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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 3

February 9, 1995

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1995 Arkansas Baptist
Evangelism Conference



Arkansas MK in Panama dies from attack by killer bees

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA (BP)—Andrew Nicholson, 14-year-old son of Arkansas Southern Baptist missionaries to Panama, died Jan. 28 from stings of a swarm of African killer bees that drove him over a cliff in Panama's Chame Mountains.

Nicholson and classmate Andrew Scoble, 16, were climbing in the mountains during an annual camping trip sponsored by their school. Nicholson's parents are missionaries Glenn and Pauline Nicholson of Forrest City and Cherry Valley respectively.

The boys were near the edge of a ridge when hundreds of killer bees suddenly attacked them, Richard Schweinsberg said in a telephone interview Jan. 30.

The boys began running parallel with the ridge as they tried to get away from the bees, said Schweinsberg, a dorm parent at Escuela Hogar Misionera, the school for missionary children operated by New Tribes Mission.

Nicholson, who was allergic to bee stings, stopped and swatted at the bees, eyewitnesses said. He began swaying on the edge of the ridge and fell more than 100 feet.

"Since he was highly allergic to bees, I'm sure that the shock (of the stings) had gotten to him by this time," Schweinsberg said. An autopsy revealed he died of the bee stings, rather than the fall.

"Almost every square inch of his body was covered with bee stings," said Bob Hensley, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Panama.

Scoble, son of News Tribes missionaries Dave and Wanda Scoble, kept running to escape the bees. But by the time he

reached some adult sponsors, "every exposed area of his flesh was penetrated by these bee stings. He was starting to swell and stagger."

Although Scoble sustained several hundred stings, he is in stable condition and expected to recover fully.

The Nicholsons were appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1987. Glenn Nicholson, a church planter, works with churches in the Rio Chame Baptist Association in Panama.

Nicholson's 16-year-old brother, Nathan, and several other children saw the accident.

"Please pray that he (Nathan) can get over the anger he's feeling," Schweinsberg said. "He's in shock," added Hensley. "He's not doing too well."

Born April 8, 1980, in Batesville, Andrew Nicholson also lived in Brookland and Smithville while growing up. His father was pastor of Arkansas Baptist churches in those towns and in Cotter.

"Andrew was a good student," said Hensley. "He was looking forward to going to college. He was an extrovert. He kept his family laughing."

Besides his parents and brother, he is survived by a married sister, Jennifer Holloway of Fayetteville, Ga., and grandmothers Elizabeth Jane King, Forrest City, and Leathel Vaughn, Cherry Valley.

The family returned to Arkansas with Nicholson's body. The funeral was held Feb. 3 at Cherry Valley Church. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Panama Baptist Mission, through the Foreign Mission Board, designated for books and computers for Andrew Nicholson's school in Panama.

Cover Story



'Here's Hope' 6-11

Edward Jones, president of the National Baptist Churches of America, was one of 13 featured speakers during last week's Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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CCF monitors '95 legislation

Constitutional convention, gambling, alcohol head list of concerns

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

With the 1995 state legislature in session, Christian Civic Foundation executive director Larry Page said he and other staff members are monitoring several proposals which may affect Baptists. The CCF is a multi-denominational legislative watch group which lobbies for Christian moral concerns in Arkansas.

At the top of CCF's list of concerns is a move by legislators to call a constitutional convention.

"I think it is an issue that's more important than any that has come up," Page commented. He said the call for the convention came from Gov. Jim Guy Tucker "in his speech to the legislature, which kicks off the session. So there are two bills now - both a Senate bill and a House bill - which have the effect of calling a constitutional convention and will appoint 48 of the legislators to the convention."

He said the CCF would oppose the bills "for two reasons. A couple of things are unusual about that. First, and normally, the people call a constitutional convention.

"The constitution is quintessentially the business of the people," he explained. "Here you have the legislature calling it at the behest of the governor and beyond that, they have the audacity to appoint themselves delegates."

Pointing to the Arkansas Constitution, Page said the proposed bills will "certainly violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the law."

Article 2, Section 1 of the constitution says, "All political power is inherent in the people and government is instituted for their protection, security and benefit; and they have the right to alter, reform or abolish the same in such manner as they may think proper."

Page said similar legislation attempted to "basically do the same thing in 1970 and 1980 and it was held unconstitutional by the court."

There are two dangers of creating a new constitution, said Page. "The first danger is a philosophical one: It's a power grab. It flies in the face of the reservation of power for the people."

He said the second danger inherent in a new constitution is that it could neglect laws based on Christian moral values.

"Do you think that a prohibition against legalized gambling would be left in a new constitution?" he asked. "I wouldn't think so. Do you think term limits would be left in a new constitution? Do you think in

your wildest imagination that the unborn child amendment would be left in a new constitution? No. Of course not."

Sen. Fay Boozman, R-Rogers, said a constitutional convention concerns him "for a number of reasons." Boozman, a first-term senator, is a member of Immanuel Church in Rogers.

"First, does our constitution allow for the legislature to call for a constitutional convention?" he asked. "Very competent jurors such as justice Byrd have said it cannot. Not only does it have to be called by the people but the representatives have to be elected.

"Once you work over that hurdle," he continued, "you have to question if it's a good idea. When they start to go through that document, it will be hard to...stay focused on cleanup and not get into unborn child rights, term limits, usury, etc."

"Do you think...the unborn child amendment would be left in a new constitution? No. Of course not."

— Larry Page
Director, Christian Civic Foundation

Page said other issues the CCF is watching could include potential amendments to the existing constitution.

"The legislature can propose up to three amendments each session," he said. "I think one will be used to take care of some of the problems in Amendment 7...under which amendments are proposed.

"Another amendment almost surely will be one of the three knocked off last time: permitting a one-eighth-cent sales tax for Game and Fish, Parks and Tourism.

"Number three is the wild card," he said. "It could be charitable bingo or charitable bingo with a state lottery."

Two resolutions that would legalize some forms of gambling were introduced Feb. 2 in the legislature, according to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

A resolution filed in the Senate proposed a constitutional amendment that would allow a state lottery and legalize charity bingo, while an amendment proposal was made in the House to legalize charitable bingo and raffles.

Boozman said he opposes gambling in "any form. Gambling is wrong. It is poor

government to feel like by having gambling you are going to be able to increase your state revenue."

He said a state lottery would be "poor government. I just do not believe the government should attempt to fund itself through the weakness of some of its constituents.

"I've seen the sad situation of people taking paychecks and paying for lottery tickets instead of food," he recalled. "I pulled into a parking lot in Jackson, Miss., and there was a bus there going to a Memphis casino. Lined up were people that barely had the shirts on their backs. They were going to take everything they had and go gamble with it."

Page said the CCF classifies legislation it opposes into "A, B and C" priorities, with "A" legislation affecting or endangering Christian concerns.

