

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

11-14-1996

### November 14, 1996

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_95-99](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99)



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "November 14, 1996" (1996). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999*. 67.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn\\_95-99/67](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_95-99/67)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1995-1999 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

NOV. 19, 1996




# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

Volume 95, Number 23

November 14, 1996



 **MISSIONARIES**  
*From Churches with Love*

**1996  
Season  
of  
Foreign  
Missions**



# Leaders discuss OBU action, associations express views

Representatives of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Ouachita Baptist University met Nov. 7 to discuss responses to last month's vote by OBU trustees to resume responsibility for naming their own successors.

Meeting for nearly three hours in executive session at the Baptist Building in Little Rock, participants agreed not to release details of their discussion. In a one-sentence statement following the meeting, ABSC executive director Emil Turner told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, "The two groups met and made progress and still have points left to resolve and will meet again."

Their next meeting, scheduled for this week, is one week before messengers gather for the ABSC annual meeting.

Ouachita's initial action on Oct. 10 followed a report by the state convention nominating committee which declined to nominate any of the eight individuals suggested by OBU officials for four openings on the university's board of trustees. The state convention Executive Board's executive committee responded by voting to escrow OBU's Cooperative Program funds until the issue is resolved. In addition to the current meetings, messengers to several recent associational meetings across the state have adopted a number of resolutions on the issue. The resolutions ranged from calls for prayer and Christlike cooperation to calls for the OBU trustees to rescind their action.

Among the resolutions adopted were:

■ **Ashley Association:** Messengers urged Turner and OBU president Ben Elrod to "work together to resolve this concern without dissolving the longstanding ties our state convention has enjoyed with our senior Baptist institution."

■ **Central Association:** Participants pledged "to pray fervently" for convention and university officials "as they seek to

bring about a reconciliation in the spirit of Christ."

■ **Garland County Association:** Charging that OBU trustees "took unwarranted and precipitous action" which was "ethically, morally and biblically wrong," the resolution urged the trustees to "reverse this action before irrevocable damage is done to Ouachita and its relationship" with the ABSC.

■ **Greene County Association:** Voting to "strongly express our disappointment" at action described as "morally wrong," messengers affirmed escrowing OBU's CP funds and urged the convention "to take any actions possible to reverse this action" taken by Ouachita's trustees.

■ **Liberty Association:** The action encouraged the OBU trustees, ABSC executive committee and nominating committee to "work out, in a Christlike manner, a solution to the problem" so that the convention and university "will be able to maintain our historic relationship."

■ **North Pulaski Association:** Messengers pledged to "pray for all those involved that they will be able to establish a continued long-term relationship...in such a way that accountability and academic integrity can be maintained."

■ **Northwest Association:** Claiming that OBU's trustees "pirated the institution," messengers called for "the withdrawal of all present and future financial support to OBU" unless the state convention retains the right to elect the university's trustees. The resolution also called on "each church to send their full body of messengers to the November state annual meeting to protect and forever claim title to our institution."

■ **Tri-County Association:** Affirming support for Ouachita while expressing regret over the trustees' action, messengers encouraged OBU and the state convention "to prayerfully seek a solution."

## Cover Story



## World missions 6-7

"Missionaries: From Churches with Love" is the theme of Southern Baptists' 1996 Season of Foreign Missions. This year's Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions will be observed Dec. 1-8.

## Also inside

### Perspective

A Pastor's Heart.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5
Letters to the Editor.....	5

### Arkansas Baptists

European partnership update.....	8
Kwok to lead Ohio Baptists.....	9
'LifeAnswers' targets youth.....	10
Arkansas All Over.....	12-13

### Nation/World

Holy Land travel affirmed.....	15
NAMB funding proposal.....	17
Missionary notes.....	20

Lessons.....	22-23
--------------	-------

Next issue: Nov. 28



Available on CompuServe through the Publications Library of SBCNet.

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



USPS 008021

Trennis Henderson.....Editor  
Russell M. Diddy.....Associate Editor  
Colleen Backus.....Assistant Editor

Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor  
Becky Hardwick.....Business Manager  
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. ....Editor Emeritus

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6096) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 6014 W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individuals); \$5.50 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.00 per year (Group Plan). Periodical Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791

Member of the Association of State Baptist Papers Volume 95 • Number 23

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mark Baber, Marion, president; Eby Burgess, Glenwood; Robin Cook, Magnolia; Kirk Cunningham, Menz; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Lucie Higgins, Fordyce; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Greg Kurksy, Benton; Eddie McCord, Mount Ida; David McCormick, Russellville; Glenda Miller, Heber Springs; Mike Petty, Hot Springs; Karen Ramsey, Fayetteville; Ken Shaddox, Fordyce; Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

# Baptists influential in Amendment 4 defeat

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansans soundly defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that called for expanding legalized gambling in the state. Amendment 4 was defeated by a 61 to 39 percent margin in a contest that saw proponents spending millions of dollars in advertising against a poorly funded, grassroots movement to halt gambling in the state.

If approved, Amendment 4 would have legalized a state lottery, charitable bingo and up to three casinos, with local voter approval, in Hot Springs. Almost 330,000 Arkansans voted for the initiative, while 517,835 voted against it.

Larry Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Action Committee of Arkansas, called the results a "mandate" during a jubilant election night watch party at the Baptist Building in Little Rock. "This is not a situation where the opposition can say, 'We just didn't get our message out.'"

"Arkansans are saying this is the National State, we want to draw families to Arkansas and we want to enhance those amenities," Page added. "It's an overwhelming rejection of those who would make the case that casinos and lottery gambling are good economic tools."

Affirming that Arkansas Baptists played "a critical part" in the campaign, Page noted, "We had good help from many of the denominations, but as is always the case, the Baptists carried the fight."

"They are the largest denomination, traditionally opposed to gambling and we had an excellent publication in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*," he said.

Among Baptists active in the fight was CCAC board member Mark Park, a member of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, who said he was "very pleased that the people of Arkansas saw the amendment for what it was and stood up for their convictions."

Ron White, a member of Second Church in Hot Springs, said he was "extremely pleased" by the victory. "It's been a hard-fought battle and I have taken this Amendment 4 issue to heart more than anything before."

"I moved to Hot Springs six years ago and it's a great town, but I've seen what gambling can do to families," said White, who traveled across the state as part of a statewide information campaign.

Page and other CCAC leaders cultivated the movement to resist gambling by sponsoring 15 "town hall meetings" across the state as well as a five-stop tour by economic planner Robert Goodman speaking



A small crowd of anti-gambling supporters enthusiastically watched televised returns during an election night watch party in Little Rock.

against gambling as an economic tool.

Also instrumental in developing the campaign was Page himself, who Park noted "was vital and brought great leadership and a mind for these kinds of things. He was a tremendous asset."

The gambling battle saw four other gambling-related amendments thrown off the Nov. 5 ballot. The Arkansas Supreme Court struck three amendments proposing the expansion of gambling in Arkansas from the ballot Oct. 21, leaving only Amendment 4 for voter decision.

The stricken amendments all called for expanded gambling in the state through legalized lotteries and charitable bingo. All three were struck down in part because justices found vague or misleading statements in their titles.

Page called the campaign against the four gambling initiatives "a classic match-up" of "money against people and the people won."

"When all is said and done, we will find the four initiatives will have spent \$9 million to \$10 million as opposed to our \$400,000. Amendment 4, as of Oct. 20, had already spent \$5.1 million and I think they will end up at \$6-7 million."

The CCAC's campaign was marred by accusations by gambling proponents that the CCAC was receiving funding from Mississippi casinos.

"That's simply not true," replied Page. "Our campaign was funded entirely by Arkansas money."

An earlier anti-gambling proposal sponsored by the CCAC was removed from the ballot Sept. 6 by Page following two lawsuits filed against the CCAC by gambling proponents. Amendment 6 sought to outlaw all

gambling in Arkansas, including existing thoroughbred and greyhound racing.

The suits, filed by proponents associated with Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs and Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis, challenged the way volunteers collected signatures to place the anti-gambling measure on the ballot.

Pagesaid that opting to withdraw rather than face the suits was "the right thing to do," citing financial limitations and "concern for the people in our network" among factors that led to the CCAC's decision.

Page noted that it is "a possibility" the CCAC will sponsor another initiative similar to Amendment 6 in the future.

"We would have to look at what some of the gambling proponents are going to do," he explained. "It may be that they'll not come back. They are wealthy and they didn't get that way by throwing good money after bad. If they sense Arkansas is not fertile ground, they will go elsewhere."

## Most voters reject spread of gambling

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Voters considering gambling expansion throughout the nation Nov. 5 rejected most bids to place casinos and video poker machines in their states. In addition to defeating gambling expansion in Arkansas, voters rejected gambling efforts in Nebraska, Colorado, Ohio, Washington state, Iowa, Virginia and Guam, as well as 33 parishes in Louisiana. Gambling proponents did gain victories, however, in New Orleans, Alabama, Michigan and West Virginia.

Among major gambling battles, voters in Louisiana's Orleans Parish approved a land-based casino, 67-33 percent.

Twenty-nine other parishes in Louisiana said yes to riverboat gambling, compared to 14 parishes which said no.

Residents of 33 of Louisiana's 64 parishes turned down video poker in their areas while 31 parishes approved the measure.

■ West Virginia: Voters in Jefferson County approved a measure to allow video slot machines at the Charles Town horse track by a margin of 64-36 percent.

■ Michigan: Voters approved the legalization of three casinos in Detroit by a 52-48 percent margin.

■ Colorado: Voters rejected legalized gambling by a 69-31 percent margin.

■ Ohio: For the second time during the 1990s, Ohio voters soundly defeated a casino referendum, this time by a margin of 62-38 percent.

■ Nebraska: Voters defeated an off-track betting initiative, 62-38 percent.

## A PASTOR'S HEART



By EMIL TURNER  
ABS-C Executive Director

"What are you doing here?!"

Your parents asked you this question when you were some place you should not have been. You probably asked the same question of your children. Recently, I came to my office early on Saturday morning. One of your staff members was hard at work.

"What are you doing here?" I asked. "Working - what else?" was his reply. It was a good answer.

If Jesus had been asked, "What are you doing here?" His answer would have been: "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Because this was Jesus' answer, it should be ours. Why are we here? We are here to see lost people saved. Why do you have your job, your home, your family, your church? "To seek and to save that which was lost."

Sometimes we forget what we are doing here. We think of lots of "causes" to follow. But, really we have one purpose - to win lost people to Christ.

What are you doing here?

■ Have you read *When God Doesn't Make Sense* by James Dobson (Tyndale, 1993)? Mary recommended this book to me. It provides excellent help for people who are struggling with events they cannot control. Chapters 6 and 10 are great practical resources for specific problems.

### Executive director's schedule:

Nov. 17 (a.m.) First, Sherwood  
Nov. 18 Pastors' Conference, Geyer Springs First, Little Rock  
Nov. 19-20 State Convention, Geyer Springs First, Little Rock  
Nov. 24 (a.m.) First, Gillett  
Nov. 25-27 University of Mobile, Ala.  
Nov. 28-29 Thanksgiving Holidays

DONNA CHEATHAM

## Woman's Viewpoint

### Admitting guilt is difficult



Have you ever washed a facial tissue? The first question you ask yourself when you open the washer and stare at the terrible mess is, "Who left a tissue in their pocket?" You were pretty sure you checked all the pockets and you ask, "How could I have overlooked it?" Perhaps you have noticed some tissues wash better than others. One would feel better if there were someone else to blame. Oh yes, and have you ever washed a paper towel? If you have, you understand the phrase "paper trail."

