

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

---

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

---

6-18-1992

### June 18, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn\\_90-94](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn_90-94)



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

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "June 18, 1992" (1992). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 71.

[https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn\\_90-94/71](https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn_90-94/71)

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, 1990-1994 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

# Arkansas Baptist



*Delta ministry*  
Page 5

Vol. 91, No. 13

June 18, 1992



## COVER STORY

**1992 SBC: Absence of rancor** Page 8

**Ed Young  
elected  
president**

Page 9

**Churches  
approving  
homosexuals  
barred** Page 14

**Quayle  
addresses  
messengers**

Page 16

# Arkansas Baptist

## At a glance

### 5 Mississippi River Ministry

In a part of American where the standard of living sometimes resembles that of Third World countries, Southern Baptists along the Mississippi River hope several new ministries will improve life for residents and help spread the gospel. The Mississippi River Ministry encompasses seven states, including Arkansas.

### 9 Ed Young elected president

Edwin Young, pastor of Second Church in Houston and the candidate endorsed by numerous conservative leaders, won the election with 62.05 percent of the vote. Evangelist Jay Strack of Dallas was elected first vice president by acclamation. Joe Aulds, an evangelist from Ruston, La., was elected second vice president. Lee Porter, registration secretary, and David Atchison, recording secretary, were re-elected to their posts.

### 14 Churches approving homosexuals barred

The Southern Baptist Convention voted overwhelmingly June 9 to declare two North Carolina churches not in cooperation with the SBC and to withdraw fellowship from the congregations. The churches have taken recent actions favorable to homosexuality. Messengers also endorsed with virtually no opposition a constitutional amendment declaring churches approving homosexual behavior "not in friendly cooperation" and, therefore, not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings.

### 15 HMB instructed to study Freemasonry

SBC messengers instructed the Home Mission Board Interfaith witness department to study Masons, rejecting a motion to form an ad hoc committee to investigate the secret fraternal group. HMB President Larry Lewis said, "I am disappointed in the decision. . . . Any position we take—either pro Masons or against Masons or neutral—will generate a certain amount of ire and wrath and thus hurt missions."

### 16 Quayle addresses messengers

Vice President Dan Quayle brought his message of moral values to those attending the convention in what he described as an effort to gain support from the nation's largest Protestant denomination. Quayle said it is important to speak out about moral values because, "If American ever lost its moral vision, it would cease to be America. We would become a soulless and divided nation, a nation under siege instead of a nation under God."

## Cover story

(BP) photo / Men Payne



### Absence of rancor 8

Edwin Young, pastor of Second Church in Houston, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention during its 135th session, held at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, Ind. Less than 18,000 messengers turned out for the convention, which dealt with issues concerning homosexuality and Freemasonry.

## Also inside

### Speak Up

You'll Be Glad To Know . . . . . 4  
Woman's Viewpoint . . . . . 4

### Local & State

Arkansas All Over . . . . . 6

### 1992 SBC

Parks calls for end to strife . . . 10  
Messengers sever BJCPA ties . . . 11  
Challenge to Pressler fails . . . . 11  
Messengers approve resolutions . 16  
Chapman: Move up the mountain . 17  
Drummond cautions . . . . . 18  
Stanley: prayer devotion . . . . . 18  
Blitz yields 1,024 professions . . . 21

Lessons . . . . . 22-23

### Digest

May CP, gifts down . . . . . 24  
Lottie Moon total \$81 million . . 24  
Urgent need for volunteers . . . 24

Next issue: July 2

# Continuing in peace

J. EVERETT SNEED

The 1992 Southern Baptist Convention was the most peaceful convention held in many years. This is primarily because the "moderates" chose not to participate in this year's convention. Many of the "moderates" since the 1990 convention have chosen not to participate on the national level.

In addition to a peaceful convention, the people of Indianapolis, Ind., deserve the applause of Southern Baptists. The people went all out to be gracious, kind, and helpful to all the messengers. The city of Indianapolis, itself, was exceedingly clean. All factors considered, this probably was the best host city in which the Southern Baptist Convention has been held in recent years. It is obvious that the people and leadership of Indianapolis would like to have the Southern Baptist Convention return. We commend them for their hospitality and graciousness.

Another factor that made this year's convention move smoothly was the graciousness with which President Morris Chapman presided. Dr. Chapman, currently pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and soon to be president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, bent over backwards to be kind to every messenger. It also should be stated that almost without exception the messengers responded by conducting themselves in a proper manner.

There were a number of decisions made by this year's convention that will have long-lasting effects. Among these were: A decision to change to the SBC Charter to exclude churches which approve homosexual behavior; a decision to sever all ties with the Baptist Joint Committee, and a decision to study Freemasonry.

The decision to exclude churches which approve of homosexual behavior by ordaining them or marrying them drew virtually unanimous approval by the messengers. To make clear where the Southern Baptist Convention stands on this issue, the messengers voted to change the constitution to exclude these churches. This historical act, must be approved by the 1993 convention in order to affect the constitutional change. There absolutely is no doubt that next year's messengers will complete this action.

The action to sever all ties with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs cuts



off Southern Baptists from the most effective church/state organization in Washington, D.C. The BJCPA has fostered legislation and assisted Southern Baptists in many ways across the years. For example, the BJCPA was the primary force which assisted Southern Baptist preachers in maintaining their exemption on housing allowances. The BJCPA, also, was the driving force which brought into existence the Equal Access legislation.

A third decision that will have long-lasting effect was the decision to study Freemasonry. The motion was referred to the Home Mission Board's Department of Interfaith Witness.

While this editor is not and never has been a Mason, we believe that this action is potentially harmful to our convention. We believe that several negative things may result from this action. First, it is evident that it will antagonize a substantial number of Southern Baptists who are Freemasons. Second, it will require a great deal of time by the Department of Interfaith Witness to conduct an adequate study into Freemasonry. Finally, it will require mission money to conduct this study that could be far better spent in the spreading of the gospel of Christ.

Another unfortunate development in our convention is the shift of priorities. Until

recent years, the highlight of every convention was the Home and Foreign Mission Boards reports. In recent years, the priority of every convention has been the election of officers, particularly the president. For example, there were almost 17,000 messengers present for the election of the president. For the Home Mission Board report there were less than 2,000 in attendance, while the Foreign Mission Board report drew between 6,000 to 7,000 people.

In his farewell address to Southern Baptists, Keith Parks, outgoing president of the Foreign Mission Board, commented on the devastating effects the controversy has had on Southern Baptist life. He urged Southern Baptists to put behind them a political agenda which excludes many of our Southern Baptists and has the potential of destroying our world mission program. He urged Southern Baptists to return to their historical commitments of evangelizing all peoples of the world. We believe that it is essential that Southern Baptists heed Dr. Parks' admonition.

Historically the dynamic that has motivated Southern Baptists since our inception in 1845 has been missions. We believe that as long as this remains our priority God will bless us. To the extent that Southern Baptists depart from this historic priority, to that extent we will lose God's blessings. It is this editor's prayer that Southern Baptists will heed Dr. Parks' warning and move forward to present the gospel to a world that is hungry to learn of God's saving grace. Today there are more doors open to the gospel than there have been in many years. If we fail to enter these doors, God will hold us accountable!

## Arkansas Baptist

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor  
 Millie Gill . . . . . Executive Assistant to the Editor  
 Darrell Bartlett . . . . . Operations Manager

Colleen Backus . . . . . Production Manager  
 Diane Fowler . . . . . Production Artist (part-time)  
 Erwin L. McDonald, Lit. D. . . . . Editor Emeritus

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the *Arkansas Baptist*. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The *Arkansas Baptist* (ISSN 1040-6506) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.85 per year (Individual), \$6.56 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.08 per year (Group Plan). Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-576-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

VOLUME 91 • NUMBER 13

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron, president; Lane Srother, Mountain Home; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Harold Gately, Fayetteville; Don Heuer, Batesville; Greg Kirksey, Benton; Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; and Lucile C. Hagins, Fordyce.

DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know

How are we known? The Salvation Army is known for its benevolence ministries. Campus Crusade for Christ is known chiefly for its student ministries. James Dobson is



known primarily for his family ministries. Harvard and Yale are known for their educational process. Habitat for Humanity is known for its home building ministry. On and on we could go to tell of good ministries that are being performed.

How are Southern Baptists known? Our collective efforts in benevolence, Christian social ministries, hunger relief, etc. would dwarf the Salvation Army. Campus Crusade for Christ does not have anywhere near the number of campus ministries nor reaches the number of students Southern Baptists do through BSU. While a comparison with James Dobson's radio, television, and film ministry is unrivaled, Southern Baptists provide more materials for use by individual churches and families than Focus on the Family. In education, we not only have the largest seminary in the world, but have many times more students than any other group.

I have no doubt that we enlist more people in Bible study, impact more children and youth for God, and provide more mission strategy personnel and support than any group in the world.

How are Southern Baptists known? We are known for our controversy. Why are we not more favorably known? We have fought too much, for sure. But we also are at the mercy of the secular world which by nature does not want to acknowledge our effectiveness. Other groups have such focused ministries they can throw all of their resources into one area. Southern Baptists are covering all areas of Christian ministry, so we may not be viewed as excelling in any. Other ministries usually revolve around a single leader with great charisma. Southern Baptist ministries are not built around individuals. Other ministries tell their story with pride. We tend to discredit our story with negativism and criticism.

We can and should change the way we are known.

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

BETTY WILFONG

## Woman's Viewpoint

### Build a stronger relationship with God

I get so excited when I see the construction of a new house. As I watch the foundation being poured to putting on the roof I can't wait until they open house so I can see the finished construction.

Life is like a building construction from birth to death.

God is the ultimate builder. From the day God knit us together in our mothers' wombs until death we are being built from the foundation up.

As a small child you may develop a firm foundation from the Christian training of your parents. However, until you accept the Lord as your personal Savior your life is not being built with the blessing of the Lord. All human effort which lacks the Lord's blessing is nothing.

From the day he becomes our personal Savior we must know and claim Psalm 125:1, "As Mt. Zion surrounds Jerusalem so does the Lord surround the lives of believers."

There are three major things that can help you build a stronger relationship with the Lord and ultimately a more

beautiful structure:

1. Prayer: We should realize that we can talk with God any and every place.

2. Bible study: List the thoughts that touch your life. Underline one scripture to memorize. Close your Bible and write what the verses mean to you for daily living.

3. Sharing Christ with others: Do you remember when you accepted Christ as your personal Savior? Every day should be filled with the same excitement and joy that you had at that moment. Is your life a living testimony for Christ?

What kind of house are you building? Do you have the presence of the Lord engulfing your every move?

Begin today to build a strong relationship by setting aside that quiet time to have daily prayer, Bible study, and share your joy of him with others.

Betty Wilfong is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock and has been involved in many SBC and state Baptist conferences. She resides in Little Rock with her husband, Leslie.

## Arkansas Sound Corporation

P.O. Box 5986  
North Little Rock, AR 72119

501-753-5674

## Jimmy Karam's Men Stores

1. Suits as low as \$59 or 2 for \$100
2. Sport coats as low as \$29.99
3. Levi Dockers are \$17.99
4. Members Only Jackets \$39.99
5. 100% Cotton Pinpoint Shirts (Button down) \$19.99 or 2 for \$30.00
6. No Suit over \$149

## Bible Campground and Youth Facilities

Lake Hamilton Bible Campground  
6191 Central Ave. Hot Springs, AR 71913  
On the lake, canoes, sleeps 250, dining room, auditorium, air cond.  
(501) 525-8204 ★ Write for a brochure

# Mississippi River Ministry

## Meeting 'Third World' needs in Arkansas' Delta

by David Winfrey  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—In a part of America where the standard of living sometimes resembles that of Third World countries, Southern Baptists along the Mississippi River hope several new ministries will improve life for residents and help spread the gospel.

