erasing the deficit by the year 2000.

Billy Graham announces '96 crusade in Charlotte, N.C.

MINNEAPOLIS (ABP)—Billy Graham will hold a crusade in Charlotte, N.C., next September—the evangelist's first in his hometown in almost 25 years. Graham, 77, plans to preach Sept. 26-29 at the Carolina Panthers stadium which is currently under construction.

Following a summer of rest and recuperation after a brief hospitalization in June, Graham is scheduled to hold a crusade in Sacramento, Calif., Oct. 18-22. It will be his first appearance since speaking to the Southern Baptist Convention June 22 in Atlanta.

The evangelist also plans to lead crusades in four cities in Australia and New Zealand in February and March and in Minneapolis/St. Paul next June.