He said "A" bills the CCF will monitor include "a possible bill that will amend the Death with Dignity Act."

"It would have the effect of making hydration and nutrition medical treatment so that one could have his mother or his father, brother, sister or spouse starve to death if they were in a comatose or vegetative state," he explained. "That has not been filed yet, but I think it will be."

Boozman has filed a preemptive proposal that "simply states that food and water will not be withheld from someone if it would result in their death from dehydration or starvation," he said.

"That's basic human civilization," Boozman added. "In a civilized culture, you don't starve people. You don't deny them food and water."

Other "A" bills Page said the CCF will support include a bill that will make servers of alcoholic beverages liable for injuries or damages incurred if the servers knowingly serve alcohol to anyone under 21.

Another alcohol-related bill he said the group is pushing is the Administrative License Revocation Law, which, he said, "is simple. If you are stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated and you either flunked the breathalyzer exam or refused to take it, your license is yanked on the spot." Page said the bill has not yet been filed, "but will be."

He said some bills the group watches are "silly," such as the American Heritage Education Act, which the CCF endorses. "Basically what this act does is say that it is okay to reproduce or display the writings of the founding fathers. It's sad that we have to have a bill to insure we can do that in a public school."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

The North American Convocation on Revival provides Arkansas Baptists with a most unusual opportunity to join with a large group of other concerned believers in seeking God for revival and awakening. While my job responsibilities take me out of town on the dates of the meeting, Feb. 14-16, I want to encourage our Arkansas Baptist family to be involved. I will be meeting with the other executive directors from the other state conventions. I will enlist their special prayer support for the conference. The meeting will be held at First Baptist Church in Little Rock.

No one knows how, where or when God will touch down in power, reviving His church. While God will make that decision, He has led us in His Word to believe that we may participate. When Israel and Judah were in desperate times, God marveled and grieved that there were no intercessors. The prophet said; "When Zion travailed she brought forth."

"Going forth with weeping bearing precious seed," God said, would result in "coming again with rejoicing bearing precious sheaves."

There is a sense in which God's manifested concern follows upon the manifestation of our own concern. It does not seem conceivable that a person could have any knowledge of God as revealed in the Scriptures and not be concerned about events in the world around them. If there is any fear of God there must be a corresponding dread of His hot displeasure which He has to pour out upon a godless people. The ways of God are immutable, that is, unchangeable or unalterable. He has, He is and He will punish unrighteousness.

Man's way has the seeds of destruction built into it. Add to that divine wrath and you can see why we all should be involved in seeking to be right with God and seeking to be used of God in revival.

The freedoms and privileges of our way of life cannot be sustained without a spiritual foundation. I pray that God may use these meetings to greatly expand His activity in bringing the church to revival and the nation to an awakening.

ISABEL LOE

Woman's Viewpoint

Inner healing

Physical illness has been a major part of my life for the past five years. There have been extended periods of excruciating pain as well as nagging problems that "crop up" unexpectedly. It becomes wearisome morning after morning, year after year, waking up just "plain sick" with the body so weak, so hurting that you want sleep for temporary relief. If the desire of your heart is to serve the King of Kings, where does sickness fit in? Scripture says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Who desires illness?

Unless a person has experienced failing health, it is hard to understand the fear, confusion, pain and resentment that can take root in one's life. Extended illness will force you to find where your true faith lies. Is it grounded in the Creator or your weak self?

Fact: He spoke the world into existence. Fact: He raised Jesus from the dead. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, the fullness of the Godhead

dwells within you. Before the foundation of the world, He had a design on your life. Think about it. You are so loved that God even has your name inscribed on the palms of His hands! We see in limited vision. He sees in eternal vision.

God has dramatically healed me several times. Other times, He didn't see fit to heal in the manner I would have preferred. Learn to be resolved to His will, not your will. His will is to be glorified through His creation in whatever fashion He so chooses. Trust God.

If you are praying for healing, begin by making the desire of your heart to be inner healing of the "need" to be healed. Then you will find rest for your soul but most of all, you will be set free!

Isabel Loe is the wife of Lanny Loe, pastor of Cornerstone Church in Texarkana. She has two daughters, Samantha and Toni. She serves as the Woman's Missionary Union director for Southwest Arkansas Association.

Personal perspectives

"The modern church is clustered with a number of spiritually asleep Christians...The alarm clock is going off but too many of us are hitting the snooze button."

—Maurice Watson, pastor,
Salem Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb.

We don't have enough bold preachers. When God anoints you, don't worry with what men say."

—Robert Jenkins, pastor,
Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, North Little Rock

"When was the last time you went home, turned the TV off and bragged on Jesus?"

—Gerald Parker, pastor,
Pilgrim's Progress Baptist Church, North Little Rock

"You'll never do the will of God until you first become the person of God."

—J.W. Hutchens, Home Mission Board evangelism consultant

Heard any good rumors lately?

No. No. No. I don't know how to communicate it any more clearly, but let's try once more to set the record straight.

No, Madalyn Murray O'Hair has not filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission to seek to ban religious broadcasts. No, the president of Procter & Gamble has not appeared on Donahue, claiming to donate his company's profits to the Church of Satan. No, Liz Claiborne has not appeared on Oprah with a similar confession.

Despite the fact that these and similar rumors have been making the rounds for many, many years, none of them have proven to be true. Yet many well-meaning Christians continue to urge others to sign a petition, join a boycott or write a letter of protest to targeted corporations or agencies.

Why do false rumors persist? Why do such blatant lies refuse to die? Who knows?

A few things are clear, however. First of all, unsubstantiated rumors are nothing more than idle gossip. Whether the gossip is about a nationally known personality you have never met or about a personal acquaintance at work, school or church, God's Word clearly teaches that all gossip is sin. In Romans 1, the apostle Paul lists gossip and slander alongside such sins as murder, envy, deceit and malice. That should be reason enough to exercise extreme caution to avoid the spread of rumors.

Additionally, it is clear that the latest round of rumors is nothing more than a tired rerun of aging falsehoods. The O'Hair rumor, usually linked to FCC petition RM 2493, has been circulating for 20 years. O'Hair's son, Bill Murray, now a Christian

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

evangelist, declared years ago that he believes the fake petitions are being printed and kept in circulation by atheists to "make Christians look foolish."

The P&G rumor can be traced as far back as 1981. Evangelist Billy Graham and Baptist Sunday School Board president Jimmy Draper are among Christian leaders who have urged fellow believers to help halt the false statements.

"All Christians should join hands to stop the vicious accusations concerning this company," Draper declared. "I implore all our Christian community in this land to stand up and put an end to these unfounded and untrue rumors."

P&G officials have even filed suit against individuals who have helped perpetuate the false claims. A Kansas couple was fined \$75,000 in 1991 for spreading rumors that the company's trademark logo is a satanic symbol. The Liz Claiborne rumor, like many others, is merely a variation of the charges against Procter & Gamble.

