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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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8-29-1985

**August 29, 1985**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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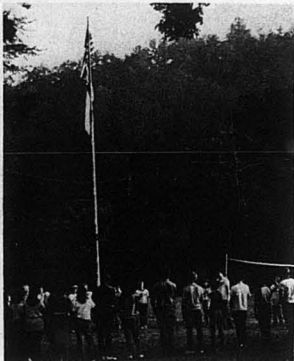
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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Nashville, Tennessee

August 29, 1985

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Baptist encampments:  
a vignette of the summer  
page 10



ABN photo/Mark Kelly

The early morning mists of the Ouachita Mountains cooled campers who circled for flag raising ceremonies at Ouachita Association's camp at Hatfield on a typical morning this summer. Ouachita is only one of the associations who provide camps for Baptists, and their are statewide camps for Baptists. We take a look at some typical scenes this week.

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## Next Month in Arkansas

**September 5, Furloughing missionaries' orientation,** Baptist Building, Little Rock. A meeting designed to provide information about Arkansas Baptist life to foreign missionaries spending their furlough in the state. Arkansas Annuity-Stewardship Department and the SBC Foreign Mission Board are joint sponsors.

**September 5, Church-wide WMU Training Day,** Immanuel Church, Little Rock. An annual event to train local church WMU leaders for the coming year. Arkansas WMU is the sponsor.

**September 9, Area Evangelism Conference,** East Side Church, Paragould. A meeting to provide information and inspiration for pastors and laypersons from small churches and bivocational pastors. Arkansas Evangelism Department is the sponsor.

**September 9, WMU Area Conference,** First Church, Crossett. Annual training event for WMU leadership, sponsored by Arkansas WMU. Conferences held in the morning will be repeated in the evening in a joint meeting with Brotherhood area conferences.

**September 9, Brotherhood Area Training Conferences,** First Church, Crossett. Evening meeting for Baptist Men and RA leaders, sponsored by Arkansas Brotherhood Department.

**September 10, Area Evangelism Conferences,** First Church, Searcy. Same as Sept. 9 evangelism meeting.

**September 10, 11, WMU Area Conference,** First Church, Camden. Begins with evening sessions at the same time of **Brotherhood Area Conferences.** Conferences are repeated the next morning for WMU leaders.

**September 12, Area Evangelism Conferences,** Hamburg First Church. Same as Sept. 9 conference.

**September 12, Area WMU Conferences and Area Brotherhood Conferences** Immanuel Church, Texarkana. Same as Sept. 9 conferences.

**September 15-22, Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.** Annual emphasis on missions in the state and an offering that supports what Arkansas Baptist do together through the State Missions Department.

**September 16, WMU Area Conference and Brotherhood Area Training Conference,** Grand Avenue Church, Ft. Smith. Same as Sept. 9 meetings.

**September 17-18, WMU Area Conference,** First Church, Siloam Springs. Begins with evening joint meeting with Brotherhood. Conferences for WMU are repeated the next morning.

**September 17, Brotherhood Area Training Conferences,** First Church, Siloam Springs. Same as Sept. 9 meeting.

**September 19, WMU Area Conference and Brotherhood Area Training Conference,** First Church, Harrison. Same as Sept. 9 meetings.

**September 21-28, Arkansas Senior Adult Chataqua,** Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, New Mexico. An annual trip by chartered bus to a special week for seniors.

**September 30, WMU Area Conference and Brotherhood Area Training Conference,** Walnut Street Church, Jonesboro. Same as Sept. 9 meetings.

## In this issue

### 4 dealing with suicide

An article related to one last week on handling grief explores the kind of grief that comes from suicide. Ed McDonald, Director of Pastoral Care at Baptist Medical Center, offers guidelines.

### 8 mobile setting missions

The community where a new mission meets in a mobile chapel was just the place for that type of building. The third in a series on models of church planting looks at a congregation near Marion.

## Tanner challenges 26 church planters to be vessels

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner challenged 26 church planter apprentices to let their lives count for Christ.

In a commissioning service at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, during home missions emphasis week, Tanner said God has not changed how he uses the lives.

"God carried out his mission in the lives of early Christians much like he does in Christians today, dwelling in their lives and working miracles with their hands," he said. Tanner added the same God which call-

ed the 26 church planter apprentices would be accompanying them in their various fields of mission.

A church planter apprentice is a recent seminary graduate with less than two years pastoral experience who will start and lead new churches in "new work areas where there are no Southern Baptist churches."

"A life will not be effective," Tanner told the apprentices, other home missionaries, laypeople and denominational employees, "until it measures up to the purpose for which God has designed."



Beyond question, Southern Baptists are the most evangelistic of any denomination today. But sometimes we forget the biblical principles on which our evangelism should be founded. The "what" of the gospel largely determines the "how" of evangelism. Our goals and methodology in evangelism must reflect clearly the content of revealed truth. Any deviation in the basic structure of the gospel will produce a perversion of evangelism.

The basic doctrines of Christianity are not open for adaptation by the latest fad, or to be reshaped by some current consensus, or to be remolded by some new theology. Each single doctrine carries weight in the total evangelistic declaration. None of our basic doctrines can be jettisoned without serious damage being done to the credibility and character of the message we have for a lost world.

Undoubtedly, one of the reasons many denominations in America have lost their vitality is that they have allowed the truth of the gospel to slip through their fingers. As soon as believers cease to be zealous for the gospel content, they will lose interest in communicating it. If Southern Baptists are to remain a vibrant force for the Lord, our evangelism must reflect certain central doctrines. Among these are: the doctrine of revelation, the doctrine of the incarnation, the doctrine of sin, and the doctrine of the atonement.

First, evangelism is dependent upon revealed truth. Christianity is a historic religion. Its character and message was given to us by our Lord and his apostles. For a message to be "Christian" it must conform to the basic message that Christ and his apostles taught. Basically, the evangelist is a herald. He is sent forth to relate the information he has received from the scripture and has experienced personally. His message has its origin in divinely revealed truths.

It should be remembered that all personal experiences must conform to the Holy Scripture. If any one claims to have had an experience which is contrary to the Word of God, his experience is erroneous. Sometimes an attempt is made to develop a theology based on, "a personal encounter", rather than on the scripture. While the Bible clearly teaches that individuals do have personal encounters with God, they can not be divorced from the context of truth as revealed in the Bible. All true personal revelation conforms to the disclosure of the gospel as set forth by Christ and his apostles.

Second, evangelism is dependent upon the doctrine of the incarnation. The teaching of the Person and work of Jesus are

pivotal to the whole Christian system of doctrine. A pure message at this point is imperative, if the Good News is to be properly proclaimed. The deity of Christ is grounded in the deliberate and repeated teaching of the New Testament. The Son of God invaded human history to fulfill the terms of a redemptive covenant contracted in eternity past. He, who was indescribably rich, became the poorest of all beings to provide redemption for us.

In contrast to the Bible, some today maintain that Jesus became God at some point in his life. They maintain that God adopted Jesus as his Son because of his unique desire to follow God. In any form, an adoptionist Christology denies the biblical teaching of the pre-existence of Christ with the Father as a person. Such teaching destroys New Testament evangelism.

Third, evangelism is dependent upon a proper understanding of the doctrine of sin. Man's basic problem, according to the scripture, is theological in nature. He has become alienated from God through sin. His primary need is deliverance from the consequence of sin which alienates him from a righteous God.