Coordinators with the Mississippi River Ministry began last year trying to boost awareness of the region's needs after a U.S. government report suggested churches be involved in self-help efforts, said Tommy Goode, director of church and community ministries for the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

The area encompasses some 4.3 million residents in 127 counties or parishes along or near the Mississippi River in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Among the government report's findings:

—75 percent of employed Delta residents lack basic reading skills and therefore can not be trained for technical jobs.

—About half the 792,000 rental housing units in the Delta region are dilapidated beyond repair.

—15 counties have infant mortality rates higher than Chile, Cuba, and Malaysia.

"There's an extraordinary — almost Third World — need for human assistance in the Mississippi River Ministry Region (lower Mississippi River Valley)," Goode said.

"You've got people who have been left behind," added Gary Parley, associate director of town and country missions with the Home Mission Board.

"Most people just don't have regular work," he said. "The kind of jobs that poor people on limited education can do have been shipped overseas."

Baptist volunteers could offer a range of services, from literacy missions and medical services to home weatherization and revitalization and food and clothing distribution.

A weekend convocation in Memphis



Tenant farmer housing in Arkansas

ABSC photo / Tommy Goode

August 7-8 will serve as a kick-off for the ministry as well as improve awareness of the needs for the region, Goode said.

"It's going to be confrontational and we hope that it unsettles us enough to challenge us to a missions response."

He said churches are a logical resource for community development programs.

"The last two institutions left in a socio-economically depressed area are the schools and the churches," he said. "We're telling people in Arkansas, 'Missions opportunities are right here.'"

Although poverty is a big factor in that region, Parley said the ministries will offer something else.

"The key is to give people hope and, I think, spiritual hope," he said. "It needs to be more than just shipping a bunch of clothes and

food down there."

Goode said he hopes the ministry will coordinate the existing 2,375 Southern Baptist churches in the area with help from outside the region.

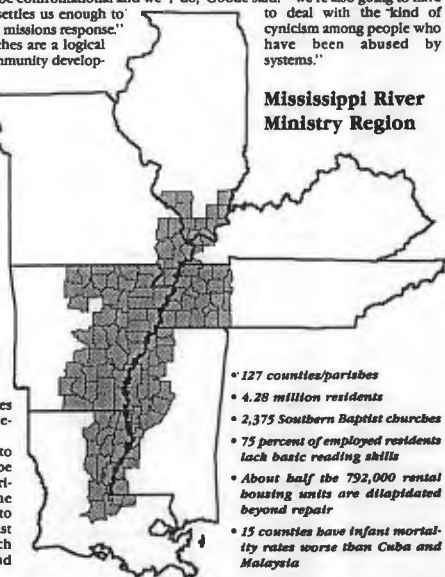
Arkansas and Mississippi Baptists already have formed a partnership to send volunteers from one state to the other. "Sometimes it's easier to go right across the river and do ministry than it is to do it right where you live," Goode said.

Although the region is about 21 percent Southern Baptist, Goode compares the region to a pioneer mission field because "we're going to want to reach people groups we're not presently reaching through our existing churches."

The program is being organized by the state Baptist associations from the areas affected, with support from the Home Mission Board, WMU, and the Brotherhood Commission.

In light of recent riots in Los Angeles and elsewhere, Goode said the ministry also will work to improve race relations in the Delta.

"I see our efforts to improve race relations as a real challenge that can either make or break a lot that we hope to do," Goode said. "We're also going to have to deal with the kind of cynicism among people who have been abused by systems."



### Mississippi River Ministry Region

- 127 counties/parishes
- 4.28 million residents
- 2,375 Southern Baptist churches
- 75 percent of employed residents lack basic reading skills
- About half the 792,000 rental housing units are dilapidated beyond repair
- 15 counties have infant mortality rates worse than Cuba and Malaysia

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

S.D. Hacker of Harrison began serving June 1 as director of missions for Rocky Bayou Association. Hacker has pastored Arkansas churches, as well as serving as director of missions for both Independence and White River Associations, and serving in leadership positions in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He is married to the former Lois Faye James, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Dennis James of Harrison. They have three children. The Hackers have written Sunday School and discipleship training curriculum materials for the Sunday School Board. They also have written for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.



Hacker

Robert Meeks has resigned as pastor of Old Union Church, Benton.

Jon Weygant has resigned as pastor of Congo Road Church, Benton, to serve as pastor of Calvary Church in Texas City, Texas.

Kenny Moore is serving as pastor of Balboa Mission, sponsored by Barcelona Road Church of Hot Springs Village. Moore moved to Arkansas from Louisiana.

Rick Grant has been named as associate pastor of First Church of Benton, having previously served as youth minister.

Scottie Smith, a junior at Williams Baptist College, is serving Desha First Church as summer minister of music and youth.

Delton Beall has resigned as pastor of First Church of Forrest City to serve as pastor of First Church in Claremore, Okla.

Pat Titworth has announced his retirement as pastor of Third Church of Malvern, effective July 1. Titworth, who has pastored there since September 1971, will be available for supply and Interims.

Darrin Petersen is serving as youth minister for Unity Church, Arkadelphia.

Charlie Williams is serving as pastor of Bethel Church, Whelen Springs.

Phillip Miller has resigned as youth minister at Beech Street Church, Gurdon.

Terry Hinds has resigned as minister of youth and recreation at First Church of Prescott.

Stephen Dumas of White Hall is serving as summer intern at South Highland Church in Little Rock. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Christopher Esch is serving as summer youth intern at First Church of Sherwood. He will be a senior at Ouachita Baptist University this fall.

Johnpaul Moccia celebrated his fifth anniversary of service June 14 as minister of music and youth at First Church of Sherwood.

John Holston began serving May 31 as interim pastor of Watson Chapel Church, Pine Bluff.

Paul Warren, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is serving as summer youth director for Second Church of Little Rock.

Eric Stanton, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, is serving as summer youth worker for Calvary Church in Batesville.

Verna Baker and George Keck, two Ouachita Baptist University faculty members, have been awarded 1992 summer research grants of \$3,500 to provide for a period of concentrated research in their respective academic disciplines.

Gas Prince is serving as pastor of Nimrod Church, Perryville.

Larry Brewer has resigned as pastor of Perry Church.

Mike Marshall of Little Rock and April Shields of Jonesboro are serving as summer youth workers at First Church of El Dorado. Both are students at Ouachita Baptist University.

Mica Strother of Mountain Home and Wade Tomlinson of Sikeston, Mo., are serving as summer interns for Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. Strother will be a junior this fall at Ouachita Baptist University and Tomlinson will be a senior at OBU.

Amy Brant of Batesville, a student at Baylor University, is serving as summer intern for West Church of Batesville.

Keith Barnes has joined the staff of Trinity Church in Searcy as minister of music

and youth. He and his wife, Lisa, came there from Smyrna, Ga. Barnes is a graduate of Central College in Conway.

Charles Linebarger, pastor of Shannon Church, was ordained to the ministry May 31 in First Church of Luxora, his home church.

Richard Nuckolls is serving as pastor of Pleasant Plains Church. He formerly pastored Emmanuel Church.

Chris White and Christy Martin are serving as summer interns for Immanuel Church in Rogers. Both are students at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

Dale Howell is serving as interim pastor of Mount Gilead Church.

Rev. and Mrs. Carl Overton of Hot Springs celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 29. The anniversary was celebrated throughout the month with activities that included a recognition service at Balboa Mission where he was serving as interim pastor, and visits with family members. Overton has served as a pastor and director of missions in Arkansas. Mrs. Overton was an elementary school teacher and also taught piano. They are the parents of three sons, Jim, Kenneth, and Charles Overton, and have six grandchildren.

Jason Newton is serving as youth director of Mount Olive Church, Arkadelphia.

Raymond and Lil Robinson were selected as the 1992 Senior Adult Man and Woman of the Year at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Chris Ratley and Steve Cole are serving as summer music staffers at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. Both are students at Ouachita Baptist University.

William Howard Halsell, a native of Little Rock and graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, died May 26 in Phoenix, Ariz. Halsell, who had served for 21 years with the Baptist Sunday School Board as director of Sunday School enlargement, also had served with the Arizona, Colorado, and Kansas conventions. Survivors are his wife, Charlene Halsell; two daughters, Mrs. Sky Wood of Houston, Texas, and Mrs. Vincent Johnson of Phoenix, Ariz.

Doyle Robertson has resigned as pastor of Melbourne First Church to return to his foreign mission assignment in Lima, Peru.

Paul White is serving as interim pastor of West Hartford Church.

**Harold Dean Law** of Fort Smith died May 28 at age 53. A medically retired Southern Baptist pastor with a 35 year ministry, he pastored churches in Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as doing short term mission work in Indiana and Wyoming. He was a graduate of Westark Community College and the University of Tulsa. Survivors are his wife, Gloria Law; a daughter, Rebecca Ashwood of Sapulpa, Okla.; his father and stepmother, Eldon E. and Mildred Law of Fort Smith; and three grandchildren, Lee Michael, Kerrie Deann, and Audra Christine.

**Calvin Remy** observed five years of service June 7 as minister of music for Trinity Church, Fort Smith.

**J.W. Koon** has resigned as pastor of Blaney Hill Church, Conway. Herman Hurd is serving the church as interim pastor.

## Briefly

**Conway First Church** hosted a reception May 17 to honor Jim Davis and his family in recognition of his resignation as superintendent of buildings and grounds

**Concord Church, Van Buren**, recently closed a revival that resulted in 80 decisions, 58 of which were professions of faith. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was the evangelist. Dave Jackson directed music. Tim Prock is pastor.

**Curtis First Church** ordained Pastor Don Shirey to the ministry May 17.

**Malvern Third Church** dedicated a new 6,000 square foot education facility April 5 that is valued at \$250,000.

**Bay First Church** recently hosted a Friendship Dinner for 40 international students from Arkansas State University. The church-wide meal provided members a first hand account of missions around the globe as the students represented nine different countries. Bert and Becky Self coordinated the event.

**Blytheville First Church** is serving as sponsoring church for North Tenth Street Mission in Blytheville. Larry Kindrick is sponsoring pastor and Henry Applegate is mission pastor.

**Batesville West Church** ordained Bruce Mathews, Gary McKim, and Steve Stracener to the deacon ministry June 7.

**Judsonia First Church** will celebrate 120

years of service June 28 with Former Pastor Jerry Smith of Memphis as speaker. The service will be followed by a potluck luncheon.

**Crossroads First Southern Church** celebrated its 12th anniversary and being debt free May 17 with a fellowship dinner, parsonage noteburning program, and open house. Pastor Gary Stewart moderated the services that included Don Jones, director of missions for Little River Association; Marvin Boyd, chairman of deacons; and Frederick Smith, chairman of the building committee, as speakers.

**Bella Vista Church** recently held a Girls in Action Recognition Service in which Mission Adventure Badges were awarded to Michelle Sifford, Jody Sayer, Amanda Sifford, Angela Wilson, Bailey Berry, Jennifer Eames, Lauren Keel, and Pamela Wilson.

**Centerston First Church** recently held a revival that resulted in 39 professions of faith and four rededications. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was evangelist and R.C. McCafferty led music. Bryan Webb is pastor.

