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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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11-30-1995

### November 30, 1995

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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1995  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 24

November 30, 1995

## Reshaping Our World View

Reshaping Our World View

Reshaping Our World View



**1995**  
**Lottie Moon**  
**Christmas Offering**

SBC Goal: \$100 million  
State Goal: \$3 million

**Week of Prayer**  
**for**  
**Foreign Missions**

December 3-10



Reshaping Our World View

# New Baptist Building toll-free service goes into effect Dec. 1

"The name of the game is service," explained state convention executive director Don Moore as he announced the decision to install a new Baptist Building 800 number service.

Beginning Dec. 1, Arkansas Baptists will be able to call the Baptist Building in Little Rock toll-free by dialing 1-800-838-ABSC (1-800-838-2272). The service is toll-free for anyone calling in-state during business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In addition to providing access to the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board staff, the toll-free number will allow callers to reach the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. The Arkansas Baptist Foundation also has installed its own toll-free number: 1-800-798-0969.

Moore said he initiated the Baptist Building line as a result of a meeting he had with other state convention executives. The executives, he noted, "said that last year nothing met with more approval in their states than the installation of an 800 line into the convention offices. They said it produced many more calls to the Baptist Buildings.

"Anything that helps us more adequately service churches is bound to find more use," he added. "We welcome calls from our people."

According to Dan Jordan, ABSC business services director, the new 800 number will result in a savings to the total Baptist

effort. "The savings to calling churches is, of course, 100 percent. But due to the volume of expected calls, Dr. Moore negotiated a low rate of 10 cents per minute on calls, a savings of at least 50 percent over normal rates, he said.

Jordan said that callers will be greeted by an "automated attendant" which answers all incoming calls. From a touch-tone phone, he said, "you may dial the desired extension number while the

recorded message is playing or you may wait a moment and speak with an operator who will route your call."

Rotary phone users, he added, must "stay on the line to speak with the operator."

Jordan said the Baptist Building's voice mail system is an added service to aid communications.

"Baptist Building phones are equipped with a voice messaging system," he explained. "If the extension you call answers with a voice message, you may either leave a message, press another extension number or dial '0' and speak with an operator."

He urged after-hours and weekend callers to use the building's regular phone number, 501-376-4791. "After the automated attendant says, 'The Arkansas Baptist Convention offices are closed,' you may dial the extension number and leave a voice message." A directory of department extension numbers is available by calling the Baptist Building's switchboard operator.

**NEW BAPTIST BUILDING  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:**

**1-800-838-ABSC**  
(1-800-838-2272)

## Cover Story



### Foreign missions 6-11

More than 130 Arkansas Baptists are among the 4,100-plus Southern Baptist foreign missionaries serving around the world. A special six-page feature highlights who they are and where they serve.

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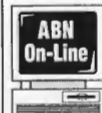
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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# Arkansans share zeal for Christ in Denmark

By Mike Creswell

SBC Foreign Mission Board

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK—Four dozen Southern Baptists from America — including eight from Arkansas — recently shared their zeal for evangelism, music and Sunday School in six Danish cities.

The eight-day project was affirmed by Baptists on both sides of the Atlantic.

"I have never seen such a demonstration of God's presence and power in a service in Denmark," said Southern Baptist foreign missionary Paul Wallschlaeger after a concert in Copenhagen, where he is a pastor.

That concert was among many performed by gospel singer Willa Dorsey of Oregon and Richard D. Baker, former minister of music at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas. English lyrics posed little problem in Denmark, since many Danes speak fluent English.

Teams of Southern Baptists worked in Danish Baptist churches in Copenhagen and five other cities across the country. They preached, presented special music, led Bible studies, visited projects and shared their testimonies.

"This mission trip was a partnership in every sense of the word," said Travis Arterbury, a staff member of First Baptist Church in Russellville. Arterbury was the preacher and team leader at Kristuskirken Baptist Church in Copenhagen.

"Our team received as much or more than we gave," he noted. "We come home excited about the faith and strength of the Danish church and energized in our own faith. We will value forever the friendships that were made during the partnership."

"People were inquiring and very interested in talking with us," said Margery N. Tucker, pianist at First Church, Crossett. "We were welcomed so graciously and our church had everything well-planned and organized, so we felt we were helpful.

"I truly feel God is working in this program," she remarked. "This has far exceeded my expectations."

"We saw four decisions for Christ we know of. There may be more," said Jim Pate, an attorney who is a member of First Church, Russellville.

Pate said he intends to stay in touch with the Baptist church in Sindal, Denmark, where his team served. He said he saw many needs in the city and hopes there will be a follow-up crusade there within the next two years.

There was evidence that such campaigns have produced results in the past. Richard Baker said he met Danish Baptist church leaders who were converted during a 1978 partnership



Foreign missions volunteer Cheryl Bratton of First Church, Russellville, shares a hug with a member of Kristuskirken Baptist Church in Copenhagen, Denmark.

mission in which his brother, Bo, was the evangelist. Baker reported that the granddaughter of one of the converts he met accepted Christ as her personal Savior during the latest campaign.

Changed lives result from every partnership campaign, both in the target country and among partnership team members, said W.H. "Dub" Jackson Jr. A former foreign missionary to Japan and

now the Foreign Mission Board's crusade coordinator for Western Europe, Jackson has led partnership events among Southern Baptists for many years.

Besides the Denmark effort, Jackson will organize several other campaigns in Europe in 1996, including Norway and Sweden in October, and Italy, Oct. 30-Nov. 12. Interested individuals may contact the FMB at 1-800-866-8657.

## Executive director vote set for Dec. 12

Arkansas Baptists have been waiting for months to learn who the next state convention executive director will be. If the search committee's anticipated timetable stays on track, interested individuals should have their answer in two weeks.

According to search committee chairman Billy Kite, the nine-member committee has unanimously agreed on a nominee who will be presented to the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board Dec. 12 in Little Rock.

"The way things have unfolded with the committee and the candidate, we are confident of the Lord's direction," Kite affirmed. Noting that "everyone on the committee feels 100 percent that this is God's man for the hour," he voiced optimism that the Executive Board will respond with a strong affirmative vote.

Although there is widespread speculation concerning possible candidates, Kite declined to confirm or deny such

reports, emphasizing the committee's desire to maintain as much confidentiality as possible until the Dec. 12 vote.

In response to the announced timetable, printing and mailing of the Dec. 14 Newsmagazine will be delayed one day in order to report the Executive Board's Dec. 12 action. "While we have never delayed publication in recent years, the impact of the Executive Board's agenda is certainly worthy of this decision," noted Newsmagazine editor Trennis Henderson. "Otherwise, most Arkansas Baptists would not have opportunity to read about the action until our Dec. 28 issue.

"In an effort to respect the committee's request for confidentiality while also providing our readers the most timely news possible, the publication delay appears to be the best option available. We look forward to sharing the results of the board meeting with our readers as quickly as possible."

# YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

"Record numbers of new missionaries, rising living costs and a weak dollar have dramatically raised the cost of supporting the force of almost 4,200 workers in 131 countries." This is the basis on which the Foreign Mission Board is asking us to give \$100 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year.

The opening of the East European countries to the gospel has called for quick and dramatic response. It is now or never for many people in many of those countries. For this, \$10 million out of the Lottie Moon Offering will be earmarked. Needless to say, it will take more than money to reach these peoples. More missionaries are needed and more prayer is needed.

Would your church really respond to these needs if given an opportunity? Most churches do. It is my hope that this year every church in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will strongly encourage every member of their church to share in the Lottie Moon Offering. If the pastor and people will do three things, they can be assured that record gifts will be forthcoming: (1) Have a churchwide study of "Reshaping Our World View for the 21st Century." (2) Schedule a Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. (3) Give every person an envelope and encourage them to pray about what they should give to foreign missions.

A record 545 missionaries were appointed in 1994. They are worthy of our prayers and gifts. Many have gone into danger zones from which they may never return. Two of our missionaries were murdered last year. Another recently lost her life to malaria. We should be finding ways to undergird these people rather than finding excuses not to give.

We must all evaluate why God has blessed us as He has financially. We must also ask how He wants our resources used to carry the gospel to every person in the world. This year should be a banner year for both you and mission support as we do better than we have ever done in support of our missionaries.

REX HORNE

## President's Perspective

### Good news!



"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Good news...there is not enough of it. Tabloid news, whether in print or television, promotes the sensational and often vile acts of human beings. You know the motto of some news-makers, "If it bleeds, it leads."

We need Christmas this year. In fact, each year seems to wear us down until we focus again on the "good tidings" of Christ's birth. This past year was no exception. In this year we have witnessed the death of hundreds in Oklahoma City's federal building. The deed was committed, it appears, by a fellow countryman.

Recently, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel was assassinated by a young Israeli. The security of Israel's leaders was established upon keeping foreigners away, with no thought of a fellow citizen attempting to do harm to their leaders.

Oklahoma City and Rabin makes the potential move of the Cleveland Browns to Baltimore pale as far as importance, doesn't it? Someone has suggested big fears do away with little fears. The

concerns of today dissipate with the news that we, or a loved one, have only months to live.

Good news can swallow up the bad. For the Christian, Christmas is a time that announces to the entire world that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior and Lord, was born in Bethlehem. The eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing God came to earth in flesh. He lived and died that we might have forgiveness and life abundant and eternal. Friends, that is good news!

When my son heard of my election to serve Arkansas Baptists this year, he told one of his RA friends on Wednesday. His friend asked, "What does he get for it?"