Sins produces a state of moral weakness from which man is totally unable to deliver himself. Since the very nature of God is total holiness and righteousness, God requires justification. Man must have a change in status to be acceptable before God. God, through Christ, has made it possible for man's sin to be imputed to the Saviour. So the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the lost individual who accepts Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Finally, evangelism is dependent upon the doctrine of the atonement. The divine provision for the guilt of sinners is the precious blood of Christ. The New Testament consistently presents the death of Christ as a substitutionary sacrifice for guilty men. God in his mercy has provided an instrument whereby his justice could be upheld and the sinner could go free. The law of God is not nullified but, in regeneration, the sinner is no longer held guilty.

Any serious deviation in theology will bring death to evangelism. If we, as Southern Baptists, are to continue to be what God would have us to be, we must continue to remain true to these great doctrines out of which biblical evangelism grows.

Across the years these doctrines have made Southern Baptists great, and we continue to be great because of the proclamation of these truths. Our usability in the hands of God will continue to be determined by our faithfulness to these teachings. All pastors, evangelists, denominational workers and lay persons should make these teachings foundational.

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas' third largest publication, meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

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J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor

Betty Kennedy Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

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## Dealing with suicide:

### getting grief out in the open

by J. Everett Sneed

"Suicide is a taboo. People just don't want to talk about it," declared Ed McDonald, director of Pastoral Care for the Baptist Medical Center. "Yet, there are at least 40,000 Americans who take their lives each year. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among adolescents in our country. There are at least 400,000 people who attempt to take their lives in any given year in the United States."

Chaplain McDonald emphasized the necessity of recognizing the kind of behavior of one who has suicidal tendencies. He said, "Often, they are ambivalent. They may overdose and then call a close friend or relative to say 'goodbye.' But this very ambivalence makes suicide prevention possible. Often, one with suicidal tendencies will be stimulated by a loss or a threatened loss. He may have a feeling of hopelessness or helplessness and often exhibit exhaustion.

"Another important clue," the chaplain continued, "is the inability to communicate. Often, what little is verbalized will be statements such as, 'I am tired of life.' He may go out and buy a gun or give away his most prized possessions. He has unresolved feelings of guilt, depression, anxiety or hostility. In many instances he will have rapid mood changes and will withdraw from everyone.

"Finally," McDonald continued, "he may reach a state in which he has lost interest in life, work, recreation and sex. He will exhibit extreme physical and psychological distress."

McDonald listed the high risk suicide groups in our society today. These are elderly white males, American Indians, physicians of 48 or 49 years of age who tend to be perfectionists, adolescents, college students, alcoholics and drug addicts.

McDonald emphasized that there is help for the individual who has suicidal tendencies, if the problem is recognized by a knowledgeable person. "First," he said, "it is essential to rapidly develop a relationship with the individual with suicidal tendencies. In order to help, a person must be calm, patient, interested, hopeful and knowledgeable. A person should never be overtaken

by anxiety, and the individual with suicidal tendencies should be accepted without challenge or criticism, no matter what he says. The helping person may calmly ask, 'Do you have any guns or pills?'"

The chaplain said that secondly the counsellor should focus on the problem. "Help the potential suicide victim to pinpoint the problem without getting bogged down in details. Understanding is of great importance."

Finally, McDonald stressed the necessity of a plan of action. He said, "If the person is out of control, he needs to be hospitalized for at least 48 hours. Often, a suicide attempt is a way of asking for help. Professional help, however, is absolutely essential. A source of immediate help may be law enforcement officers, hospital emergency department and/or a physician, with continuing care by a psychiatrist or professional psychologist."

McDonald suggested the approach that should be used by a pastor when a suicide does occur. He said, "In any time of crisis, the pastor is expected to be present. He can be of significant help if he is calm and able to accept the family's feelings. Ministers who tell a family how to feel, or tell them that they shouldn't feel guilty, can block the flow of emotion. Since suicide is one of the taboo areas, the minister needs to help the family be able to talk about it. A family may say, 'If only I had done this or that.' The minister can reply, 'You are asking yourself what could you have done to have prevented this because you love him or her.'"

"It is essential to allow people to ask questions," McDonald continued. "It is wrong to tell people that they shouldn't feel this way or that way. It is helpful to let them talk about their feelings and their questions, especially if you are present with them during the first few hours. This is natural and normal. If we don't allow people to talk about their feelings, they will push them down and hide them and say to themselves, 'This is a no, no, no,' and they never deal with the real emotions. This will produce difficulties later on."

McDonald indicated that acute grief is nor-

*'The immature may feel that the sharing of life's struggles will reflect to others that they are not Christian. Jesus, however, shared his struggles with his disciples.'*

—Ed McDonald

#### Books recommended by Chaplain McDonald for further reading:

*Suicide and Grief*, Howard W. Stone, Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1972

*What You Should Know About Grief*, Bill Blackburn, Word Books, 1982

mal for people in crisis situations, such as suicide. He said, "Acute grief can usually be identified by a feeling of tightness in the throat, choking with shortness of breath, or a lack of muscular power. But if an individual is allowed to express himself, acute grief can be successfully transformed into normal grief reactions. Individuals must be allowed to express their sorrow and sense of loss. It is important to allow them to verbalize any feelings of guilt."

McDonald feels that a step in Christian maturity is the ability to share our feelings and our struggles. He said, "The immature may feel that the sharing of life's struggles will reflect to others that they are not Christians. However, Jesus shared his struggles with his disciples. As our Lord faced the cross, he said to those of the inner circle, 'I have this thing I am facing and I really don't want to do it, could you come and sit with me for four hours?' But no they couldn't. They wanted to sleep. Jesus was open and willing to share his struggles even with his disciples. This did not make him less a man of faith, in reality, it did say he was a man of faith. We need to follow the example of our Lord."

McDonald stressed the importance of the funeral in dealing with the family of a suicide victim. He said, "The funeral must portray Christian meaning, especially in a suicide. It must aid, rather than hinder the grief process. The funeral can be an acting out of feelings which are too difficult to be talked about so soon after the death. It is a way of expressing deep emotional feelings.

"The funeral," McDonald continued, "can help us affirm that life does continue. But there is the reality of death. It, also, helps to emphasize the reality of the severed relationship. It provides the aspect of community and provides the help and comfort of life eternal. The minister needs to keep a balanced approach in the funeral service."

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Don Moore

## You'll be glad to know...

...Our major purpose for existence as a state convention is to assist the churches! We are not able to help all churches in the same way or to the same extent. The difference may be as wide as helping buy land for a building, providing a small church loan or give some pastoral salary supplement for one church, to little more than being a channel of ministry for the many needs a stronger church wants to support.



Moore

One church may be viewed in great need because they are young and small, perhaps even weak. Make no mistake about it, the old, large, "strong" church needs the denomination, too. Not for the same reasons, but for very essential ones, nevertheless. Encouraging, equipping, uniting and directing resources to crucial needs are regular ministries to the stronger churches.

It is no small task to try to keep large churches involved and helping their brothers and sisters. They also would be much more inclined to becoming ingrown, introverted and selfish if it were not for involving and encouraging them to work with others.

I think you will be glad to know your Executive Board staff has been in our church 917 times during the first six months of 1985. We have conducted 534 conferences. The number of churches represented in these conferences total 5,763. You certainly would understand that many of these churches were represented more than one time because we only have 1,269 churches. We are grateful you call on us so much. We are sorry when previous commitments keep us from accepting more invitations.

You will also be glad to know that our Crisis Support Ministry has been called on 210 times the first half of 1985. This, too, helps your church. And many of you have used the services of our annuity representative for your needs in insurance and retirement. This helps your church. Many would be at a total loss in trying to provide for their staff without this help.