**Grace Mission** near Pangburn will conduct a vacation Bible school June 22-26. The daily sessions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and Family Night will be June 28, beginning at 6 p.m. Pastor Johnny Long will be director. Pastor Long announced a change in mission services, effective July 5. The Sunday services which have been being conducted at 3 p.m. will revert to a morning schedule with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m.

**Hamburg First Church** recently held an Acteens Coronation Service in which Amanda Parker, LaRanda Massey, and Carissa Byers attained the rank of Queen. Those completing the Studiacl level of Queen Regent were Amanda Goodwin and Olivia Murphy. The Queen Regent in Service awards were presented to Kelley Pennington, Pamela Parker, Rebecca Wright, and Barbara Wahl. Acteen leaders are Sadie Pennington, Linda Hollis, Stephanie Bierbaum, and Lori Carpenter.

**Rogers First Church** 12-member mission team will be in Honduras June 18-28 to assist with construction work and lead a vacation Bible school for local children.

**Baring Cross Church** in North Little Rock held a Girls in Action recognition service June 7 that was moderated by Billie Adams, Woman's Missionary Union director. Receiving awards in the first and second grade group were Rachel Eggers, Lindsey Hatfield, Celeste Curry, Brandi Hollis, and Alicia Austin. Third and fourth graders recognized were Amanda Hines, Stephanie

Reber, Haley Hatfield, Betty Garner, Sherry Garner, Nikki Clemons, and Katie Lewis. Mikal Hatfield received special recognition in the sixth grade level.

**Russellville Second Church** members voted May 31 to launch construction of a new worship center, administration complex, and renovations according to architectural plans, in addition to all furnishings and pavings. Bob Terwilliger is serving as chairman of the construction committee. David McLemore is pastor.

## Missionary Notes

**Jimmy and Carlene Cobb**, Baptist representatives to Canada have arrived on the field (address: P.O. Box 189, Station G, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3A 2G2). He is a native of McGehee, and she is the former Galene Melton of Oklahoma. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1991.

**Jeffery and Nell Ginn**, missionaries to Colombia, are in language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Forrest City and considers West Memphis his hometown. The former Neil Nichols, she considers Byhalia, Miss., her hometown. They were appointed in 1991.

**John and Connie Anthony**, Baptist representatives in Jerusalem, Israel, are currently in the States on furlough. They may be reached at 2394 Revere Place, Fayetteville, AR 72701; telephone 501-521-0558.

## The Ultimate Fun Fundraiser For Youth Groups

Have a

### Pizza Day!

- No investment • Fast • Profitable • Easy
- You deliver • You pre-sell the orders
- No left over inventory • Can produce over 100 pizzas per hour • We will come to your church and help your group prepare fresh pizza • Anywhere in Arkansas

1-800-272-4177

Central Arkansas Promotions  
1030 Front Street • Conway, AR 72032





# Absence of rancor

*Few moderates attend convention which dealt with homosexuals, Masons, and BJCPA*

[This coverage provided by J. Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist, and Baptist Press writers.

This year rather than providing gavel to gavel coverage, we are providing a thematic presentation. We have grouped stories of similar nature together, and prioritized these stories so that the most important stories appear earliest in our coverage.]

INDIANAPOLIS, June 9-11—The 17,986 messengers, including 475 Arkansans, attending the 135th Southern Baptist Convention drew a line in standing against growing tolerance of homosexuality, standing with U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle for traditional family values. Meanwhile, the lowest number of messengers since the 1984 Kansas City convention assigned to

the SBC Home Mission Board a study of potential conflicts between Christianity and freemasonry.

Conservatives maintained their grasp on the convention, again electing a slate of like-minded convention officers, with Houston Pastor Edwin Young as president, and tapping controversial conservative leader Paul Pressler as a key trustee for the Foreign Mission Board.

The convention can be characterized with an absence of rancor which can be attributed to a number of factors. Among these are: The gracious presiding of President Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas; the graciousness of host city Indianapolis, Ind.; and the absence of most moderates.

A stirring message by Retiring Foreign Mission Board President, Keith Parks, call-

ed for Southern Baptists to return to their historic roots of evangelizing the world. Parks attributed the failure to meet many of the Bold Mission Thrust goals to the controversy that has continued for the past 13 years within the Southern Baptist Convention.

## ELECTIONS

### *Houston pastor Ed Young elected SBC president*

Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston and the candidate endorsed by numerous conservative leaders,



Convention in the round—17,986 people registered as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's 135th meeting at the Hootler Dome June 9-11 in Indianapolis. (SFP photo / Van Payne)

is the new president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Young won 62.05 percent — 9,981 votes — in the three-way race for the SBC's top post June 9.

For SBC first vice president, Jay Strack was the only candidate nominated. Strack, a member of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, was nominated by Jack Graham, the church's pastor.

Joe Aulds, an evangelist from Ruston, La., was elected second vice president; and Lee

(BP) photo / Van Payne



New SBC President Ed Young

Porter, registration secretary, and David Atchison, recording secretary, were re-elected to their posts June 10.

In the SBC president's race, Jess Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Chatsworth, Calif., and Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., also were nominated. Moody gathered 21.66 percent or 3,485 votes while Price gained 16.28 percent or 2,619 votes.

All three men were described as theological conservatives but Young was the nominee supported by SBC conservative leaders prior to the convention's annual meeting.

Young, 55, has been pastor of Second Baptist Church since 1978 when it had 4,431 members. The church now has more than 18,000 members and led the convention in baptisms in 1990 with 1,007. Last year the church baptized 838 people.

Young was nominated by Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas. Gregory noted each time Young moved to another church as pastor, he went to a smaller church.

"He is not so much a pastor of big churches as a man who builds churches," Gregory said. He further described Young as a "man of passion" who has a heart for missions and soul-winning.

Comedian Jerry Clower took on a more serious tone when he nominated Moody for president, saying Moody loves people on both sides of the SBC controversy. He also said it would help Southern Baptists' witness to elect a pastor who was not from the South or Southeast.

In traveling across the United States to speak, Clower said he constantly meets laypeople who want to stop the SBC fiction which he called a pastor's fight.

"There are 39,000 of ya'll [pastors] but there are 15 million of us, and we want it stopped," Clower said.

Price was nominated by Boh Hamblin of Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo, Miss. Price has been pastor of the Georgia church for more than 26 years.

"The title of one of his 16 books best describes Nelson Price: 'Servants not Celebrities,'" Hamblin said. "He has served his way to this place."

Price was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention 1991-92 and he currently is a trustee of the Home Mission Board.

Hamblin said Price's church contributes 10 percent of its income to the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist fund for national and international missions and ministries.

After the nominations, Chris Whaley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills, Fla., asked how much the churches of the other nominees give to the Cooperative Program.

SBC President Morris Chapman, presiding at the session, said information

about each candidate is presented at the discretion of the person making the nomination, therefore information about Cooperative Program giving was not available.

A February story in the *Baptist Standard*, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, reported that Young's church gives 2.35 percent of its total receipts to the Cooperative Program, based on the Uniform Church Letter.

## Lee Porter, who has held the registration secretary post for 15 years, was re-elected by 61.9 percent.

At the time of the presidential election, 17,675 messengers had registered and 91 percent of them cast ballots in that election.

In the second vice presidential election, Aulds received 3,013 votes, or 58.13 percent, in a run-off election with Glen Molette, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pikeville, Ky., who received 2,164 votes. Three other candidates were nominated for the first ballot.

Porter received 3,739 votes, or 61.9 percent, against another registration secretary nominee, Bob Bender, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ada, Okla. Porter has held the post 15 years, is a former Baptist Sunday School Board editor, and now is associate pastor of St. Andrew Baptist Church in Panama City, Fla.

(BP) photo / Morris Abernathy



Ballot bucket—A messenger passes ballots to an usher after a vote on the first day of the Southern Baptist Convention's meeting June 9.



FOREIGN MISSION BOARD REPORT

**Parks calls for end to strife**

In the last of his 13 annual reports as president of the Foreign Mission Board, Keith Parks called on Southern Baptists to replace the controversy that he said has hindered the spread of the gospel with love and balance.

"Has the controversy accelerated our purpose of sharing the gospel with the world?" Parks asked during the Foreign Mission Board report to the Southern Baptist Convention. "I would have to answer, 'No.'"

Parks, who will retire Oct. 30 after 38 years of mission service and nearly 13 years as FMB president, was interrupted by applause numerous times during his speech. At other times people left the auditorium.

Parks noted that the propagation of the gospel is the primary purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The shift of high attendance [at SBC annual meetings] from mission programs to the presidential election and business meetings has to raise the question of whether those of us who are messengers still place this as the highest priority," Parks said.

By 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, 17,986 messengers had registered for the meeting in Indianapolis. Less than half of those attended the FMB report Wednesday. The Tuesday evening report of the Home Mission Board followed a vice presidential



Keith Parks delivers his final report as Foreign Mission Board president.

runoff election when less than 4,400 messengers were present.

The controversy is a "deterrent to and a distraction from" sharing the gospel, Parks said.

Parks cited unreached Bold Mission Thrust goals. Two of the goals, 10,000 volunteers serving in foreign missions and career missionaries serving in 125 coun-

tries, have been met, but he said it is unlikely the other measurable goals will be reached without divine intervention and a change of attitudes.

Parks noted fewer people are seeking career missionary appointments. Although the 1991 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions reached a record of \$81.3 million, financial support of missions is not adequate to sustain growth.

"We are killing our worldwide witness," Parks said. "The most distinctive characteristic of Christianity is love. We are not demonstrating love even to the whole Southern Baptist family and we so desperately need to do so."

The Southern Baptist Convention has always been a mix of worship styles, Parks noted. He said a denomination that is focused on control enforced by intimidation will "impoverish our riches and destroy our balance... It will jeopardize our future and risk (going to) the unfortunate extremes."

Parks said no one has questioned his commitment to "sound, biblical theology" and to the Bible as a "holy book from God."

**FMB search committee asks for more names**

The committee searching for a new Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president has received 31 names and would like more, according to committee chairman Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas.

Gregory said the committee, which met June 10 in Indianapolis, urges missionaries and other Southern Baptists to continue sending names and background material on candidates to succeed FMB President R. Keith Parks, who will retire Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions, including almost 13 years as president.

Gregory said the "predominant number of the 31 names received thus far are present or former career missionaries."

Interested Southern Baptists should mail comments, recommendations and biographical data on potential candidates to Joel Gregory, chairman, FMB presidential search committee, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, TX 75201 or transmit them via fax to (214) 969-7757.

**DIAMOND BUS LINES**

**All Types of Group Arrangements from Transportation to Complete Tours.**

*(We ♥ Teenagers to Keenagers)*



- ◆ Courteous & Experienced Drivers
- ◆ A/C, Restroom Equipped Buses
- ◆ Any size group anywhere in Arkansas, U.S. and Canada
- ◆ Accommodations, Meals, Special Tours and Sightseeing

◆ **Competitive Economical Pricing** ◆

**821-3700**

OUT OF TOWN CALL TOLL FREE  
**1-800-451-3552**

16601 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211

## ISSUES

**Messengers sever ties with BJCPA**

Final ties between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs were severed June 9.

Messengers to the SBC's annual meeting voted to end the 50 year relationship with the Washington-based religious liberty organization of 10 Baptist bodies.

Convention messengers in 1991 ended SBC funding of the BJC, which had been the subject of controversy among Southern Baptists in recent years.

At one time, Southern Baptists provided more than 50 percent of BJC funding.