I "get" to share with you in the cooperative effort of Arkansas Baptists working together in kingdom work. We are entering the days of giving additional funds for foreign missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our 4,139 missionaries in 131 countries are preaching the Good News.

May the God of Good News bless you in this holiday season. Merry Christmas...we need the reminder of good news!

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Personal perspectives

"This is the richest opportunity we have ever had to share that God is the hope of glory."

—Don Moore, ABCS executive director

"Your relationship with Jesus is the most important thing you'll experience in your ministry. Let that be your goal — that Christ's character is formed in you."

—Jim Henry, Southern Baptist Convention president

"I am committed to doing whatever I can to support my father so that he can continue to do the work that God has called him to do."

—Franklin Graham, newly elected first vice chairman, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

# Does your marriage need a check-up?

For the vast majority of married couples, the most appropriate response to the above question is a resounding yes. Just as our physical bodies need regular check-ups and our vehicles require occasional tune-ups, our marriage relationships also need and deserve specific opportunities for evaluation and improvement.

And we're not just talking about troubled marriages here. In fact, to carry the analogies a bit further, the best time for a physical check-up is when you're still feeling fine and the best time for routine car maintenance is long before you need a tow truck. The same is true of marriage—the ideal time for a marital check-up is while the relationship is strong and healthy.

One such opportunity in Southern Baptist life is the Fall Festival of Marriage retreat sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Started several years ago at Gloria and Ridgecrest conference centers, the events have grown to include more than 25 conferences in locations ranging from Maryland to California.

Arkansas Baptists' second annual Fall Festival of Marriage was held recently in Hot Springs, attracting more than 300 couples from 10 states. The number of retreats and the size of the crowds clearly demonstrate that such marriage enrichment events are meeting significant needs in the lives of many Christian couples.

## What's an 'institutionalist'?

Well now we have a new "term" or "label." Will someone please explain what an "institutionalist" is?

Because of an evangelistic crusade in the Netherlands I was unable to attend the recent Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Upon my return I learned that two very good, dedicated servants of God were nominated for the office of president and that only 84 votes separated the two. Arkansas Baptists would have been blessed by having either Stephen Davis or Rex Horne.

If there is any doubt in my conservative brother's mind about where Rex Horne stands on the Word of God, he stated in the first issue of his weekly newsletter, when he became pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, that he believes the Bible is the divinely-inspired, inerrant Word of God. If the only basis on which Barry King opposes Rex is because he is the pastor of Bill Clinton, this is mighty shallow indeed. Rex has made it abundantly clear time and time again that he opposes the president's position on the abortion and homosexual issues. He has so stated this to the president.

If Barry has been pastor of the typical church, he no doubt has had members who have been guilty of hideous sins.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



The primary idea behind Fall Festivals of Marriage is to help make good marriages better. Promotional literature invites couples to "experience a weekend of growth, reflection, joy and encouragement as your relationship as husband and wife is strengthened." Challenging participants to "celebrate marriage under the Lordship of Jesus Christ," the literature also promises couples the opportunity to "recapture the joy of romance, renew your faith in God and in each other" and "discover truths that make a marriage sizzle."

The recent Hot Springs weekend, co-sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist Discipleship and Family Ministry department, highlighted the 1995 retreat theme, "Regarding Romance." The program focused on such topics as friendship,

intimacy, spiritual unity, stress, sexuality, finances and two-career families.

According to keynote speakers Otis and Deigle Andrews, "Romance is an experience that makes you feel valued, loved and desired." Using the acronym D.A.T.E., they said four keys to nurturing romance in marriage are:

- Desire: "You've got to want romance to be a part of your life."
- Awareness: "You must be aware of what your spouse thinks is romantic."
- Time: "Romance takes time."
- Effort: "Romance will only happen when we put forth the effort to make it happen."

Other speakers noted that effective bridges to romance include the biblical virtues of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and gentleness. While most couples know the basic ingredients for maintaining a positive, loving Christian marriage, putting those truths into regular practice sometimes slips far too low on the priority list of daily life. It may simply be a matter of pausing long enough for a marital check-up, making a fresh commitment to your spouse and to God and then putting practical suggestions for a stronger marriage into daily practice.

Could your marriage use a check-up? Check out the next Festival of Marriage near you.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some may even have gambled, but does this disqualify Barry from working with the Christian Civic Action Committee?

Thank God, Bill Clinton has a pastor who has not compromised or sacrificed his convictions even though his church member happens to be the president of the United States.

I would have been pleased to have Stephen Davis as president, but I am equally pleased to have Rex Horne.

Bill H. Lewis  
White Hall, AR 71602

## Godly leadership affirmed

The election of Dr. Rex Horne breathes a glorious and exciting new posture into our convention. I am confident many will look forward eagerly to his leadership.

It is regrettable that Barry King's concerns with reference to Dr. Horne's relationship in his role as our president's pastor discolored the joy and excitement

surrounding Dr. Horne's election. Such a simplistic comment does immeasurable disservice to the integrity and dynamic of the messengers to the convention, as well as Dr. Horne.

In spite of Mr. King's commentary concerning "institutionalism" and "revivalism," the issues are far from incompatible. Dr. Horne has demonstrated his keen affirmation of sound scriptural proclamation in his Holy Spirit-empowered and directed ministry.

Our "growth" resulting from "revival" is greatly misinterpreted and even exaggerated. That some facets of our religious expression would benefit from revival is unquestioned. However, a pastor who is faithful to the Word of God, who professes a loving spirit and who is genuine and consistent in his relationships with his constituents will see what we term "revival" taking place. I submit that our convention can be led into this expression with one such as Dr. Horne providing godly leadership.

Perhaps we could do well to emulate the spirit and witness of John Wesley, "If your heart is as my heart, give me your hand!"

John D. Davey  
DeQueen, AR 71832



## Reshaping Our World View

As Southern Baptists focus on "Reshaping Our World View" during the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, more than 4,100 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are serving in 130 nations around the globe. Among those missionaries, more than 130 call Arkansas home.

The following pages of the Newsmagazine feature photographs of Arkansas missionaries seeking to help reshape our world view by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Biographical information provided by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board includes the name, ministry assignment, field of service and home town of each missionary.

In addition to the career missionaries highlighted in this special report, Arkansas Baptists serve through the FMB's Cooperative Services International organization. Others serve as journeymen and in other short-term or volunteer capacities.

As you observe the 1995 Lottie Moon season, take a few moments to become better acquainted with fellow Arkansas Baptists who have answered God's call to foreign missions. Make a special point to remember them in your prayers throughout the annual week of prayer and beyond.



**BRENDA BAYER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Panama  
Clinton

**JIMMY COBB**  
Institute Director  
Canada  
McGehee



**KIRK BULLINGTON**  
Music Promoter  
Dominican Republic  
Arkadelphia

**BARBARA BURNETT**  
Church/Home Worker  
Brazil  
Hazelvalley



**BEN HOPE**  
General Evangelist  
Brazil  
North Little Rock

**JOHN SEALE**  
Church Developer  
Brazil  
Hope



**ROBERT CROCKETT**  
General Evangelist  
Argentina  
Parkin



**TED DANIELS**  
Church Planter  
Venezuela  
Fordyce



**JEFFERY GINN**  
Seminary Teacher  
Colombia  
West Memphis



**BENJAMIN KIRBY**  
Church Planter  
Venezuela  
Little Rock



**CHARLOTTE KIRBY**  
Church/Home Worker  
Venezuela  
Star City



**JUDY LEAGANS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Colombia  
Star City



**HANNELITE LITES**  
Church/Home Worker  
Colombia  
Wilson



**DEANIE NICHOLS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Paraguay  
Cabot



**GILBERT NICHOLS**  
Seminary Teacher  
Paraguay  
Mountain View



**DEBORAH REDMON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Venezuela  
Arkadelphia



**HUGH REDMON**  
Conference Director  
Venezuela  
Arkadelphia



**MARY STANTON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Venezuela  
Little Rock



**TED STANTON**  
Associate Area Director  
Venezuela  
Little Rock



**LEE WALKER**  
Music Professor  
Chile  
Little Rock

# ARKANSAS MISSIONARIES



**RUTH GLADEN**  
Outreach Evangelist  
Mexico  
Lapanto



**MARY HENDRICKS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Costa Rica  
Hartford



**GLEN NICHOLSON**  
Church Planter  
Panama  
Forrest City



**PAULINE NICHOLSON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Panama  
Cherry Valley



**MICHAEL SIMPSON**  
General Evangelist  
Honduras  
Mena



**GREGORY SMITH**  
Religious Educator  
Costa Rica  
Hot Springs



**IDA SUE SMITH**  
Church/Home Worker  
Costa Rica  
Carthage



**ANGELYN FINLEY**  
Church/Home Worker  
Brazil  
Hot Springs



**H.W. "DUB" FITE JR.**  
Agricultural Director  
Brazil  
Mena



**LEWIS GENTRY**  
Theological Educator  
Dominican Republic  
Stamps



**NINA GENTRY**  
Church/Home Worker  
Dominican Republic  
Pine Bluff



**KERRY GILCHRIST**  
Church/Home Worker  
Windward Islands  
El Dorado



**CANDI HOLMES**  
Church/Home Worker  
Suriname  
Fort Smith



**MARK HOLMES**  
Church Planter  
Suriname  
Fort Smith



**STEPHEN BOWERS**  
General Evangelist  
Ecuador  
Blytheville



**CAROL CHATMAN**  
Church/Home Worker  
Uruguay  
Imboden



**ANNETTE CROCKETT**  
Church/Home Worker  
Argentina  
Vandale



**DAVID MILLER**  
Church Planter  
Chile  
Little Rock



**MARTHA MILLER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Chile  
Walnut Ridge



**MARCI MILLER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Ecuador  
Forrest City



**RICHARD VEAZEY**  
Religious Educator  
Colombia  
McGehee



**KATHY WEAVER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Peru  
Fordyce



**ERNEST WHITTEN**  
General Evangelist  
Ecuador  
Hope



*Southern Baptist missionary Marcus Driggers (left) visits with a church member outside the Baptist Evangelical Temple in Santiago, Chile.*