Now, add to this the ministry, direct or indirect, of the Foundation, Family and Child Care, the *Newsmagazine*, Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College. These, too, exist to help you, your church and its ministry. The church deserves it. After all, she is the Bride of Christ.

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

## New faculty join Ouachita faculty

ARKADELPHIA — Twelve new faculty members have joined Ouachita Baptist University for the 1985-86 academic year, according to Thomas Turner, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Eladio P. Bolanos has been appointed assistant professor of Spanish. He has a B.A. degree from Cedarville College, a B.D. degree from Bethel Theological Seminary and a M.A. degree from the University of North Carolina.

Thomas L. Bush, who holds both the B.A. and M.A. degree from Harding University, has been appointed as an instructor in education.

Marion G. Fray has been appointed as professor of religion and director of the Center for Christian Ministries. He holds a B.A. degree from Ouachita and a Th.D. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Scott Holsclaw has been appointed instructor of speech and drama. He is the recipient of a B.A. degree from the University of Kentucky at Lexington and the M.R.E. degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ed Kiser has joined the faculty as visiting distinguished professor of business administration. He holds a B.A. degree from Stanford University, a M.B.A. degree from

the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. degree from UTA.

Captain Michael McGuire has joined the faculty as instructor of military science. He is a graduate of OBU.

Harold Mitchell has been appointed as missionary-in-residence. He holds a B.S. degree from Henderson State University and the D.D.S. degree from the University of Tennessee.

Russell Rainbolt has been appointed as assistant professor of mathematics and computer science. He holds a B.S. degree from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and a M.A.T. degree from the University of Virginia.

Douglas Reed is a new instructor in political science. He is the recipient of a B.A. degree from Southwestern Oklahoma University and the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Judee Royston joins the Ouachita faculty as instructor of mathematics and computer science. She holds both the B.S.E. and M.S.E. degrees from OBU.

Opal Shepherd has been appointed instructor of education. She holds the B.S.E. and M.S.E. degrees from HSU.

Jim Veneman has been appointed instructor in communications and public relations associate. He holds the B.A. degree from OBU and the M.A. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

## missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. W. Stewart Pickle, missionaries to Ecuador, have returned to the field (address: Casilla 4725-A, Quito, Ecuador). He grew up in Siloam Springs. The former C.L. Smith, she lived in Bentonville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Viser, missionaries to Brazil, have returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 2541, 20001 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil). He is a native of Memphis, Tenn. The former Susan Sims was born in Camden and lived in Hot Springs and Pine Bluff. They were appointed in 1978.

## Lubbock church buys low-power station

LUBBOCK, Texas (BP)—First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, purchased a low-power television station to broadcast the ACTS network to this West Texas town of 190,000.

Channel 40, which went on the air Aug. 1, reaches all of metropolitan Lubbock, according to acting general manager Wayne Roy. This church is leasing the station from Goodman and Sklower, an Albuquerque, N.M., firm which originally planned to put Channel 40 on the air. Roy said First Baptist now expects to execute an 18-month option to buy the station.

The church has erected a satellite dish to receive the ACTS (American Christian Television System) signal for broadcast and has formed Lubbock Television Company to operate Channel 40.

In addition to ACTS, the Lubbock station will carry local programs, said Roy, former general manager of KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas. Lubbock Television is negotiating with the local school district for broadcast rights to high school basketball, football and baseball games.

First Baptist has the capability to broadcast live on Channel 40 and is inviting other area churches to air programs by videotape. The station already has about a dozen of its own half-hour programs for broadcast, Roy said.

The Lubbock station becomes the sixth low-power affiliate of ACTS operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Other stations in Anchorage, Alaska; Concord, Va.; Woodward, Okla., and Cumby and Tyler, Texas, reach 188,000 households.

# Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people



Erwin

David Richard "Rick" Erwin has accepted the call to serve as pastor of South Side Church in Pine Bluff. He is a graduate of Louisiana Baptist College in Pineville, La., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been serving as pastor of Dumas First Church and has served other churches in Texas and Louisiana. He is currently serving as moderator for Harmony Association. Erwin and his wife, Gayle, are parents of two children, Steffi, age 12, and Betsy, age nine.

Robin Allen began serving Aug. 12 as pastor of First Church, Cherokee Village. He attended the University of Arkansas and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Allen is married to the former Karen Noble. They have one daughter, Amber, age three.

Thomas E. Lindley has retired as director of missions for Dardanelle-Russellville Association following 19 years of service. Lindley accepted the position in 1966 with no guaranteed salary, no office, no house and only a typewriter. Arkansas Baptist State Convention provided \$75 monthly and Dardanelle First Church provided a Sunday school room as an office for the next 19 months. He has led the association in growth from 22 to 30 churches; a budget increase from \$9016.62 to \$47,902; the building of an associational office and home combination and 100 percent of the churches giving to the Cooperative Program.

Bob Martin of Ripley, Tenn., is serving as pastor of Calvary Church, Paragould.

David Hodge is serving as pastor of Big Creek Church.

Alvin A. Harms is serving as interim pastor of New Hope I Church in Smithville.

Mike Donahou has resigned as youth director at Dover First Church to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the ministry by the Dover church where he served for 18 months.



Allen

Wendell Lang has resigned as pastor of Brush Creek Church, Springdale, following four years of service. He and his wife, Pam, will move to Norman, Okla., where he will serve as pastor of Berry Road Church.

Steve Graves and Ron Thomas have joined the staff of University Church, Fayetteville. Graves will assist with single adult work and evangelism emphasis. Thomas will assist with housing ministries. Both are recent graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

C. H. "Bud" Moore was recognized Aug. 11 by both Lower Big Fork and Board Camp Church for his 60 years of service in the preaching ministry. Lower Big Fork Church, the oldest church in Ouachita Association (organized in 1852) is the place that Moore preached his first sermon. Board Camp Church is the second oldest church (organized in 1861) and is where Moore is currently a member.

Danny Williams has resigned as minister of youth at Hatfield First Church to move to Springdale.

Steve Plunkett is serving as pastor of Branch First Church.

Raymond Routon is serving as pastor of Keiser First Church, moving there from McCrory.

Howard P. Holloway died Aug. 9 in Ann Arbor, Mich., at age 52. He was a member of Rosie Church. Survivors include his wife, his father, Jess Holloway of Newport, two sons, two daughters, three brothers, three sisters and four grandchildren.

J. Randall O'Brien began serving Aug. 25 as interim pastor of Hot Springs First Church. A native of Mississippi, he is a faculty member at Ouachita Baptist University. He is a graduate of Mississippi



Lindley

College in Clinton, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Therman McCasland has resigned as pastor of Harmony Grove Church at Texarkana.

Lanny Loe has resigned as pastor of Piney Grove Church at Lewisville to serve as pastor of First Church in Ector, Texas.

Janie and Robin White have joined the staff of Stamps First Church as directors of children and youth activities.

Pierce Wilcox has resigned as pastor of Pickles Gap Church near Conway to become pastor of Wenona Church in Cordele, Ga.

Bill Elton is serving as pastor of Fountain Hill Church. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two children, Ashley and Michael.

Mike Ray has resigned from the staff Mount Olive Church, Crossett, to join the staff of First Church, Bastrop, La.

Rodney Roby has joined the staff of El Dorado Immanuel Church as minister of activities. He came there from Handley Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as minister to youth and single adults.