One of our favorite family cartoons has three little ghosts named "Not Me," "Nobody" and "I don't Know." Usually that's who makes mistakes at our house, too. I know, though, that it's not my husband, because he seldom uses a facial tissue. His mom taught him to use a hankie. Now the saga of how one erases the many different stains on his hankie is another column.

We as Christians often look for someone to blame for our failures and mistakes - admitting we are guilty is difficult. If someone confronts us with

our faults, it is even harder to confess responsibility. Why are we like that? The Bible tells us we are born with a sin nature. We know sin is anything which displeases God. We need to stop and think whether the things we are doing are pleasing to Him.

Too often we blame others for influencing us. Do you remember the character on a TV program of yesteryear who frequently said, "The devil made me do it?" We find many ways to try and excuse our actions, but God, who sees all and knows all, can see our excuses for what they are. We can fool ourselves, but we cannot fool God. I don't think I'll even try to get anyone to confess to the tissue mess in the washer this time!

Donna Cheatham is the wife of Jeff Cheatham, director of missions for Arkansas River Valley Association. She teaches a singles Sunday School class at Second Church, Russellville and is president-elect of the Arkansas Chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship. The Cheathams have three grown children and five grandchildren.



## Prayer focus

■ Pray that Arkansas Baptist pastors and church members will enthusiastically support and pray for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointment service to be held April 8, 1997, in Little Rock.

■ Pray that the newly appointed missionaries will minister with boldness through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

■ Pray that God will work in the lives of those who attend the appointment service, making them sensitive and responsive to His leadership.

■ Pray that individuals attending the service will hear and respond to God's call to missions and evangelism.

**"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:36).**

# Pray for the president

With millions of people throughout the nation tuned in to watch election night festivities at the Old State House in Little Rock, a personal reference to Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Rex Horne briefly took center stage during President Clinton's Nov. 5 acceptance speech.

As he publicly expressed thanks to a number of individuals, Clinton specifically voiced appreciation to "my pastor, Rex Horne, who prayed with me before I came out here tonight." He went on to thank "all the ministers and people of God who prayed for me and with me over these last three years."

Although a few vocal critics may accuse Horne of lapsing into partisan politics, he should be commended for his willingness to minister to our nation's highest elected official. While Horne has frequently voiced

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



his opposition to Clinton's policies on such topics as abortion and homosexual rights, he doesn't allow those differences to prohibit him from serving in his God-given role as pastor to the president.

Amid the election night frenzy, "I prayed for the president as I always do," Horne

noted. "I always pray for him and with him that God would give him strength and wisdom and that he would do that which is first right before God and then helpful to our country."

Praying for — and with — government leaders does not require compromising one's views on crucial issues. Regardless of one's stands on specific issues, however, praying for those in authority is a clear mandate from Scripture.

Following Clinton's first presidential election in 1992, Arkansas Baptist messengers adopted a resolution encouraging church members "to faithfully pray" for President Clinton and Vice President Gore. The resolution also urged the two men "to firmly rely upon the wisdom of God...for the direction to carry out their responsibilities." Those remain worthy goals for the next four years.

## Stop big bully attitude

As I read the latest upheaval in our state convention over Ouachita Baptist University, I want to cry out: When is this big bully attitude going to end in the Southern Baptist Convention?

We are called by Scripture to be "salt and light." Our worth is not based on which SBC political camp we are in but on our intimate, personal relationship with Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 2:17 reads, "Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

For far too many years recently, we have seen the attitude of "respect" if you are "in our political camp only." If our "inerrantist" stand on the Bible is what our current SBC leaders truly believe, why have we not seen the above Scripture in practice?

Please, let us stop the big bully practices (actually Pharisaical) and get on with missions and love of the brotherhood — a strong message the world needs to see and hear.

Mrs. E. Abbott  
Rogers, AR

## A question of goals

I spent some of my happiest years at Ouachita, and have much reason to be thankful for the school and for Arkansas Baptists who have made it possible.

There have always been some problems, which may be inevitable in a great undertaking, involving large amounts of money. I am afraid we have seen, over the years, a steady drift toward worldly and material goals, to the detriment of the spiritual and evangelistic aims that should characterize a Christian school. Changing



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the name of the Bible department to "department of religion and philosophy" illustrates this.

Earnest and serious Christians will be delighted to support any institution that they feel is doing a definite work in leading our people, our state and our country back to God. We will be less enthusiastic if we perceive that the primary goals are success in business, the professions or sports, even if these goals are pursued within a generally Christian context.

Clay Hale  
El Dorado, AR

## Time for healing

Few in Arkansas would doubt where I stand on the issues. It won't surprise anyone that I oppose the action of the Ouachita Baptist University trustees. What may surprise some is that I believe the time has come for actions to bring healing to our convention.

It appears to me that the two sides on this issue have drawn lines in the sand. A great distance separates the two camps. The resulting rift could well kill the Arkansas Baptist State Convention as we know it. Whatever happens, it is the cause of Christ that will ultimately be hurt.

Therefore, I believe that something must take place to heal this rift. What must take place is humility and forgiveness. We must forget about who was right and who

was wrong, and find a solution that will do the best to satisfy all. Though I believe OBU was wrong, I am willing to make concessions for the sake of peace and harmony.

My prayer is that we can do something that has not been done in recent years. I pray that we can work through this and avoid the nasty, fleshly floor fight that looms ahead for each and every convention until Jesus comes back. I pray we can humble ourselves and take the risk of trusting fellow Christians who we believe have wronged us. I pray we can move together to win this state for Christ. I pray that rather than this convention being remembered as the convention that divided us, that revival will break out. Is that too hard? I don't think so.

These days are going to call for bold and courageous men. I, for one, am willing to lay down my sword, cross the line my side has drawn in the sand, and extend my hand to Ouachita. It's worth the risk. It's worth what reputation I have. It is, I think, the thing Jesus would have us do. That is what I am going to do. I pray others will follow me over the lines, and perhaps Ouachita's folks will do the same.

Mark Brooks  
Springdale, AR

## Men of understanding

I liken president Ben Elrod and the Ouachita Baptist University trustees to "the children of Issachar which were men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do" (1 Chron. 12:32).

I liken them not to "morally reprehensible pirates of the Baptist seas."

R.B. King  
Hot Springs, AR

# Missionaries gain support amid tragedy

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Andrew Nicholson's headstone in Tyre Cemetery near Cherry Valley stands as a silent tribute to the brief life of the 14-year-old missionary kid. It also is a lasting reminder of Southern Baptists' commitment to rally around missionary families in times of overwhelming crisis.

Andrew died early last year from stings by a swarm of bees that drove him over a cliff in Panama's Chame Mountains. As his parents and siblings struggled with Andrew's tragic death, Baptists from Arkansas to Panama ministered to the grieving family.

Glenn and Pauline Nicholson relied heavily on the emotional support of missionary colleagues even before their son's body was recovered from the area's dense jungle. Glenn hiked up the mountain to the accident site while Pauline, unable to make the rugged climb because of recent surgery, was forced to remain behind.

Friends prayed with them through the night after the first day's search was suspended with no word on whether their son was still alive. Once the search resumed the next morning, word came quickly that Andrew's body had been located and recovered.

"The doctors came to me and told me they had found Andrew and he wasn't alive," Glenn reflected. "I realized I couldn't do anything more for Andrew so I went back down the mountain" to join Pauline and their 16-year-old son Nathan.

"It's very hard to accept. It's your worst nightmare," Andrew's mom recounted as she fought back tears. "I remember looking at the mountain and saying, 'I won't accept this.' I've always hated death."

Pauline said she was immediately comforted by a vision of her son's smiling face assuring her that he was okay. "That's what got me going again. That's what I needed at the time," she said. "I had a real sense of comfort and peace at that point. God knows what we need to survive whatever happens."

"It was hard to face reality, but when it's your child, you have to accept it," she shared. "You don't think you can survive it, but when you need the strength, God gives it to you."

Acknowledging that such a crisis stretches one's faith to the limit, Glenn emphasized, "Circumstances do not change the character of God. God is good



Southern Baptist missionaries Glenn and Pauline Nicholson and their son, Nathan, a freshman at Ouachita Baptist University, display a quilt they received from an Arkansas Baptist church. Such gifts reflect the spirit of this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme, "Missionaries: From Churches with Love."

no matter what the circumstances. Through the circumstances, He is there to encourage us and strengthen us."

Seeking to cope with the numbing details of travel plans and funeral arrangements, the Nicholsons said co-workers stepped in to handle everything from polishing their shoes and packing their luggage to arranging their flight to the U.S.

***"Circumstances do not change the character of God....He is there to encourage us and strengthen us."***

—Glenn Nicholson  
Southern Baptist missionary  
to Panama

By the time they arrived in Pauline's hometown of Cherry Valley, "we were receiving telephone calls, cards and letters from all over the United States," Glenn said. Financial donations to cover the cost of travel and funeral expenses began pouring in from churches and associations where the family had served in previous years.

A congregation in Georgia where Andrew's older sister, Jennifer, is a member paid the expenses for her to fly to Arkansas to be with her family. Among the most tangible responses since the funeral, members of Cherry Valley Church purchased the headstone for Andrew's grave.

"The spirit things were given in was so

overwhelming," Glenn said. "I don't think you realize the support system is there until a crisis comes and you discover how vast that support system is. You realize you do not stand alone in this moment."

Even more vital than the financial support was the personal ministry the Nicholsons received. "Hugs mean a lot," Pauline affirmed. "I can't imagine getting through something like this without encouragement, without someone being with you."

Andrew's funeral service at Cherry Valley Church was attended by people from every church Glenn has ever served as pastor. "It's not so much what they said," Glenn pointed out, "but simply that they were there."

A few weeks after Andrew's funeral, the Nicholsons returned to Panama where Glenn serves as a field evangelist. They recently returned to Arkansas where Nathan, now age 18, is a freshman at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Glenn and Pauline are serving this year as the university's missionaries-in-residence.

For the Nicholsons, this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme — "Missionaries: From Churches with Love" — is more than just a catchy slogan. The family is grateful that, in the midst of heartbreaking trauma, Southern Baptists responded with expressions of love ranging from polished shoes to a cemetery headstone.

"I don't think we would have ever made it through Andrew's death and be able to function again unless we knew people were praying for us," Pauline added. "People are ministers of God's grace."

# Switching gears

## Foreign missionaries find furlough often demanding as the field

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The pace here is faster than we're used to," noted furloughing missionary Gary Fulton. "Even though in Guatemala we stay busy, here in the land of conveniences, the pace seems really fast."

Many missionaries on furlough have similar feelings about differences in pace or culture, as well as a sense of being strangers in their own country.

Fulton and his wife, Susan, have served in Salama, Guatemala, for four years and are on their first furlough, staying in Jonesboro. Both are from Arkansas, where Fulton served as a pastor in Paragould for 11 years.

A self-described "type A" personality, Fulton said the difference in the pace of life between the U.S. and Central America has been as big an adjustment as the language. "In Guatemala, people don't think anything about spending half a day on a task that would take 20 minutes in the States," he remarked. "Paying a bill or getting an item from a store can easily take that long. There is no pressure to get anything done."

The Fultons went to the field with five children and a sixth was born while they were there. Gabriella, almost two years old, is a dual citizen, and has opened many doors with nationals because they consider her one of them.

Fulton, who serves as a church planter on the field, is used to traveling, doing visitation, and starting weekly Bible studies in a part of Guatemala where there is no Baptist work. But that schedule may pale in comparison to his role as missionary-in-residence for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention stewardship/annuity department. "I'm booked for the next several months," he noted. "It's definitely not a vacation."