# ARKANSAS MISSIONARIES

MIDDLE EAST  
and NORTH  
AFRICA



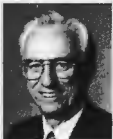
**CONNIE ANTHONY**  
Church/Home Worker  
Israel  
Mount Ida



**JOHN ANTHONY**  
General Evangelist  
Israel  
Hope



**LuMELL BARNES**  
Church/Home Worker  
Morocco  
Monette



**DONALD BROWN**  
English-Language Pastor  
Israel  
El Dorado



**CHARLES BROWNING**  
Property Manager  
Jordan  
Judsonia



**NANCY BROWNING**  
Church/Home Worker  
Jordan  
Lonoke



**PATRICIA FROST**  
English Teacher  
Syria  
Parka



**BETTY HARDISTER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Jordan  
Benton



**GRAYDON HARDISTER**  
Business Manager  
Jordan  
Pine Bluff



**BRENDA PROVOST**  
Church/Home Worker  
Cyprus  
Pine Bluff



**HUGH PROVOST**  
Evangelism Director  
Cyprus  
West Memphis



**KARL WEATHERS**  
Educational Consultant  
Cyprus  
Earle



**THELMA WEATHERS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Cyprus  
Earle



**RAMONA HEWITT**  
Church/Home Worker  
Ghana  
Little Rock



**KAREN HODGES**  
Church/Home Worker  
Senegal  
Paragould



**SHELLY IZZARD**  
Church/Home Worker  
Togo  
Marvell



**DEBORAH MOORE**  
Church Promoter  
Liberia  
Hope



**EDWIN PINKSTON**  
Evangelism Consultant  
Ivory Coast  
Crossett



**GRETA PINKSTON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Ivory Coast  
Harrison



**ROBERT PINKSTON**  
Student Worker  
Mali  
Magnolia

***"When God looks at the world, He doesn't see a map of nations. He sees the peoples of the world....We must re-examine our life-styles. God looks at stewardship in terms of world needs."***

**- Avery Willis**  
Senior vice president for overseas operations  
SBC Foreign Mission Board



**LLOYD FARMER**  
General Evangelist  
Malawi  
Crossett



**JUDY GARNER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Malawi  
Fayetteville



**RHONDA HALL**  
Church/Home Worker  
Botswana  
Pine Bluff



**EDITH JENKINS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Kenya  
Ethel



**RENE MITCHELL**  
Church/Home Worker  
Indian Ocean Islands  
Pine Bluff



**ROBERT MOONEY**  
General Evangelist  
Uganda  
Marvell



**AUDREY MORRIS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Kenya  
Earle



**CHARLES MORRIS**  
Baptist Center Director  
Kenya  
Parkin

# ARKANSAS MISSIONARIES



Hundreds of young refugees who lived in the Baptist children's camp in Goma, Zaire, heard the good news of the gospel from Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.



**RUSSELL FOX**  
Project Director  
Israel  
Searcy



**VICTORIA FOX**  
Church/Home Worker  
Israel  
Searcy



**LOUISE BRILLHART**  
Church/Home Worker  
Togo  
Little Rock



**SHARON PINKSTON**  
Outreach Minister  
Mali  
Magnolia



**KATHY SHAFTO**  
Outreach Minister  
Burkina Faso  
Eudora



**CRAIG BIRD**  
Overseas Correspondent  
Kenya  
Camden



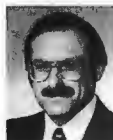
**BOB CALVERT**  
Church Developer  
Kenya  
Little Rock



**STEPHEN DEWBRE**  
Religious Educator  
Transkei  
North Little Rock



**JIM DILLARD**  
English Teacher  
Kenya  
Tyronza



**ORVILLE JENKINS**  
Communication Specialist  
Kenya  
Conway



**JANICE LANGSTON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Botswana  
Etiwah



**RON LANGSTON**  
General Evangelist  
Botswana  
Jonesboro



**HAROLD MITCHELL**  
Dental Educator  
Indian Ocean Islands  
Pine Bluff



**PENELOPE PULLEN**  
Church/Home Worker  
Kenya  
Little Rock



**BARBARA SCHLIEFF**  
Church/Home Worker  
Zimbabwe  
Jonesboro



**GERALD SCHLIEFF**  
Seminary Teacher  
Zimbabwe  
Fort Smith



**SAM TURNER**  
Mission Administrator  
Kenya  
Van Buren

***"We can no longer give lip service to the call of sacrifice for those who have never heard. We must reach deep into our pockets and into our souls, seeking to be faithful to the One who wants no one to perish."***

**- Dellana O'Brien**  
Executive Director  
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

# ARKANSAS MISSIONARIES

## EUROPE



**SHARON FORD**  
Church/Home Worker  
Portugal  
Magnolia



**STEVE FORD**  
Media Promoter  
Portugal  
Magnolia



**CARLOS ICHTER**  
Music Promoter  
Germany  
El Dorado



**SHANNON ICHTER**  
Outreach Minister  
Germany  
El Dorado



**KATHRYN INGRAM**  
Church/Home Worker  
France  
Searcy



**JANICE JOHNSON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Portugal  
Little Rock



**STEPHEN SMITH**  
Business Manager  
Portugal  
Camden



**JOEL SUTTON**  
Church Developer  
France  
Magnolia



## EAST ASIA



**JUDITH FOLDS**  
Church Planter  
Japan  
Crossett



**ANNIE HOOVER**  
General Evangelist  
Japan  
Little Rock



**TONY LUDLOW**  
Church Planter  
Japan  
Fort Smith



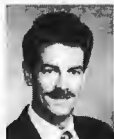
**LAJOYE MARTIN**  
Church/Home Worker  
Taiwan  
Willow



**GERRY ODOM**  
Elementary Teacher  
Taiwan  
El Dorado



**BRANDT SMITH**  
General Evangelist  
Taiwan  
Walcott



**BARRY WALKER**  
General Evangelist  
Japan  
Jonesboro



**ELINDA WEST**  
Church/Home Worker  
Taiwan  
Booneville



**RON WEST**  
Student Worker  
Taiwan  
Booneville



**RONNIE WINSTEAD**  
General Evangelist  
Taiwan  
Leachville



**JEAN WRIGHT**  
Church/Home Worker  
South Korea  
Little Rock



## Reshaping Our World View

# 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

National Goal: \$100 million  
State Goal: \$3 million



**DANNY JOHNSON**  
Church Planter  
Philippines  
Monticello



**TWILA LEE**  
Church/Home Worker  
Indonesia  
Texarkana



**DEVVELYN OLIVER**  
Health Care Director  
Philippines  
Hampton



**FRED PARKER**  
Church Planter  
Philippines  
North Little Rock



**FAITH POSEY**  
Church/Home Worker  
Indonesia  
Russellville



**MARGARET SMITH**  
Church/Home Worker  
Philippines  
Hickory Plains



**THOMAS SMITH**  
General Evangelist  
Philippines  
Lonoke



**MABELEEE TERRY**  
Church/Home Worker  
Singapore  
Fordyce



Reshaping Our  
World View

## 1995 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

December 3-10



**MICHAEL KEMPER**  
English-Language Pastor  
Romania  
Pine Bluff



**GREGORY MCKENZIE**  
Church Planter  
Spain  
Dermott



**MARTHA PRITCHETT**  
Church/Home Worker  
Belarus  
Texarkana



**MICHAEL RAY**  
Religious Educator  
Ukraine  
Crossett



**GREGORY MEEKS**  
School Administrator  
Taiwan  
Hot Springs



**JACKIE MEEKS**  
Church/Home Worker  
Taiwan  
Paragould



**SHARON NOWLIN**  
Church/Home Worker  
Japan  
West Memphis



**THOMAS NOWLIN**  
Church Planter  
Japan  
Marion



**JOHN WRIGHT**  
English-Language Pastor  
South Korea  
Little Rock



**DEBBIE BAKER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Indonesia  
Van Buren



**RONALD BAKER**  
Agricultural Evangelist  
Indonesia  
Brinkley



**KATHLEEN BRAUGHTON**  
Church/Home Worker  
Taiwan  
Philippines  
Little Rock



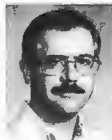
**CALVIN FOX**  
Agriculturalist  
India  
Gentry



**MARGARET FOX**  
Church/Home Worker  
India  
Parla



**GAYLA PARKER**  
Church/Home Worker  
Philippines  
Little Rock



**DAVID POSEY**  
Surgeon  
Indonesia  
Crossett



**FRANCES WAKEFIELD**  
Church/Home Worker  
Fiji  
Mountainburg



**ELIZABETH WOLFE**  
Church/Home Worker  
Indonesia  
Rogers



*Hong Kong, which will revert to Chinese rule in 1997, is a key mission field for Southern Baptist foreign missionaries seeking to share a strong Christian witness there.*

# Money, ministry and the military:

## European Baptists seek missions opportunities amid challenges

When messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted Oct. 31 to extend their missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention an additional year, through 1997, they extended an agreement not only to strengthen the work of EBC churches, but to help them address their unique challenges. What challenges do EBC churches face? Mostly those of money, ministry and the military.