John Alumbaugh has joined the staff of Star City First Church as minister of music. He moved there from Jonesboro where he served as minister of music and youth at North Main Church.

Alvin (Bo) Huffman Jr. of Blytheville died Aug. 19 at age 69 following a lengthy illness. He was a member and deacon of Blytheville First Church where his funeral services were held Aug. 21. Huffman, an active civic leader in his community, was president of Huffman Brothers Inc., a longstanding lumber business. A graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., he was a former chairman of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis where his death occurred. He was a former chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ouachita Baptist University where he received an honorary doctor of law degree in 1973. He served as director of the Ouachita-Southern Advancement Campaign for Arkansas Baptist State Convention and was former executive vice president of the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was also a former board member of the Mississippi County Union

Mission. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Myrick Huffman of Blytheville; a son, Alvin (Bo) Huffman III of Blytheville; a daughter, Emily McLeod of Richmond, Va.; a brother, two sisters and four grandchildren.

**Donald Walker Whitney** of Osceola died Aug. 20 at age 58. He was a member of Osceola Calvary Church where his funeral services were held Aug. 22. He was manager of radio stations KOSE and KHFO in Osceola. Whitney was a former president of the Associated Press Broadcasters of Arkansas and a former president, board member and chaplain of the Arkansas Broadcasters Association. His survivors include his wife, Dollie Whitney of Osceola; a son, Donald Stephen Whitney of Glen Ellyn, Ill. and three sisters.

## briefly

**Union Avenue Church** at Wynne observed homecoming Aug. 4. James Tallant of Pittsboro, Miss., was guest speaker. A meal at Tri-County Association Camp concluded activities, according to Pastor Shelby Bittle.

**Magnolia Church** at Crossett held services July 14 to ordain Ernest King for service in Clarkston, Wash.

**Crossett Second Church** will observe homecoming Sept. 8 with regular morning services, a fellowship meal and an afternoon musical program, featuring The Unionnaires and Jerry Swart of Strong.

**Dumas First Church** mission team has returned from El Paso, Texas, where they led backyard Bible clubs and presented concerts, resulting in 12 professions of faith.

**Geyer Springs First Church** in Little Rock ordained Dave Hughey to the ministry Aug. 18.

**Grand Avenue Church** in Fort Smith honored Sunday school workers with an appreciation banquet Aug. 29. Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, was guest speaker.

**Horatio First Church** recognized Mr. and Mrs. Ruel Crow Aug. 11 for their years of assistance in publishing the church bulletin. Recently elected as church trustees were Steve Smith, Billy Joe Bishop and Larry Bob Ray.

**Cabot First Church** will break ground Sept. 8 for construction of a family life center that will house a gymnasium, kitchen, game room and shower facilities. The building program will also include raising existing education space and building an educational building that will provide classroom space for approximately 1,000, a fellowship hall and an office complex, according to pastor Del Medlin.

**Greenland First Church** suffered heavy fire damage caused by an early morning thunderstorm, Aug. 7. Pastor B. R. Stockton reported damage to approximately 80 percent of the church with insurance covering both the building and its furnishings. Washington-Madison Association has provided a mobile chapel as a temporary worship center.

**Windsor Park Church** in Fort Smith mission team has returned from Indiana where they assisted New Hope Church with work in both Tipton and Atlanta. There were 38 professions of faith as a result of the mission effort.

**Delaware First Church** will celebrate its 10th anniversary Sept. 1 with services beginning at 2:30 p.m. Don Corbitt and Charles Mays will be speakers.

**Piney Church** near Hot Springs will ordain Larry Spalding, Kent Schultz and James Lambert as deacons Sept. 1.

**Benton First Church** voted in a recent business meeting to purchase additional property to be used as education space and a missionary residence; to build a lodge at Springlake in honor of Bernes K. Selph, a former pastor; and to build an educational building as soon as the current building indebtedness is retired.

**Midway Church** at Judsonia will observe homecoming Sept. 15 with an organ dedication service.

**West Point Church** is in a remodeling program that includes painting, a new roof and a new baptistry.

**Lewisville Church** expanded its missions education program July 30 when a Baptist Young Women's group was organized with 16 in attendance. Isabel Loe was program leader.

**Immanuel Church** in Texarkana vacation Bible school workers presented a plaque to pastor William V. Garner, recognizing his 24 years of service as VBS director.

**Hope Calvary Church** honored Alan Moore Aug. 15. Moore, who has served the church for five years as music and youth minister, is spending four months in volunteer mission service in Africa prior to enrolling in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Wood Springs Church** at Jonesboro observed homecoming Aug. 18 with Alvin Harms as guest speaker. Music was by the Messengers.

**Beech Street First Church** in Texarkana is using September as Doctrinal Emphasis Month. Featured speakers will be Hershel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, Russell Dillard, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jimmy Allen, director of the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Blaney Hill Church** at Conway ordained Pete Lovett and George Brown as deacons Aug. 25.

**Mount Vernon Church** has organized a Baptist Women's group as the beginning of a missions education program. Mary Blair is serving as president.

**Beryl Church** at Vilonia held a Lay Renewal weekend July 12-14 with Buck Woods of Parkin serving as coordinator.

**Harlan Park Church** at Conway will ordain Russell Bunch, Darrell Gray and Bill Thomas as deacons Sept. 22.

## New writer begins International lessons



William H. Elder III, pastor at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, begins this week as writer for the International "Lessons for Living." Dr. Elder, who is a graduate of Baylor and Southern Baptist Theological, taught religion at Ouachita Baptist University from 1971 to 1978. He served three years as director for Christian citizenship development for the SBC Christian Citizenship Life Commission.

Dr. Elder came to the Little Rock church this May from Saint Charles Avenue Church in New Orleans, La. He and his wife, the former Linda Newman, are the parents of a son and two daughters.



Modeling missions: third in a series

## Ministries, relationship keys to strategy at Lakeshore Estates

by Mark Kelly

MARION—Make no mistake about it. Lakeshore Estates is not a trailer park.

In fact, this east Arkansas community, tucked into the northwest corner of the I-40/I-55 junction near West Memphis, differs in many respects from what most of us think of when the words "trailer park" are mentioned.

To begin with, each of the community's 400 families purchases the lot on which its "manufactured home" rests. Many of the homes are fairly elaborate models, and a number of the owners have put substantial amounts of money into their "tiedowns." Some of them have even remodeled their units with permanent, traditional room additions.

"Mobile" is the last word you would apply to the homes in this community. "Lakeshore Estates is not a place where you can just pay some money and park a trailer," observed Gene Ray, pastor of First Church, Marion, which this spring launched a new church in the Lakeshore Estates community.

Sixty or 70 percent of the people at Lakeshore would be considered permanent, long term residents, noted Ray, a Blytheville native who is entering his eighth year as pastor at First Church. Separated from

Marion by the interstate highway, the community has a strong sense of its own identity, and even has its own informal "council" structure, though the area is unincorporated, he explained.

The unique flavor of the Lakeshore community, combined with its geographical independence from the town of Marion, made it an ideal spot to plant a mission congregation, Ray thought.

"We had been talking about starting a mission for some time," recalled Ray. "Our congregation had grown to fill every available space here. So we decided to reach more unchurched people by starting new congregations.

"A church member mentioned the mission potential at Lakeshore Estates," continued Ray. "We went out and looked at the community and decided to conduct a survey."