Messengers also defeated a substitute motion calling for binding arbitration to settle a dispute with the BJC over a \$300,000 capital fund. Instead, messengers approved recommendations from its Executive Committee expressing appreciation for the arbitration proposal, authorizing payment of interest from the fund to the BJC, claiming the principal for the SBC, and authorizing the Executive Committee to use the principal as it deems appropriate.

The fund was authorized by 1964 convention messengers to provide office space for the BJC, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance. Over the years, the funds were held in trust by the Southern Baptist Foundation and more than \$600,000 in interest was paid to the BJC.

In 1991 the BJC requested the money to buy a building in Washington. The money also was claimed by the SBC Christian Life Commission, which now has offices in Washington and carries out citizenship and religious liberty assignments for the SBC.

The Executive Committee voted by a two-to-one margin June 8 to reject the proposal for arbitration that would have been facilitated by the former executive director of the Christian Legal Society. BJC general counsel Oliver Thomas described arbitration as "simple, inexpensive, and scriptural."

Executive Committee member J.C. Mitchell of Winter Park, Fla., proposed the substitute motion that garnered only scattered messenger support.

"In the spirit of conciliation, it would be well for this convention to accept this proposal," Mitchell said. "Even if we lose, it would say a lot about our image." Mitchell estimated 30 Executive Committee members did not vote when they considered the proposal.

Rex Terry, Executive Committee member from Fort Smith, Ark., opposed Mitchell's motion. "It was the Executive Committee's determination that there had never been a gift [to the BJC] but only a conditional allocation. The money belongs to the Southern Baptist Convention."

After the vote to allow reallocation of the \$300,000, Executive Committee chairman David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., said a report on reallocation will be forthcoming.

In a news conference after convention

Foreign missionaries are "the finest among us" in sound theology and consistent lifestyles, Parks added. "Anyone who questions them speaks either from ignorance, prejudice, or malice," he claimed.

Opportunities to share the gospel around the world are beyond imagination, Parks said. He said he fears Southern Baptists have become so short on love that God will pass them by and use another group to reach the world.

For Southern Baptists to fulfill their evangelistic purpose will require a strong, unquestioned commitment to missions by opinion-makers, Parks said. It also will require that elected officers deliberately bring missions to the center stage of the SBC.

It also is essential for pastors of trend-setting churches to consider a personal call to missions and to lead their churches to be generous supporters of missions, Parks said.

Missions giving by churches of 1, 2, or 3 percent of their budget will not "support our primary purpose nor challenge us to get serious" about missions, Parks said.

"Giving \$11 per year per Baptist won't do it," Parks said. "One of every 4,000 of us going as a missionary won't do it."

"What will it require?" Parks asked. No more than Jesus said. Death to self as individuals, as a church, as a denomination.

"The window of opportunity is now, and it will not last long, maybe three or five years," Parks said. "We must go through that door now."

**Challenge to Pressler's nomination fails**

A challenge to Paul Pressler's nomination as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board failed June 9 at the SBC annual meeting.

Messengers rejected an attempt during the opening day of the convention to substitute another Texan for Pressler, of Houston, to serve as a trustee of the mission board. The hand vote failed, apparently by about a 4-1 vote.

It was the only attempt to substitute a person on the nominating committee report and followed earlier news stories that some SBC leaders had requested Pressler to consider withdrawing the nomination.

Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge and one of the leaders of the "conservative resurgence" in the SBC, concluded two terms on the SBC Executive Committee at last year's annual meeting.



Paul Pressler, center, a member of First Church, Houston, shares a laugh with friends in the Hoosier Dome June 9. Pressler was elected a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board.

## ClareMonte



"Contemporary accommodations in country surroundings" and only minutes from The Great Passion Play and Eureka Springs.

### Bed & Breakfast

Hwy. 62 West • Berryville, Arkansas  
1-800-854-3940



### Pine Hill Restaurant

Best Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner  
in the Ozarks!

Eureka Springs, Hwy 62 West  
(501) 253-8230

Great Hickory Smoked Ribs, Ham Steak  
and Chicken.

- All U Can Eat

Plus

- Full Menu Available

All Dinners Include Salad Bar

## Willow Ridge

### Luxury Lodging

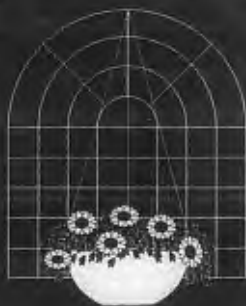
*"Excellence in All Things and all things to the Glory of God"*

In every room a chandelier above a mirrored corner lights a Jacuzzi for two. Comfort is guaranteed by individually controlled heat & a/c, plush carpeting, smooth-textured bed linens or satin sheets, downy comforters, satiny and lacy, all bespeak ease and luxury. Each room is equipped with color cable TV, remote control, VCR, AM/FM clock radio, refrigerator, Mr. Coffee and a microwave oven. Located on fourteen wooded acres each room has a ground level entry and each upper story room has a private balcony.

501-253-7737 or  
1-800-467-1737 (Out of State)

85 Kingshighway,  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632

(Next to the Chamber of Commerce)



Whether you arrive as a member of your church group or with your family, the Victorian Village Inn caters to your personal needs. We are convenient to restaurants and right next door to the Pine Mountain Jamboree music show and Pine Mountain Village's many unique shops. For visits around town, the city's trolley stops at our doorstep.

Toll-Free Reservations:

1-800-451-1588



Route 1, Box 286 • Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

# Victorian Village Inn

## SONSHINE INN

(Open all Year)

- Ideal for Small Groups or Families
- Large Meeting/Living Room
- Four Large Bedrooms
- 2 Baths and Kitchen Fully Furnished
- Group Rate - \$10 Per Person

Rt. 1, Box 459 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
(Next to Ozark Mountain Hoe-Down)

501-253-6095

Our three-diamond rating is just where we begin . . .

comfort,  
security,  
safety and  
the ultimate in  
Ozarks  
hospitality.



## RV Park

4 miles to the Passion Play

- Full Hookups
- Wide, Level Spaces
- 50-Amp Pull-Throughs
- Trolley Stop • Motel Rooms
- Heated Pool

**GREEN TREE LODGE**

In Eureka Springs on Hwy. 62 West

(501) 253-8807

**Experience the Triumph and Glory . . .**  
of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ  
in the 4,100 seat amphitheatre of **THE GREAT PASSION PLAY**  
at Eureka Springs, Arkansas



**INCLUDE IN YOUR VISIT:**

- The Great Passion Play
- Sacred Arts Center
- Bible Museum
- Gospel Concerts
- Dinner Buffet
- The New Holy Land
- Christ of the Ozarks Statue
- Berlin Wall — 10ft. Section
- Parables of the Potter
- Gift & Snack Shops

**1992 Season April 24 thru October 31**

Write or call for **FREE**  
Full-color Vacation Planner

P.O. Box 471  
Eureka Springs, AR 72632

FAK: 501-253-8261

**501-253-9200**

**The Great Passion Play™**

EUREKA SPRINGS,  
ARKANSAS 72632-0471

Group Rates (12 or more)

No performances  
on Mon. & Thurs.

48 scenic miles  
to Branson, MO

**ORDER FORM**

Relive the dramatic presentation of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ as you witness **THE GREAT PASSION PLAY VIDEO™** filmed at Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

90-minute video ideal for church, school or family viewing, and as a witnessing tool. Excellent gift! Only \$20.00!

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of The Great Passion Play Video™ @ \$20.00 each

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of The Potter Video™ @ \$10.00 each

**THE POTTER VIDEO™**

A Ministry of the Word of God thru  
The Ancient Craft of Pottery

... Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand,  
so are ye in mine . . . Jeremiah 18:6

30-minute Video — \$10.00

**YES!** Please send me a **FREE** copy of your full-color Vacation Planner.

**SPECIAL PACKAGE OFFER: BOTH VIDEO TAPES \$27.95**  
This special package set which includes The Great Passion Play Video™ and The Potter Video™ Total Package price is \$27.95.

Video order . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PAYMENT METHOD  Check  M.O.  Visa  MC

Shipping/Handling . . . \$ 2.00 Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Elna M. Smith Foundation, P.O. Box 471, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Phone: 501-253-9200  
ABN (Allow 2-4 Weeks Delivery) FAK: 501-253-8261

**THE OUTPOST**

Everybody's  
One Stop  
Convenience Store

- Delicious Sandwiches
- Made to Order
- Grocery Deli
- Fishing Supplies
- Gas
- Ice

Open 5:00 a.m. Till After the Passion Play  
(with the Coffee Pot On)

Hwy. 62 West

Between Berryville & Eureka Springs

Wayne & Robbie Giles  
Owners

423-2236

Church Groups of 12 to 160 People  
**FOR \$25 See the Great Passion Play**  
and save \$ hundreds \$ at



**KELLER'S  
Country Dorm  
Resort**

Clean & Comfortable  
Rt. 4, Eureka Springs, Ark.  
Super-Economical \$25 Package  
Includes: \$9 Reserved Seat Tkt.  
swimming, air-conditioned lodging,  
and meals (Extra night's lodging just  
\$9 ea.)

Call 501/253-8418 for Reservations  
and info on special LARGE group savings!



**Four Runners Inn**

Route 4, Box 306  
Eureka Springs

501-253-6000 • Fax 501-253-8654

- 90 Victorian Style Rooms
- Only indoor pool in Eureka
- Whirlpool, Game Room, Gift Shop
- Group rates available. Buffet and menu serv'g.
- Live music 6 nights a week.
- Family owned and operated

Across the street from  
the Great Passion Play

Everyone loves to go

**BACK TO GRANDMA'S**

Eureka Springs, AR

Quality crafts, jewelry, dolls,  
t-shirts and more!

It's a real treat to go

**BACK TO GRANDMA'S**

10% discount for church groups

Hwy 62 East

(Across from Pine Mtn. Jamboree)

(501) 253-8299



**YOUR FUN HEADQUARTERS**

For groups of 20 or more

- ★ Large shaded picnic area  
(seating for 60 at a time)
- ★ Old Fashion Hayride  
(Music, Ghost Stories & other entertainment)
- ★ Open sided-old fashioned barn
- ★ Canoeing and tubing on local  
rivers and lake

Plus ★ Horseshoes ★ Volleyball ★ Softball

Your Hosts: Tom and Donna Richards  
1-501-253-6003



**Box R**

Rt. 2, Box 464 • Berryville, AR 72616



(BP) photo / Paul Brock



**Executive discussion**—During a meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee on June 8, committee chairman David Hankins, left, listens as Oliver "Buzz" Thomas makes a point. Hankins is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., and Thomas is legal counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington.

action, Thomas said he would recommend that his board file suit in Washington against the Southern Baptist Convention. He declined to predict the decision of the board, which meets the first week of October.

"We have time to make a careful, deliberate decision at that time," he said.

Thomas estimated litigation would cost the SBC more than \$300,000 and noted the BJC has retained the firm of Powell and Goldstein to handle the matter.

In other recommendations from the Executive Committee, messengers adopted without discussion a 1992-93 Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$140,200,395, a reduction of 0.36 percent from 1991-92. They also adopted a 1992-93 SBC operating budget of \$4.2 million.

A bylaw revision allowing SBC entities to request the removal of trustees for excessive unexcused absences also passed without discussion.

Also adopted were program statement revisions for the Executive Committee, Woman's Missionary Union, and Christian Life Commission, along with amendments and restatement of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary articles of

incorporation.