**Money:** The financial situation of International Baptist Church in Stuttgart, Germany, is representative of many EBC churches in land-intensive Germany. Bob Marsh, interim pastor, said the congregation is hampered by a large debt on its six-year-old facility. "It's no longer a church that can afford the luxury of just focusing on one group like the military. What they don't have is a strong financial base."

Although the church has a premium location near an industrial park and military housing, "there is still a debt on this church of about \$1.6 million," Marsh said. "The first \$3,000 that comes in every Sunday has to go to pay the debt, and they do good to have \$4,000 come in a Sunday. It's a challenge, but the people are rolling up their sleeves."

"I shudder to think of Stuttgart's not having this," he reflected. "This facility really ministers. Last night there were children everywhere. German children, American children and all kinds. The place was just swarming with children."

"I also rejoice to think about what God could really do with the right pastor in here with a vision of getting that debt out of the way, then being able to use the income for ministry. Surely there is somebody with a vision of what could be done here who has a call to this type of ministry. Here you already have the facilities and a strong core of people."

## EBC messengers vote to raise \$1 million endowment

European Baptists launched a plan to raise the level of an existing endowment fund to \$1 million and entered a three-year partnership with the Baptist Union of Bulgaria during their recent annual meeting in Brackley, England. The 80 messengers also approved a budget of \$387,000 and re-elected Race Lariscy, pastor of Rhein Valley Baptist Church in Waldorf, Germany, as president.

The European Baptist Convention's Missions Endowment Fund, with current assets of \$465,000, was established in 1987 by EBC general secretary John Merritt in memory of his son, Mark, who was killed in an automobile accident.

Fund committee chairman C.W. Bess, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wiesbaden, Germany, said the \$1 million goal could be reached by 1996. The committee plans to use the EBC's

Race Lariscy, pastor of Rhein Valley Baptist Church in Waldorf, Germany, leads his congregation in a facility that is a converted dance hall over a beer pub. He said that the short-term mindset of many military personnel led the church to rent the facility that it has occupied for 30 years, instead of looking at purchasing options. "We could have paid for this building years ago," he lamented.

## PARTNERS IN MISSIONS



Members worship at Rhein Valley Baptist Church in Waldorf, Germany, a partnership church coping with a loss of members due to the U.S. military drawdown.

Expenses especially impact the work of the convention. John Merritt, general secretary of the EBC, said that with the convention's "large geographical size and modest budget, you can see we don't even have the travel funds for our staff to get to these churches regularly."

European expenses also affect Baptists on a personal level. Betty Hogue, a foreign missionary along with her husband, Calvin, pastor of International Baptist Church in Cologne, Germany, said the German eco-

nomy was a "difficult" adjustment.

"We had a difficult time learning to live here on the economy," she said. "I see a lot of the new missionaries who are coming in and so many times I have heard them cry in despair over how difficult it is. Prices are high, and Germans have their own style of doing things."

Like the Hagues, J.R. Duncan, pastor of International Baptist Church in Hamburg, Germany, is a foreign missionary. He said missions giving from Southern Baptists is a must for the Hamburg congregation.

"This church would not be in existence if it were not for Southern Baptists," he noted. "The church pays for me a place to live, but salary and benefits are all from the Foreign Mission Board."

**Ministry:** Ministering in Europe also poses a challenge to EBC churches. Chief among ministry problems is the culture. In Germany, many European Baptists said that Germans are "not interested" in religion.

"Here in Germany, Baptists are a cult," Duncan said. "We're right up there with the Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-Day Adventists."

He said Baptists face persecution. "Very much so," he emphasized. "One example is that we have a paid child care worker. We had a college student and her parents made her quit because we were a cult."

"In Northern Germany, it's Lutheran country and there's no separation of church and state. This is a pagan country. There are humongous cathedrals all over the place that just stand empty. There is really a need for revival in this country."

Duncan highlighted the German culture's permissiveness as a barrier to ministry. "I am three miles from the second biggest red-light district in all of Europe. There are 6,000 prostitutes within a 12-block area."

partnership with Arkansas Baptists to contact 20,000 former EBC church members now residing in the United States.

Adopting the \$387,000 budget for 1996, finance committee chairman Calvin Hogue, pastor of International Baptist Church in Cologne, noted that giving for 1995 was up 15 percent over last year. The 1996 budget reflects an 11 percent increase over the 1995 budget.

Messengers also adopted a \$90,000 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and established a committee to study the feasibility of moving the EBC's annual summer assembly from Interlaken, Switzerland, to a less expensive location.

Arkansas Baptists were represented at the meeting by ABCS associate executive director Jimmie Sheffield, who spoke during the convention's Friday morning session.

"It's a big porn area. I've been down there ministering," he continued. "It is incredible. It's all legalized in this area. The guy who took me down there pointed out things along the way and he said, 'Now there is where the lesbians and the transvestites are. Over here are where the child prostitutes are: Eleven-, 12- and 13-year-old girls.' The prostitutes are everywhere and that is three miles from my house."

Calvin Hogue said the German government's policies make it tough on internationals, the bulk of his congregation. He said that many are refugees who have "found they are not accepted. We had a black man stand up the other day and say, 'When I am in this church is the only time I feel like a normal human being. I don't feel black, I just feel loved and cared about.' It's so sad."

Betty Hogue agreed that foreigners have a difficult time with the government. "We have one young lady who was trained in business and can do secretarial work and she was offered a job. She went in to get her green card that would allow her to take this job. When they looked at it, they said, 'Oh no, this job pays too much money. We can't give that to a foreigner.'"

According to Brandon Barnard, youth minister for Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany, hardships there can also take less official forms. "The second week I was here we did a camp. We set it up and got there and the people said, 'We're not going to let you stay here, because you are Americans.' That's the first time I've ever had prejudice against me in my life."

Ministry problems are not limited to external influences, either. Paul Hendrix, pastor of Grace International Baptist Church in Sandhausen, Germany, came to that congregation two years ago after a church split. "It's a growing church," he commented, "recovering from a series of poor pastoral leadership. It was down to 14 people. It was almost gone."

Member Mary Ann Croft, a civilian working for the military, said that Hendrix is "a person who gets people to work together and to get along. Since he has been here, we haven't had the kind of infighting we used to have and the church has been able to grow in a peaceful manner."

"It was people pulling apart, forming up into groups that opposed each other. Then they would get frustrated and leave so the church went down and has gradually been built back up."

**Military:** Thea Willem-burg, a member of the Sandhausen congregation since 1984, said many EBC churches must adjust to the military lifestyle to survive "the change all of the time."

"We are still a military church," she

said. "They stay for three years. The last year it's been worse. They didn't even stay one year. You always make friends and lose not only friends but church workers."

Member Arthur Colburn, an Army E-4 specialist, has been a member of the church for four months. He said as a church member, "you have to constantly deal with the military. I just came out of the field. It took me away from the church and the kids. In a church like this, there's going to be constant fluctuation in the membership. I went away for 10 days and there were a lot of people I didn't recognize when I came back."

"The big problem is the absence of fathers from homes and the impact that has on children and wives," Hendrix added. "We try to help them deal with the long periods of absence because their husbands are gone from 45 days to months."

Kathleen Matthews, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wiesbaden, Germany, is the wife of an Air Force member. She agreed that the military lifestyle is hard on church members. "This is the land of inconveniences. We are living in a stairwell environment. It's living in the dorm again."

"You're living in an environment with total strangers and they have children of all ages," she said. "Not all families get along as harmoniously as mine do and the

walls are thin. You have to get along with everybody to survive."

The result of the military lifestyle, said Barnard, is that "if I have a Sunday School worker that comes in and says he wants to work with the youth, within 30 hours this guy may be gone for three months."

"Whereas in most youth ministries you would try to build solid workers and...stress commitment to attending meetings, you can't do that here," he said.

The military drawdown in Europe also has affected EBC churches. Lariscy's wife, Linda, said that Rhein Valley will "be changing whole church structure" to accommodate for the loss of military members and the schedules of remaining ones.

"We're going to go to cell groups for flexibility and a more non-traditional approach," she said. "We may drop Sunday School on Sunday morning and have a longer worship service and have Bible study during the week. We have to reach the internationals that may not come to a church, but they may come to a home that's led by a German Bible study leader."

With the military lifestyle and drawdown, said Race Lariscy, "We are constantly recruiting and constantly training. In the church's heyday, we would welcome two to five families every Sunday but we would also say goodbye to from two to five families each Sunday."

## Meet European Baptists...

### Janet Grund

Children's church leader

Rhein Valley Baptist Church, Walkdorf, Germany

Janet Grund, a military wife and member of Rhein Valley Church for three years, leads children's church and is "a fill the gap person. I float where I'm led of the Lord to do. I really felt led by the Lord to come here. It is His design. A neighbor of mine initially brought me here and introduced me to the body and I just haven't left. When you find yourself on the other side of the world, you really are looking for something to be grounded with and you turn to the Lord in a way you probably never would have if you had not experienced that isolation Europe causes."