The results of that survey confirmed their suspicions. Out of 1,200 residents, the canvass showed 286 unsaved prospects and an estimated 300 persons interested in a Baptist church within their community, Ray said. And despite the fact they are served by bus ministries from several area churches, only a fraction of the population takes the trouble to go outside the community to attend

church.

The Marion congregation, convinced the potential for a church was worth the effort, got the go-ahead from Lakeshore Estates' governing council and set out to establish the first permanent ministry in a community many would have written off as "transient" and incapable of sustaining a self-supporting church.

The Marion Church approached the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention about loaning them one of the six "mobile homes" being used as portable chapels for new missions around the state. That building, along with a similar one donated by a physician from First Church, Newport, was placed, rent-free, on a lot in Lakeshore Estates.

The village was blanketed with leaflets and handbills announcing plans to start a new church inside the community. Several residents called immediately to offer their help, said Ray.

About the first of April, a home Bible study was begun on Thursday evenings in the home of a First Church family who lives in Lakeshore. Another home soon opened for a similar Tuesday evening fellowship. In late April, a children's program was added to

*Music director Mike Britton leads the Lakeshore Estates worshippers in a Sunday morning service. The mobile chapel blends in with the community of manufactured homes.*



ABN photo / Millie Gill

coincide with the Thursday evening study.

With folding chairs donated by Second Church, West Memphis; hymnals given by Tri-County Association; and a good deal of fanfare in the community, Lakeshore Estates Mission opened its doors on Mother's Day. Nearly 40 persons were present for Sunday School, and 50 jammed the tiny chapel for worship, and this less than a year after the Marion church had elected a committee to look into the prospects for a church.

In mid-August, Lakeshore's pastor, Neal Stevens of Osceola, who had served as the ABCS new work consultant on the Lakeshore project, reported 33 members at the mission and a total of 16 baptisms since May. According to Stevens, the mission now meets for Sunday School, Church Training, two Sun-

day worship services and Wednesday evening prayer meeting and mission organizations.

In July, the three-month-old mission took in \$1,413.34 in tithes and offerings and gave \$139.16 back to missions through the association and the Cooperative Program. Perhaps more significantly, receipts to date have covered the part of the pastor's salary not provided by state convention and associational funds.

In addition, the 13 First Church members who came out to help start the mission have gone back to their home church, satisfied with the strength of the new work, Stevens reported. And encouraged by their apparent success, the Marion congregation has begun to focus on a new development north of

town as another area in need of a church.

The use of a mobile chapel in a community of manufactured homes played a key role in getting the mission off to a good start, said Floyd Tidsworth, ABCS director of church ex-

## Modeling missions



tenion. In addition to lowering initial costs, the mobile chapel allowed the work to blend in with its community in a very appropriate way. A traditional church building, out of place in its "mobile" surroundings, might actually have turned some people away, he speculated.

But far more basic than that was the Marion church's careful "cultivation of the field" for several months before launching the mission, Tidsworth explained. Using the community survey, home visitation, backyard Bible clubs and making the most of existing relationships with Lakeshore residents laid a firm foundation for the new mission, he said.

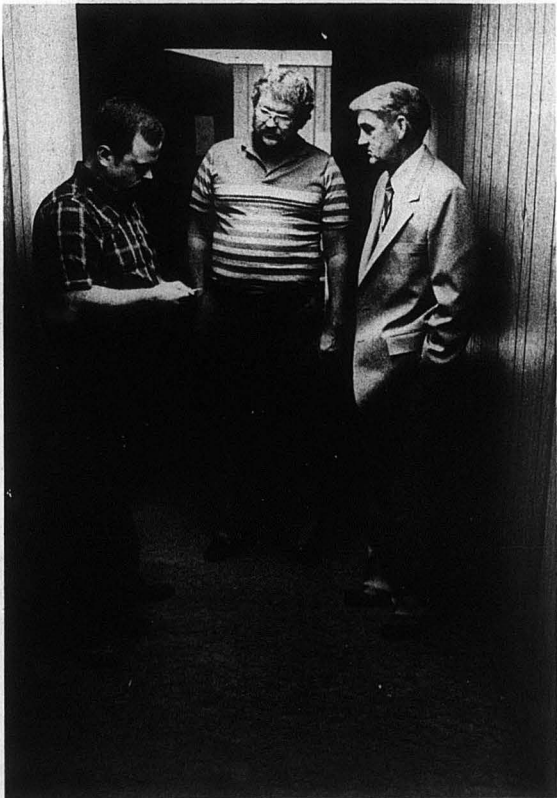
"More churches could use community ministries to prepare for new church starts," observed Tidsworth. "Discovering and meeting community needs says to people, 'We're not just here to get out of you whatever we can. We're here to minister to you in the name of Christ.'"

"First Church, Marion, had built relationships with people in the community, too," added Tidsworth. "Ministering to people's needs and building relationships with them ahead of time are extremely important elements in a church starting strategy. The combination of those two factors helped create an excellent response to this mission right from the start."

Two other "Missions Models" projects in similar communities also are underway, Tidsworth reported. Trinity Church, El Dorado, is working on such a project in its community, and Gravel Ridge and Bayou Meto churches have combined forces on a comparable mission in North Little Rock.

**Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.**

*A hallway conference occupies Pastor Neal Stevens (right), Bobby Wheeler (left), a Marion First Church volunteer who has been serving as Sunday School Director, and James Ellison, director for 1985-86.*



ABN photo / Millie Gill



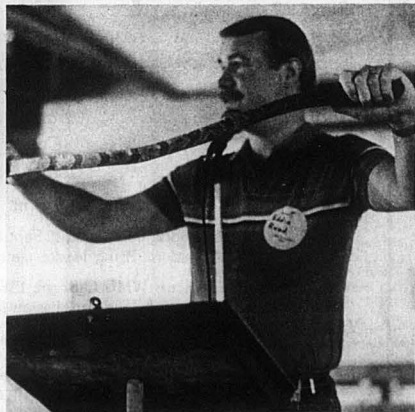
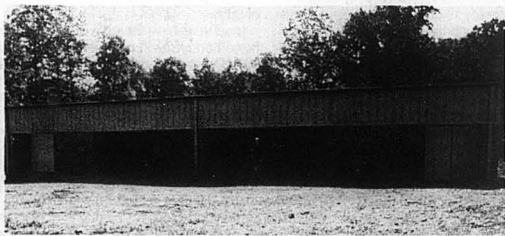
Camp days might include (clockwise from top, left) the long, hot line before meals at Siloam Springs, morning flag raising at the Ouachita Association camp, ping pong and a cool leap, also at Ouachita camp and a little first aid at GA camp at Paron.



## Baptist encampments: vignettes of summer '85



Literally thousands of Baptists, children, youth and adults, got away from the routine and went to a church-wide, associational or state-wide camp session this summer. Only a sampling of the possible activities at several camps are pictured here. Clockwise from left on this page are GAs making missions offering banks, the new dining hall building at Springlake Assembly at Lonsdale, the swimmin' hole at Ouachita Association camp at Hatfield, a snake skin illustration by Eddie Reed to children at Siloam Springs, a participant in a shaving cream fight at the Ouachita camp and the open air classes at Siloam Springs.



Arkansas Baptists' state assembly at Siloam Springs enrolled 5801 campers in seven weeks this summer. Camp director Freddie Pike reports 308 professions of faith were made at those sessions, plus 34 public decisions to enter a church-related vocation and 412 rededications of lives. Pike credits more than 800 volunteer workers with the success of the summer. The camp managed 1070 campers during the week of July 15-19, the largest enrollment of the summer. Plans for next summer already are underway, Pike says.