The first-year report of 1990-95 Bold Mission Thrust efforts was received. Toward five-year goals of 2.1 million baptisms and a total of 45,000 churches and missions, 396,668 baptisms were reported in 1990-91 while the denomination has 43,273 cooperating churches and missions.

A resolution of appreciation for Executive Committee President-Treasurer Harold Bennett who retires Oct. 1 also was adopted.

## SBC acts to bar churches approving homosexuality

The Southern Baptist Convention voted overwhelmingly June 9 to declare two North Carolina churches not in cooperation with the SBC and to withdraw fellowship from the congregations. The churches have taken recent actions favorable to homosexuality.

The vote by messengers attending the convention's 135th meeting was termed a "historic event."

Messengers also endorsed with virtually no opposition a constitutional amendment declaring churches approving homosexual behavior "not in friendly cooperation" and, therefore, not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings.

The amendment requires approval by SBC messengers again in 1993.

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh voted in March to bless the "union" of two homosexual males. In April, Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill voted to license a homosexual to the ministry.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina voted May 20 to oust the two churches. The Raleigh Baptist Association disfellowshipped Pullen church on May 5. Binkley church has not been affiliated with its association.

The recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee declared the actions of the two churches "contrary to the teachings of the Bible on human sexuality and the sanctity of the family and are offensive to Southern Baptists."

"In taking this action," the recommendation continued, "the Southern Baptist Convention also fervently prays that these churches will respond to the teachings of Holy Scripture by rescinding their actions related to avowed homosexuals while continuing to pray for God's saving grace and healing power in the lives of homosexuals and continuing to minister redemptively to homosexuals."

Jim Guenther, general counsel for the Executive Committee, called the action a "historic event. It is the first time in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention when, in the exercise of the convention's autonomy, it has determined it will look to the faith and practice of a church to determine if it is in friendly cooperation."

Guenther said approval of the motion and the constitutional amendment will require a review of the bylaws spelling out how messengers get their credentials.

Executive Committee Chairman David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., said the purpose of the constitutional amendment was to "make explicit in the constitution what has

## Arkansans elected

Messengers approved the appointment of the following Arkansans to SBC committees and boards

Resolutions Committee: Rex Terry, attorney, member of First Church, Fort Smith.

Committee On Committees: Marilee Fields, First Church, Russellville; Gene Thomas, pastor of Magnolia Church, Crossett.

Home Mission Board—term expiring 1996: Johnny Jackson, Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock, rotating off; replaced by Ronnie L. Mayes, pastor of First Church of Bebe.

Southern Seminary—term expiring 1997: David Miller, DOM Little Red River Association.

New Orleans Seminary—term expiring 1997: Arnold A. Burk, member of First Church, Russellville.

Southeastern Seminary—term expiring 1997: Dale E. Thomas, pastor of First Church of Fort Smith.

Historical Commission—term expiring 1996: Ray Granade of First Arkadelphia, rotating off, replaced by Carl Norman, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Van Buren.

Stewardship Commission—term expiring 1996: Lloyd A. Sparkman, pastor of Crow Mountain Church, Russellville, rotating off, replaced by Harvey McClellan, member of Immanuel Church, Rogers.

Nominees to the Committee on Nominations, 1992: Joe W. Achison, chairman, DOM of Benton County Association, member of First Church, Rogers, and Jim Pate, member of First Church, Russellville.

always been implicit."

Messenger David Martin of Cary, N.C., said he lived mid-way between the two North Carolina churches which he termed "Sodom and Gomorrah."

"Let the world know where we stand," he said.

In other matters, messengers approved resolutions of appreciation for three agency executives — Lewis Drummond, who retires June 30 as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; Lloyd Elder, who retired in August 1991 as president of the Sunday School Board in Nashville; and R. Keith Parks, who retires in October as president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Messengers also approved for the second year a constitutional amendment requiring all members of SBC committees to be members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches. The action was taken to meet requirements for approval of constitutional amendments.

## HMB instructed to study Freemasonry

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention instructed its Home Mission Board interfaith witness department to study Masons, rejecting a motion to form an ad hoc committee to investigate the secret fraternal group.

"I'm disappointed," said Larry Holly, a

messenger and Beaumont, Texas, physician who introduced the motion calling for a committee to study Freemasonry and report back at next year's convention in Houston.

In the June 10 morning business session, messengers were debating that motion when Alvin Rowe III, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rockledge, Fla., moved to amend the motion to instruct the HMB study the matter instead.

Home Mission Board trustees have twice rejected studying Freemasonry when the SBC referred the matter to them for consideration after previous conventions. The June 10 action now officially instructs the board to study Freemasonry.

Without debate on Rowe's amendment, it passed overwhelmingly, and the motion also passed by an equally large margin.

"I'm just going to pray and trust the Home Mission Board will deal with it," Holly told Baptist Press, adding he hopes to have some input to the committee. "If their report doesn't deal with it with integrity and honesty, we'll come back and amend their report."

Holly said he spent about \$8,000 in unsolicited donations to publish a 58-page booklet titled "The Southern Baptist Convention and Freemasonry."

In his book, Holly contends the Masonic lodge's true purpose is worship of Satan who, Holly claims, is the god of the lodge.

"Let every Southern Baptist beware, who having bowed his knee to the Masonic altar,

has thereby betrayed the Lord," the book states.

Holly said he is not opposed to Masons being church members but believes they should not be allowed in positions of leadership.

After the vote, the grand master of Masons for the state of Oklahoma issued a statement lauding Masonic contributions to charities, communities and personal development.

"Masonry is an important influence for good in Oklahoma," said the statement by Allan D. Large. "We are not in competition with any group, certainly not with any faith, but believe that each person has a moral and ethical responsibility to make the world a better, more nurturing place."

A Baptist poll last year found 14 percent of Southern Baptist pastors introduced were or had been members of a Masonic lodge.

The call for a study was opposed by several messengers. Before debate on Holly's motion, John King, a pastor at Nall's Creek Baptist Church, introduced a counter resolution asking that no committee be appointed "because we have more important things to occupy our time and efforts and monies, and that is winning men to Jesus." King's motion at the time was ruled out of order because it involved the same issue to be debated in Holly's motion.

## Lewis says decision on Masons could hurt missions

The decision by Southern Baptists instructing the Home Mission Board to study Freemasonry will inevitably hurt missions, HMB President Larry L. Lewis said.

"I am disappointed in the decision," Lewis said after messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention voted June 10 for the HMB to study Masons rather than form a special committee to study the fraternal organization.

Lewis said sending the issue back to the Home Mission Board is "another attempt (by messengers) to not deal with the issue but refer it to an agency."

"Any position we take — either pro Masons or against Masons or neutral — will generate a certain amount of ire and wrath and thus hurt missions," Lewis said.

Yet Lewis said the HMB will do as the messengers instructed and conduct the study.

(BP) photo / Dan Bryan



**Introduced Freemasonry motion**—Larry Holly, center foreground, a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention from Beaumont, Texas, introduced a motion that the denomination appoint an ad hoc committee to study Freemasonry. The convention, meeting in Indianapolis June 10, rejected the motion, but instructed the Home Mission Board to take on the study.





## ADDRESSES

### Quayle: Stand with me on morals

Vice President Dan Quayle brought his message of moral values to messengers at the 135th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in what he described as an effort to gain support from the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Speaking to more than 15,000 messengers at the Indiana Hoosier Dome,



(SFP photo / Paul Brock)

*Quayle comments—United States Vice President J. Danforth Quayle responds to a reporter during a news conference following his address to messengers at the SBC June 9.*

Quayle, who has been at the center of debate about values since criticizing the TV comedy "Murphy Brown," called on the SBC to join him in what he said is a fight against the country's "cultural elite."

"My friends," Quayle said, "we need to have a discussion among ourselves on the importance of moral values. It's time that we Americans speak out for what we believe in and what we stand for. It is time we Americans stand up for our values, stand up for America, and say that America is great because of our people and our values."

Those values, contrary to "sophisticated folks," are values still alive in America, Quayle said in the SBC's opening session June 9. "They live in our thousands of

Southern Baptist churches and in other places of worship across America."

Quayle said it is important to speak out about moral values because. "If America ever lost its moral vision, it would cease to be America. We would become a soulless and divided nation, a nation under siege instead of a nation under God."

Moral values make a nation great, Quayle said. "They are the solid foundation of our lives as individuals and as families." But the vice president said his recent speech on values has uncovered an intolerance in America on "the other side. And the tragedy of our time is that so many in the elite culture offhandedly dismiss moral values."

Quayle said anyone talking about moral values is inviting "the scorn and laughter of the elite culture. Talk about right and wrong, and they'll try to mock us in newsrooms, sitcom studios, and faculty lounges across America."

But Quayle said values is the most important issue facing the nation today and vowed to continue his crusade.

"Moral values are what the American people care the most about. This is what I say about the media elite; I wear their scorn as a badge of honor."

Taking aim at critics of his recent

statements about marriage and fictional Murphy Brown, Quayle said the family is a "sacred institution entrusted with the world's most important work."

"It is not only nature's masterpiece ... it is God's masterpiece. We believe society is only as strong as the families who live and grow within it. And we believe that the family and family values need our support."

In his introduction of Quayle, SBC President Morris Chapman, of Wichita Falls, Texas, thanked the vice president for his support of moral values.

"Thank you for standing up for the unborn who cannot stand up for themselves. Thank you for raising the conscience of this nation to the importance of the family," Chapman said. "It is a sad day when a nation allows a situation comedy to trivialize tragedy."

SBC Executive Committee President-Treasurer Harold Bennett presented Quayle a resolution of appreciation commending the vice president for speaking out about values.

Calling criticism of Quayle's statements about values "outrageous abuse," the resolution thanked Quayle for his "forthright statement on the sanctity of marriage."

## Messengers approve 15 resolutions

Among 15 resolutions approved by messengers were calls for President George Bush to use his influence for "genuine religious freedom" in the Middle East; for Southern Baptists to join in FMB "Green Alert" efforts to evangelize in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe bloc; and for Southern Baptists to "recognize our responsibility" to minister in America's inner cities.

In an apparent caution regarding the emerging Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of SBC moderates, one resolution urged SBC entities to avoid "any conflict of interest, real or perceived, . . . by any participation with any organization, program or meeting which would compromise support of the Cooperative Program."

On life issues, messengers approved resolutions opposing "the unethical practice of using fetal tissue from induced abortions in experimental research," euthanasia, assisted suicide, and withholding of nutrition from the severely ill. Messengers also called for continued research into more effective pain management.

On societal issues, messengers opposed condom distribution in public schools; opposed "the continuing secularization of the Lord's Day;" offered encourage-

ment to the Boy Scouts of America for maintaining references to God and refusing to allow homosexuals as leaders; and urged Baptists to voice their moral convictions to TV networks, cable systems, and advertisers.

A resolution approved on debates among churches about the gender of God states "God is a Spirit, beyond any human gender. . . beyond the limitations of any human word" who has "uniquely and explicitly revealed Himself to us as Father."

In other business, a motion to limit annual salaries of all SBC employees to no more than \$100,000 and two motions to place limits on compensation packages for employees who leave SBC agencies were referred to "every institution of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Two motions were referred to the SBC Annuity Board. The first asks the board to reduce the cost of its annual medical deductibles for individuals and families participating in the convention's group health insurance.

The second, jointly referred to the Sunday School Board, urges the formation of a study committee to look into the possibility of providing disability coverage and pastoral care for pastors recovering from "stress burnout."

While the cultural elite "sneers" at those values, Quayle said they also ignore the results of immorality.