### Arthur Colburn

Missions education teacher

Grace International Baptist Church Sandhausen, Germany



Arthur Colburn, a native of California, is an Army E-4 specialist. He has been a member of Grace International Church for four months. "We were looking for a church. I was brought up Baptist. There's quite a bit of home right here. When we first walked into the church, we were greeted with open arms and it felt like

a family reunion. They brought us in, accepted us the way we were, made us comfortable. It is away from the military. I work with Paul Wingo, a colonel. When we are at work, it's very regimental and a very strict structure. It is, 'Yes, sir' and 'No, sir.' Here we are on a first-name basis."

## Church news

**Korean First Church of Arkansas** in Jacksonville, the second Korean congregation to be organized in Arkansas, dedicated a new building Nov. 5 with services led by pastor Jeong Lee. The dedication sermon was preached by Jim Hausler, language associate in the Arkansas Baptist missions department. Dedication guests included Marvin Peters, director of missions for North Pulaski Association, and members of First Church of Jacksonville, the sponsoring congregation, as well as members of the Korean churches of Sherwood, Fort Smith and Hot Springs. The church, launched as a mission in 1987, purchased property in May 1992 and began construction in May of this year. There currently are six Korean congregations meeting in Arkansas.

**Sylvan Hills First Church** in North Little Rock and the Abundant Life Schools held a dedication service and open house Nov. 5 for a 28,000-square-foot facility as phase one of a long-range building program. The facility, valued at \$1.5 million, houses five classrooms, four sets of dressing rooms, a practice gym and a playing gym. Pastor Don Moseley is chairman of the school board and Nora Yates is superintendent of schools. Gil Cunningham is serving as building committee chairman. Dedication program participants included Sherwood mayor Bill Harmon, contractor H.W. Roper and school and church musicians.

**Little Rock First Church** observed Promise Day Oct. 29 with 1,229 in attendance for Bible study and a noteburning service which marked the church being debt-free for the first time in more than 21 years, having constructed facilities valued at \$10 million during that time. The note burned was for an existing property debt of \$199,495. Bill Elliff is pastor.

**Beech Street Church** in Gurdon celebrated a 62-month debt retirement with a noteburning service Oct. 29. Building committee chairman Al Thomas moderated the service in which other building committee members, church staff members, Mike Hooks, Bill Steeger and Paul Root participated. James Guthrie is pastor.

**Calvary Church of Malvern** will dedicate a new sanctuary and classrooms Dec. 10. The 2 p.m. service will follow Sunday School, the morning worship service and a noon fellowship meal. Eddie Elrod is pastor.

**Rogers First Church** music ministry will present "In Adoration of the King of Kings" Dec. 10 at both 4 and 7 p.m. The Christmas



## ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLE GILL

celebration will feature the 120-voice Exaltation Choir, the 30-piece Exaltation Orchestra, a double handbell choir and a drama cast of 50. Tim Logan is minister of music.

## Obituaries

**Bo Vance of Texarkana** died Oct. 19 at age 52. She was a homemaker and a member of Beech Street First Church of Texarkana where her husband, Charles, has completed 20 years of service as minister of music. Other survivors are a son, Bart Vance of Texas; two daughters, Melody Steams of Wichita, Kan., and Cindy Hamilton of Ashdown; her mother, Lorena Creamer of Corpus Christi, Texas; one brother; and eight grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the remodeling fund of Beech Street First Church, Texarkana.

**Joyce Ann Hawkins Freeman of Star City** died Oct. 29 at age 56 following a lengthy illness. She was a retired surgical nurse and a member of First Church of Star City where her husband, Tommy, serves as pastor. Other survivors are a son, Mike Freeman of Belton, Mo.; two daughters, Debbie Pollock of Houston, Texas, and Tammie Freeman of Baltimore, Md.; a brother; two sisters; and four grandsons. Memorials may be made to the Family Life Center Fund at First Church of Star City or to the Area Agency on Aging Hospice program.

**Olga Beatrice Corder of Bald Knob** died Nov. 1 at age 75. She was a member of Central Church of Bald Knob. Corder was the widow of Ansel D. Corder Sr. who had served as pastor of Arkansas churches, including First Church, Mountain View; Central Church, Bald Knob; Bayou Meto Church, Jacksonville; First Church, Gentry; Harmony Church, Perryville; Pleasant Valley Church, Heber Springs; and Calvary Church, Timbo. Survivors are two sons, Ansel D. Corder Jr. of Bearden and Stephen Corder of Lynn; one daughter, Maitlyn Junyor of Greenbrier; one sister; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Debra Kay Catcher of Springdale** died Nov. 4 at age 43. She was a homemaker and a member of Brush Creek Church where her husband, Larry, is pastor. Other

survivors are four daughters, Regina Baker of Springdale, Rebecca High of Fayetteville, Rachel Marie Catcher and Renee Danielle Catcher, both of Springdale; her mother, Maxine Womack of Stilwell, Okla.; two brothers; four sisters; and four grandchildren.

## Staff changes

**Eddie Meharg** began serving as bivocational pastor of Pleasant Plains Church, effective Nov. 26. He came there from Cabin Creek Church of Lamar. Meharg and his wife, Glenda, and their family will continue to reside in Judsonia.

**Thomas Haynes** is serving as pastor of Eastern Heights Church of Van Buren. He previously served as adult singles minister of Grand Avenue Church of Fort Smith and as pastor of Moffett Mission. A native of Charleston, he attended Arkansas State University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Haynes and his wife, Gloria, have two daughters, Glenda of Omaha, Nebr., and Pam of North Little Rock.

**Mark Soucy** is pastor of First Church of Altus, having previously served as pastor of Rudy Church and First Church of Oden. Soucy currently is pursuing a pastoral ministry diploma through seminary extension classes. He and his wife, Theresa, have a daughter, Michelle, and a son, Michael.

**William Thomas Turner** began serving in October as pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Harrison, coming there from First Church of Thomas, Okla., where he had been pastor for six years. He previously had been associate pastor of Exchange Avenue Church in Oklahoma City. Turner is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Southwestern Seminary and Midwestern Seminary. He is married to the former DeAnne Davis, also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. They have three children, Zachary Hayden, Caleb Thomas and Katie Abigail.

**Darryl Harris** began serving Oct. 22 as pastor of Plainview Church, coming there from Immanuel Church in Newport. Harris and his wife, Pam, have two sons.

**Brian S. Kelley** has joined the staff of Immanuel Church in Pine Bluff as minister to students. He and his wife, Dee, moved to Pine Bluff from Smyrna, Ga., where he was bivocational minister to youth for Norton Park Church. Kelley previously was a staff member of churches in Tennessee and Georgia. He is a graduate of Kennesaw State College in Marietta, Ga., and Luther Rice Seminary.

**Eddy Howell** has joined the staff of Graves Memorial Church in North Little Rock as minister of music. He is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and is completing a master of divinity degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Howell and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Matthew and Phillip.

**Glen Wagner** recently retired as pastor of James Fork Church of Mansfield. He is available to serve as a supply pastor and may be contacted at 501-928-5631.

**Bill Powell** resigned Oct. 22 as pastor of Coal Hill Church where he had served since 1992. He is available to serve as either a supply preacher or interim pastor. Powell may be contacted at 501-782-0833.

**Tony Preston** resigned Oct. 17 as pastor of First Church of Bentonville. He and his wife, Brenda, and their two children, Brad and Angela, will continue to reside in the Bentonville area.

**Stephen Miller**, a faculty member at American Seminary in Memphis, is serving as interim pastor of East Side Church in Paragould.

**Aaron Thompson** is serving as interim pastor of River Road Church of Redfield where he retired as pastor in 1989 due to health concerns.

**Dickie Echols** recently resigned as pastor of River Road Church of Redfield.

**David Hodge** recently resigned as pastor of Piney Church near Hot Springs to move to Ormond, Fla.

## Ordinations

**Tuckerman First Church** ordained Randy Patterson, J.W. McEuin, Charles Tims and Herbert Green to the deacon ministry Oct. 15.

**Ola First Church** ordained Ronnie Barnes, Julius Clay, J.C. Lewis and Donald Walker as deacons Oct. 22.

**Congo Road Church of Benton** ordained minister of youth Robby Richards to the ministry Oct. 28.

**Harrison First Church** ordained Merrill Pruitt as a deacon Nov. 5.

**Ashdown First Church** ordained Tim Johnson and Jimmy Launius as deacons Nov. 5.

**DeQueen First Church** ordained James Hearn, Matt Hooper, Scott Renfrow, Tony McKellar and Jay Dooley to the deacon ministry Nov. 12.

**Franklin Church** ordained Tom Bailey and Don Selph as deacons Nov. 19.



*Rob Howell, director of the Arkansas Baptist church music ministries department, leads a mass choir performance at the recent SeniorSing Festival.*

## Senior adult music festival draws 475 to Hot Springs event

A total of 475 Arkansas Baptist senior adults celebrated a historic first Nov. 16 as they gathered at First Church of Hot Springs for a SeniorSing Festival. The event is the first senior adult music festival planned and sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church music ministries department.

"We took a leap forward with this festival," declared festival coordinator Glen Ennes, associate department director. "Festival response went far beyond our expectations with 31 participating churches representing not only Arkansas but Louisiana and Mississippi."

Ennes said the festival climaxed a three-day senior adult music retreat which attracted 140 participants. He noted that senior adult programs are expanding in many areas of ministry not only in Arkansas but throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. "The music ministry has given real purpose to the lives of many of the senior adults and is bringing fulfillment and joy to this period of their life," he added.

Rob Howell, director of the ABCS church music ministries department, was the guest conductor, leading rehearsal sessions throughout the day and directing a mass choir performance prior to a message delivered by state convention executive director Don Moore.