The Foreign Mission Board intends for furlough to be a time for rest and study, to lead conferences and represent the FMB in local churches. It also is a time to spend with family. Often major family events occur while missionaries are on the field. Deaths have occurred in the Fultons' families while they were away.

But constant traveling also is a part of furlough, sometimes making time spent in the States more stressful than being on the field.

"We've put 5,000 miles on the car in two months of furlough," said Ron West, a missionary to Taiwan. "Furlough is not

the vacation that some church people envision it to be." He and his wife, Elinda, currently on furlough in Fort Smith, have served in Taichung, Taiwan, for 17 years. They have three children, all raised on the field. Their youngest child is 13, and attends an American MK school in Taiwan.

Unlike the Fultons, the Wests minister in an area that is very urbanized, much more so than Arkansas, and very fast paced, but they still find major differences between the field and furlough.

"It really is a time of switching gears," Mrs. West explained. "Going from doing ministry to telling what your ministry is — it's stressful on family life. You're in different churches every week, meeting new people and the kids get tired of being in the spotlight."

lives and needs," Mrs. West pointed out.

Missionaries also switch gears in priorities between the field and furlough. "We go from feeling the urgency of the lostness around us there to feeling the urgency of getting fellow Southern Baptists committed to and concerned about having a burden and vision for the lostness around the world," Mrs. West emphasized.

In Taiwan, West explained, there is a veneration of religion over materialism. "Money is very important there, which they save for their children's education." That regard for education helps open doors for West, who is respected because he teaches at a university.

One furlough stress that missionaries seldom talk about is the need to re-stock for the next four years. "You have less money to spend, but you need to spend more because of re-outfitting for the next four years," Mrs. West explained.

Her concern was echoed by furloughing missionary Edwin Pinkston, who noted wryly, "I get tired of buying things and spending hours shopping."

Pinkston and his wife, Greta, are career missionaries to the Ivory Coast, where they have served for 30 years. He is a general evangelist based in Daloa. They currently are on furlough in North Little Rock.

Pinkston finds the comparison between field and furlough to start at the most basic level: preaching. "On the field, I preach to people like Sunday School, very basic," he explained. "I preach the good news of salvation and basic truths."

"On furlough, all of a sudden I'm expected to preach on missions and share about the field," he added. "Often when I'm preaching, another language — the French we speak on the field — comes out instead."

All five of the Pinkstons' children are adults and two are Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. Their daughter, Debbie, serves with her husband, Hugh Redmon, in Venezuela, and son Robert and his wife, Sharon, are in language school in France, in preparation for serving in Mali.

Like the Wests, even after years on the field, the Pinkstons still see much that needs to be done. "We'll probably be on the field to the year 2000," Pinkston noted. "We pray that our national convention will be able to launch its own mission in the country," he added. "We also hope that our people can learn to read the New Testament in their own language."



**MISSIONARIES**  
*From Churches with Love*

**Week of Prayer  
for Foreign Missions**  
Dec. 1-8

**Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering**  
National Goal: \$100 million  
State Goal: \$3.2 million

While in the U.S., the Wests have spoken at churches, camps, World Mission Conferences and even worked at the Olympics. In Taiwan, he teaches at a Chinese university and they are involved in student evangelism and church planting.

Furlough also is a time for missionaries to reacquaint themselves with American culture, West explained. After being on the field for so many years, it often produces a sense of reverse culture shock. "On the field, we are culturally and linguistically outsiders, but are very involved," he said. "Over here, we are culturally insiders, but feel strange, like we're observers, often with limited involvement in a church due to our travel schedule."

Time with family also is very important to the Wests while they are home on furlough. "We go from caring for a people of another culture to caring for our own family members and catching up on their



# Partnership extension planned

## Volunteers complete 100 projects during partnership's first three years

Arkansas Baptists have completed more than 100 mission projects through their partnership with the European Baptist Convention. Arkansans have participated in projects ranging from Vacation Bible Schools and Experiencing God weekends to revivals and religious education training.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention messengers will be considering a proposal next week from the Executive Board that the ABSC extend the partnership through Dec. 31, 1999. The partnership was initiated in 1994 as a three-year effort, but Arkansas Baptists voted last year to extend the partnership through 1997.

Helen and Ray Reynolds are expected to speak about the partnership during the Tuesday morning convention session. They are former foreign missionaries who served as church planters in Europe.

Doyle Plummer, ABSC partnership coordinator, said that many of the projects take place through church-to-church or association-to-church partnerships.

"We have established 53 partnerships with over 100 project teams going to Europe to participate with 57 EBC churches to help take the good news to the ends of the earth," Plummer said. The ABSC and its churches have also provided leadership for many conferences and retreats, such as Interlaken Summer Assembly. Other ministries have occurred such as providing choir robes, song books. Sunday School literature, computers and Bibles."

Among the variety of European projects completed in 1996 were by teams that participated in church starting in Romania, revivals in Italy, Germany and Belgium, an Experiencing God retreat in Hungary, a deacon's leadership retreat in Germany and construction in Slovakia.

A group of 12 Arkansas Baptist laypeople also led two Experiencing God weekends in Germany in June. Arkansas team leader Lance Hudnell, a member of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, said that Experiencing God weekends, based on the popular Christian discipleship curriculum "are patterned after lay renewal weekends. It's the concept that it's laypeople led."

The group held its first weekend session at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern. "We basically led the team in a traditional Experiencing God," Hudnell explained.

He said Faith "is a traditional church made up primarily of American military. It is near Rheinstadt Air Force Base, which is the largest Air Force base outside the U.S."

Faith pastor Jimmy Martin acknowledged that the team "made a sacrifice to be with us" that resulted in "the sense of

the presence of the Lord in our midst.

"On Sunday night Share Service was an indication of the way God was moving in our midst," explained Martin. "It was a time of healing and rejoicing."

The second weekend the team led an Experiencing God session at Darmstadt International Baptist Church.

"It was a small church with seven to nine in attendance during the weekend and 30 in worship," Hudnell said. "They're changing from military to more international and are now about half and half."

The "most significant" aspect of the trip, said Hudnell, is that it "was based primarily on EBC member Herb Grinner's interest in us coming to train them to do lay renewal or Experiencing God weekends on their own. We went with that mindset. We were also interested in them building and doing their own teams."

**"The church members...were so impressed that we wanted to come all the way over to teach them."**

**—Suzanne Stevens**  
Volunteer missions team member to Madrid, Spain

"Herb and I spent a lot of time on how to conduct teams," Hudnell said. "I've heard that is going very well and they are now in position to do their own."

Hudnell noted "the excitement" of European Baptists to be equipped. "My message to Arkansas Baptists," he continued, "is that it was something we never envisioned ourselves, even in our wildest dreams, going to do and the foreign missions exposure we got was incredible."

Four Arkansas Baptists also conducted training this summer in Madrid, Spain. Team member Suzanne Stevens, a member of Sylvan Hills Church in North Little Rock, said that the team's goals included training Immanuel Baptist Church's members in children's ministry, women's ministry, parenting skills and creative ministries such as puppetry.

Like Hudnell, she noted the Madrid church's desire for training. "Throughout the entire church, we were received more than warmly," she said. "The church

members were so hungry for more ideas and materials and they were so impressed that we wanted to come all the way over to teach them. Of course, we left the other way around."

She said the 100-member church has "about 35 to 40 different nationalities represented" and that team members "discovered the true joy of Christianity in the faces of the people" at Immanuel.

Another conference in September reached several European countries with Sunday School training.

According to Debbie Kiouss-Hnat, Christian education consultant for the EBC, the team "was exactly what we needed."

She said the team, led by ABSC church growth consultant Benny Grant, "hit the nail on the head with the focus of their training. They trained 77 students representing 13 European Baptist Convention churches, and some military chapels, at two conferences."

"All the comments I received were outstanding," she said about the team. "I knew it was really good when after spending all day in conferences, people were asking if they could stay later."

Also participating in partnership efforts were BJ and Anne Hankins, members of First Church in Cabot, who completed six months of service as the ABSC's on-site volunteer partnership coordinators in September. They will be replaced by another couple from First Cabot, Glenn and Doris Toler, Feb. 1, 1997.

John Merritt, recently retired general secretary for the EBC, said he appreciated the Hankins and their service as coordinators, describing them as "great folks, easy to be with, have servant hearts, are helpful in every way possible, are encouragers to pastors and wives."

Plummer noted that European Baptist churches in Paris, France, and a new work in Bielefeld, Germany, still need Arkansas church or association partners and that a church in Kiev, Ukraine, needs a permanent pastor and a singles director for one semester.

Plummer also announced that to promote communication between partnered churches, the ABSC has begun reimbursing Arkansas Baptist churches up to \$10 a month for telephone calls made to their European partner churches.

Plummer said ABSC executive director Emil Turner instituted the reimbursement policy as an incentive "because it is critical for a successful partnership, promoting prayer between churches and their pastors. It is money well spent for communications."

## Kwok elected to lead Ohio convention

FARMA, OH (BP)—Jack Kwok has been elected executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Kwok, 46, has been director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists since 1988.

Kwok was unanimously elected by the Ohio convention's 50-member executive board Nov. 5 and presented to messengers at the convention's annual meeting in a reception the evening of Nov. 6.

Kwok will succeed Orville H. Griffin, executive director of the past four years. Kwok will join the convention staff Nov. 21 and work alongside Griffin until his Jan. 10 retirement. Griffin announced his retirement at last year's convention and a 15-member search committee was named by the executive board.

Following his election, Kwok issued a strong challenge to the 150,000-member state convention, which currently includes more than 600 congregations, to expand their membership to "1 million Southern Baptists in Ohio by the year 2020."

Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas convention, noted, "I am delighted that Jack has this opportunity of service and am confident that he will minister to Ohio Baptists effectively. Our prayers are with him."

A native of Batesville, Kwok is a former pastor of Indianhead Lake Church in North Little Rock. He also has served as pastor of East Side Church in Mountain Home and Northside Mission in Batesville as well as churches in Tennessee.

A former member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, he also served this year as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee.

Kwok is a graduate of Park College in Parkville, Mo., and Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn. He and his wife, Kay, have two children, Jackie, 22, and Edward, 17.



A Brazilian Baptist delegation recently presented a pair of plaques to ABCS executive director Emil Turner in appreciation for partnership efforts by Arkansas Baptists.

## Brazilians honor Arkansans' ongoing missions involvement

A three-year missions partnership launched in 1985 between Arkansas Baptists and Brazilian Baptists continues to bear fruit more than a decade later, according to Brazilian Baptist leaders.

The Amazon Arkansas Partnership Mission, dubbed AMAR (the Portuguese word for "love"), linked Baptists in Arkansas and Brazil through a missions partnership similar to the state convention's current partnership with the European Baptist Convention.

Seven Brazilian Baptist representatives were recently in Arkansas to express appreciation to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Carey Association and Jim Clark for their continuing support of efforts begun during the AMAR partnership.

Walcir Gomes, pastor of the Igreja Batista Do Telegrafo Church in Belem, and ABCS executive director Emil Turner read together Colossians 3:17 as a praise to God for the 1,000 who have come to know Christ as Savior through the partnership which was envisioned and directed by the late Glendon Grober, former director of the ABCS Brotherhood department.

Grober and his wife, Marjorie, who both died in an automobile accident in 1994, served for 35 years as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to Brazil.

The Brazilian delegation, representing First and Memorial churches of Altamira and the Belem church, presented Turner with two plaques as an expression of appreciation for all the Arkansas Baptist volunteer efforts in their country, including evangelistic crusades, medical assistance and construction work. One plaque was made of native ceramic and the other one featured the AMAR logo.