One other truth is painfully clear. In the midst of "Here's Hope," "Bold Mission Thrust" and Arkansas Baptists' "Reach

People" emphasis, too many ill-informed Christians are wasting their time on worthless, harmful activities. Imagine the eternal impact if the time and money wasted on thousands of phone calls, letters and petitions could have been channeled into positive, productive ministry on behalf of God's Kingdom.

As I urged in a 1992 editorial on the same subject, "Let's save our energy for real battles where we can make a difference in the world around us....Don't allow false rumors to water down our Christian reputation and witness."

If you are confronted with a request to sign a petition or join a boycott, seek first to discover the *original* source of the information. If no one can provide you with that information, resist the urge to merely assume the charges are accurate.

Feel free to call our office at 501-376-4791 if you have questions about specific concerns. While I am urging our readers to help avoid the rampant spread of bogus claims, our staff stands ready to provide timely, accurate information to anyone who wants to double-check accusations. If we don't have current information, we'll do our best to track it down.

Please be assured that if Madalyn Murray O'Hair ever does try to curb religious broadcasts or Procter & Gamble executives ever do decide to channel profits to the Church of Satan, the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine will be at the forefront of calling for decisive action on the part of concerned Christians.

Until that time, make a personal commitment to avoid every temptation to spread rumors and gossip. In the timeless words of III John 3, "Walk in the truth."

Race relations: 'The truth shall make you free'

By Louis A. Moore

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board

Racial prejudice cuts like a two-edged sword. It hurts both those who are victimized by it as well as those who practice it.

Our focus usually is on the victims of racism. These are the people who find themselves despised or ostracized for no other reason than the color of their skin or their ethnic origin. Millions of people worldwide still experience such prejudice. The ethnic war in the former Yugoslavia and the tribal slaughter in Rwanda are examples today.

Fortunately, in other places the situation is improving. At least no one in America today is forced to use separate rest rooms

or water fountains because of the color of their skin or place of birth! The death knell is sounding for apartheid in South Africa. Still, more can be done — and certainly needs to be done — to eliminate the physical acts of discrimination in the United States and elsewhere.

For all the evil racial prejudice practices for the victim, the person who harbors prejudice in his or her heart may suffer a worse fate. The person who hates in his heart is in bondage even more than the slave who is in physical chains. Racial prejudice deprives one of the joy of getting to know all of God's people and the privilege of getting to share God's Word with every person one encounters in life, either directly or indirectly.

Jesus talked about such spiritual

bondage when He said in John 8:32, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." He was addressing a group of Jews who were blind to their sins.

Today, millions in our world are blind to their sins of racial and ethnic prejudice and its associated hatred and arrogance. Those who are oppressed and those who oppress are both in need of our prayers and our witness as Southern Baptists observe Race Relations Sunday Feb. 12.

We who know the truth that Jesus Christ died to save every person who believes in Him must not allow the sin of racial and ethnic prejudice to continue to be a stumbling block to our witness to a sin-sick world that so desperately needs to hear the good news of salvation.



1995 State Evangelism Conference

Evangelism Conference highlights 'Hope'

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Messages highlighting Here's Hope, Southern Baptists' 1995 evangelism emphasis, were the center of the 1995 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference, held Jan. 30-31 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. The conference was a joint effort sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the state's three black National Baptist conventions.

"Preach the good news and bad news," urged Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Ronnie Rogers as he preached on "Commitment to Here's Hope" during the conference's opening session.

Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, was among four Arkansas Baptist pastors who preached during the conference. Others included: Robert Jenkins, pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock; Gerald Parker, pastor of Pilgrim's Progress Baptist Church in North Little Rock; and A.J. Cole, pastor of Salem Church in Mena.

Preaching from Acts 4, Rogers stressed the need to "preach the good news with the bad news" when answering the question, "Will the church be the church? If the Here's Hope message is true, it is the greatest message in the world. But it doesn't become true until the church is on fire."

"To the world, the gospel of Jesus Christ alone is not good news," he explained. "The gospel must have a context. If we are going to share the good news, we must share the...bad news. Man is lost and God will come one day to judge (and send unbelievers) to hell."

Pointing out four aspects of the early church that underscored its commitment to evangelism, Rogers described:

■ The character of the early church. "It was recognized that they had been with Jesus," he said. "This is the best definition I've ever seen of the church."

"A 1994 Home Mission Board study said there were 1 million people in Arkansas not affiliated with a church," he noted. "It is a pagan world. Arkansas is a mission field."

■ The condition of the church. "They were in the presence of Christ," he said. "Because they were not about what men thought but what God thought. I've never been amazed at how many people do not go to church, but how many who have never been with Jesus go to a church where Jesus has not been in decades."

■ The charge against the church. "The world's message to the church is, 'Stop speaking that name,'" he said. "You can do anything you want to do, but stop



"Tell the good news," Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Ronnie Rogers urges fellow Baptists.

speaking the name of Jesus. Stay in church behind your stained glass windows."

■ The compulsion of the church. "Christ will always compel us to speak," he emphasized. "It is the same message. We are saying we cannot be silent and be faithful to our Lord."

"The bad news must be preached because it makes the good news sweet. We must tell them, 'You are hell-bound and doomed,'" Rogers declared. "But tell them the good news - Christ died for you because He loves you."

'A spirit of awakening'

Clarence Shell, director of the ABSC evangelism department, said the conference had been planned "with special emphases on hope for salvation, hope for spiritual awakening, hope for homes and churches and hope for the nation."

"Our speakers have done one of the finest jobs presenting the truths of God we've ever had. We had the largest crowds this year that we've had in many years. The greatest thing that has happened is that we have sensed a real spirit of spiritual awakening in that God has been so present and so dynamic that many people have really been moved by the Spirit of God."

The conference was well-attended, Shell reported. He said the it also had a near-record crowd of approximately 1,500 Monday night with almost 300 participants seated in an overflow room.

The strong numbers may have been caused by a strong need, Shell added. "People are hungry for spiritual awakening and people have been praying for it as they come."

Noting that many conference participants were pastors, Shell said he hoped

"our pastors were touched by the worship of God and were motivated to do evangelism and go back and lead their churches to make a commitment to evangelism."

Ken Overton, pastor of First Church in Marked Tree, said he attended the conference "because I get renewed. It starts a fire under me again."

Jamie Powell, associate pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, said he also sought renewal by attending.

"So often we need to be fed as well," he commented. "It's encouraging to see what God is doing through other men of God. God has given a word to them for us and it is an encouragement and challenge to us."

Powell said he felt the spirit at the conference "has been very real. There's been a sense of God at work in our midst through the music, worship and preaching."

Robert Jenkins urged participants during the Tuesday morning session to "wait on the power of the Holy Spirit."