Encouraging participants to continue to praise God, Moore said he was so glad that "God had made us to have a song in our heart when we are together." He added

that he enjoys many types of music, but especially the truth stated in hymns. "We must never get away from those hymns that feed us with so much truth."

He asked the senior adults to encourage their local church worship team, to be expectant of God manifesting His presence in each service and to pray for the revival God is sending in today's world.

"This is the richest opportunity we have ever had to share that God is the hope of glory," he concluded. "We need to project the gospel with music that is bright and so clear that the lost will hear, be convicted and become one of His."

Assisting in planning and coordinating the event were Larry Bradley of the host church; Doug Moore of First Church in Newport; Louis Criswell of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock; Gary Underwood of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana; Dennis Coop of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock; and Bruce Rodnick of Central Church in North Little Rock.

## Correction

Two of the new Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives officers were incorrectly identified in an article and photograph published in the Nov. 16 issue of the Newsmagazine. Terri Evans of Rock Creek Church, Little Rock, is the 1997 retreat chairman. Secretary Janet McCord of First Church, Hazen, was not present for the photograph.





# ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 1996 CAMPS

## YOUTH PASTORS

### Week #1: JUNE 17-21

Lonnie Latham, Dir. of Missions  
Bartholomew Association

### Week #2: JUNE 24-28

Tierce Green, Youth Communicator  
Arlington, Texas

### Week #3: JULY 1-5

Davé Sammons, Minister of Youth  
Burleson, Texas

### Week #4: JULY 8-12

Tierce Green, Youth Communicator  
Arlington, Texas

### Week #5: JULY 15-19

Randy Brantley, Youth Associate  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

### Week #6: JULY 22-26

Mark Evans, Pastor  
Church of Rock Creek, Little Rock

### Week #7: JULY 29 - AUGUST 2: POWER WEEK - YOUTH ONLY

Jerry Pipes, Youth Communicator - Home Mission Board

### Week #8: AUGUST 5-9: CHILDREN'S WEEK - CHILDREN ONLY

Mike Seabaugh, Pastor - Crosspoint Baptist, North Little Rock

## CHILDREN'S PASTORS

Hary Black, Brotherhood Director  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Bob Harper, Pastor  
First Baptist, White Hall

Bill Bowen, Pastor  
First Baptist, Mena

Dennis Smith, Minister of Education  
First Baptist, Sherwood

Mitch Tapson, Pastor  
Mount Carmel Baptist, Cabot

David James, BSU Director  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

## RATES

DEPOSIT PER PERSON (Non-refundable) .....	\$10.00
DORMITORIES - Registration, rooms, meals, insurance	
Adults, youth, children (includes materials) .....	\$65.00
FAMILY UNITS - Registration, room, meals, insurance	
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Remodeled units .....	\$75.00
Other units .....	\$70.00
Preschoolers (1 yr. old through grade 2 this fall) .....	\$40.00
(under 12 months old) .....	\$10.00
TRAILER-CAMPER SPACE - Registration, insurance	
Per space (1-3 persons) .....	\$40.00
Extra person .....	\$8.00
Meals per person (if desired) .....	\$20.00
Individual meals .....	\$2.00

### IMPORTANT.....NOTE.....IMPORTANT

Reservations will be accepted by mail only beginning January 2, 1996 for all weeks of camp.

This year introduces a new and different approach to reserve a bed and register for camp. Take special note of the change. (Thorugh details will be included in the mailout.)

The registration form will be mailed to each church in a **bright pink envelope** in November. Please watch for it. **Make a copy of the registration form for each person** wishing to register for camp at Siloam Springs. Collect, mail in one envelope along with a check to cover \$10.00 deposit per person to Arkansas Baptist Assembly, PO Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

## MK prayer calendar

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in December:

- Dec. 6 — Tim Akins, OBU Box 4360, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; sophomore from South Brazil.
- Dec. 24 — Derek Erwin, OBU Box 3499, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; senior from Mall.
- Dec. 25 — Susan Beal, OBU Box 3475, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Venezuela.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Retreat scheduled for Feb. 2-3

"A Woman of Influence" is the theme for the 1996 Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Retreat to be held Feb. 2-3 at Holiday Inn West in Little Rock.

Carolyn Powell of McGehee, retreat chairman, is encouraging the wives of pastors, staff members, missionaries, chaplains, denominational workers, evangelists and directors of missions, as well as minis-

ters' widows to make reservations prior to the Jan. 15 deadline.

Program personalities will include Marthe Beasley of Euless, Texas; Ann Abernathy of Oklahoma City; and Ann Rice and Orman Simmons, both of Little Rock.

The cost is \$20 per person, which includes a Saturday lunch. Participants must make room reservations with Holiday Inn by calling 1-800-HOLIDAY.

Individuals interested in additional information may contact Powell at P.O. Box 1026, McGehee, AR 71654; phone 501-222-3436.



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## *Ministers' Wives Retreat*

**February 2-3, 1996 ♦ Holiday Inn West, Little Rock**

### *'A Woman of Influence'*

**Program Personalities:** Marthe Beasley, Euless, TX ♦ Ann Abernathy, Oklahoma City ♦ Ann Rice, Little Rock ♦ Dr. Orman Simmons, Little Rock

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**Room:** Make reservation directly with Holiday Inn West, Shackleford and Markham, Little Rock - Phone 501-223-3000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY.

**SPECIAL ROOM RATES AVAILABLE THROUGH JANUARY 10**

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## ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

# Ouachita's Buddy Benson retires after 31 years as Tiger head coach

Buddy Benson has announced his retirement as head coach of the Ouachita Baptist University Tiger football program after 31 years in that position. Benson announced his decision Nov. 13 during a press conference at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock.

"I have been blessed with having the opportunity to coach at a wonderful institution, and to have the honor to work with so many fine young men over the course of the years," Benson said. "I tried, along with my fellow coaches, to teach them not only about football but also about the true values to life."

Benson was hired as assistant coach at Ouachita in 1961 and became head coach four years later. He compiled a record of 162-140-8, giving him the second highest winning total among active NAIA coaches.

"Buddy Benson has demanded excellence from his players in the classroom, as well as on the field, and the results have been that more than 95 percent of the players who have stayed with his program for four years have earned their degrees," noted OBU president Ben Elrod. "Buddy

has left a legacy of integrity, loyalty and dedication to one's work."

Benson "has invested a life of service to successfully seeing young men realize goals through participation in athletics," agreed athletic director Bill Vining. "His teachings on and off the field, coupled with a belief in the values of the education program that we offer at Ouachita has brought great credit to the school."

Benson is a member of the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame (1993) and the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame (1987). A high school and college football star, he helped lead the Arkansas Razorbacks to a Southwest Conference title and an 8-3 record in 1954.

Vining said a search committee has been formed to seek Benson's successor.

In other sports-related news, OBU has been accepted as a member of the Lone Star Conference, effective Dec. 1. The 64-year-old conference, with member schools in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, is expanding from 10 to 14 schools, including Ouachita and Harding University in Searcy. Conference members will compete on the NCAA Division II level.

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**Evangelist Phil Glisson**

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## CHURCH GROWTH

# Jim Henry highlights key church growth principles

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—"The church is to be a church on the grow because it's a biblical principle," Jim Henry told a recent church growth conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., enumerated 30 principles of church growth he has observed in his 35-year pastoral ministry.

Among them are:

- "You have to be willing to change."
- "Expect criticism."
- "It's going to take hard work."
- "Be flexible."
- "While you're growing, don't lose your family."
- "Failure isn't fatal."
- "Having a crowd doesn't mean you have a church."
- "The Bible must be the basis for your growth plans."

Henry was a featured speaker for the "Church Growth: Myths and Realities" conference Oct. 24-26, hosted by Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

Along with strategies for church growth, Henry said church leaders must pay close attention to their devotional life. "Your relationship with Jesus is the most important thing you'll experience in your ministry," he said. "Let that be your goal—that Christ's character is formed in you."

Citing growth statistics in western states and overseas, missionary appointments and missions giving, Henry added, "There's a sense everywhere I go that God is moving in a fresh way in Southern Baptist life."



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## Texas Baptists shift 2.5 percent of CP budget from SBC to state

SAN ANTONIO, TX (BP)—By a nearly two-to-one margin, messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas approved a \$42.6 million Cooperative Program budget that increased funds for missions causes within the state by 2.5 percent while cutting funds for Southern Baptist Convention causes by the same percentage.

Texas Baptists' 1996 Cooperative Program budget includes \$1.5 million to help start 1,400 new churches by the year 2000 and \$350,000 for theological education through educational institutions related to the BGCT.

Messengers also elected Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, as convention president by a vote of 3,842 to 2,414. Each of the Texas Baptist officers elected was endorsed by the moderate Texas Baptists Committed organization.

Messengers turned aside two attempts to amend the 1996 budget proposed by the BGCT executive board. The budget calls for using 67 percent of CP receipts in the state rather than the 64.5 percent in the 1995 budget. The 1996 budget for Texas missions causes is an increase of more than \$1.6 million over the 1995 budget. Gifts to worldwide causes through the Cooperative Program are expected to total \$22 million.

Messengers defeated an amendment that would have restored the CP percentage for worldwide causes to its 1995 level by defunding the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and Baptist Theological Education Committee; and reducing the allocation to Baylor University by \$500,000. During miscellaneous business, messengers voted to refer to their executive board a motion to amend the BGCT constitution "to not allow churches that have practicing homosexuals as deacons or pastors to be seated as messengers."