"Do they even acknowledge the consequences — an ever-increasing rate of illegitimacy, youthful promiscuity, 1.6 million abortions?"

Instead, Quayle said, the elite compound problems by "handing out condoms in the schools or distributing sexual propaganda to third- and fourth-graders.

"Morally speaking, our children ask for bread and cynics give them a stone," Quayle said. "We believe our children were made for better lives than that and that moral and spiritual integrity are the key to human fulfillment."

The vice president also spoke out on abortion. He offered an alternative for women with unwanted babies:

"Our solution for those mothers who feel they cannot raise the child is adoption."

In a news conference following his speech, Quayle said he is determined to continue speaking out about moral values.

Asked if he was sorry he criticized fictional Murphy Brown, the vice president said no. Instead, he said he has had an "outpouring of letters and support from the American people."

## Chapman: Move up the mountain

Saying Southern Baptists have "skirted this mountain too long," convention President Morris Chapman called on Southern Baptists to "move up the mountain, over the mountain, and toward the promise land."

In his presidential address, Chapman, pastor of 5,000-member First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said Southern Baptists are not called to go around mountains but are a "people, a convention, a denomination of destiny."

"We have not come to this place because of our own worthiness, or even of our churches. We have been brought to this moment of destiny by God, who has worked mightily among us for his own glory."

Chapman, newly-elected president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, warned that in moving forward Baptists need to remember "who we are and whose we are."

He told messengers the denomination was "built, led, and sustained" by leaders such as J.B. Gambrell, George W. Truett, W.A. Criswell, and Herschel Hobbs; that the convention was led by theologian-

statesmen such as E.Y. Mullins, James P. Boyce, B.H. Carroll, and Lee Scarborough; and that the denomination's mission endeavors were led by Baker James Cauthen, Theron Rankin, and Arthur Rutledge.

Southern Baptists stand on the shoulders of giants, Chapman said. "Those who would use these names for some other movement pay us the ultimate compliment — but they cannot and will not hijack our heritage."

The denomination is not fragmented as some have said because the gospel is preached, he declared. "We will not be distracted from our central purpose," he said.

Chapman addressed disenchanted congregations, saying, "To those churches who join a new movement and move away, we offer no word of censure, rebuke, or retribution.

"Know this: We will not be angry but we will not be deterred from the mission God has called us to accomplish for his glory."

He pleaded with Southern Baptists to exhibit honest cooperation and partnership, which he said is "desperately needed in our own day."

"Those Southern Baptists of old stated boldly that cooperation was on the basis of conviction ... not at its expense. We can do no less today."

He also called on churches, state conventions, the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC seminaries, Baptist colleges and universities, and Baptists of the world to remain true to their heritage and move with the denomination.

To SBC churches, Chapman said, "Stay the course, keep the faith, remain steadfast in the work of the Lord."

To state conventions, Chapman said, "Move together in common cause at home and abroad and keep a world vision of the gospel in view."

To WMU, he said, "Stay true to your founding vision. Do not be distracted from your mission by those who would divert you for their own purposes."

He reminded WMU members of their constitution which states the organization will collect funds to be "disbursed by the boards of the Southern Baptist Convention" and disclaims all intention of independent action.

"You have been a bulwark of support for Southern Baptist missions and an example to all of missionary commitment. Do not falter now."

To the seminaries, he asked for "theological leadership for the renewal of this denomination. Provide us with training for preachers, teachers, missionaries, and fellow servants."

To Baptist colleges and universities,

## Psychiatric Care Is Not For Everyone

AND IT NEVER HAS BEEN. For the last decade, questionable diagnoses, corporate profit motives, and unethical marketing strategies have tarnished the image of mental health institutions as a whole. Inpatient psychiatric care can be, and has been, a very lucrative business. Often times, and especially in those hospitals that cater exclusively to psychiatric patients, such practice has resulted in treatment approaches that are linked more closely to available reimbursements than to patient needs.

At Levi Life Center, we believe our treatment services for emotional disorders are different. We utilize the latest in medicine and therapy, with a traditional commitment to patient care. Our program operates within a not-for-profit environment that includes a variety of rehabilitative services, like our nationally known arthritis treatment program. We are primarily attentive to the needs of Hot Springs and surrounding communities, and we are dedicated to community service that will aid in overcoming the stigmas and symptoms that accompany mental illness. Our staff of psychiatrists, nurses, social workers and therapists subscribe to a holistic approach in treating those who suffer from depression, anxiety disorders, overwhelming grief or stress, and a host of other emotional disorders. Levi Life Center remains committed to the belief that inpatient treatment for mental illness is a viable and highly successful treatment tool for that significant portion of our population who need it.

IF YOU NEED US...CALL US AT 622-3520  
OR TOLL-FREE 1-800-272-2171, EXT. 520



## LEVI LIFE CENTER

A program of Levi Hospital Hot Springs



Chapman said, "Show us an education which weds learning with undiluted conviction.

"Baptists have been far better at founding colleges and universities than at keeping them. Show us that being a Baptist university means more than Baptists founding the institution and supporting it financially."

Chapman called Baptists of the world to "Join with us in the sacred cause of missions as we work together, hand in hand, for the furtherance of the gospel!" and to "go with us together where none of us could go alone.

He asked for Southern Baptists to move together up and over the mountain. "Southern Baptists have been a mountain-climbing people driven by a commitment the world will never understand. It is our time to take the high ground ... our time for putting our lives on the line."

## **Drummond: Don't separate truth, love**

Orthodox theology alone will not move the Southern Baptist Convention ahead, Lewis A. Drummond cautioned in his convention sermon June 10.

"In the final analysis, it is not how orthodox we are but whether we're walking in love," said Drummond, who recently became Billy Graham professor of evangelism and church growth at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham, Ala. Drummond is retiring as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Truth is mightier than the sword, he said, and it freed the people of Eastern Europe as the Iron Curtain crumbled into the dust of history.

The Gospel of John says bare truth alone is not adequate for the Christian, Drummond noted. You cannot separate grace and gospel, he said.

"That grace is fully epitomized in Jesus Christ," Drummond said. "He did something so utterly magnificent and inscrutable on Calvary that only grace can adequately describe it."

Drummond noted, "People matter to God as well as truth. We can speak unvarnished truth ... but for truth to come alive, even God's truth, it must be permeated with grace."

Drummond warned that clinging to truth without grace can lead to formalism, scholasticism and even depersonalizing, legalistic Phariseism.

Holding to grace alone, he said, can result in a superficial, subjective, non-definable existentialism or humanistic rationalism.

"The world wants to know what we believe about Jesus Christ and the truth of God's Word, but it also wants to know if we are like Jesus," Drummond said.

"We are to cling to the truth and be gracious to all people, regardless of who they are or what they believe. . . . People matter to God and they should matter to us."

God's truth also must be coupled with sanctification, Drummond said, defining it as "a holy, godly lifestyle."

He recalled a recent Gallup Poll revealed the average Christian prays three minutes per day and the average pastor only seven minutes.

"Too many believers only dip and dabble in the Word of God," Drummond charged. "Of course, their personal word of witness is all but silenced."

Also, Drummond reminded convention messengers that Jesus called love the greatest commandment upon which all the law hangs.

He warned, however, that love is often misunderstood. Some adopt the "bleeding heart" approach, "so existential that nothing about holiness, judgment, sovereignty, and other characteristics and truths of God seem to matter."

On the other hand, there are the "Bible-thumpers" who become legalistic and wield the Bible as a bludgeon.

"The Word of God is not a club; it is a

sharp, two-edged sword. It cuts to the quick, but it heals."

"No excuse can be found to gloss over heresy," Drummond said, "but grace, holiness, freedom, and love also emanate from the very personhood of our Lord.

"That beautiful blend will drive us to our knees, thus bringing us into much desired unity, and could just precipitate the revival we Southern Baptists sorely need."

## **Stanley: Devote yourselves to prayer**

"Devote yourselves to prayer," Charles Stanley urged messengers attending the final session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 11.

Stanley, pastor of First Church in Atlanta, said devotion to prayer is the key to discovering God's will and vision for every person.

"Any man of God who devotes himself to prayer will be able to overcome every single obstacle in life and will have no limitations in life, except those which God sets," he said. "That man has learned to tap into the inexhaustible resources of Almighty God.

"If you and I learn to draw from within, not from without, seeking the mind of God, the Spirit of God who lives inside of us will release in you and through you

## **DOM leader: Be prepared for change**

Churches must embrace change and people of other cultures to minister effectively in the 1990s, according to a leader of Southern Baptist directors of missions.

"Every church must be prepared to be an international Baptist church, and every church has the potential of becoming an international Baptist church," Glean Hickey said.

Hickey, president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions and DOM for Pulaski Baptist Association, presented three methods for "Discovering Divine Directions" in his speech June 7.

First, Christians need to "rediscover mustard-seed thinking," he said.

"God places the full power of his kingdom within the smallest unit. . . . We do not have the big picture until we have seen the little picture. Seemingly insignificant things" for directors of missions might be "that risky mission venture. . . (and) mission starts," he said.

Second, Christians need to "become the leaven. . . . We should react to what is around us. . . . We should be the

fermenters," said Hickey, a former 14-year missionary appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to Brazil.

Christians also need to be interactive, he said, penetrating society, battling evil, stirring the social conscience of churches.

"This means more than a token involvement," Hickey said, ". . . more than just opening a clothes closet or food."

Third, Christians need to "strive for excellence," he said. Any association wanting to thrive in the 1990s "will seek excellence. . . . will have a singularity of commitment, . . . will have a perpetual casting aside of what is inferior," he said.

"Churches no longer support the program because it has the stamp of approval from Nashville," Hickey said.

"We need to round up our sacred cows and put them out to pasture. . . . We need to break our molds. . . . Our resistance to change is perhaps our greatest enemy."

However, he concluded, "I believe we are living in the most exciting time ever to be alive. . . . We are living in what may be the worst of times for our denomination, but we can find the best of times for being all God has called us to be."

every single thing you need to become and to do what God has called you to do."

Stanley identified a problem he said many Christians face: "We limit what God can do in our lives by judging ourselves by the past or comparing ourselves with other people. We look back instead of looking up to God.

"That's exactly what this convention's been doing for years," he continued. "Suppose we as a denomination would say, 'God, we're not going to look back, we're looking up.' What then would be the potential of the Southern Baptist Convention?" Stanley asked. "What could we do if we devoted ourselves to prayer and trusted God to provide everything we need to do exactly what he wants us to do?"

"I don't think our minds could conceive of the overwhelming, awesome results that would take place!" he declared. "There is no way we could fathom it.

**'We limit what God can do in our lives by judging ourselves by the past . . . We look back instead of looking up to God.'**

"One of our problems," he said, "is we compete with one another on the one hand and compare ourselves with one another on the other hand, and we're always in this state of turmoil. God wants us to be free of competition and comparison, looking to him and set apart for his plan and his purpose for life.

"What God does in your life really has nothing to do with your education, your eloquence, your ability or talent, but it does have a great deal to do with your devotion to Christ and to prayer," he said.

"Prayer is the key to getting God's vision for your life. Once you have that sense of direction, everything in you begins to churn. You become more creative; God begins to show you how to do things that you would never be able to figure out yourself."

Prayer "is the answer to every facet of the life of the man of God," Stanley said.

"If you'll devote yourself to prayer, God will supply your needs. You'll get a sense of his viewpoint and his timing for your life.

"Devote yourself to prayer," Stanley challenged. "When you do that, God will clarify your vision, provide all your needs, knock down obstacles, and open doors of opportunity. Then, you can be all God intends for you to be."