Preaching from Acts, Jenkins told the audience, "The power of the Spirit at Pentecost made a difference in the lives of the disciples. Before Pentecost, the disciples were failures, but now they were different men. Cowardice was replaced by courage, harmony overshadowed discord."

He said Pentecost came with three promises from Christ.

"Look at the first promise: the promise of power," Jenkins invited. "It was for spiritual power. He did not promise monetary power...intellectual power or...social power. The power was for a specific purpose: 'Ye shall be witnesses.'"

"Second, He promised the power of fulfillment," he said. "People of many nations heard the message of the apostles. At the climax of the sermon they cried, 'What shall we do? The result? Three thousand Christians came into being at one message.'"

"The third promise was for boldness," Jenkins said. "This is why we need to wait on the power. Men and women with a bold witness - that is what God wants. We don't have enough bold preachers. When God anoints you, don't worry with what men say."

"Along with the promise, though, He gives harmony," Jenkins added. "This was characteristic of early believers. There's so much strife among our own churches that we are missing the point of what we were put here for. When the Spirit rules, discord is gone."

Gerald Parker told participants during the Tuesday afternoon session that "evangelism begins at home."



Parker asked, "Why would they have a section dealing with the family at an evangelism conference? As my mother said, 'Charity begins at home and then spreads abroad.' Evangelism begins at home."

Preaching from Mark 5 and 6, Parker said, "The family needs a good dose of homework. The storm is raging in our homes. When the Master was in the boat He met an outward storm. When the boat landed, He met a man who had an inward storm. He suffered from an unclean spirit."

After healing the demoniac, Parker said, Jesus sent him home for three reasons: ■ Because of the homework. Relationships had been severed at the house. He could not go with Jesus until he mended the family relationships.

■ Because there was something at the house the demoniac's family needed to hear. "Tell them about the goodness. Our families need us to go home and brag on Jesus," he urged. "When was the last time you went home, turned the TV off and bragged on Jesus?"

■ Because he needed to show others the miracle. "We need to go back home. What should I tell them when I go home?" Parker asked. "Tell them about Jesus."

A.J. Cole, a bivocational pastor, told of how God used his own personal tragedy of losing a son to call him into the ministry and urged participants to "present yourselves as living sacrifices."

"Who comforts us in our tribulation that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble?" he asked. "For as His suffering abounds in us, so our consolation also comes from Him."

Cole told how he avoided God's call to the ministry for years. "What I was trying to do in the flesh, God was saying, 'You must do in the Spirit.'"

He said that during a family swimming trip his oldest son drowned. "I panicked. I dove in the water and I dove and I dove. I began to pray and promise God that if He let me find his body, I would do anything for Him.

"I brought that lifeless little body out of that river, but it was too late," Cole recalled. "I want you to know I did something not many people have done. I surrendered to preach underwater. God took away my self-sufficiency that day."

One week after the funeral, Cole formally surrendered to the ministry. "We had a revival service in our church. People would come and ask us, 'How can you come after what you have been through?' and I asked, 'How can you not come?'"

"I learned something. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you," Cole said. "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice...that you may prove what is the good, acceptable will of God."

Denominational leaders issue call for commitment

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Denominational leaders from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board were among featured speakers during last week's Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Urging Arkansas Baptists to witness to the lost, J.W. Hutchens asked, "How lost are the lost?" Hutchens, who serves in the Home Mission Board's evangelism section, emphasized that "the lost are so lost they're going to hell for eternity."

"Do you believe that?" he asked. "Do your church people believe that? Do we really believe life is worth nothing if we fail to do what God has told us to do?"

Challenging participants to "be faithful to the task God has called you to do," he added, "The problem today is not the lost. (It) is the workers.... You'll never do the will of God until you first become the person of God.

"There are a lot of people out there waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus and what He can do for their lives," Hutchens said. "Make the most of every opportunity to tell the good news."

Preaching a second message from Isaiah 1:1-15, Hutchens warned of "Judgment Upon Nations that Forget God. Everything in history says we're on the down side of being a great nation.

"There is hope," he added, "but that hope is in Jesus Christ and nothing less. He is saying to churches in America, 'I am tired of you gathering every Sunday and doing the same old thing and never reaching your community for Christ.'"

Urging churches to exercise faith to God's call, he said God will do His part "when the attitude of your heart is in tune with what God has planned for your church and for our nation."

Henry Blackaby, director of the HMB's office of prayer and spiritual awakening, called on Christians to experience a fresh encounter with Jesus Christ. "It is one thing to call Him Lord," Blackaby pointed out. "It is another thing to live it out in your life."

Describing the prophet Jeremiah's encounter with God, he noted, "I don't know many lives that were as dramatically changed as Jeremiah. The same God who encountered Jeremiah is the same God who is present in this room."

Urging believers to seek a similar encounter, Blackaby said, "We talk about the greatness of God and live without any evidence of God in our lives.... We believe correctly in our minds but it has never gone from our minds to our hearts."

"Jeremiah's encounter forever changed him. Has the encounter that you've had changed you?"

"Be accountable," Blackaby concluded. "If you've met the Lord, look to see the evidence of the mighty workings in your life. Don't rest until what God says in His Word

is happening in your life."

Warning that an estimated 53 percent of Arkansas Baptists are inactive or non-resident members, Roy Edgemon challenged Arkansas Baptists to "Conserve the Results of Evangelism."

"If we do not do something with those we win to Christ and do not disciple them, I believe we may have been a failure," said Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

Sharing verses from Acts 1 and 2, he said the New Testament plan of evangelism includes the promise, prayer, profession and preaching of evangelism as well as "the preservation of those God brings into the Kingdom."

New believers in the first century church were "soundly converted, openly committed and wholly obedient," Edgemon added. Encouraging churches to use "Survival Kit for New Christians" and other discipleship resources, he pointed out, "I believe most of the people we lose, we lose at the altar.

"It is so important that we deal with people at their point of need," Edgemon emphasized. "They need to be soundly founded in that understanding of what it means to be a child of God."



Henry Blackaby emphasizes the need for a fresh encounter with Jesus.



1995 State Evangelism Conference

Visiting pastors share challenges, concerns

"God is unparalleled," Edward Jones declared during the opening session of the 1995 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference. Jones, president of the 4.5-million-member National Baptist Convention of America, was one of three out-of-state pastors who preached during the two-day conference. Other featured pastors from out of state included Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; and Maurice Watson, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb.

Jones, pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., preached from John 3:16 and II Corinthians 9:15. "This word really has caught my mind," he said. "For if there was no other scripture other than this, there is nothing involved in it to save a whole world."

"This word of God goes unparalleled," he explained. "And God is unparalleled. There is no one anywhere, anytime that can parallel God."