Messengers also overwhelmingly approved a motion calling for the creation of a committee to improve BGCT efficiency and maximize effectiveness.

Texas Baptists approved resolutions affirming First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty, opposing the legalization and expansion of gambling, and expressing concern about racism, substance abuse and dysfunctional families.

The proposed "Religious Equality Amendment" to the Constitution "would have the potential effect of destroying the establishment clause of the First Amendment," according to the resolution on religious freedom.

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**Bi-vocational youth director** — Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Claud Road Baptist Church, 1821 Claud Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71602.

**Needed** — Paid part-time youth director or summer missionary. Send resumes and references to: Youth Committee, P.O. Box 186, McRae, AR 72102.

**Accepting resumes** — for full-time pastor. Search Committee, Black Oak Baptist Church, 110 S. Main, Black Oak, AR 72414.

**Business administrator** — Seeking person to administer business procedures for a growing church in Southeast Texas. Ministry position includes leading and modeling personal evangelism. Send resume only to Calvary Baptist Church, 3650 Dowlen Road, Beaumont, Texas 77706 c/o Pastor's Office.

**Preschool minister** — Seeking person to administer and lead a growing preschool ministry in Southeast Texas. Send resume only to Calvary Baptist Church, 3650 Dowlen Road, Beaumont, Texas 77706 c/o Pastor's Office.

**Seeking full-time pastor** — FBC Horseshoe Bend, Ark. Salary base: \$25,000. Mail resume to: Bill Haynes, HC 82, Box 202, Violet Hill, AR 72584.

**Resumes** — for minister of music/senior adults or minister of music/education. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 195, Ozark, AR 72949.

**Accepting resumes** — Calvary Baptist Church in Clinton, Iowa, is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Send to PSC, 1619 S. 2nd Ave., Clinton, IA 52732.

**Needed** — Part-time minister of music and youth. Excellent compensation, good opportunity. Send resumes c/o Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, 144 Crain City Rd., El Dorado, AR 71730; phone 501-862-2668.

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

**Needed** — Part-time minister of music/senior adults. Send resume to Gosnell Baptist Church, 603 Highway 181, Blytheville, AR 72315.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. Classified ads shall be restricted to church-related subject matter. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter.

## Annuity Board assets approach \$5 billion; member benefits raised

DALLAS (BP)—Reports of total assets approaching \$5 billion and nine-month earnings exceeding \$621 million were reported to trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board Nov. 6-7.

Trustees approved a staff recommendation to grant a permanent 5 percent increase in benefits on Jan. 1, 1996, to people drawing life annuities (except variable annuities) and those receiving fixed-period benefits of 60 months or longer.

The increase will apply to annuities funded from defined contribution accumulations coming from the Church Annuity Plan, Convention Annuity Plan or the Voluntary Annuity Plan, as well as Plan A benefits. Annuitants will see the increase in checks at the end of January.

The board's insurance committee reported the entire insurance program had been rebid for 1996, resulting in changes of carriers for some programs to gain lower rates. It was decided in participants' best interests to continue the comprehensive and catastrophic medical plan administration with the Prudential Insurance Co.

The Personal Security Program serving

churches and seminarians with self-funded medical coverage, which has not had an increase in rates since 1992, will experience a 7.6 percent rise in rates on Jan. 1, 1996. Joel H. Mathis, the board's senior vice president for insurance services, said the rate increase is required by a trend in claims and in order to maintain the increased benefits made available in 1994 and 1995.

Rates for term life will be reduced approximately 15 percent, depending on age category; cost of long-term disability insurance will be reduced 15 percent; and rates for accident coverage will be reduced 28.5 percent, all effective Jan. 1.

Trustees heard a report from the mutual fund committee and unanimously approved creation of two business trusts, pending approval of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. The proposed trusts would become mutual funds after trustees give final approval to use a mutual fund structure to conduct the Annuity Board's investment activities, following all necessary applications and approvals by federal regulatory and tax agencies.



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## Convention Uniform

### For the discouraged

By Steven Mullen, assistant professor, Williams Baptist College  
 Basic passage: Isaiah 51:1-8  
 Focal passage: Isaiah 51:1-3  
 Central truth: God's grace is sufficient to comfort us in times of discouragement.

At one time or another we all become discouraged. The fact that we become discouraged is not as important as how we deal with such discouragement. The prophet Isaiah offered sound advice for those of us facing discouragement.

First, when we become discouraged, we should look beyond ourselves all the way to our Creator. "Look to the rock from which you were hewn" (v. 1). Ask yourself the question, "How does God see my circumstance and how does that compare with my understanding?" We have the tendency to look only at the present, but God sees the present and the future.

Have you ever put together a jigsaw puzzle...you know, one of those that has way too many pieces? When you pull a piece from the box and examine its shape, the tendency is to think "this doesn't fit anything!" However, if you put that piece aside, fit all the other pieces together, you will eventually recognize that there is a hole in the puzzle...just the shape of the missing piece. So it is with our relationship to God. Because our vision is limited to today, we do not have the privilege of seeing tomorrow. Some of our circumstances are preparatory to a better tomorrow.

Another important step in dealing with discouragement is to look at our past (v. 2). Consider those blessings which God, through grace, has given. Specifically, look to the day Christ came into your life to set up permanent residence. For those of us who are believers, there is no circumstance, situation or experience that can overshadow God's saving grace.

Finally, depend on God to comfort you. He will comfort you by making your desert like His very own garden and your wilderness like the original creation (v. 3). That does not mean that God will provide a remedy for the source of discouragement the way we think it should be done. It does, however, mean that His arms of love are large enough to contain us when we crawl up into His lap of grace through prayer.

## Life and Work

### His choicest gift

By Mike Petty, pastor, Park Place Church, Hot Springs  
 Basic passage: John 6:29-40  
 Focal passage: John 6:35-40  
 Central truth: The Lord Jesus is life's greatest possession and the fulfillment of life's greatest purpose.

"What do you want for Christmas?" is a question we have all been asked or ask others. How we answer reveals what we consider to be valuable: What treasures do you possess or desire? What brings you the greatest fulfillment? Where does Jesus fit in with those "essentials"? For the believer, He is life's greatest possession and the fulfillment of life's greatest purpose.

Recorded throughout the book of John are statements made by Jesus that begin with "I Am": "I Am the Bread of Life," "the Light of the World," "the Door of the sheep," "the Good Shepherd," "the Resurrection and the Life," "the Way, the Truth and the Life," and finally, "I Am the True Vine" (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51; 8:12; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1-5).

The "I Am" statements reveal His equality with the "I Am" of the Old Testament, God Himself. The hearers of these statements knew what Jesus meant. While many of the unbelieving Jews would walk away in disgust, others wanted to stone Jesus for blasphemy. Those whose hearts had been prepared, however, would ponder this truth and many would come to receive the Lord Jesus as God's provision for salvation. The statements reveal the divine nature of the Lord Jesus Christ — how He overflows with abundant revelations of His Person and work.

In our focal passage, Jesus spoke of being the "Bread of Life." Bread was a common staple for Jews. Perhaps Jesus had invoked the people's memory of the manna provided by God in the day of Moses. They may have also thought of the show bread used in the Temple for worship and the unleavened bread used in the observance of the Passover. Jesus, being the Bread of Life, was revealing that He is the source of eternal life, wholly without sin, who comes from God to man.

Throughout this Christmas season, may we celebrate God's greatest gift to the world by not only enjoying our intimate relationship with the provider of life, but by sharing with our world His precious promises. He is our greatest joy and purpose in life, for in Him we live and move and have our being."

## Bible Book

### Commoner to a queen

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain, Baptist Memorial Medical Center, North Little Rock  
 Basic passage: Esther 1:1-2:23  
 Focal passage: Esther 1:10-19; 2:5-10, 17, 19-22  
 Central truth: God is at work even in the history of pagan nations.

Ezra and Nehemiah told of the Jews who left Babylon to return to Jerusalem. Esther is about those who stayed because God had not moved their hearts to return (see Ezra 1:5). Those who remained in exile were still God's people and remained under His care. Remaining in Babylon was not necessarily a sign of unfaithfulness. Remember that Nehemiah was one who stayed behind. Going to Jerusalem was a matter of having been moved by God.

This is a story about how God may appear to be absent. He was never mentioned. In fact, we see that the Lord is involved, even though He remains hidden behind all the events. We learn that obvious coincidences are often providential care.

**Verses 1:10-19.** The lifestyle pictured was spectacular but without substance. It is a testament to unrestrained egotism. Queen Vashti refused the King's drunken whim. The ruler of the known world was threatened by the defiance of a woman who had only her dignity. This all-powerful king was not in control. Foolish pride was. He lacked judgment, overreacted and set in motion events he would regret.

At first, we are dazzled by his lifestyle. Now we are dazzled by his lack of judgment. He was self-centered and superficial.

**Verses 2:5-10, 17, 19-20.** Esther, an orphaned member of a captive people, became queen. This seemed to be a wonderful reversal of roles, but it carried with it hidden risks. She was a Jew and that demanded commitments if she was to maintain her integrity. In a hostile environment she would have to be loyal to her faith and to her husband, the king. Citizenship and religion are often in conflict. Wisdom lies in seeing where they do conflict and in acting appropriately. Wisdom also lies in not seeing false conflicts and acting inappropriately. This would be her challenge as it was for Joseph and Daniel.