Gomes also challenged Arkansas Baptists "to continue sending volunteers to Brazil where the doors are wide open for continued witnessing."

"We hope that in the future Arkansas can continue to work with your country in bringing many more people to Christ," Turner responded.

Gomes also praised the 100-year-old Southern Baptist foreign mission efforts in Brazil. "The one million Brazilian Christians are so grateful for the missionaries who have taught us how to become missionaries ourselves," he remarked.

The Foreign Mission Board of Brazil has representatives in 26 countries around the world and the Brazilian Home Mission Board has 600 workers. "We currently have 4,000 native pastors and 5,200 churches," the Brazilian pastor said. "In addition, the people of our country staff three seminaries and 27 Bible schools."

The team also participated in the annual meeting of Carey Association held at Calvary Church of Camden, presenting gifts to each family in attendance.

They also honored Clark, pastor of First Church of Thornton, who said that in the eight trips he has made to Brazil he has seen discipleship growth as well as numerical church growth.

Clark, who noted that he will continue witnessing in Brazil, said the Brazilian representatives and a delegation from Carey Association also met with Arkansas First Lady Janet Huckabee who has expressed an interest in participating in a 1997 Carey Association trip to Brazil.

Frances Hutton, a retired missionary to Brazil, served as an interpreter for the Brazilian delegation.

# First, Piggott, offers 'LifeAnswers' to area youth

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Youth in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri received some "LifeAnswers" during an event that combined contemporary Christian music, AIDS education and drama with an evangelistic message. LifeAnswers, held Oct. 28 at First Church in Piggott, drew about 275 teenagers and their leaders from 25 churches in a 50-mile radius around Piggott.

Pastor David Smith said that the church planned the event because teens "encounter real temptation to become involved in at-risk lifestyles — drug and alcohol abuse, premarital sex and so on."

Smith said the event was initiated by a "life question" that recently had arisen in Piggott: Tracy Meadows, a band leader and a minister of music at a local Southern Baptist congregation, discovered he has HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"The conference itself was indirectly a response to the fact that he was courageous enough to make the announcement," Smith explained. "He was willing to stand up publicly and say, I have it."

"One of the greatest challenges we face as church leaders is communicating to them the need to avoid such lifestyles," he said. "We wanted them to know that Jesus is the ultimate life answer and that the church cares enough to stick our necks out to have something for them."

The program, emceed by Darrell Cook, assistant director of the Arkansas State University Baptist Student Union, included music by contemporary Christian artists Code of Ethics and John Cox as well as drama from the Arkansas State BSU drama team. Participants also heard messages from Willis Bell, an ASU graduate student with AIDS, and Mark Evans, pastor of The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock.

## AIDS victim warns teens

"Do HIV and AIDS scare you?" Bell asked the youth as he highlighted frightening statistics on AIDS. "The virus should kill it's deadly. There is no cure and most people die from it early. The average length of time a person lives with HIV is 10 years."

"It is the number one cause of death for men and women between the ages of 25 and 44," he continued. "I know you say, '25 and 44. That's not me,' but that's when they die. They got the virus between the ages of 15 and 34 and that is you."

"I have AIDS," Bell acknowledged. "When I found out I was HIV-positive, they put me in a hospital and they told me that I'd had it for at least eight years and didn't have long to live. That was two years ago."



During the LifeAnswers meeting at First Church in Piggott, Mark Evans, pastor of The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock, offered salvation through Christ as an answer to youth problems.

Warning that anyone can contract AIDS, he related how he had contracted the HIV virus. "I became sexually active at about 24 as a school teacher and coach. I was a youth minister before that. I had done summer missions for three years. I was a BSU president. I was on the college tennis team and bowling team. I was active in youth work, but when I became inactive in that, I became sexually active."

"It amazes me that people in a small town think it's only in big cities," he noted. "Like only in big cities they are having sex and doing drugs. I know better than that. Every county in Arkansas has reported cases of HIV."

Sharing his Christian testimony, Bell told the teens that Christ has been with him throughout his ordeal. "I can tell you what Jesus has done for me and He can do the same for you if you ask Him," he said.

Bell answered questions from participants that reflected their concerns and fears about the virus. He responded to questions on topics such as: What new drugs are you taking? How has your family handled it? Has anyone in your family done anything mean to you? Did you have to resign your job? Has anyone said any dumb things to you?

Bell, who is working on a master's degree in physical education, said AIDS researchers have found "the immune

system responds best to prayer. Long term survivors have certain things in common, such as prayer, Bible reading and physical exercise."

Corey Bolton, a youth leader at First Church of God in Piggott, said after Bell's message that "it's good for kids to come in something like this to get excited about Christ and see other people living the kind of life they need to live, but they definitely need to hear about AIDS. Kids need to be spoken to about subjects they're afraid of."

"While youth participants heard Bell in the First Church sanctuary, many of their youth leaders were listening to Tracy Meadows, who still maintains his position as a band director and church staff member after being diagnosed with AIDS Aug. 27.

"This community is great... and all of us that live in small communities feel that we are sheltered from the world," Meadows said. "But we have the problems that the big boys have."

Meadows, who is married and has two children, said, "We have never met a problem as pervasive as this disease and never met a problem that will affect us as much as this disease. That is something that the church can do something about. We must realize that we have a positive message."

Citing AIDS statistics, Meadows said that "8,500 catch the disease every day worldwide." He urged the leaders to "get it out of your mind that this is a queer disease. It is a heterosexual disease, with one-third of cases transmitted heterosexually."

"There is an estimate that one in 50 could be infected and not know it," he said. "I was affected seven years and did not know it. In the next 10 years, every family in the U.S. will have been affected personally by this disease."

## 'Need for unconditional love'

Meadows also insisted that AIDS "is not a punishment from God. If there is a reason for this disease, it is to teach us the need for unconditional love. Christ went up and held the leper and He loved the adulteress and helped her. I got it through a sin I committed. I asked for forgiveness and received it."

Responding to a question about "honesty," Meadows said, "How blunt do you need to be with ninth through 12th graders? You have to say, 'I know you are facing these problems.' I caught this disease by having sex with an infected woman. I said that to ninth through 12th graders. You've got to be careful with eighth graders and below, but they are facing many of these same issues."

## Arkansan among teens offering advice to parents in magazine

Think your teen has a lot to say? For the second November in a row, teenagers are getting to offer their moms and dads some handy advice through the pages of *Living with Teenagers*, a Southern Baptist magazine for parents of adolescents.

"Christian young people are taking bold stands for Christ and are being used by God as the catalyst for revival and change," explained editor Ellen Oldacre.

The stories, which carried a theme of "The Game of Life," were written by 18 teens between the ages of 13 and 18. Among the guest writers was Kristi May, a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock. For the issue, Oldacre turned editorial responsibilities over to Allison Lepper, a high school junior from Crestwood, Ky. Articles focused on such topics as "Tracking Media Influences," "Trust," "Target Missions," "Overcoming Life's Hurdles" and "Fighting Fear."

"Many parents don't appreciate the teens who live in their houses," Oldacre said. "But a teen who forgets to pick up his clothes or clean his room or argues about his curfew is not a bad teen."

"Those kinds of situations are normal struggles with active teens trying to understand the responsibility that comes with independence. We want parents to appreciate their teens as gifts from God."

Oldacre said she hopes the articles will challenge parents to become accountable as role models for their own

children and that they will also contribute to teen-parent conversation.

That sentiment is what sparked May to write the article "Coaching by the Book," which describes the influence of Christian parents on teenagers.

"I see too many parents who try to regiment their children's beliefs instead of nurturing them," May pointed out. "I thought it was pretty important for parents to understand that their teen's faith is not the parents' decision. You will believe this...it doesn't work. My parents never demanded, and are always there to answer questions."

Kristi, a senior at Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, is the daughter of Sharon and Harvey McCone of Maumelle and Jim May of Little Rock. She is editor of her high school paper, the *Brian Tribune*, as well as editor of Immanuel's youth newsletter, *The Good News*. In addition to writing, she enjoys singing and volleyball and is a member of the Honor Society. Kristi is in the process of selecting a college and is seriously considering a career in journalism.

"I've seen her grow and mature in her faith, especially in the last two years," noted Mark Gibbons, youth minister at Immanuel. "She is a leader in her group and respectful of authority. She is able to think for herself — she listens to others' opinions and sifts through the information...to find her own viewpoint."

## Excerpts from 'Coaching by the Book'

By Kristi May

Living with Teenagers magazine

Parents have more of an impact on their children than any other hero, star or peer. Whether some teenagers choose to acknowledge this is irrelevant. We are sculpted by the hands that feed us, care for us and nurture us.

A parent's job is to love and guide. Sometimes parents hold on too tightly and in doing so, push away the ones that they love most. It is important to remember that there is a difference in guiding and holding. To have a spiritually and socially mature teenager, it is necessary, at times, to let her use the decision-making skills that you have worked so hard to teach and model.

It is also essential to provide an example that you would like your teen to follow. With every word or action that you take, ask yourself this question: "Would I want him to do the same?" You

may not realize the profound effect you have, but the way you live is the way your teenager is learning to live. He will either choose to follow your example, or to turn completely against it — and you. By choosing not to provide a model for your teenager's life, you are choosing to let someone or something else do it for you....Let your teenager see the importance of Christ in your life.

Love your teen just because he is your child. Allow him room to make mistakes, and then show him how to resolve those problems. If you want a mature young adult, you have to supply him with the skills necessary to live with the consequences of his decisions.

The most important thing to realize in parenting your teenager is that you do not have the power or authority over his beliefs. You can show him the benefit of Christian living and you can equip him with the weapons to fight for his life. But only God can save.

"I told them, 'There is no such thing as safe sex,'" he related. "I told them, 'If you have a drink, or sex or a drug, you think about me.' You have to have a forceful message."

"We have to draw the people who have this disease to God," Meadows concluded. "My church did that for me. I had been music minister there for six years. I caught this disease through 'acceptable means.' Homosexuality is a sin, but so is infomation. If a youth you have gets it, how are you going to handle that? We must help these people. Christ told us to do that."

David Finley, pastor of First Church in Greenway, attended the youth workers session. He said the most prominent impact he felt during the leaders' session was "the peer pressure that youth have. It's different from another generation. We had drugs and alcohol, but we didn't have something like AIDS that would kill us."

"Kids need to know that we love them and there's nothing that God can't handle," Finley added. "The kids also have to know that adults love them."

Participants also heard mini-concerts by Code of Ethics and John Cox between speakers, responding favorably to the bands.

"The music reaches out to the kids," said Mandi Thomas, an eighth grader. "They hear the music and it has a message they need to hear."

"I related to it," said Jim Roberts, a college sophomore, "but it had to do with more than music. It was the message that not only can you have fun with Christ, but you can learn a lot, too."

Following the concerts, Mark Evans told youth that "God loves you right now just like you are. He loves you right now as much as He ever has or ever will. It doesn't matter what you've done or where you've been."

Emphasizing that Jesus "can be the leader of your life if you just ask Him," Evans asked, "Have you done that?"

"Do you know how Willis can stand up here and talk about dying?" Evans asked. "Because he has let Jesus be the leader of his life. You must make a choice and only you can make that choice."

"Jesus has said to you, 'I love you,'" Evans affirmed. "All you have to do is say yes to Jesus."

Twenty-four teens said "yes" in response to Evans' call, while 47 responded that they had renewed their commitments to Christ.