However, he added, "I am concerned about some of the things that are trying to parallel the message of salvation. All of this televangelist, quick-talking word such as people are not supposed to get sick, or the prosperity plan that men are conjuring up — these are unparalleled and unfounded."

Contrasting God to great men of the Bible, including Abraham, Moses, David and Solomon, Jones added that "in the whole scheme of things, great men can have much but none can parallel God."

"God used Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, but he could not parallel God," Jones said. "David was a man after God's own heart, but David could not parallel God. Solomon was very wise and rich but he could not parallel Jesus. I've come to make an announcement today that one greater than Solomon is here. One that is greater than David is here."

Jesus is unparalleled

Emphasizing that salvation comes from Jesus, Jones said, "Jesus cannot be paralleled for His purpose in coming to the world was to save the lost. When you look back over His resume, there is no one who parallels Jesus."

"He is unparalleled in His mission. He's in the saving business," Jones concluded. "He was unparalleled in His life, unparalleled in His death and I've got good news: He's coming back again."

Emphasizing that Christians today "need a spiritual wake-up call," Maurice Watson urged Arkansas Baptist pastors to lead their congregations to "be about the business of the Kingdom."

Watson, who grew up in North Little

Rock, returned to his hometown to speak during the conference. Preaching from Romans 13:11-14, he warned, "The great tragedy and travesty of the modern church is that it is clustered with a number of spiritually asleep Christians who seem to be insensitive to the things of God and are seemingly unaware of their responsibility to practice their faith on a daily basis. They are sleeping when they ought to be awake."

The hook of Romans "tells us what to believe and it tells us how to behave," Watson pointed out. "The alarm clock is going off tonight but too many of us are hitting the snooze button. We've become victims of that great sin of procrastination."

Watson said Christians need to be spiritually awake and alert because time is running out and because there is a war going on. "This is no time for sleeping. We are under attack. The church is under attack....Our families are under attack....Our youth are under attack....This is no time to be lethargic and asleep."

The apostle Paul called on Christians to not only wake up, but to give up and dress up, Watson declared. "Give up sinful actions and sinful attitudes because there can be no renewal and revival without changes in attitudes and actions, without a genuine resurgence of holiness."

Watson said Christians are to dress up by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. "Live constantly aware of the presence of Christ," he urged. "Paul says put on Jesus Christ as if you were putting on clothes. You wear 'em at work, school, play, the shopping mall, wherever you go. Wear Jesus wherever you go."

Claude Thomas asked the audience at the close of the Tuesday morning session to "be willing to go on mission."

"I wish every one of us could say, 'I am willing to go on mission.'" Thomas said. "I wish that were true."

"We just need some willingness and encouragement, some foundations to build on...by looking at a man who said, 'I am eagerly ready to go' — Paul," Thomas said, reading from Romans 1:15 and following. "What was Paul saying? 'Think of me as one who possesses a desire.' But the desire was so overwhelming, he was possessed by the desire."

Thomas listed characteristics of Paul that aided his willingness to go on mission:

■ He had a burden for people who needed to hear the gospel. "I am a debtor," Paul said. He took a common word that meant to owe someone in a monetary fashion," Thomas noted. "I am obligated to people who have not heard, received or responded to the gospel."



Maurice Watson calls on Christians to PUSH — Pray Until Something Happens.

"What about our burden today?" Thomas asked. "What about that latchkey kid? How about the teenage girl who is pregnant out of wedlock? What about that man who's hooked on pornography? Who cares? Who bears the burden of their souls? What will take us out of the walls of our churches and compel us?"

■ He had a boldness in proclamation of the gospel. Paul "lived in the spiritual domain," Thomas noted "It is not boldness of the flesh, but living under control of the Spirit of the living God that gives us our boldness — boldness that communicates the gospel."

■ A belief in the power of the gospel. "The gospel comes to us today with strange sounds," he said. "It is mixed with subjectivism, materialism and legalism and there is a dispute over the kind of salvation we must have. Whenever we regulate the gospel to behaviorism, we have distorted the gospel. The gospel is this: that Jesus is exactly who He says He is."

He said the willingness to go on mission comes from "the simplest common denominator: faith. We've had enough training to win the world to Jesus. What we need is a willingness and readiness to go. May God give it to us."

Preaching Tuesday afternoon about "Jesus, Lord of Our Homes," Watson said, "As goes the home, so goes society and the nation."

"Something is radically wrong with the family," he declared. "We are witnessing the literal breakdown of the family right before our eyes." Citing statistics about broken homes, media influence and battered children, Watson said, "Facing such a critical and crucial crisis, the message of the Christian church must be



that this problem can only be solved when we invite the Lordship of Jesus Christ, His rule and His reign, back into the family."

Preaching from Mark 9:14-29 about Jesus commanding an evil spirit to leave a boy, Watson said the passage highlights a child with a problem, a concerned parent and a Christ who has power.

"This young man was a slave of the devil," Watson noted. Warning that "the enemy is starting early to try to harm our children and destroy our families," he added, "We had better start early trying to teach them about Jesus Christ.... If the devil is not waiting, what are you waiting on?"

While the experts debated, the church was dormant and society distanced itself from the problem, Watson said the young man's father "took the initiative to bring the brokenness of his family to the only one who had the answer and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The Lord is concerned for your brokenness and He has the power... That's shouting ground right there," Watson declared. Emphasizing that Jesus' actions resulted from prayer and fasting, he challenged listeners to "PUSH—Pray Until Something Happens."

"It's warfare prayer where you fight against the problems of the home," he concluded. "Don't you give up, you push—pray until something happens."

Both Thomas and Jones focused on "Hope for the Stability of Our Nation" during the final session Tuesday evening.

"The only hope for real change in America," Thomas said, "is the same thing that was the only real hope for change in Jesus' day—the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"We've tried a lot of things that bring change," he said. "We've tried political policies, educational advancement, social reform and psychological counseling. I'm convinced that of all these things we do, sometimes we do the lesser and leave the greater behind."

Preaching from Mark 4 about the parable of different soils, Thomas said Christians are to share the good news without exception and with great expectation.

"The sower went out to sow the good word. What is that? It is the gospel of Jesus Christ," he emphasized. "Note how he sowed the seed. He broadcast it everywhere; without any discretion."

Go where the needs are

"To do this we have to go where they are," Thomas declared. "Outside our buildings people are seeking healing. Our challenge is to move outside our comfort zones and get to people where they are.

"There needs to be a rise in our expectation of people's response to the gospel," he urged. "The point of the parable is that there is a promise of the harvest. There will be a harvest if we sow the seed of the gospel.

"What's it going to take to share the good news?" he asked. "It's going to take a commitment to Christ, a communion

with Christ and a confession of Christ.

"The only hope for real change in America," he concluded, "is the gospel of the one and only God, speaking through human instruments, reaching people and changing them from the inside out."