Photos by ABN staff

# Rains ease African drought but food shortages continue

by Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The best rains in years have fallen across much of Africa, but Southern Baptists are continuing to help those who don't yet have adequate food.

Good rains this year will ease the crisis, but not end it immediately and Southern Baptists should continue praying for Africa, said John Cheyne, the Foreign Mission Board's human needs consultant. He also announced the board has released \$1.4 million for four new feeding stations being built in the Merhabete district of Ethiopia.

Rains already have produced good crops in countries such as Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania and are the best in five years in some of the Sahel countries bordering the Sahara where famine has been greatest. But the Sahel still needs rain, said John Mills, the director for west Africa.

Continued steady rains are needed to break the drought and prevent the crop failures that happened last year even in countries which appeared to have adequate rain. Such rains, for which Southern Baptists have joined in concerted prayer, will do "more to feed people than all the relief efforts we can mount," said Mills.

In Senegal, rains came last year, farmers planted and the rains stopped. Adequate rains came again, but after crops had died.

In Mali this year, rains started, stopped, then started again. Missionaries Norman and Beverly Coad said the country had three weeks of good soaking rains—enough to give hope, but not yet enough to assure crops. Rains were enough, however, to cause the Niger River, which had ceased flowing for the first time in history, to flow again.

The Coads have almost finished distributing 6,000 tons of grain, partly because a Norwegian relief group which was provided trucks by their government supplemented the two trucks purchased with Southern Baptist funds.

Bill Dean, grain distribution coordinator in Burkina Faso, says rains have enabled most farmers to plant their crops, but have complicated distribution of 7,000 tons of grain. Most distribution sites are reached by dirt roads which quickly turn to mud in the rain. But people who are eating only every two or three days have been glad to walk up to nine miles to get food when trucks have been unable to reach them, he said.

In the town of Banfora, Burkina Faso, more than eight inches of rain in one night left more than 500 people homeless. The Baptist Mission, which was just starting grain distribution, responded immediately with more than 15 metric tons of corn and 12 bales of clothing which they distributed with local authorities.

Reports from Ethiopia indicate rains have encouraged many at feeding stations to return home, but continue to complicate grain distribution to those who still need food. Food is still being flown into the Southern Baptist feeding station at Rabel

because rains washed out the crude road.

Volunteer nurses Diana McKinnis and Linda Barnett and Barnett's husband, Clyde, all of Owensboro, Ky., were expected to arrive in Ethiopia in mid-August to work at the Rabel center and possibly help open the other centers.

Six other nurses are prepared to go to Ethiopia and are awaiting government permission. The Foreign Mission Board also plans to send a volunteer field administrator and use Ethiopian Christians to finish staffing the centers.

In spite of rains, Ethiopia is still in desperate condition and will need aid for a long time, said Davis Saunders, the Foreign Mission Board's director for eastern and southern Africa. The board's recent release of \$1.4 million for four feeding stations in the Merhabete district will help sustain people who may not recover for some time.

Ethiopia is not alone. "The problem in Africa right now is so deep and it's caused by so many different factors that merely growing some good crops for a couple of years is not going to solve the problem," said Cheyne. "Every report I've seen from the United Nations or U.S. Agency for International Development indicates that the critical condition will continue at least through 1986—and that's the most favorable scenario."

Good rain doesn't guarantee a good growing season, especially on a continent where per capita food production has been declining for years, he said. In Ethiopia, for instance, people have eaten their seed grain, sold their tools and lost the animals they once used to plow. Weakened by hunger

and stripped of resources, they will find it difficult to raise a good crop this year regardless of how much rain they get.

Many also have been displaced by drought or war. They may find that crops that grew well in their homelands will not grow at all where they're now living. Few African governments have the economic resources to retrain farmers in new agricultural methods. Cheyne says missionaries, along with governments and relief agencies, will play an important part in helping Africans restore agricultural production and increase it to cope with an exploding population.

He believes Southern Baptist missionaries are in a particularly good position to help. While Southern Baptist development efforts involve small amounts of money compared to governments and major relief agencies, he said, "I don't know of any group that is giving the quality of response that our missionaries are able to give."

Because Southern Baptists have limited resources for development, they've had to choose the projects carefully, he said, coming down in favor of relatively small projects targeted at the peasant farmer which can be copied by neighboring areas and eventually by other countries.

The project carried out in the Sanwaba area of Burkina Faso with help from Tennessee Baptists is already serving as a model for another just starting in the Kenieba region of neighboring Mali. Cheyne believes the Mali government was receptive to Southern Baptists entering their country primarily because they liked what they saw happening in Burkina Faso.

## Area Brotherhood Training Conferences

Sept. 9	.....	First, Crossett
Sept. 10	.....	First, Camden
Sept. 12	.....	Immanuel, Texarkana
Sept. 16	.....	Grand Avenue, Fort Smith
Sept. 17	.....	First, Siloam Springs
Sept. 19	.....	First, Harrison
Sept. 30	.....	Walnut Street, Jonesboro
Oct. 1	.....	Calvary, West Memphis
Oct. 3	.....	Central, North Little Rock

Sessions: 7-9 p.m.

Brotherhood conferences: Baptist Men, RA leaders. Bring leader materials.

WMU conferences: WMU Officers; BW/BYW officers; Acteens leaders; GA leaders; Mission Friends leaders

Nursery for preschoolers at each session



# Africa crisis shows few signs of abating

by David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON, D.C.—While money pours in to American and international hunger relief organizations and tons of emergency food aid reach African ports, the plague of hunger continues to spread across sub-Saharan Africa.

Anti-hunger experts now estimate that the emergency situation in most of the 20 drought-stricken countries will continue into 1987, even if current levels of food aid are sustained.

First-hand reports from a variety of sources, including officials of hunger relief agencies, government observers and journalists, indicate that relief aid has simply been unable to keep pace with the steadily advancing famine.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization estimated that total requirements in cereal food aid for Africa's beleaguered countries stood at more than 5.2 million metric tons as of July 1. International pledges for food aid fell far below that amount, and actual deliveries by July 1 had met less than half the total requirement, the

FAO reported.

Meanwhile, the number of people facing starvation continues to rise. In Sudan, for example, the estimate of persons seriously affected by the drought was 4.5 million in February. By June the number had risen to 8.4 million. Relief officials now estimate that during the second half of this year 11.5 million—more than half of the country's total population—may be affected. Along with its own crisis, the country is also trying to cope with 1.2 million refugees from Ethiopia and Chad.

In Chad, officials report 2.2 million displaced persons out of a population of 4.5 million. Thirty percent of the children under age five are suffering acute malnutrition and require therapeutic feeding to survive.

In Angola, one out of three children dies before age five.

While desperately-needed rains have brought relief to a few areas in Africa, they have compounded the problems in some of the most critical areas, hampering transportation of emergency food supplies and contributing to disease.

In Sudan heavy rains damaged a vital rail link, making transportation of grain even more difficult. Rains in Ethiopia have jeopardized internal transportation of food aid and contributed to an outbreak of waterborne diseases. Cholera, which can kill within eight hours if untreated, is spreading in many areas, in

cluding the capital city of Addis Ababa.

Rains also have brought outbreaks of cholera in many of the famine relief camps and isolated villages in Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia and Tanzania. The disease has reportedly reached "epidemic proportions" in areas of Sudan.

Even in favorable weather, transportation poses major difficulties for relief efforts. Chad, a landlocked nation, faces severe problems in both internal and external transportation of emergency food supplies. Although the country is almost twice the size of Texas, it has a total of only 100 miles of paved roads.