Declaring that she "loved" the program, 10th grader Kaylee Smith added, "It was something Piggott has never experienced and it was real good. It had a lot of things that teenagers now deal with. Any group of teenagers, whether you're at risk or not, should hear this kind of thing."

## Church news

**Leviwille First Church** held a centennial celebration Nov. 10 with a morning worship service, a noon banquet and an afternoon celebration. Bruce Tippet, pastor of First Church of Jonesboro, was the worship speaker and Norman Sutton and Jim Gerren were banquet speakers. Speaking at the celebration were Jack Clark and pastor Scott Hobbs.

**Caney Creek Church** near Louisa, a congregation which was organized in 1890 as the result of a brush arbor revival, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with a day of special activities. Harry Black, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department, was the guest speaker for the morning worship service. Former pastors M. M. Hill, Elton Bullentine, Wayne Edwards and John Hall spoke at the afternoon service. W. T. Byrum is pastor.

**Arkadelphia Second Church** launched Lifeline Chapel in Prescott Nov. 3 as a new work. This new church start will meet in a Red River Association building on Rowson Road that was the property of Southside Church, a congregation which disbanded in May. Sponsoring church pastor Shelby Corring said Second Church will provide teachers and a music director for the chapel. David Burgess is serving as pastor of the new congregation, coming there from Lake Hamilton Church in Hot Springs where he was minister of music and education and a staff evangelist. Burgess attended the University of Arkansas. He and his wife, Shirley, have three adult children and three grandchildren.

**Mena First Church** recently voted to sponsor a mission site at the old Rich Mountain community church which has been purchased by Ouachita Association. Dean Whitener, pastor of Oden Church, will be pastor of the work which First Church will begin sponsoring in April 1997.

**Meridian Church** of Crossett dedicated a new 5,250-square-foot fellowship hall wing Oct. 6. This facility completed a three-phase building program valued at \$400,000 which began in 1978. Herman White served as building chairman and Rick Pyron is pastor. Former pastor Dan Webb, who led in launching the building program, was the dedication speaker.

**Eastside Church** of Osceola recently broke ground at a new location for a facility which will include a 250-seat sanctuary, educational rooms and a fellowship hall. The new site is at the intersection of Highway 61 South and County Road 732. The congregation, which sold its former



## ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By VILBE GILL

property to a Missionary Baptist church, currently is meeting at 111 W. Hale in Osceola. Tom Doty is pastor.

**Springdale First Church** will present its ninth annual production of the Living Christmas Tree Dec. 14-17. The program will feature a 500-member adult choir and orchestra, children's ensemble, drama cast and crew. Presentations will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 14, 16 and 17. The Sunday, Dec. 15, programs will be at both 2 and 5 p.m. Minister of music, Buster Bray, who is coordinating the event, will direct the performances.

## Staff changes

**Willis Moore** is pastor of Hillside Church of Camden, coming there from Fort Smith where he was youth minister of Spradling Church. He also has served First Church of El Dorado, as well as churches in Texas and Oklahoma. The son of Truman and Jane Moore, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Bangladesh, Moore is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Lee Ann, have a daughter, Caroline.

**Thomas W. Stover** is pastor of Arkana Church near Mountain Home. He previously served Cove Chapel of

Springfield, Perry Church, Valley Home Church of Halls and Union Valley Church of Ferrysville. Stover attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College). He and his wife, Gonda, have three children.

**Ron Pickney** is pastor of Rosewood Church, Paragould. He previously served eight years with Lake Church, Pickney, who attended Arkansas State University, also served Fairview Church near Paragould. He and his wife, Ann, have two sons, Grant and Jared.

**James Wilson** is pastor of Bigelow Church. A recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he formerly was a member of Hartan Park Church of Conway.

**Ed Lalloo** is pastor of Centerville Church. He and his wife, Cheryl, moved there from East Carondelet, Ill., where he served First Church.

**Chad Stoddard** is pastor of Central Church of Marked Tree. He formerly was a substance abuse counselor for Crowley's Ridge Development Council and a graduate assistant at Arkansas State University. Stoddard is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) and ASI. His wife Victoria also is a graduate of ASI.

**Marrison Frank Hillis** is pastor of Providence Church of Trammann Hillis who retired from the U.S. Navy in 1978. He has been a member of Shiloh Church of Harrisburg where he has served as music director, assistant pastor and interim pastor. He and his wife, Carol, have four children: Rita, Theresa, Michael and Penny.



*The Calvary Volunteers, a group of men from churches in Calvary Association, recently assisted in construction of a new sanctuary for Central Church of Bald Knob where Claude Gibbs is pastor. Larry Gray of Rocky Point Church served as construction supervisor.*

## ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

**Billy Gene West** began his ministry Nov. 3 as pastor of Northwest Church in Ft. Dorado, coming there from Oak Ridge Church near Blytheville. He and his wife, Pam, have four children, Melissa, Adam, Brooke and Laurin.

**Paul Don Howard** is pastor of Waldenburg Church where he has served as a supply preacher. He was a member of Providence Church of Trumann where he also has been a supply preacher. Howard and his wife, Royce, have been living in Trumann.

**Gerald L. Colvin** is pastor of Lebanon Church of Harrisburg. He previously was interim pastor of West Acres Church in West Helena where he was ordained to the ministry. Colvin, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1969-73, attended Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Shirley, have three children, Ashley, Sherry and Stanley.

**Johnny Harp** has joined the staff of First Church of Lowell as associate pastor of youth, music and education, coming there from Friendship Church of Conway. Harp has 20 years experience as a youth and music minister. He has been assisted by his wife, Cheryl, in writing and compiling three original youth musicals and an adult Christmas musical drama. They have two children, Matt and Kass.

**Jean Pilcher** recently resigned as part time minister of music at Parkway Place in Little Rock, following six years of service. She previously served for 13 years as minister of music for First Church of Little Rock where she had been organist for four years. Pilcher also was organist for Immanuel Church of Little Rock and St. Paul Methodist Church Little Rock. She has been director of the Master Singers Women's Chorus (previously the Singing Women of Arkansas) since its beginning in 1973. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. She and her husband, Bob, have two children and six grandchildren. Pilcher will be available to lead workshops and choir clinics and may be contacted at 2708 Couchwood Road, Little Rock, AR 72207, phone 501-663-8529.

**Bernard Ford**, a retired Arkansas Baptist pastor, is available to serve as a supply preacher, interim pastor or to lead revivals. He may be contacted at 1013 Mineral St., Hot Springs, AR 71901; phone 501-623-8125.

### People

**Mary Emma Hardin** recently was recognized by First Church of Clarksville for 55 consecutive years of perfect Sunday School attendance. She also has served as

church clerk for 70 years. At an Oct. 20 recognition service her honor pastor Robert Brown commended Hardin for her faithfulness in all church activities, including her almost perfect 65-year attendance, having missed only one Sunday in that time.

**Bill Canary** was recognized Oct. 27 for 10 years of service as pastor of Mount Vernon Church in Faulkner Association. He was presented a gold pocket watch at a churchwide fellowship.

### Obituaries

**Harold Hightower** of Mayflower died Oct. 21 at age 71. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he recently had been named pastor emeritus of Tyler Street Church in Little Rock where he was pastor for 30 years. He previously served Beech Street Church of Gordon, as well as churches in Texas. Hightower was a veteran of World War II. Survivors are his wife, Clarice Hightower, a daughter, Clarissa Willis of Little Rock, a son, Bill Hightower of Houston, Texas; three grandchildren and two sisters. Memorials may be made to Tyler Street Church, 2100 S. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72204.

**Thomas Franklin Cupples** of East End, Hensley, died Oct. 22 at age 80. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he had served churches in Pulaski and Central associations. Survivors are his wife, Irene Cupples of East End; two sons, Charley Cupples of East End and Tommy Cupples of Belleville, Ill.; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

**Marcella McIntosh Pruett** of Rosie died Oct. 23 at age 83. She was a homemaker and a member of Rosie Church where her funeral services were held Oct. 26. Survivors include a daughter, Ellen Pruett Wyatt of Rosie; a sister; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

### Ordinations

**North Maple Church** of Stuttgart ordained Bob Bronson as a deacon Oct. 13.

**Pleasant Hill Church** of Harrisburg ordained pastor Darin Peterson to the ministry Oct. 13.

**South Side Church** of Fort Smith ordained Tommy Bardrick as a deacon Oct. 20.

**Forrest Park Church** of Pine Bluff ordained Wayne Harrell, Scott Irvin, Lynn King and Roy Payne as deacons Oct. 20.

## Petty to retire Dec. 31, become part-time DOM

Pete Petty, missions ministries associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, has announced that he will retire effective Dec. 31 after 19 years of convention service. He has accepted a call to become part time director of missions for Centennial Association.

Petty, who supervises special ministries, interfaith witness and migrant missions ministries for the missions department, said the highlight of his long tenure at the ABSK "was the awareness of ministry and reaching, through ministry, people outside the walls of the church and specifically using the creative arts as ministry."

Missions department director Jimmy Barrentine said Petty's contribution to Arkansas Baptists "goes beyond his program assignment."

"He's been the face for missions in Arkansas. He is a happy personality and in his ministry skills are his skills as a clown."

"He sometimes has the fear of being the state missions clown," Barrentine added, "but for those of us who know his contribution, he is no clown at all but a serious strategist and team player who has demonstrated his bedrock confidence in the Word through local churches and associations."

An Oklahoma native, Petty has served as a pastor of churches in Oklahoma and First Church in Vanderhoort and First Church in Prairie Grove. He also served as director of missions for Washington-Madison Association prior to his convention ministry.

Petty, also known as "Beep" in his role as a clown, received the Ken Prickett Memorial Award from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for creative ministry in 1986.

Petty will assume his associational duties Jan. 1. Because Petty's ABSK position is a Home Mission Board position, Barrentine said that he doesn't anticipate "replacing him immediately. It will take several months to work out details between us and the HMB and it will be at least April 1997 before looking for a replacement."



Petty

# QUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



*At the heart of Baptist life in Arkansas ...*

- More than 400 of our students are preparing for careers in the ministry, and 230 of them are currently majoring in religion.
- Over 80 Ouachita students serve as staff members in Arkansas Baptist churches on a part-time or full-time basis.
- Last summer more than 8,000 visitors attended camps at Ouachita — and most of them were here for one or more of the ABSC-related events. More than 600 spiritual decisions were registered, including over 200 professions of faith. We hosted the annual meeting of the ABSC in 1985 and we're honored to do so again in 1998.
- Our student body includes 82 children of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, more than any other Baptist college in the country. We're also glad to claim 149 children of Southern Baptist pastors, and most of them are the sons and daughters of Arkansas pastors. Each of these students receives an institutionally-funded discount to assist in meeting the expenses of college. We award more money in aid each year to Arkansas Baptist students than we receive in support from the ABSC.
- Over 100 Ouachita students worked in summer missions, special mission projects, or Christian summer camps this past summer.
- The Ouachita Baptist Student Union involves students in 32 ministries, both on and off campus. These include Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, Backyard Bible Clubs, Big Brothers and Sisters, Prison Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, MK Fellowship, and mission trips from San Antonio to Australia.
- In addition to providing the preparation for hundreds of ministers across the state (and around the world), we've helped to prepare thousands of lay people for service as deacons, Sunday School teachers, and other positions of service in their local churches.
- Our graduates have established one of the strongest records of any of our Baptist colleges in terms of service as missionaries. Over 200 Ouachita alumni have served or are currently serving as SBC foreign missionaries.