Jones, delivering the conference's closing message, declared, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Using Psalm 33 as his text, Jones advocated Jesus as the one true candidate to solve society's problems. "In the present dilemma that our nation and world are in, we need a true representative regardless of color, creed or race. I'd like to introduce that person tonight: Jesus.

"Men change," he explained. "The hope of man must be anchored deeper than politics and selfishness. We need to launch a campaign tonight to push our candidate. His name is Jesus.

"Presidents will not have answers to our problems," he insisted. "No matter who inherits the high places, there will be problems. What this nation needs tonight is to adhere to the scripture that says, 'Blessed be the nation whose God is the Lord.'

"The children of God need to have a write-in candidate," he urged. "In 1996, there will be names on the ballot. We ought to write in Jesus above all other candidates.

"Our candidate is qualified," he added. "Whenever you are walking with Jesus and He is your candidate, all is well."

Music sets worshipful mood for Evangelism Conference

The glory of God was highlighted through music at the Evangelism Conference from the opening stanza of "To God Be Glory" to the grand finale of a mini-concert presented by the sanctuary choir of Park Hill Church during the closing session.

The hymn, "In God's Strength," was introduced to conference participants by guest artist and composer Dick Baker as a selection to be used in "Here's Hope" promotional emphases and revivals. "I did this composition so that worshipers might know that we cannot accomplish 'Here's Hope' in our strength," Baker said. "We must go forth in God's strength if we are to be effective in our simultaneous revival efforts."

Baker is minister of music at-large for Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Rob Hewell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, assisted Clarence Shell, ABSC evangelism department director, in coordinating music that featured selections designed to complement the session themes.

The Morning Glories, a senior adult choir from First Church in Benton, presented at the opening session with such selections as "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us" and "If I Be Lifted Up," under the direction of David Pierce.

The Monday evening session featured a National Baptist mass choir directed by Lloyd Hervey of Conway and a mini-concert of Arkansas Baptists' Master Singers and Singing Women under the direction of Hewell and Jean Pilcher, minister of music at Parkway Place Church in Little Rock.

Conference soloists included Baker; music evangelist Clarence Hill of Hot Springs accompanied by Jim Owen, pastor of Yarbo Church; Joe and Gwen Fitzpatrick of Park Hill Church; concert artist Steve Spurlin of First Church in Benton; Jean Kelly of Gaines Street Church in Little Rock; and Kent Womack of Little Rock.

Kathy Cooper, Dawne Carroll and Patty Tanner from the host church and Becky Moore of Immanuel Church in Little Rock were accompanists for sessions in which congregational singing was led by Baker, Hewell, Kim Bowen of First Church in Pine Bluff, Rick Isbell of Markham Street Church in Little Rock and Ralph Calhoun of Conway.

"I am thankful for the spirit with which the musicians support our cooperative ministries through music," Hewell noted. He described the music selections as supportive of session themes. "Musicians who participate in this way have a desire to help people worship and I feel they more than accomplished this," he affirmed.



Dick Baker performs in concert during the Monday evening session of the Evangelism Conference.



Evangelists urge faithfulness in pulpit, home and nation

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"We're thirsty for wealth and publicity, but we're not thirsty for God," declared evangelist Stephen Olford, president of Encounter Ministries in Memphis. "God withholds because we are not thirsty."

Olford delivered two messages to participants at the 1995 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference Jan. 30-31 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Other vocational evangelists addressing the conference were Ron Dunn from Irving, Texas, and Junior Hill, from Hartselle, Ala.

Speaking on "God's Desire to Give Awakening," Olford read Isaiah 44: "For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your descendants."

"God's purpose for His people is to bless them," Olford emphasized. "In that promise is gathered up revival and renewal blessing. If you're really thirsty, God is going to do it."

"Who are the recipients of the blessing?" he asked. "The recipients are chosen by God, just as He chose Israel. They are created and called by God."

"A Spirit-filled man or church cannot be hidden," Olford explained. "God wants us to be fertile Christians. So our seed brings forth the fruit of character, the Christ-life in us radiating out. This is the evidence of spiritual fertility."

"God's desire is for awakening...but we can't manipulate revival," Olford said. "We don't know when wind is coming, but if you set your sails right you'll catch the breath of God."

In a second message, Olford explored "The Worship of God." Referring to John 4, he said, "Man was created for worship; God eternally exists to receive worship."

There are three imperatives for worship, Olford asserted, the first of which is personal initiation. "No one can call Him Father unless they are a child," he said. "Even though we need evangelism, we need worship services and we dilute them by doing two things at the same time."

Second, there needs to be spiritual illumination. "We worship the Father in spirit," Olford noted. "This doesn't refer



Evangelist Stephen Olford challenges fellow believers to be fertile Christians for the cause of Christ.

to the Holy Spirit but our spirit. Self is minimized when Christ is glorified; self has nothing to do with it."

Finally, there needs to be biblical indoctrination, which Olford described as "worshipping in accord to what God has revealed about Himself."

"Expository preaching, anointed preaching is essential" to true worship, he said. "True expository preaching must be returned to pulpits. If a message has nothing to bring offering to God, you have left your congregation without worship."

There are also implicit instructions for worship, Olford pointed out. "We must worship without idolatry. We have our mountains of worship—our new facilities, our program — that's idolatry."

"We must worship without hypocrisy," he continued. "We must be genuine, real and transparent."

'Pray for laborers'

Texas evangelist Ron Dunn addressed two sessions, first calling on listeners to "Pray for Laborers in the Harvest."

Citing New Testament passages on prayer as a vital instrument, Dunn asserted, "If we ask...according to His will, He hears us. He is not slack concerning His promise."

Emphasizing prayer for the lost, Dunn noted, "The Bible tells us that the lost person is bound by the 'god of this world.'"

"The lost are also blinded to the gospel by the devil," he said, adding that their bondage and blindness can be taken away by the power of prayer.

"We have to consider the conquest of

the devil when we pray," he pointed out. Citing Ephesians 6, he affirmed the necessity of spiritual prayer warfare. "The battle of evangelism is won in...intercession," he said. "Evangelism is picking up the spoils of prayer intercession."

Later, Dunn spoke about the home as "The Basic Ordained Institution of God." Noting the deterioration of the family in modern society, he explained that Christians must "go back to the biblical foundation and find out God's plan for the home."

"The home is a divinely ordained institution," he said. Speaking from Genesis, he noted that the home "is the first institution God ever created and also is first in importance. No institution has more basic significance than the home — why?"

"First, God instituted the home because we need it. The union was created by God as a supernatural, but also a natural union."

"We also need marriage for companionship. Loneliness creates stress because there is no one to share our joys and sorrows."

God instituted the home because He needed it, Dunn added. Although God is completely sufficient, He needed home and marriage in order to give physical expression to Himself, he suggested.