**Verse 2:22.** Mordecai the Jew was loyal to the pagan king and acted to save his life. So far, loyalty to the state and to faith did not come into conflict for Esther or Mordecai.

## Convention Uniform

### For those who despair

By Steven Mullen, assistant professor, Williams Baptist College  
**Basic passage:** Isaiah 9:1-7  
**Focal passage:** Isaiah 9:5-7  
**Central truth:** The message of the coming Messiah is the unique answer to our hopelessness.

Can you imagine anticipating an event for 800 years before the event would come to fruition? If you can, then you have a glimpse of how Isaiah felt. However, Isaiah did not look for a coming event as much as he looked for a coming "Somebody!" In Isaiah's seventh chapter, He was seen as a baby more potent than all of man's battles. In this passage, He was the Prince of Four Names: Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

*He brings hope to the hopeless.* Jesus will bring light and acceptance during the darkest, most hopeless situations. Who might feel more rejected than an unmarried pregnant teenager turned away from the only accommodation available? Who could imagine a more hopeless audience than a group of shepherds? What infant child has appeared more helpless than one under siege by a tyrant? The message of Christmas is in the belief that the coming of Christ established the tone for His entire ministry; one that is the foundation for all hope.

*He brings peace to the peaceless.* The announcement of Jesus' birth was accompanied with the promise of universal peace, as the prophet spoke, "Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning" (v. 5). His coming ended the need for war by establishing a way of peace. It signified the end of the noise of war, for now angels sang of good news for warriors. And His coming ended the knowledge of war by destroying the garments of warriors and other instruments used in battle.

*He brings government to the ungovernable.* His government will be personal, for it is "unto us." It will be as near to us as our next breath. His government will be perceptible. "The government shall be upon his shoulder" (v. 6). In His first advent, He was visible to His own. In His next advent, He will be a servant who rules and it will be known by all that the government is upon His shoulders. Finally, His government will be perpetual, "there shall be no end." While other governments are fading, His government continues to grow in strength, hope and grace.

## Life and Work

### His courageous sacrifice

By Mike Petty, pastor, Park Place Church, Hot Springs  
**Basic passage:** John 1:29-34; 10:10-18  
**Focal passage:** John 10:10-18  
**Central truth:** Jesus conquers sin and death in the giving of Himself for His people.

This summer I left the gas line-trimmer on our carport. My wife was home, but with the car gone, things looked "unattended." Soon a man rang the doorbell. My wife was late in coming to the door, he felt no one was home, and proceeded to "help himself" to our trimmer. This was the second theft we have experienced in two years and these sinful acts of thievery have left our home with a sense of violation.

The perpetrator's purpose has not changed (v. 10a). Who is the "thief"? Though some say that Jesus was speaking of Satan, the context suggests that Jesus was referring to false religious leaders who do Satan's bidding. Jesus spoke of those who have an "alternative plan" other than God's provision (v. 1). They steal things possessions, kills and destroys the reputations of His victims. Satan is very much at work today. Do not miss the warning in our Lord's words. The thief brings disruption, taking advantage of unguarded or careless moments to bring you misery (remember Peter's admonition in 1 Peter 5:8). Be careful of those who claim allegiance to the Bible, but do not share its convictions. They are no better than the "hiring" the Lord referred to in verse 12.

The greatest encouragement is found in the **providential plan** our Lord revealed in verses 10b-18. He came to bring eternal life to those without that life (Eph. 2:1). Jesus proclaimed that He is the Good Shepherd. Notice the statements our Lord made about His being the Good Shepherd (vv. 11, 14). He mentioned the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep (v. 11). Notice also the repetition, "I lay down my life for the sheep" (v. 14); "I lay down my life" (v. 17); "I lay it down of myself" (v. 18); "I have power to lay it down" (v. 18). Why does Jesus mention the giving of His life so often in this passage? It was contrary to the expectations of the Jews. Under the Old Testament sacrificial system, a sheep could be sacrificed as an offering for the shepherd's sin. But Jesus came under the New Testament to express that the shepherd would sacrifice His life for His sheep. What a precious reminder of Jesus' commitment to redeem His own.

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## Bible Book

### For such a time as this

By Bob L. Klutts, chaplain, Baptist Memorial Medical Center, North Little Rock  
**Basic passage:** Esther 3:1-7:10  
**Focal passages:** Esther 3:2, 5-6, 8-11; 4:13-16; 5:9-13; 6:1-3; 7:3-6  
**Central truth:** God's people must be courageously faithful when the values of faith and culture collide.

*Verses 3:2, 5-6.* Just when things were going well for the Jews, their lives were threatened. It was precipitated because loyalty to God was always in tension with current politics. Haman the politician had more pride and power than wisdom and integrity. He would do anything to feed his ego. However, his casting of lots tells us he knew there were powers behind events that he could not control.

*Verses 3:8-11.* The king, concerned about losing control to his wife, was controlled by Haman. He was so out of touch with what was happening that he was manipulated by Haman. Due to his insecurity, he acted on bad advice again.

*Verses 4:13-16.* Esther was challenged to take a risk by doing what was right. At first, she was reluctant. But when the gravity of the moral conflict became clear, she was willing to risk her life. She did not know if God would spare her life. But she showed courage and was willing to prepare herself spiritually by fasting, then by doing the right thing. Esther and Mordecai were convinced God would be faithful to His people and that they would have a role in that redemptive process. As always, the specifics were a mystery. But their faith could live with the mystery even if they lost their lives. Providential care includes our faithfulness. Our responsibility is undeniable. Like Esther, our past has prepared us for our present obligations. Our responsibilities are our purpose in living.

*Verses 5:9-13.* Because his ego was fragile, Haman's wealth and power were unsatisfying because one man did not bow to him. He was so self-centered that one slight knocked him into an emotional pit. He had everything and saw it as nothing. Nothing could fill his emptiness.

*Verses 6:1-3.* A sleepless night brought about a providential reminder that the king was in Mordecai's debt.

*Verses 7:3-6.* At the right time, Esther revealed to the king that she was a Jew and that Haman was his real enemy. Vindictive Haman begged for mercy but received poetic justice.

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## Graham to remain BGEA leader; Franklin to be successor

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham, who celebrated his 77th birthday Nov. 7, has affirmed he will continue as the chairman and chief executive officer of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association which he founded in 1950.

Graham's son, Franklin, was elected to serve as first vice chairman—a newly created position with direct succession to become chairman and CEO, should his father ever become incapacitated. The action settled within the organization the question of succession and its future. Cliff Barrows remains as BGEA vice chairman and the program director for all of Graham's crusades, continuing a 50-year partnership in ministry with the Southern Baptist evangelist.

Franklin Graham, who will continue his ministry in Samaritan's Purse and World Medical Mission, will conduct eight to 10 crusades for the BGEA in 1996.

"I am committed to doing whatever I can to support my father so that he can continue to do the work that God has called him to do," Franklin Graham said. "I accept this position in order to help him and to take some of the responsibility off of his shoulders."

## Home missions offering passes \$38 million record

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP)—Southern Baptists have contributed a record \$38 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, and officials said that figure will rise before year's end.

On Nov. 8, the offering had reached \$38,103,868. The present total is 4.6 percent more than 1994's year-to-date total, said Ernest Kelley, Home Mission Board executive vice president for planning and finance. In 1992 Southern Baptists gave the previous record offering of \$37.6 million.

## Partial-birth abortion bill to return to Senate calendar

WASHINGTON (BP)—The struggle over a bill designed to prohibit a controversial, late-term abortion procedure will continue on the U.S. Senate floor without action by the chamber's Judiciary Committee. The Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act, H.R. 1833, is slated to return to the full Senate's calendar this week.

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing which lasted about six hours Nov. 17. At the hearing, some pro-choice senators indicated they would introduce amendments, including some to provide exceptions for use of the procedure. Those amendments will be attempted on the Senate floor.

The Senate action follows the House of Representatives' 288-139 vote in favor of H.R. 1833. The House vote marked the first time a chamber in Congress has voted to outlaw an abortion procedure since the Roe v. Wade ruling.

## SBC seminary enrollment up at 4 schools, down at 2

MILL VALLEY, CA (BP)—Student enrollment at four Southern Baptist Convention-owned seminaries increased this fall, while the two largest seminaries saw enrollment figures drop. Overall, total enrollment at the six SBC seminaries is down just slightly, from 9,190 students in fall 1994 to 9,177 students this fall.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, with 1,098 students enrolled this fall, posted an 18.7 percent gain over the previous fall enrollment. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with 494 students enrolled, rose 16.5 percent.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, with 1,142 students enrolled, saw an 11.2 percent increase. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, with 1,796 students enrolled, improved by 6 percent over the previous fall.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with 1,621 students enrolled this fall, saw a 13 percent drop. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with 3,026 students enrolled, had a 7 percent drop in enrollment.

## Women in Ministry ponders move to Central Seminary

LITTLE ROCK, AR (ABP)—Baptist Women in Ministry, based in Louisville, Ky., since its founding in 1983, will move its offices to Kansas City, Kan., if members approve the change next June.

Members of the group's executive board, meeting Nov. 9-11 in Little Rock, "affirmed and accepted" an invitation to relocate the offices to the campus of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Since only 13 of 24 members were present, the board did not take a formal vote on the move, but will ask for approval by Women in Ministry's full membership at the group's next annual meeting.

The move would pose the organization to reach out to groups more open to allowing women to serve as pastors and in other nontraditional religious roles than the Southern Baptist Convention, Women in Ministry leaders explained.