## Arkansas Church Construction? Only One Name To Remember!

# KINCO



A full service church building company:

- ★ Consulting Services
- ★ Design Build Services
- ★ Construction Management
- ★ General Contracting

#### Builders of:

- ★ First Baptist Springdale, Worship Center
- ★ First Baptist Walnut Ridge, Worship Center
- ★ Calvary Baptist Little Rock, Family Life Center
- ★ St. Bernard's Catholic Church Facilities, Bella Vista
- ★ First Church of the Nazarene N.L.R., Education Bldg.



**Kinco, Inc.**  
Constructors

### BUILDING EXCELLENCE

15617 Chenal Parkway  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
Tel. 501-225-7606

#### HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

Family Care Ministries, Oklahoma Baptist Convention, seeks mature Christian couples to serve as houseparents. High School education and a love for children are needed. Excellent ministry opportunity. Contact: Ron Argo, Child Care program director, Baptist Building. 405-942-3600.

### IMPAC Mobility Centers

Van lifts • Stair lifts • Wheelchair lifts  
Electric scooters • Lift chairs  
Statewide in home sales and service  
1-800-421-3314 or 224-6378



## APPRECIATION

### Bennett credited with fairness

"I love Southern Baptists. I love Jesus Christ," Harold C. Bennett said when he stepped into the role of president-treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee in 1979.

Those loves remained strong during Bennett's 13-year tenure — but they were put to the test by a sweeping transition within the Southern Baptist Convention toward deeper conservatism in its biblical base and its stance on such issues as abortion and prayer in public schools.

Bennett is to retire Oct. 1 but remain with the Executive Committee until Dec. 31 to assist president-treasurer-elect Morris Chapman, who begins work with the SBC coordinating body June 15. He was honored with a resolution of appreciation from the Executive Committee June 8 and a reception at the Southern Baptist Convention June 9.

Throughout the years of change, marked by controversy across the SBC and more than a decade of divided votes in annual convention presidential elections, Bennett kept a steady course. "My commitment," he says, "has been to be fair and to work with all of our constituency."

Apart from SBC controversy and details, Bennett is buoyed by positive memories

from his work in one of the convention's key leadership posts. "There are so many highlights" he reflected, topped by Southern Baptists' progress in Bold Mission Thrust and an \$8 million, seven-story office building in Nashville housing the Executive Committee and six other SBC committees or organizations.

"I really feel there has been good progress" in Bold Mission Thrust, the effort launched in 1976 to stir Southern Baptists toward a key role in sharing the gospel worldwide by the year 2000. Without BMT and coordination provided by the Executive Committee, Bennett believes "we would have slipped back instead of going forward."

Southern Baptist churches across the country have increased by 9 percent during BMT and church-type missions by 181 percent, Bennett recounted. SBC membership is up by 18 percent and Sunday school enrollment by 10 percent. The SBC Cooperative Program almost has doubled. The number of foreign missionaries has increased 48 percent, home missionaries by 98 percent.

"The report of Bold Mission Thrust for the period 1976-1991," Bennett said, "is cause for thanksgiving to God for his blessings."

Bennett also has a deeply personal stake in Bold Mission Thrust: His daughter Cynthia and her husband, Paul Howard, are new Southern Baptist missionaries to the African country of Swaziland. Bennett and

his wife, Phyllis, also have two older married sons, Jeff, a Florida businessman, and Scott, a professor of music (organ) and German at Union University in Tennessee.

When Bennett assumed the Executive Committee president/treasurer's job in 1979, he was "experientially equipped for the job," Ernest Mosley, Executive Committee vice president, recounted. Bennett had been executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention since 1967; director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' missions division, 1965-67, and a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas; secretary of the Home Mission Board's metropolitan missions department, 1962-65; and superintendent of new work for the Sunday School Board's Sunday school department, 1960-62.

He was pastor of Beech Street Church in Texarkana, Ark., 1955-60; assistant pastor of First Church in Shreveport, La., 1953-55; chaplain at Kentucky State Reformatory and Kentucky Woman's Prison while studying toward a master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, 1951-53; and pastor of Glen Rural Church in Wake Forest, N.C., while a student at Wake Forest University and Duke Divinity School.

(BP) photo by Kevin Devine



**Side-walk sharing**—During door-to-door canvassing, George Bannister, in white shirt facing camera, and David Wooten talk with a woman during Crossover Indianapolis, an effort by Southern Baptists to saturate the city with witnessing and ministry prior to their annual meeting. Bannister is pastor of Beech Spring Church, Minden, La., and Wooten is pastor of Forest Hill Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.



A Symbol  
To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett  
Healey & Roth

Little Rock

Forest Hills  
Memorial Park

Little Rock

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills

FURNISH HOME AND COMMERCIAL BUILT-IN HOME LIFE

GROSS  
FUNERAL HOME

Hot Springs

PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON



Quality  
VAN Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches. 501-268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson

## CROSSOVER INDIANAPOLIS

**Blitz yields 1,024 professions**

More than 1,000 people made professions of faith as Christian witnesses saturated Indiana prior to the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 annual meeting.

"I'm thrilled and elated," with the report of 1,024 professions of faith, said Alvin Reid, director of evangelism for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. He noted Indiana Baptists reported 3,100 baptisms last year.

The evangelistic blitz, dubbed "Crossover Indianapolis," also helped Indiana reach its goal of starting 52 churches this year. The 52nd congregation began meeting June 7.

"We hope Crossover is the springboard for our growth for 1993 and '94 and '95," said Carrol Fowler, state director of missions and Brotherhood.

Nearly 200 churches statewide held simultaneous revivals the week before the convention. Calvary Baptist Church in New Castle, for example, had 32 professions of faith during its first three nights of revival services.

The 1,024 professions of faith include those made during revival services and a

one-day door-to-door soul-winning campaign June 6 before the convention.

During the door-to-door campaign, volunteers contacted 13,900 homes and discovered 1,950 prospects for local churches.

The professions of faith include 192 from street-witnessing efforts in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, 93 from three block parties in Indianapolis, 44 during a Saturday evening rally, and six as a result of a specialized newspaper mailed to 150,000 Indianapolis residents.

The total figure is more than double the 411 professions of faith made during last year's preconvention witnessing blitz in Atlanta.

To reach the church-starting goal, "We had to create a new work attitude across the state, and the (SBC) convention was the vehicle for doing that," Fowler said.

Reports about the need for new churches in Indiana resulted in people who said they wanted to plant their lives in Indiana, Fowler said.

"Crossover put Indiana on the map," Fowler said. He said he hopes Indiana will continue to benefit from the publicity as he recruits people to help reach the state goal of 53 new churches next year.

Fowler said he is looking for dual-career pastors who can support themselves financially with another job while they start a church. He said he also is looking for

volunteers to serve as regional coordinators to help new churches plan a growth strategy and is open to churches outside Indiana sponsoring new churches in the state. For example, First Church of Moore, Okla., is sponsoring a church in Granger, Ind.

Seven Indiana counties have no Southern Baptist ministries and Fowler said he hopes to have congregations in each of those counties within two years.

**Classifieds**

**Seeking**—Part-time youth minister position. Loves working with teen-agers. Call Sidney 268-1807. 6M

**Available**—Southern Baptist Minister, licensed, ordained, full-time, interim, bivocational, part-time. David Reddoch 758-3015 7E

**Organist wanted**—Paid position. Bingham Road Baptist Church, Little Rock, 888-2140. 8A

**Needed**—Music and Youth Director. If interested send resume to Personnel Committee, Pickles Gap Baptist Church, #2 Pickles Gap Road, Conway, AR 72032. 61B

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 80 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.



**Christian Clown**—Warren Watkins, alias "Bif the Christian Clown" and pastor of Greenlee Church, Pine Bluff, demonstrates an illusion to Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism, during a pre-convention block party at Open Door Baptist Mission Church in Indianapolis. At right is Robinson's daughter-in-law, Kathryn, who participated in the evangelism event with Robinson's son, Loren. At left is Watkins' wife, Karen, who hands out candy to neighborhood children as part of "Crossover Indianapolis" activities.

**For Sale:**  
**Typesetting  
Equipment**  
Compugraphic MS-10,  
preview, 8400 typesetter,  
processor.

**Call 376-4791,  
ext. 5153**

# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### God's glorious message

by Earl Humble, retired, Walnut Ridge

Basic passage: Nahum 1:2-3,6-9, 12-13,15

Focal passage: Nahum 1:2-3,6-9, 12-13,15

Central truth: God's judgment on Ninevah was brought on by Assyrian cruelties, especially against God's people.

The prophet Nahum was inspired by God to pronounce judgment on the Assyrians. See his graphic description of the coming destruction of Nineveh, the Assyrian capital city. The conquering force would be the Neo-Babylonian Empire, known also as Chaldeans because lower Babylonia was known as Chaldea. The revival under Jonah had run its course and idolatry had again taken control. Nahum was writing about 625 B.C. about an event which would take place in the near future. We know from history that Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire fell in 612 B.C.

We have just passed through one of those trying times when a tyrant state has been overthrown, or at least brought to an end as we knew it. Apparently, European communism has run its course, brought down by its own shortcomings, rather than by an antagonistic rival power. In the case of Chaldea, the new state was as oppressive as the Assyrians had been. Their days were numbered also, for in 539 B.C., the Medo-Persian Empire overran and replaced the Chaldeans.

Some lessons emerge from Nahum's writings. (1) God is the avenger of the enemies of his people. God is great in power, but slow to anger. He does not destroy a nation on a whim because he has great patience. His power is manifest in nature, but also in the affairs of nations.

(2) God loves his people. He permits them from time to time to be oppressed, and he uses the oppression to cleanse his people. No prophet can predict how and when God will say, "It is enough." In verses 13-14 God speaks, "I will break his yoke bar from upon you, and I will tear off your shackles."

(3) God speaks again to the oppressor, "Your name will no longer be perpetuated. I will cut off (idol and image from the house of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are contemptible" (v. 14).

(4) God is still in the deliverance business, and will continue so.

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

## Life and Work

### Get ready!

by David Blase, First Church, Nashville

Basic passage: Revelation 22:12-21

Focal passage: Revelation 22:12,17,21

Central truth: Jesus Christ is coming again, and we must be ready.

Jesus concluded his revelation to John by reminding the beloved apostle that he was coming back again (v. 12,20). John responded with, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (v. 20). This was not the first time John had heard this promise. Some 60 years before Jesus had spoken this promise (Jn. 14:1,2). Angels had verified the promise at the Ascension (Ac. 1:11).

The Lord Jesus will return. This is the "blessed hope of the church" (Ti. 2:13). No one knows the day or the hour and, therefore, the church must remain on ready.

Jesus said he would bring his reward with him (v. 12). Paul taught this doctrine of rewards in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and other places. At least five rewards are mentioned in the Bible. They are: (1) the crown of life (Ja. 1:12), (2) the crown of rejoicing (1 Th. 2:10), (3) the crown of righteousness (2 Ti. 4:8), (4) the incorruptible crown (1 Co. 9:25), and (5) the crown of glory (1 P. 5:4). In Matthew 5:12, Jesus told his first disciples that they could expect "great reward in heaven."

Christians should not be afraid of dying. Heaven is what every believer sees five minutes after death! It is a place of indescribable beauty. John had a vision of that wonderful place, but human words cannot do it justice.

The Lord invites everyone to come to salvation. In verse 17, John says that the Holy Spirit says, "Come." The Holy Spirit is at work in the world. He works through the Word of God. When men hear the Word, the Spirit convicts them and woos them to Christ.