God also needed the home to complete and crown His creation, Dunn said. "He created man to worship Him by choice, woman so that man would not be alone."

Evangelist Junior Hill opened the conference with a sermon about "Love for the Lost."

Noting that many believe II Timothy was the last letter Paul wrote, Hill pointed out that Paul wanted Timothy to be prepared "in season and out of season."

"In season is a good time...a good opportunity," but Paul wanted Timothy to be faithful when it was not a good time. "The love of the lost is something you have to do in good times and bad times," Hill said.

"We must not be distracted by evaluation," he said. "Sometimes we think we know more than God. You don't know what will spring forth from the seeds you sow — what's in people's hearts."

"Don't preach to people's needs, because you don't know what's in people's hearts," Hill noted. "Open the Word of God and preach faithfully."

"An insidious thing in churches is desire for numerical success," Hill asserted. This brings about a "diluted gospel, less than the New Testament norm. We have one gospel to preach. Never sacrifice the gospel of redemption."



1995 Festival of Evangelists

Festival speakers emphasize urgency of winning the lost

By Millie Gill

Executive Assistant, Arkansas Baptist

Johnny Jackson, a vocational evangelist from Little Rock, was elected president of Arkansas Baptist evangelists during the organization's third annual Festival of Evangelists banquet Jan. 30 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Also elected were Phillip Brown of Gurdon, vice president; Shelby Bittle of Jacksonville, secretary/treasurer; and Richard Sager of Berryville, music director.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, challenged evangelists at the banquet to use the upcoming "Here's Hope" revivals as an opportunity to impact the state for Christ. "People across our state are spiritually and morally bankrupt," he noted. "It is a time for you to become excited about your ministry and touch the lives of these people."

Affirming the evangelists' ministry, Moore added, "Even though I know there have been times when you became discouraged, had financial stresses and have been faced by temptation, you have been faithful in your commitment to share Christ across our state, nation and around the world. I am grateful for your commitment to sharing the gospel."

Tom Cox of Mountainburg, who was instrumental in organizing the group and had served for four years as its president, presided over the festival held at Park Hill.

Emphasizing there are 1 million people across the state who need to be reached for Christ, state convention evangelism department director Clarence Shell told the evangelists, "You are instruments that God can use in reaching these."

Preaching from Matthew 9 about "God's Great Harvest," evangelist Billy Walker echoed the urgency of reaching the lost with the gospel.

"Today our fields are 'white unto harvest' just as they were in Jesus' day, but we are losing the battle of reaching people," he declared. "We are not even keeping up with the birth rate. If you think we are living in a terrible hour now, what will it be like for those who come after us?"

"I believe that if we don't do something in this hour, the world is going to conquer us," Walker continued. "I know that eventually the Lord will win, but right now the world is ready to hear the gospel but the laborers are scarce."

He noted that when Jesus became burdened about the multitude of people



Elected as 1995 officers of Arkansas Baptist evangelists were (left to right): Richard Sager of Berryville, music director; Phillip Brown of Gurdon, vice president; Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, president; and Shelby Bittle of Jacksonville, secretary/treasurer.

wandering like sheep without a shepherd. He would retreat to a quiet place and pray for hours or even all night long for their souls. "Our souls also need to become baptized with that same devotion to prayer," he declared. "When we come to this conviction then there will be a revival in our pulpits, lost souls will be wept over and laborers will come forth."

Walker was presented with a plaque at the close of his message in recognition of 50 years of ministry as an evangelist. Jack Hazelwood, a Little Rock evangelist, was recognized for 25 years of ministry.

Share 'one on one'

Evangelist Phillip Brown emphasized that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were evangelistic followers of Jesus with a "Share Jesus Now, Each One Reach One" type of evangelism.

He noted that "Behold the Lamb of God," "We have found the Messiah," and "Come and see," were some of the simple, effective gospel messages they used in winning the lost.

"We, as evangelists, must also use these simple messages, sharing them in a 'one on one' type evangelism," he said. "The Lord intended us to not only preach from a pulpit but to reach out one on one."

"However, we must study the Scripture, pray without ceasing and rely on God to do this," he concluded. "As evangelists, we can plan in our own strength, but we will never reach the multitude unless we

allow God to do it through us. When we follow His guidance, evangelism will immediately start and will be never ending."

Guest evangelist Junior Hill from Hartselle, Ala., closed the festival with a message from Hebrews 2:1, encouraging fellow evangelists to examine themselves to make sure they are staying close to the Lord rather than drifting from Him.

"In this Scripture there is a solemn warning about how a child can unnoticeably slip away from God," Hill explained. "The danger of drifting away from God for those of us in the ministry can happen faster because we sometimes have blind spots and don't recognize it."

"We as evangelists need to get off somewhere with God and tell Him how much we love Him and how precious He is to us," he continued. "If we are too involved in our ministry to do this then we are drifting away from God."

"The devil is diverting our ministry to the point we have let down our guard and are accepting things the devil has disguised, things that the Bible distinctly says are wrong," Hill concluded. "We must return to old-fashioned, Holy Ghost preaching if we are to win the lost, causing them to fall on their faces and confess their guilt."

Festival musicians were the Lisleby Family of New Edinburg; Tim Jackson of Little Rock; Brown; and Sager. A drama on the biblical characters of Mary and Martha was presented by Brenda Woodard of Bentonville and Paula Waddell of Garfield.

Congo Road becomes state's first new church of 1995

Arkansas Baptists' first church constitution of the year was the result of a "growth in love as well as a growth in additions," according to pastor David Mitchell. Congo Road Church in Salem, a mission congregation since 1986, constituted on New Year's Day during the morning worship service.

Mitchell, pastor of the congregation since April, 1993, emphasized that the growth was a result of "what the Lord has done. I haven't done this."

According to church clerk Joe Leslie in *The History of Congo Road Baptist Mission*, plans for the mission began in 1985 when "a study was conducted by the Home Mission Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Central Baptist Association to determine (if there) was a need for an additional Southern Baptist church in the Salem community. That study showed that a need did exist for an additional church."

James Swedenburg, director of missions for Central Association, said the work was established to "reach out to people who are living in a rapidly growing community. The demographics of county growth showed the need" for a new work there.

Jack Ramsey, an associate in the ABSC missions department, explained that the factors "involved in placing a new mission is that you look at the population of that area and try to determine by available data the number of unchurched people there."

"Second," Ramsey added, "you look at whether residents of this community have a different lifestyle than of members of other churches around them."

Location aids growth

Mitchell said the strength of the church is its location. "It's the type of families that live here. We have junior high and elementary-age kids everywhere, so we wanted to minister to that family type."

Armed with the demographic information, the association contributed \$5,000 and the ABSC gave \$10,000 in October, 1985, to assist in the purchase of more than three acres for the mission site.

The \$10,000 contribution, Ramsey explained, is a standard mission site grant which comes from Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering funds.