Similar transportation obstacles exist in Ethiopia and Mali.

Southern Baptist leaders at the Foreign Mission Board, which has distributed more than \$3.2 million this year in hunger and general relief funds to a dozen African countries, and the Christian Life Commission, which coordinates Southern Baptist hunger education and action, have emphasized the need for a long-term commitment to hunger relief and development ministries in Africa.

From January through July, the biggest recipients of hunger and general relief funds through the Foreign Mission Board have been Ethiopia (\$640,000), Mali (\$1,280,183) and Burkina Faso (\$420,000). The board will release another \$1.4 million in relief funds to Ethiopia before the end of August.

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# Your state convention at work

## Christian Life Council Silent Scream II

Another silent scream was seen recently. It was in a filmed segment of the popular television program, *Sixty Minutes*. The segment, entitled *A Place Called Bati*, was filmed in Ethiopia. A starving infant was shown, silently crying. It was unable to make any sound whatsoever because of its weak physical condition.



Parker

Jesus dealt with the responses of those who saw and heard even the silent pleas of the hungry, thirsty, naked and imprisoned. Like the priest and Levite who passed on the other side, some ignore opportunities. They were the goats of Jesus' earthly ministry and for eternity.

Like the good Samaritan, sheep hear even the silent scream and still prove their faith by ministering to such as the beaten traveler.

Sunday, Oct. 13, is World Hunger Day. All of us can be reminded that "the voice of the victim is the voice of God."

"He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered" (Prov. 21:13). "He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses" (Prov. 28:27). — **Bob Parker, director**

## Woman's Missionary Union VISION 88

In previous weeks, we have sought to strengthen our missions vision by prescribing principles of enlistment.

The first two principles concentrate on awareness and personal contacts. The third is about orientation. The new member is really enlisted into the organization when she realizes and accepts her role in it.

The new member has certain rights. Understanding the purpose, goals and plans of the organization will help her be a useful and important part of the group. Participation is important for her as well. Spectators usually become short-term members. However, she must be allowed to enter the organization at her readiness level and choose her own level of involvement.

It is the responsibility of current members to help new members feel welcome. Providing general training sessions explaining the work of the organization is a good first step in orientation. Don't assume the new member understands all the "shop talk" of the organization. Acquaint her with the terminology. Provide her with appropriate membership material. The most important part of orientation is accepting the new

member right where she is and helping her grow in her personal involvement.

Do you have improved missions vision? Can you visualize 40,376 women, girls and preschoolers involved in quality missions education in Arkansas by 1988? It can happen, if we will implement the three enlistment principles: awareness, personal contacts and orientation. If your church is interested in starting or strengthening its missions organizations, contact Arkansas WMU, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock AR 72203  
**Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director**

## Evangelism Growing in prayer

Each new Christian has a communication line open to God. Just as Elijah picked up the spiritual receiver and said, "Hello, father," each child of God can do the same. A person will continue to grow in spiritual power in direct relation to his prayer life.



Shell

Prayer is the spiritual power line between God's dynamos in Heaven and the spiritual transformer on earth. God has unlimited spiritual power. As Christians, we are God's spiritual transformers. We can and will receive God's dynamic power as we go to him in prayer. Prayer is much like breathing. As you exhale, you talk to God. As you inhale, you listen to God. In real prayer, there is communication between you and God.

Each new Christian needs to know he can go directly to God in prayer. He needs to better understand the priesthood of the believer. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the Temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. God ripped that thick heavy veil apart as he said to his children, "Welcome into my Holy of Holies." We do not have to have an earthly mediator. We can go to God through Christ as the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. As we accept the forgiveness and cleansing of God, we can grow a little taller spiritually. — **Clarence Shell, director**

## Annuity/Stewardship Budget: salaries/benefits

The largest item in a church budget is usually classified as personnel, pastoral ministries or salaries. A recent survey reveals that churches with fewer than 150 members spent 43 percent of all local expenditures on staff salaries. In churches with 500-749 members, staff salaries claimed 38 percent, and churches with a membership of 1,000-1,499 used 35 percent of their local expenditures for salaries.

A 1985 survey conducted by the Annuity/Stewardship Department disclosed a 31.15 percent increase in salary and benefits for bi-vocational pastors over 1983. Full-time pastors had a 13.79 percent increase with the higher increases going to those in lower salary brackets.

What should a personnel, budget or finance committee consider when they look at staff salaries and benefits?

The church has certain responsibilities as an employer. The church calls called people but this doesn't lessen the responsibility of the church to do the best possible with available resources. Few employers offer employees a "package" and tell them to divide it any way they please.

Base salary increases are important for two reasons. Pastor and staff members need to keep up with inflation. A salary increase affirms and encourages. Churches should provide, if at all possible, medical insurance. Disability insurance is good protection for the church and minister.

Church employees do retire. The Annuity Board offers excellent options for building retirement benefits and suggests that churches contribute to the retirement program for all ministerial and supportive staff. A salary worksheet is free upon request from the Annuity/Stewardship Department. — **James A. Walker, director**

## Missions Another committee?

Yes, your church may need another committee. If you do not have a church Missions Committee consider the need. Some may say "We don't need a committee. We don't even have a mission."



Tidsworth

The church Missions Committee is not just to direct new missions. The church may need to reach out to a nursing home, resort area, jail ministry or to unsaved "religious" groups. A mission Sunday school could be needed.

A church Missions Committee can: (1) help the pastor carry the outreach load; (2) work with WMU and Brotherhood; (3) survey the church field for needs; (4) help the church become aware of mission needs; (5) coordinate the church resources to meet outreach needs.

The church Missions Committee should be a standing (permanent) committee, elected each year. It needs people on the committee who are committed to reaching people outside the four walls of the church. It needs people who are respected by the church. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

## International

### *Christ, the fullness of God*

by William H. Elder III, Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Colossians 1-2

Focal passages: Colossians 1:15-20; 2:8-10

Central truth: Jesus Christ is fully God and gives fullness of life to all who accept him.

Sometimes, Colossians 1 and 2 seem so exalted in their language and imagery that we fail to encounter their profoundly simple and basic essentials. Within the majesty and wonderful mystery of this Sunday's verses, there are highlighted at least four crucial truths on the matter of fulfillment.

First, the point is clearly made that God is a fulfilling God. He is the ultimate example of fullness in himself, and all that he does pushes all else toward fullness. The Bible also shows that creation is fulfilled as the right priorities are established, with the first priority being allowing God to be number one. God is both the source and the goal of fulfillment. Through his Holy Spirit, he is the power of fulfillment itself.

Secondly, in Christ, God's fullness is made visible. In Jesus Christ, God's fullness took human form. In Jesus, God displayed for all to see what his fullness looks like and what his plans for human fulfillment are.

Thirdly, through the church, our fulfilling God is especially accessible. That is the focus of Colossians 1:18. In the church the risen, exalted, victorious Christ becomes not only visible but accessible. Obviously, our Lord can be encountered anywhere and everywhere by those who have the eyes and ears of faith. And yet in the plan of God, the church, where it is an authentic community of commitment, gives God a tangible, sustained local address. And it is in and through the church that the power of the living Christ, the Holy Spirit, does its best and most complete work.