John says the bride invites people to come to Christ (v. 17). When Jesus was in the world, he said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden" (Mt. 11:28). Christ came into this world for one main purpose and that was to seek and to save that which was lost.

Many people are thirsty. To those who are thirsty, Jesus says, "I am the water of life" (Jn. 4:14). The woman at the well was thirsty and Jesus satisfied her thirst. Here in Revelation 22:17, Jesus says, "Whosoever will, take the water of life freely."

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Bible Book

### The Christian appeal

by Dennis M. Dodson, First Church, Monticello

Basic passage: Philemon 1-2, 4-20

Focal passage: Philemon 1-2, 4-20

Central truth: Appeals made by Christians in behalf of others are enhanced by a regard for mutual relationships.

Philemon is a private letter in which Paul makes an appeal to Philemon, a Christian at Colossae, in behalf of Onesimus, a slave of Philemon who had robbed him and run away to Rome, where he had been converted to Christ by Paul. Paul wanted Onesimus to remain in Rome and assist him, but he knew that Onesimus needed to return to Philemon and be reconciled with him. These aspects of Paul's appeal would enhance any appeal made by a Christian in behalf of another:

(1) The reputation of the one receiving the appeal (vv. 7,20). Paul appealed to Philemon upon his reputation as a "refresher of saints" to refresh Onesimus, now a fellow Christian, and Paul, who was responsible for his conversion.

(2) Christian love (vv. 8-9). Though having the authority to order Philemon to do the right thing concerning Onesimus, Paul chose to address him as "beloved brother" and appeal to him on the basis of love for an aged Christian who was in prison because of his work for the Lord. Love and confidence are much more effective in calling forth the best in people than authority and arrogance.

(3) The value of the one for whom the appeal is made (vv. 10-15). Onesimus being Paul's spiritual child who had been converted from uselessness to usefulness for both Paul and Philemon was reason for Philemon to be reconciled with him, and return him to Paul.

(4) The providence of God (vv. 15-16). Paul indicated to Philemon that Onesimus' actions may have been of divine providence to bring about his conversion, not only from sin to God, but also from being a sorry slave to be a beloved brother.

(5) The partnership of believers (vv. 17-19). Paul called upon Philemon to accept Onesimus in regard to their partnership as fellow workers (v. 1) and fellow soldiers (v. 2) and account any of his wrongs or debts to him, remembering that he was in debt to Paul for his own self.

Christians have a common commitment that prompts cooperation.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Convention Uniform

*A troublesome question*

by Earl Humble, retired, Walnut Ridge

Basic passage: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4

Focal passage: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4

Central truth: God uses a wicked nation to chastise his people, but the wicked will be judged in God's own time.

The troublesome question is found in Habakkuk 1:2, "How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and Thou wilt not hear?" The nation that the prophet had in mind was Chaldea, or the Neo-Babylonians. The Chaldeans became a threatening nation about 625 B.C., and in 612 B.C. they overran the Assyrians and became the dominant power in Mesopotamia. The prophet saw that Judah would be threatened by this rising power. What seems to have disturbed the prophet more than anything else was likely that he saw the unrighteous pagans about to swallow up the people of God (1:13).

If the Chaldeans had already overthrown the Assyrians, the prophet would have had one more reason to dread the future. The Chaldeans were as cruel as the Assyrians. Though the prophet speaks of the Chaldeans as less righteous than Judah, he was well aware of Judah's shortcomings. He says that "the law is ignored and justice is never upheld." The wickedness of the many overshadowed the righteousness of the few. He is amazed at the success of the Chaldeans, who were so "dreaded and feared" (1:7). They "collect captives like sand" (1:9).

Having posed the question to God about his use of these unscrupulous Chaldeans, the prophet now took up his stand on a rampart of a tall building, watching the enemy for his first move, yet waiting for a word from the Lord. In 2:1-4 we have the pertinent part of God's answer to the prophet's question. In effect, God said, "It will come at the appointed time. It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it" (2:2-3).

The final verse in our focal passage is 2:4 "Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him. But the righteous will live by his faith." Many modern translators render the final word as faithfulness, rather than faith. The root idea of the Hebrew word is truth or truthfulness: Faith and truth are so close in meaning that we use them interchangeably in marriage ceremonies.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lessons for Christian Education, published by Southern. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## Life and Work

*Chosen to serve*

by Mitch Tapson, Mount Carmel Church, Cabot

Basic passage: 1 Samuel 13,16

Focal passage: 1 Samuel 13:14; 16:1,6-7,11-13b

Central truth: God's will will be done

A number of years ago the phrase, "the me-generation," was coined. It was descriptive of a generation of Americans who thought of everything in terms of how it affected them, and more importantly, how it would enhance and bring pleasure to their life.

The sovereignty of God describes the truth that God not only is creator of the universe, but dictates his will upon every current event that transpires. His will will be done.

In the story before us, we find that King Saul is being dismissed as king in favor of another. Saul's disobedience to God through a promise made to the prophet Samuel (10:8) carries the penalty of de-thronement.

God sovereignly moves then through Samuel in directing a choice for king. God speaks to Samuel in 16:1 of the specific family of Jesse in the town of Bethlehem. One of his sons is to be anointed king. God's sovereignty is further seen as Samuel views the sons and immediately likes Elisha. God informs Samuel that this is not his choice. God's choice is not made regarding external appearance, but is made as he looks on the heart (16:7).

All of Jesse's sons are paraded before Samuel, but God doesn't give him the peace of decision on any of them. Samuel questions Jesse and determines that there is yet one son, the youngest, who has not been viewed. When David comes before Samuel, God instructs Samuel that this is the man he is to anoint (16:12-13).

In an atmosphere of me-first and me-only, to promote the teaching of a God who demands allegiance and acceptance of his will is not going to be popular. The word choice is touted these days as a rallying word for the me-generation, with the contention that we have a fundamental right to choose concerning all issues of life. There is no law or higher authority that supersedes my right to choose my own destiny.

David was chosen to serve by a sovereign God who is still choosing men and women today for the kingdom's work.

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Bible Book

*Preparing for leadership*

by Bruce A. Swihart, East Side Church, Paragould

Basic passage: 2 Kings 2:9-15a; 3:11-12a,17,20

Focal passage: 2 Kings 2:9-15a

Central truth: God faithfully provides his Spirit for those who desire to serve.

How does a Christian prepare for spiritual leadership? Elisha knew that Elijah's ministry was blessed by God. To serve God effectively when Elijah was taken away, he sensed his need to be filled with the spirit that permeated Elijah.

(1) Seek God's anointing. When Elijah was about to be taken he asked Elisha what he could do for him. Elisha replied, "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit" (2:9). Elijah's most valuable possession was the Spirit of God. However, it was not within his power to bestow it on Elisha. Yet, God desired to confirm Elisha's wish for prophetic leadership to his generation. So he led Elijah to set out the conditions whereby Elisha would receive the Spirit. Elisha's leadership would be worthless without the anointing of the Spirit.

(2) See God's activity. Elisha left his family to serve God by helping Elijah (1 K. 19:20-21). Because of Elisha's deep commitment, God allowed him to witness the miracles Elijah performed. Elisha knew he must follow Elijah's instructions in order to receive all that God had for him. He was faithful to stay close by Elijah's side. When the chariot of fire, the horses of fire, and the whirlwind came, Elisha saw the miracle of God. Because of his faithfulness he received the mantle of Elijah and a double portion of God's Spirit.

(3) Serve God's aim. By faith Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak. He proceeded to the bank of the Jordan River where they had crossed together. He now needed to know that God had chosen him. By faith he challenged God to verify his call to serve. He said, "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" (2:14) as he struck the water with the cloak. God parted the water and Elisha knew that God's power was within him. "And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." (2:15a)

A Christian prepares for spiritual leadership by making a personal commitment, by walking in faith, and by seeking God's will.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



## Subscriber Services

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine offers subscription plans at three rates:

**Every Resident Family Plan** gives 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 \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

A **Group Plan** (formerly called the Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.  
P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, AR 72203

CAR-RT SUAT \*\*CR639  
017557 COMP 2230  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
501 CEMETERY ST STE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more costly 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 your subscription by mail, please include the address label. Or call us at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to give us your code line information.

## May CP, designated gifts down

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program total received by the Executive Committee for May took a big drop compared to a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer.

The May 1992 total was \$10,680,560 compared to \$12,415,289 the same month a year ago or a 13.97 percent decrease.

Designated gifts also suffered compared to a year ago: \$15,961,706 to \$19,608,602, an 18.6 percent decrease.

"I'm disappointed," Bennett said in response to the report.

After eight months of the SBC fiscal year, CP gifts are \$3,245,506 behind the comparable period in 1990-91 which is a 3.39 percent drop. Designated gifts for the fiscal year also are short compared to the previous year: \$105,601,581 compared to \$107,083,976 or a 1.38 percent drop.

The monthly CP basic operating budget requirement for the SBC is \$11,725,856 or, for the eight-month period, \$93,806,848.

## Lottie Moon gifts total \$81.4 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts for 1991 totaled about \$81.4 million dollars — an increase of about 2.5 percent over 1990 for the annual Southern Baptist foreign missions offering.

When the financial books closed May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$81,358,723 — about \$2 million more than the previous year — to support foreign mission work throughout the world.

Receipts for 1991 fell about \$2.6 million short of the \$84 million goal. The shortfall means missionaries will have that much less money to spend on capital needs, such as cars and houses overseas. The goal was projected to finance 46 percent of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's \$184 million budget for 1992.

Still, the total is good news for missionaries and mission planners. Some feared economic recession and denominational squabbles might seriously cut into Lottie Moon giving in 1991.

The 1990 offering marked the first year since 1937 that Lottie Moon receipts dropped below the previous year's total, and the first year since 1932 that both Lottie Moon and Cooperative Program giving decreased compared to the previous year.

Most of the Foreign Mission Board budget comes from Lottie Moon gifts and offerings through the Cooperative Pro-

gram, the denomination's unified giving plan. For the first eight months of Southern Baptists' 1992 fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts have dipped about 3.4 percent below the total for the same period last year.

Faced with the prospect of decreasing revenues, mission board trustees approved only about a half-percent increase in spending over 1991.

## Anti-hunger convocation set

NASHVILLE (BP)—Representatives of five Southern Baptist agencies with responsibilities for ministering to the world's hungry have called for a major denomination-wide hunger convocation in May 1993 to discuss the future of Southern Baptist work with the world's hungry.

"The purpose of the meeting is to assess where Southern Baptists are now on the issue and to identify strategies for the future," the group said in a statement.

"We want to work toward a coordinated, unified strategy in this area," the agency representatives agreed.

Participants also said the convocation should lay to rest unfounded rumors the new conservative leadership in the convention is not interested in the world's hungry. Concern for the world's hungry is neither a moderate nor a conservative issue but should be a concern of all Southern Baptists, the group agreed.

The 1993 date was chosen for the meeting because it marks the 15th anniversary since a 1978 convocation in which current Southern Baptist strategy on world hunger was begun.

The convocation will be May 6-8, 1993, at Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina.

## Urgent need for volunteers

Roy and Patsy Davidson, Southern Baptist missionaries to Swaziland (Africa), have issued an urgent call for volunteers to construct the Mbabane Baptist Church. After six years of pleading, land has been granted, but time is running out. The need is for six or seven teams of 10 people to spend two weeks on the construction. Total cost per team member a day in U.S. currency is 23 dollars. For more information, please contact the volunteer department of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.