## Evangelical Christian leaders affirm Holy Land travel

Seventeen American Christian leaders, including one Southern Baptist, attended the inaugural meeting of the Israel Christian Advancers Council (ICAC) Oct. 21-28 during a tour of the Holy Land.

The council was convened to advise the Israeli Government Ministry of Tourism on ways to encourage Christian travel to Israel. Council members from the United States represented such organizations as the National Religious Broadcasters, Radio Bible Class and American Family Association.

Council members affirmed the travel emphasis as an opportunity to encourage enhanced spiritual growth among Christian leaders and laypersons.

"Christians come to Israel for a spiritual experience," said ICAC member Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals. "They want to learn more about the Bible, to feel what Jesus felt, to see what He saw. But they want to worship God and to grow closer to Him while they are in Israel, and they want to enjoy fellowship with other Christians."

The ICAC, which toured Jerusalem, locations around the Sea of Galilee, and

other Holy Land sites, recommended the government find ways to prepare pastors and other Christian leaders to help make trips more meaningful to participants. Argue reported the group's strong interest in encouraging travel to Israel as part of ministerial training in colleges and seminaries.

Suggestions also included establishing a mentoring system to encourage involvement and producing a video describing historical and cultural sites in Israel from a Christian perspective.

### 'It brings the Bible alive'

"The ICAC's work will be helpful not only in Israel but to Christians in America as well," said Richard Lee, pastor of Rebo-both Baptist Church in Tucker, Ga., and the only Southern Baptist among the ICAC. "We have a vested interest," observed Lee, a former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. "Baptists love the Bible and the land of the Bible because it brings the Bible alive."

Israel is "a place that touches not only the mind but also the heart and emotions," he said, adding that "no much of our biblical heritage springs from this place."

Shabaz Shay, acting director of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, told a press group that accompanied the ICAC that council members were excited because of their "experience and know-how to promote tourism in Israel."

Acknowledging that Israel suffers from a "perception problem," Shay added, "The story of our life is a problem of perception. We are perceived to be a place of war and terrorist activity."

The reality, Shay noted, is "occasional outbreaks of violence" which are reported widely in the media, creating the perception that it is a constant way of life.

"Outbreaks of violence happen not just in Israel, but worldwide," he added.

"We are asked again and again about safety," Argue agreed. "I feel totally safe in Israel—a lot safer than in a lot of American cities."

Emphasizing that "the pilgrimage traffic to our country has become more important by the year," Shay pointed out, "Anyone who believes in God has a wish to come to the Holy Land. There is no substitute for the Holy Land."

The ICAC plans to meet in Dallas next May to complete organizational details and again in Israel next November for another full-length consultation.

# Baptist Book Store

*Welcomes*

**The Arkansas  
Baptist State  
Convention**

**Please visit our exhibit in  
the Multi-Purpose Building**

**Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock**

*Daily discount specials on certain items*

## HomeCooking.

- Award-winning Southern-style HomeCooking.
- World Famous Chicken Fried Steak!
- Over 17 Different Veggies Daily.
- Light Menu available, all day every day!
- 10-minute Lunch Guarantee!
- All Menu Items can be prepared To Go!
- Old-fashioned Soda Fountain.
- Homemade Breads & Desserts.
- Kids' Menu.
- Open 11am, 7 days a week



1220 Rebsamen Park  
10700 Rodney Parham  
8523 Geyer Springs  
7111 JFK, NLR  
2724 Lakewood Village, NLR



**imperial**

**PEW'S—PULPITS**

Manufacturer Serving the Nation, Since 1960

**1-800-234-6624**



## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

### '96 Fall Festival: Couples take time to invest in their marriages

"We invest in things that are important to us," explained Larry White, "so we invest in our marriage." White and his wife, Carla, recently participated in the Fall Festival of Marriage held at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs.

This year's event, with the theme "Intimacy: To Have and to Hold," was jointly sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist Discipleship and Family Ministry Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board. White, pastor of Trinity Church in Benton, is a member of the Arkansas task force that helped plan and host the event.

"It was our third year to go," White noted. "We make it an anniversary present to each other and look forward to it all year. It was refreshing."

Gerald Jackson, associate in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, heads the state task force. He noted that this year's event was the largest Fall Festival of Marriage to be held outside of Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center

"We had nearly 500 people participate," he commented. "It was an outstanding event with wonderful workshops."

The most popular workshop leaders were Gerry and Eva Ann Lewis, whose closing seminar was moved into a large room to accommodate participants. "They are informal and honest about their relationship," White noted.

His sentiment was echoed by Mike Overton, another member of the state task force, who felt the couple's sense of humor was appealing.

Overton, pastor of New Life Church in Benton, said he and his wife, Denise, "got renewed and excited about our marriage and try to encourage other couples to go."

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for marriage enrichment in Arkansas," Jackson said. "We have accomplished that successfully, especially for pastors and their wives. Hopefully they will be motivated to do marriage enrichment in their local church."

## How do you insure something that's priceless?

### ASK A SPECIALIST.

Your church is far more than bricks and mortar. It represents the priceless commitment and sacrifice of many people. Church Mutual understands your church's enduring importance in the life of your congregation. We've specialized in insuring churches for nearly 100 years. Call for a free, personal evaluation of your insurance needs. Find out why more churches place their trust in Church Mutual. In Arkansas, call 800-451-3354.



**CHURCH MUTUAL - The Specialist**



**SALES and RENTALS**  
All Sizes

**CHURCH BUSES**  
Competitive Prices  
**SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.**  
Clinton, MS

**1-800-423-9826 601-924-1982**

## Make a Difference in a Child's Life

Become a houseparent at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children.

We'll provide: room and board, salary, excellent benefits, training and supervision. You provide: Christian compassion in a loving home atmosphere.

Call: Royce Aston at 501-367-5358

A ministry of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries

L.L. SAMS INC.

Over 100 years of quality service for more than 100,000 churches. Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, and other denominations.

It has been our privilege to serve Southern Baptists since 1848.

Complete • prompt service • excellent prices • professional installation • expert planning

over 200 complete CHURCH RENOVATIONS

**FREE BROCHURES CALL 1-800-537-4723**

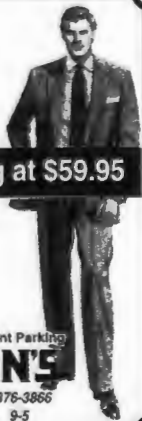
1111 Box 1030, Statesville, NC 28687

**New Shipment!**

**MEN'S SUITS**

**Starting at \$59.95**

**Double or Single Breasted**



Storefront Parking  
**HORN'S**  
7th & Center 376-3866  
Mon. - Sat. 9-5

↑ **Steeple & Baptistries**

Specialty Fiberglass  
Church Steeple  
High Quality - Lifetime Guarantee

1200 W. 10th St.  
P.O. Box 1000  
Lawton, OK 73507  
Tel: 581-222-9999





**FIBERGLASS  
SPECIALTIES  
INCORPORATED**



**CAPITOL KEYBOARD**

Rodgers Organs  
 Schimmel Pianos



13401 Chenal Parkway  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
★ 228-9999 ★  
Hot Springs Mall  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
★ 525-3805 ★

**YOUTH GROUPS NEED**

Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, New Orleans, Branson, Denver, Tampa, Chicago for summer missions. We provide meals, lodging assignment. For info, costs, contact Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mt, NC 27802  
(800) 299-0385

**CHURCH BUSES  
RENTAL BUSES**  
(NEW and USED)

- 12 to 38 adult capacity
- Over 30 used buses for sale
- We buy used buses
- Guaranteed buy back program

"We take trade-ins"



Crusader: 15 passenger • No CDL Required  
(13 with rear storage compartment)



20' to 33' Buses by **CHAMPION**  
MOTOR COACH INC.

**CARPENTER BUS  
SALES, INC.**  
P.O. Box 2126  
Brentwood, TN 37024-2126

Call Henry Headden today:  
**1-800-370-6180**  
**1-615-371-6180**

# Williams urges NAMB funding equal to agencies being merged

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission trustees heard a call for adequate funding support for the new North American Mission Board during their Oct. 25-26 meeting.

"I hope that NAMB's birthright is that it has been birthed right," said Brotherhood Commission president James D. Williams. "This new flagship agency will need not only our prayer support, but also financial support."

"At the next meeting of the SBC Executive Committee meeting in February, critical decisions will be made regarding the budget support of these entities that are named as a part of the new structure of the Southern Baptist Convention, as outlined for us in the 'Covenant for a New Century,'" Williams said. "I want to go on record and speak to you and all Southern Baptists about the need for adequate funding of the new North American Mission Board."

Williams told trustees he supports a Cooperative Program budget allocation of 50 percent for what will become the International Mission Board, 25 percent for the North American Mission Board and the remaining 25 percent "spread among the seminaries and other agencies."

"Why do I say this?" Williams asked. "We Southern Baptists are a missions people. We first came together in 1845 for the purpose of propagating the gospel!

Mission support should receive priority in the budget.

"Some are suggesting that NAMB's Cooperative Program allocation be cut back to the current Home Mission Board level of 19.56 percent. That would be a serious mistake and would certainly limit what NAMB is able to do in its initial years of serving Southern Baptists, if we are to win every person in North America to faith in Jesus Christ."

At a minimum, Williams added, the new NAMB should receive 24.2 percent, the percentage now allocated to the three entities (HMB, Brotherhood and the Radio & Television Commission) that will make up the new agency.

"I'd like to see that rounded out to 25 percent," he said. "You say that I just about 1 percent. Well, 1 percent of \$140 million is \$1.4 million, so even 1 percent is significant."

The Brotherhood Commission is scheduled to merge with the HMB and RTVC by next June, forming NAMB.

Williams praised the agency's staff, a high percentage of whom serve on interagency transition work teams while carrying out their regular assignments.

"I want to commend this staff for the manner in which they are balancing the competing demands of transition on the one hand and the need to continue servicing our programs on the other."

**A.B. Culbertson and Company**  
Invites your indication of interest to:  
**FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS**

EARN UP TO: **9.20 %**

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed Culbertson IRA, Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

**Interest Payable Semiannually**  
This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

**A.B. Culbertson and Company**  
Financial Services Since 1954  
1250 Continental Plaza  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
Member: Chicago Stock Exchange

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the underlying. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value plus accrued interest, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Meritan Northern	Call:
P.O. Box 1302	(800) 468-3007
Benton, AR 72018	(501) 315-5700

Please send information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by A. B. Culbertson and Company.  
**Member NASD & SIPC**



# Living Hope INSTITUTE

**Professional Treatment from a Christian Perspective**

*Hope and Health for Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Problems*

**Treating the Physical, Psychological and Spiritual Needs of Each Patient**

• Christian Counseling • Treatment of Symptoms of Abuse • Outpatient, Inpatient and Partial Programs • Day and Evening Programs • Specializing in Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Marriage Problems, Dysfunctional Families, Sexual Abuse, Sexual Addiction, Depression, Stress and Anxiety, Co-dependency

**Special Services offered to Churches and Pastors**

**Living Hope Institute** desires to support the local church and pastor as part of seeking "1st The Kingdom of God and His Righteousness."