Fourthly, the mission of the church is simply to be God's fulfilling mechanism in the world. Fulfillment is the agenda of the church. Jesus indicated in John 10:10 that he came that we might not just live but that we might have "abundant life." That abundant life is nothing less than sharing in God's fullness. As we allow our Savior to chart our daily courses, his Holy Spirit flows in and through us and brings with him generous portions of God's power, love, forgiveness and peace.

Human fulfillment through Christ and Christ's church is what the Gospel is all about.

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

## Life and Work

### *Christ's ambassadors*

by Max W. Deaton, Otter Creek First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Corinthians 5:1-6:18

Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Central truth: The privilege of ministry is ambassadorship.

The general theme has been the ministry of reconciliation. Reconciliation falls within two areas: (1) reconciliation of church members and (2) reconciliation of individuals to God.

May it be understood that only in Christ are there grounds for reconciliation. Only through his atoning work can one be reconciled. However, it must also be understood that the Bible demands God's people be the proclaimers of this reconciling work. Herschel H. Hobbs said, "If we fail, God has no other plan."

As an ambassador, one must receive his instructions from another, one must represent another and one must be faithful to the task of his assignment. The question must be asked: What is your motive? Some well-intended persons are committed to a task, but not committed to the Lord or his church. 2 Corinthians 5:11-13 says some commend themselves (v. 11), some are commended by God and some are compelled by pride, ego or selfish pursuits. But the true ambassador of Christ is compelled by the love of Christ (v. 14).

There are some interesting facts one must know to be a true ambassador:

(1) What are my responsibilities? In other words, one of the privileges of the believer is to be trained. Likewise, the church has the privilege of providing such training.

(2) To whom am I accountable? One must realize "the terror of the Lord" (v. 11a), and "the judgment seat of Christ" (v. 10).

(3) What is my message? The Christian's message is the glorious "good news" of the grace of God (vv. 14-15). Love must be the factor that drives you out with this message.

(4) What is the result? When "earthen vessels" are faithful to love, the fruit will be "a new creature" in Christ Jesus (v. 17).

God has taken the initiative in revealing and providing the means by which he can forgive one's sin and allow one to become a new creation. He did that in Jesus' sinless life and sacrificial death on the cross. His death and resurrection allows us to be reconciled to God.

You have the joy and privilege of ambassadorship. If you fail, God fails.

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## Bible Book

### *God's indestructible Word*

by Vester Wolber, Ouachita Baptist University

Basic passage: Jeremiah 34:1-36:32

Focal passage: Jeremiah 36:1-32

Central truth: The Word of God, written or spoken, is alive, active and sharp.

(1) The Word of God antedated the Bible. Much of the material found in prophetic books of the Old Testament was spoken orally by the prophets before it was written down and preserved. The essential factor which constituted it as the inspired Word is not that it was written down but that it was spoken by a man under inspiration.

Prophets were so called because they spoke forth God's Word. What they said as spokesmen for God was just as much the Word of God as it was later when incorporated as part of the Bible.

(2) God is able to arrange for the delivery of his messages behind closed doors and in forbidden territories. When Jeremiah recalled and dictated to Baruch all the words of the Lord which he had spoken previously, his purpose was to have Baruch read the messages to the people in places where Jeremiah was unable to go. When he recalled and dictated them a second time, the divine purpose was to preserve for future generations the inspired Word of God spoken by his prophet.

If inspired truth was to be preserved and handed down to future generations, it must of necessity be expressed in writing. After Jesus went back to glory, the early Christians preached and told of the life and work of Jesus for about three decades before it was written down, and when he came to record the good news a man such as Luke had to research many other narratives of the Christ event and compare them with the oral gospel before he, under divine inspiration, could write his gospel.

(3) God is able to preserve his written Word despite all-out efforts to destroy it. The Roman Emperor Diocletian issued in A.D. 303 the first of a series of decrees ordering the burning of a Christian literature. But God saw to it that some of his saints had enough courage to hide and preserve numerous manuscripts of his inspired scrolls.

(4) One who sets out to destroy the Word of God is embarking on a dangerous course. King Jehoiakim failed to destroy Jeremiah's scripture, and he himself was apparently carried into captivity in Babylon.

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## FBM appoints 63; Parks says danger a reality

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Danger may lie ahead, 63 new foreign missionaries were warned during an Aug. 11 appointment service at the Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

But that prospect apparently didn't deter Foreign Missions Week conference attendees who felt led to make commitments. Among 109 decisions were 90 commitments to missions. These included nine pastors and their wives, two medical doctors, eight children of missionaries and 18 returning journeymen. Almost 2,000 attended the missions sessions.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said turmoil in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America causes some people to wonder, "Are the missionaries safe?...Why do you let them serve in dangerous places?"

"No, they're not necessarily safe," Parks said. To him, there's a larger question: "Would you have us try to preach the gospel only in the places where there's no risk...no danger...no suffering?" To avoid ministry in the midst of human crises is to "pretend" to represent Jesus Christ, Parks pointed out.

The Foreign Mission Board also met during the week, devoting most of its time to dialogue and special reports on various phases of its work.

The board did consider a resolution expressing support for the special committee seeking ways to restore harmony among factions in the Southern Baptist Convention. But it chose not to act on it after one board member said such action would only heighten visibility of differences and that the board could best offer its support by taking no action now.

Appointees included the first natives of

mainland China and Romania sent as foreign missionaries by the FMB.

Reminding appointees of the sufferings of Jesus, Parks said, "...if he suffered persecution, physical pain, even death... when they persecute you, don't be surprised." It may be that "when you suffer the most will be when you've done right!"

The mother of appointee Nina Ellison is a witness to a different kind of suffering—among famine victims in Ethiopia. Just days before the appointment service, Mary Saunders returned from five months of work at Rabel, a village in Ethiopia's highlands, where Southern Baptists operate a feeding station for about 30,000 people a month.

Mrs. Saunders is the wife of Davis Saunders, FMB director for eastern and southern Africa. The Saunderses are former missionaries in Africa, and their daughter and son-in-law, Craig, will be youth workers in Uganda. Both mother and daughter also are nurses.

Should her daughter encounter large-scale human crises in the years ahead, Mrs. Saunders believes she will respond well. "God is so good and he does give you the strength, both emotional and physical, that you need." Mrs. Saunders confessed to "a bit of jealousy that I'm not starting over again with her...(to) relive some of the exciting times I've had ministering to people through their physical needs and reaching them for the Lord Jesus Christ."

In praying about overseas service, Mrs. Ellison recounted, "My biggest question was, 'Is this a call to missions or a call back to something familiar (in Africa)?'" Peace came as she realized that, "It wasn't so much a commitment to a place as a commitment to go anywhere."

## Three join faculty at Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—James L. Heflin, Penrose St. Amant and James D. Crane have been named to teaching posts at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Heflin, 42, will be associate professor of preaching. He moves from a similar position at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he has taught since 1982.

Previously, Heflin served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. He is a former trustee of Southwestern. Heflin holds a degree in history from University of Arkansas at Monticello, in addition to master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern.

St. Amant, senior professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will be guest professor in church history. He has earned

degrees, including two doctorates, from Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; New Orleans seminary; Edinburg University, and Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

St. Amant, 70, has taught at Hannibal LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo.; New Orleans seminary and Southern seminary, where he was formerly dean of the school of theology. His works include two books and numerous articles and pamphlets. He and his wife, Jessie, reside in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

Crane, 68, will be guest professor in missions. He and his wife, Edith, are former missionaries to Mexico. They previously served English and Spanish-speaking churches in Texas, including First Mexican Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Crane has taught at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and at Southwestern. He holds degrees from the University of Texas and Southwestern.