Some of the many ways LHI can do this is by **A) Courtesy Workshops** seminars, or services addressing needed areas like: depression, mental illness, addictions (Sexual, substance, food, gambling, etc.), Grief and trauma recovery, family relational health, child and adolescent development issues, behavior problems, etc. offered by **Christian experts** and licensed professionals from a **Biblical basis** or **B)**

LHI offers **courtesy consultations to pastors 24 hours** a day, 7 days a week. In some cases experts/clinicians can be available to provide courtesy on-site consultations at the convenience of the local church for one or more churches; or **C) Consultations or training**

in **small support group development**. For more information or suggestions on how Living Hope Institute can be of better service to you, please call **Mike Wright LCSW**, Vice President of Professional Services and Development at **(800) 829-HOPE**

**24 hour FREE Consultation • Crisis Intervention • Call 663-HOPE (663-4673)**

• **Toll FREE 1-800-829-HOPE • 600 S. McKinley, Suite 400, Little Rock**

*Located at Doctors Plaza behind Sears on the corner of University Ave & I-630*

## 2,000 Years Ago A Carpenter Started A Job He'd Like Your People To Help Finish.

*People Sharing Jesus* can help your people to share Jesus as part of everyday life — naturally, simply and effectively. *People Sharing Jesus* is a breakthrough system by

**Darrell W. Robinson**  
head of evangelism for  
the Southern Baptist

Home Mission Board since 1989. It's not about gimmicks or manipulation. It's about sharing the joy and faith your people have found in Christ. Without guilt, anxiety or awkwardness.

The *People Sharing Jesus* process includes a book, abridged audio tapes, complete audio seminar, dramatized video, leader's guide and a special New Testament edition. It's everything your church needs to build confidence for sharing Christ. And it's available now at your local Baptist or Christian bookstore.

For more  
information call  
1-800-634-2462.



"Darrell Robinson, whose pastor's heart is clear and recording, has expressed most helpfully in this book the basic features of a spontaneous witness for our living Lord."

— Henry T. Blackaby, Author, *Experiencing God*





## MISSIONARIES

**Dwain and Judi Folds**, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: Pineacle Heights, Apt. #2220, 7990 E. Snyder Rd., Tucson, AZ 85797). He, the countless Grand Prairie, Texas, Air Force man. The former Jack Lynch, she was born in Crosson and also lived in Hot Springs while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

**Billy and Judith Sutton**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 7506 DAPO Lock Box, 1500 Domestic Rd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines). He was born in McGehee, She is the former Judith Blackburn of Baton Rouge. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

**Randall and Kirtie Trail**, missionaries to the Indian Ocean Islands, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 66, Carepage, Mauritius, Indian Ocean Islands). He considers Atlanta, Ga. his hometown. The former Kirtie Colvin, she was born in Jonesboro. They were appointed as missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

### MK prayer calendar

Missionary kids with birthdays in November attending college in Arkansas

■ Nov 1 Michelle Vaughn, OBU Box 3922, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, freshman from Brazil

■ Nov 3 Neil Langston, OBU Box 4260, sophomore from Botswana

■ Nov 12 Sarah Beal, OBU Box 4376, senior from Venezuela

■ Nov 21 Malaika Johnson, OBU Box 4590, freshman from Zimbabwe

■ Nov 23 Marci Smith, OBU Box 3455, freshman from Guatemala

Coursework leading to  
**Doctor of Ministry Degree**  
is close at hand

**Midwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary**  
provides an off-campus center in  
**Little Rock**

For information  
Call Burton Perry at 501-376-4792

**MIDWESTERN  
BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY**

or Robbi Haynes at  
816-453-4600, ext. 330  
For enrollment packet  
call 1-800-944-6287



## REDISCOVER THE LOVING FAMILY

Through group and one-on-one individual therapy, we can help your family to rediscover the bonds that hold it together. We can help through our affordable Christian counseling services. Call us today 1-800-486-4769 or 205-0576.

Our Medical and Counseling Services include:

- Intensive outpatient or inpatient treatment services • Individual counseling
- Group therapy • Comprehensive eating disorder program
- Couples communication • Speakers available for special events



## Minirth-Rice Clinic, P.A.

### Inpatient Services

- Bipolar Behavioral Medicine • No Life Risk

### Outpatient Services

- 1001 Executive Center Dr. Ste. 508 • Little Rock

### Publish Your Book

75-year tradition of quality. Subsidy book publisher offers publishing services of all types. For Author's Guide write or call Dorance—JRL, 643 Smithfield, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or 1-800-695-9599

Are your Seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an Alida, Rollback Roof & Electric Steps. Call Tri-State Van & Bus Sales Today!



1-800-330-3622 • (817) 484-6145  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

**ACSD**

## Arkansas Church Services & Development

425 W. Broadway Ste. L • North Little Rock, AR 72114 •  
501-376-0920 FAX 501-376-0768

### Fundraising

Arkansas Church Services & Development was formed to offer a unique service to churches.

### Plan Development

We have professionals on staff in the fields of fundraising, building design and construction. We offer services on all phases of your building program.

### Construction Management

Please contact us and allow us to explain all or part of our services.



"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles..."  
Isaiah 40:31

## ABN's CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

### Architects

The BDA Design Group, Inc.  
310 State Line Avenue / P.O. Box 1231  
Texarkana, USA 75504-1231  
1-800-465-1183

501-773-1193 FAX: 501-773-0183

Architect - Planners - Consultants

### Bowell & Russell Architects, Inc.

2850 Firrell Street, Suite 29  
Conway, AR 72032  
501-450-9633 FAX: 501-450-7228

Master planning, site analysis and all architectural services

### Baptistries/Steeple

#### Construction Sales Co., Inc.

P O Box 1049  
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049  
1-800-526-9863 FAX: 501-234-6475  
Also Laminated wood arches, beams and decking

### Book Stores

#### Baptist Book Store (BBC)

9101 W. Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
501-225-6009

### Building & Planning Consultants

#### Joshua Consulting & Management Co.

306 State Line Ave. / P.O. Box 1319  
Texarkana, AR 75504-1319  
501-772-6263 FAX: 501-773-0183  
Building/Facility-Planning Consultants

### Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Almco Wholesale  
10001 Colonial Glenn Rd.  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
501-228-0808

### Long-Term Care Insurance

Mary Alice Hughes  
217 East G St.  
North Little Rock, AR 72116  
501-791-2651 / 1-800-220-2380 PIN 2688  
Long-term care specialist

### Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1719  
Ruston, LA 71273  
Arkansas references available  
318-251-0290 FAX: 318-255-3363  
Audio, Lighting, and Video Systems  
Design-Installation-Rental.

For a listing, call Nelle O'Bryan  
at 376-4791, ext. 5155

## CHURCH SECRETARIES

### Baptist secretaries meet, elect officers

Gary Paul of Jacksonville was re-elected president of the Association of Arkansas Baptist Secretaries during the group's second-annual meeting Oct. 29 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Marjorie Depinet of Gossett was re-elected vice president and Mary Davis of North Little Rock was elected secretary.

Named as district representatives are Teresa Ford of Hope, Kaye Robertson of Charleston and Kathy Bradley of Walnut Ridge. Paul presented a gift to Jean Myers

of Benton, outgoing secretary.

Other program features included a discussion by Dell Avey of Meigs on the encouragement and assistance that the secretaries association had given her as secretary of Ouachita Association. Special music was provided by Kerry Russell and Paul Tanner of the host church.

A workshop led by Donna Gandy, Baptist Student School Board secretary consultant, preceded the annual meeting. In addition, Don McEvoy and James Walker led discussions on Southern Baptist led discussions on Southern Baptist Annular Board programs.

### Classifieds

**Seeking** — Part-time youth minister. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 117, Gillett, AR 72055. Job description available on request.

**Youth director** — Growing church, with between 35-70 youth attending services, needs part-time (more possible) youth help. Located on 87-187, 30 min. from NLR. Come grow with us. Send resumes to First Baptist McRae, ATTN: Youth Committee, P.O. Box 186, McRae, AR 72102. Call 726-3532 for more information.

**Need van** — Small rural church looking for used church van. Vandyale Baptist Church, 501-238-8752.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included.

### Headmaster First Baptist Academy Dallas, Texas

The First Baptist Academy School Board invites applications and nominations for the

position of Headmaster. Candidates should be active members of Southern Baptist churches and have a distinguished record of providing strong leadership and a knowledge in Christian education.

Deadline for filing applications is December 1, 1996. Screening of qualified candidates will be managed by Paul Ray Berndtson, Inc., an executive search firm in Dallas, Texas. Interested parties should submit a letter of application describing your Christian and educational philosophy along with a current curriculum vitae and at least five professional and personal references. All inquiries regarding this vacancy and/or application should be sent to:

Linus Wright, Consultant  
Paul Ray Berndtson, Inc.  
Texas Commerce Tower  
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 4500 West  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
Phone (214) 969-7620 • Fax (214) 754-0646

### Preferred Risk Mutual A Partner in Protecting Your Church!

Together,  
we make a difference...

in the lives of our Very Important People — Our Policyholders. For decades, we've protected their churches, lives, homes and families. We were first to offer a package policy designed especially for churches. Now over 40,000 churches in 29 denominations rely on us.

Protect Your Ministry!  
Call 1-800-321-5754  
TODAY!

**P**REFERRED RISK MUTUAL®  
A member of Preferred Risk Financial, Inc.™  
1111 Ashworth Road  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

## Family Bible

*Dry bones can live!*

By Jim Lagrone, pastor,  
First Southern Church, Bryant  
Basic passage: Ezekiel 37  
Focal passage: Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Central truth: The Hebrew nation was in exile, but restoration was coming.

Ezekiel penned the words that preachers have preached on for centuries. It is one of the most exciting and promising in all of the Bible. The passage clearly fore-shadows the new birth. Some have even said it is a picture of spiritual death and resurrection. It is a revival and a reminder that God is not limited by anything. His power can even resurrect a dead nation. His power can even save the most desperate soul. His power can move in the most dire of circumstances. God still has the power!

Ezekiel asks an important question: "Can these bones live?" The hand of the Lord Himself had led the great prophet back and forth in a valley full of dry and dusty bones. The Lord told Ezekiel to preach to the bones. God was using the graphic symbol of dry bones to illustrate just how dead the Hebrew nation was in exile.

But even dry bones can live again. Remember, the people were in the midst of despair so this prophecy gave them what they so desperately needed—hope. God has not forgotten them and life will pulse through the veins of their nation once again.

The bones will live by the Spirit of God. Only God can put spiritual life into spiritually dead people. The prophet was assuring the people that life was coming and God was the author of that life. The people were also promised a new body as well as a new heart and mind. They would be a new creation of the very hand of God. The dry bones would live and live by the very Spirit of God!

Applying this passage to your church or even your class is easy. No matter the condition of the people, God still can move. No matter the spirit, God can still move the hearts of men. God still wants to use you to stir the valley of dry bones where you are. It does, however, require a repentant heart and a repentant people. A recognition of the Lordship of Jehovah is a first step toward stirring the dust off the bones.

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

## Life and Work

*The inner life*

By Darrell Cook, associate director,  
Baptist Student Union,  
Arkansas State University  
Basic passage: Exodus 20:14;  
Mark 7:20; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5;  
Ephesians 4:17-19  
Focal passage: Mark 7:20-23  
Central truth: The "inner life" matters.

It is exciting to see the growing interest in accountability among men in the church today. Whether in rally-type meetings, small groups, or one-on-one, men are pulling together and looking for ways to bring more depth and consistency to their walk with God.

As men learn to share with one another regarding the matters of the inner life, we must remember that this is not a new thing. Christ often taught clearly about the importance of keeping the inner life in check. In Mark 7:20-23, He taught that a man is unclean based on what comes out from the inside, rivaling the notion that holiness depended on what went in from the outside.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law had accused the disciples of being unclean because they had not given their hands a ceremonial washing before eating (Mark 7:15). As they questioned Jesus about this, He began to speak to them about adhering more to men's traditions than God's commands.

When Jesus said, "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean'" (v. 20), He was teaching many lessons. He was teaching that the inner life should not be overlooked. The Pharisees overlooked the inner life by placing emphasis on their external code of behavior.

We can be like the Pharisees when we decide the worth of another person based on their ability to measure up to our standards. In a society that places a premium on outward appearance, we can find ourselves applying standards of judgment on actions and appearance of others, but disregarding the heart.

Jesus was also teaching us that our sins and poor choices do not just happen, but their seeds can be found in the thought life. "Sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery" (v. 21) have their origins in our thoughts before they are evidenced in our actions. These come "out of men's hearts" (v. 21) and provide a clear call to guard the inner life.

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Used by permission.

## Explore the Bible

*The disciple's progress*

By Bob Harper, pastor,  
First Church, White Hall  
Basic passage: Matthew 11:12  
Focal passage: Matthew 11:11, 28-30,  
12:30-32, 43-45  
Central truth: Spiritual growth is required of all people who would follow Jesus.

John the Baptist had proved himself to Jesus. Jesus told us what He thought of John's ministry when He said, "Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist." John had not shrunk back from his task of preparing the way for the Messiah. Rather, his actions had paved the way. He had accomplished what God wanted him to do. There is a sense of progression in fulfilling God's task for the disciple.

Wouldn't it be a great statement for someone to be able to say that he had accomplished what God had wanted us to do concerning our service by the Lord? Chapters 11-12 share with the disciple many illustrations of how we should progress in our service to the Lord.

First of all there is rest and direction for those who would work for the Master. As we go to Jesus, we find the burdens and weariness of our earthly lives removed as we join Him in what He feels is important. Thus our soul finds not only fulfillment and restoration but also meaningful purpose in what the Master's yoke is for each of us.

Our service for the Master is required not as a Sabbath ritual to be kept at the expense of doing good to our neighbor, but we are to be concerned with following the leadership of the Spirit that can drive out demons and point us to truly worshipping God. Jesus said, "He who is not with me is against me" (v. 12:30). If we do not listen to the Spirit of God, we cannot be His disciple. If we do not agree with the message of the Spirit of God, we will not be forgiven in this age or in the age to come. Jesus warned that a "tree is recognized by its fruit."

To simply remove the evil spirits from a person's life will not improve a man's condition on its own. The disciple must be busy moving forward in service to God so that when the evil spirit returns, there is no place for it to reside. The follower of God listening to the Spirit's voice is progressing toward the perfection found through following Jesus Christ.

This lesson treatment is based on the Explore the Bible Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Used by permission.

## Family Bible

### The Lord's hand

By Bruce A. Swinart, director,  
ABBC church leadership support  
department

Basic passage: Luke 1:5-25, 57-60

Focal passage: Luke 1:5-25

Central truths: Obedience, holiness  
and prayer result in God's blessing.

God was about to do something magnificent in the world, fulfilling His greatest Old Testament promise and interrupting time and space to send the Messiah.

Little did Zechariah and Elizabeth know they were part of God's eternal plan. They were prepared to be used by God because they were faithful believers (v. 6) Zechariah did not let the fact that his prayer for a son had never been answered keep him from performing his priestly duty (v. 8) Even though "they were both well along in years" (v. 7) his prayer for a son was to be answered (v. 13) They would not let the Messiah's parents, but parents of the one who would "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (v. 17).

After we exercise faith for salvation, we are to be about the business of obedience to God. His hand is ready to bless us, but our measure of faithfulness usually determines the abundance of His blessing. God desires to do more for us than we can dream (Eph. 3:20). Yet He often cannot give us His full blessing because we live in disobedience. Our sin separates us from the Lord's blessing (Isa. 59:1-2).

Zechariah was so astounded by Gabriel's announcement that he couldn't believe God's promise (v. 18). Gabriel's words seemed so impossible to Zechariah. The Lord had to apply loving discipline so that Zechariah could focus on how magnificently He was going to work (v. 20).

There is a fine line between practicing our faith and being overwhelmed by unbelief. As we are confronted with God's truth, we must practice believing that God can still bring about the impossible.

Because the Spirit was free to be at work in Zechariah and Elizabeth, they were in agreement in naming their son, John (vv. 60-63). Being filled with the Holy Spirit, Zechariah was able to grasp the significance of God's purpose in them, their son and the redeemer to come (vv. 67-79).

God's hand is still ready to bless you in abundant measure. We are encouraged to be obedient and experience the "floodgates" of heavenly blessing (Mal. 3:10). Make a fresh commitment to present yourself for service to the Lord (Rom. 12:1-2).

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

## Life and Work

### Exemptions

By Darrell Cook, associate director,  
Baptist Student Union,  
Arkansas State University

Basic passages: Exodus 20:15; Amos

8:4-6; James 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:28

Focal passages: Exodus 20:15;

Ephesians 4:28

Central truths: Don't rely on  
"exceptions."

Allow me to apologize in advance. I am about to use "tax language," so if you break into a rash when you hear "April 15" or if you have any other tax-related medical condition, you may want to stop reading now.

The word we will focus on here is "exemption." Exemption is a tax word we like better than most others, because it deals with money that is not taxable. Exemptions allow the taxpayer to say, "This part of my income is uncollectible for taxation purposes. It is exempt."

Unfortunately, we sometimes apply the Ten Commandments with an exemption system. We may say, "This part of my behavior is not to be held to the standard. It is exempt." Our exemptions are numerous and subtle, as evidenced by the way we apply the eighth commandment. We hold "you shall not steal" (Ex. 20:15) to be true, but exemptions allow us to redefine what stealing means.

One commonly offered exemption is, "It's not stealing if it won't be missed." Taking a box of pens from work is fine if there is a whole case of them in the storage.

Another common exemption is, "It's not stealing if it's for my church." There is a temptation to say, "We need to photocopy this material for our choir instead of buying the number of copies we need. I'm sure we've already exhausted our music budget."

Paul's admonition against stealing in Ephesians 4:28 challenges the offender to start "doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." Paul doesn't tell us to work hard for the things we want instead of stealing, he tells us to refrain from stealing and be ready to give away what we have.

Adopting exemptions puts us in the frame of mind to keep asking, "What can I get away with?" Following Paul's challenge to the church at Ephesus puts us in the frame of mind to keep asking, "What can I give away to meet a need?"

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Used by permission.

## Explore the Bible

### What the kingdom is like

By Bob Harper, pastor, First Church,  
White Hall

Basic passage: Matthew 13:1-12

Focal passage: Matthew 13:5-9, 10-23,  
24-30, 44-50

Central truths: Jesus wants His  
followers to understand what the  
kingdom of God is like.

In our day and time, Jesus would have been a good photographer. In our text, He moved His teaching from the temple area out to the countryside and began drawing word pictures for His audience of the kingdom of God. Speaking from a boat, He used the visible images of the farm and the sea. With these picture parables, the crowds could begin to grasp what the kingdom of God is like.

The disciples of Jesus questioned why He would speak in parables. As each parable was shared and its meaning became clear, the disciples' learning intensified. You can almost hear the disciples' minds saying, "So that is what the kingdom of heaven is like."

Jesus was striving to share with His listeners their need to be part of the kingdom instead of just being close to it. The coming kingdom will entail separation of those who truly belong to the kingdom and those who are stolen away by the deceiver.

The parable of the sower helps us to realize God's intention for His Word. He wants us to hear it and cradle it in our souls. He wants it to defeat the deceits of Satan and ultimately allow it to produce a crop. The reception of the Word is a key fact of the parable.

The kingdom of God is also like soil sown with good seed and bad seed. Once they both have sprouted, only during the harvest can their separation be completed. We are not to be judges of fruit. We are to be good fruit and leave the judging to the Harvester.

The kingdom will exhibit tremendous growth potential, be "filled with all kinds of fish" and be of priceless value. Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is among us. I hope we see the picture He is painting for us. We want to be sure we spend the rest of eternity in His kingdom, not our own.

This lesson treatment is based on the Explore the Bible Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Used by permission.



The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* offers subscription plans at three rates:

■ **The Every Resident Family Plan** offers churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.56 per year for each subscription.

■ **The Group Plan** allows church members to receive a discount when 10 or more individuals send their subscription through their local church.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.  
P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

■ **Individual subscriptions** may be purchased at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more expensive because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

**Changes of address** by individuals may be made with the above form.

**When inquiring** about a subscription by mail, please include the address label. Individuals also may call the *Newsmagazine* at 501-376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to provide code line information printed on the mailing label.

### Committee named to nominate Annuity Board president

DALLAS (BP)—A presidential search committee has been named to find the next president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Paul W. Powell, president since March 1, 1990, will resign on December 1998 and Annuity Board trustees he expects to retire within six to six and a half years, but under no bylaws requirement. Annuity Board officers meet at the annual board meeting in February following their 18th birthday.

Trustee chairman Richard E. Scott named E. Ray Taylor of Texas as chairman of an eight-member committee to conduct a nationwide search. Arkansas Baptist trustee Kirk Thompson of Springdale is among the search committee members.

Scott asked the search committee to compile a list of the characteristics desired in the next president. The list will be discussed by trustees at the next meeting of the Annuity Board, Feb. 24-25, and will then be published in connection with an invitation for nominations.

### Kelley inaugurated as New Orleans Seminary president

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr. was officially installed Oct. 29 as the eighth president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trustee chairman William M. Hamm Jr. officially installed Kelley as president. Landrum P. Leavelle II, his served as president and professor of evangelism for 20 years, presented Kelley with the seminary's presidential furlough.

Following an inaugural address by Kelley's brother-in-law, Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kelley responded. "It is time to get to the task. We will judge the health of our seminary by the health of the churches our graduates lead."

### Sunday School Board, SBCNet add Internet web sites

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The Baptist Sunday School Board and SBCNet, the Southern Baptist Convention's computer network coordinated by the board, have launched web sites on the Internet. The address for the BSSB site on the World Wide Web is <http://www.bssb.com>. The SBCNet site may be accessed at <http://www.sbnet.org>.

"Baptist Sunday School Board Online" is the board's web site identification, according to Chip Alfred BSSB communications department design editor who coordinates corporate content for the site. Subject areas offered online visitors include information about the BSSB products and services, conference information and the plan of salvation. The page also will provide links to SBCNet and other Baptist sites.

The SBCNet web site will focus on information about Southern Baptists, including material such as historical facts and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement. It also will link to other Southern Baptist web sites.

### RTVC's FamilyNet to broadcast 'Fasting & Prayer '96'

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Fasting & Prayer '96 will be televised live at 8 p.m. Nov. 14-15 on FamilyNet, the broadcast television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The event, spearheaded by Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright, will be at America's Center in St. Louis. Bright, his wife, Vonette, and evangelist Billy Graham are co-chairs of Fasting & Prayer '96.

Using satellite communication, Bright said he hopes to link thousands of churches and millions of Christians together in the fasting and prayer effort for spiritual revival in America and the world. Among those scheduled to be on the program are Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff and SBC Pastors' Conference president Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale.

### Falwell tells congregation he has not joined SBC

RICHMOND, VA (ABP)—Jerry Falwell says he has not joined the Southern Baptist Convention, even though a recent contribution from his church to a new SBC-related state convention in Virginia qualifies him for SBC membership.

Falwell, the pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., told his congregation Oct. 30 that he has not abandoned his independent stance. He will, however, maintain close ties with Southern Baptists, a spokesman said.

Thomas Road Church sent a \$1,000 contribution Sept. 25 to the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, which broke away from the Baptist General Association of Virginia this fall. According to Falwell spokesman Mark DeMoss, "It was not the church's intention to join the Southern Baptist Convention but rather to show support for Southern Baptist conservatives in Virginia."