The association and state convention made other contributions as well. Swedenburg said the association purchased a double-wide trailer for worship and education space and aided with pastoral funds.

Pastoral aid also came from the ABSC and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in the form of Church Growth Assistance,



David Mitchell, pastor of Congo Road Church in Salem, stands with Harold Stephens, pastor of Trinity Church in Benton, Congo Road's former sponsor.

a salary supplement that Ramsey said is a mixture of Dixie Jackson and Annie Armstrong Home Missions Offering funds.

Mitchell said the pastoral aid "allowed me to come to a church that was running in the 20s (in attendance) and be a full-time pastor."

"Being able to be full-time has made the difference in growth," Mitchell explained. "That money helped make the difference we needed to bring a mission church that was in a stagnant situation, nearly dying, to a church that has had 78 additions in the last two years."

The mission began meeting in the trailer in 1986 with eight members. The next five years were characterized by slow numerical growth but steady building growth.

According to Leslie, in September, 1987, "the mission voted to pay off the property and to borrow \$55,000 to begin construction of the first permanent building....A ground-breaking service was held on Oct. 2, 1988."

Leslie wrote that groundwork on the building began the next day. Much of the labor on the structure came from the Naiblanders, a volunteer ABSC-affiliated construction team, and volunteers from churches in the association, including the mission's sponsor, Trinity Church in Benton. The building was completed in July, 1989, and Jon Weygandt, the pastor at that time, led the first service on July 9.

Mitchell said the church had an average Sunday School attendance of 25 when he was called to the mission in 1993. "By April, 1994, we were averaging 49 in Sunday School and from April to December

we have averaged 62 in Sunday School."

He said that during the past year, the mission recorded 18 baptisms and 36 other additions. The church constituted Jan. 1 with 123 members.

Mitchell, who has served as both a Southern Baptist and Missionary Baptist minister, is no stranger to mission work. While Mitchell was growing up, his father served as pastor of two Southern Baptist mission churches in Montgomery, Ala.

After 20 years of service as a pastor of Baptist Missionary Association churches, Mitchell returned to Southern Baptist ministry in 1990.

He said the transition was helpful to his mission pastor status. "I'm starting over. I've been in the ministry for 25 years, but it's like I'm brand new."

"He's given solid leadership there," Ramsey said of Mitchell. "He's been aggressive, zealous and fervent for the Lord and has built a team of the members that has helped bring its success."

Mitchell explained that the church uses "family-type" outreach ministries such as softball games and fellowships to attract neighborhood residents, especially youth.

"Another one of the things that is positive is that since David has been there, there has been great communication between the mission and cooperating association," Ramsey noted.

"Central has been great," Swedenburg agreed. "The churches and Jim Swedenburg have been very mission-minded and...the pastors have worked together. They have tried to help us plan and give us good strategy."

Aside from his ministry as director of missions for the association, Swedenburg has another interest in the new church. "That's the first church I joined when I came here," he explained.

Swedenburg noted that Congo Road's constitution marked Central Association's third church constitution in two years.

Mitchell said the dream of becoming a church was "a well-planned process" which involved Bible study, the coordination of study committees and the involvement of all the church members. In the constitution process, he said, "the spirit of love was demonstrated and everyone had a part in it."

He said the congregation's transition from a mission holds "kind of a satisfaction that has settled in" with members. "We have seen a goal accomplished and for those who have been there a long time, the dream to see a growing church established has been realized."

"It's been exciting," Mitchell affirmed. "It's been a wild ride. In my almost 26 years of ministry I've never seen the kind of love that has developed and this kind of growth."

Kwok: 'Do what is right,' turn from racism

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Avoid sensationalism and "do what is right" to turn from racism, said Jack Kwok, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention cooperative ministries department. The department was established in 1954 to foster partnership between Arkansas Southern Baptists and the state's three predominantly black National Baptist conventions.

Encouraging Baptists to "reach out, appealing and inviting the cooperation of people that can make the difference," Kwok explained, "Avoid the extremes. If you play to the extremists on either side, if you fight the racists and get into an all-out brawl, then you lose the good will of those people who want to do the right thing in a proper way."

Kwok noted that Arkansas has a poor race relations image that stems "from 1957 Central High School. It was the headline of every major newspaper.

"There's no sense whining about that," he said. "But if we could tell the other side of the story, it would be that Central High School was not worse than it was because of the work that had started in the 1940s with National and Southern Baptists."

Although Arkansas has gained a poor reputation among other states for having poor race relations, Kwok said the ABCS is "probably the leader" in reaching out to black people, especially black Baptists.

"Other Baptists come to us to find out what we are doing in the area of race relations," he noted. "And we are the only state in the Southern Baptist Convention that does that to this extent."

He said a distinct way Arkansas Baptists are reaching out to National Baptists is through annual National-Southern Baptist Fellowships. Southern Baptists and National Baptists in the state also have participated together in the state Evangelism Conference for the past two years and currently are working together in the "Here's Hope" evangelistic emphasis.

Kwok said the fellowships, which involved 2,500 people in 12 meetings in 1994, "are an entry-level opportunity for Christians who want to do the right thing but don't know how to get started."

"In our fellowships, we give people permission to do what they already want to do," he explained. "We bring them together in annual worship service. People come to these fellowships, they worship and worship is so central to action."

He said worship services are followed by a refreshment time "to initiate interracial relationships and nurture them annually."

H.L. Lewellen, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Jonesboro, agreed. He said the fellowships open lines of communication to allow concerned Christians to carry on the work of Kingdom business.

"We have a good fellowship and an atmosphere that all of us are brothers and sisters in Christ," he said. "That is needed



Observe
Race Relations Sunday
February 12

in all of our communities."

He said the worship atmosphere of the fellowships is necessary for "coming together. It's a grand thing for the Christian community to come together in worship. Worship is a way of life for believers."

Lewellen urged Christians of all races to come together in worship. "Three institutions have been the source of our survival," he noted. "The church, community and school. Many times the church is the most tardy in the area of race relations."

"Some believe one of the most hypocritical hours is Sunday morning at 11 o'clock," he said. "We can work together and go to school together, but not enough of us are worshipping together."

But, even with a department and annual fellowships devoted to improving race relations, where do Arkansas Baptists stand on race relations?

"To adequately assess where Arkansasans fit in race relations among Baptists," Kwok said, "you have to ask, 'From where have we come?'"

Illustrating levels of race relations as a "ladder," Kwok noted, "There are three levels. An individual coming from racism or prejudice has to move from that to:

■ Paternalism. "When a person recognizes his prejudices...and seeks to change, most people will move into paternalism,"

Kwok said. "They still look down and treat non-white people as children. When it comes to doing things together, they still want to keep control."

■ Patronism. "Patronism is saying, 'I want to be partners, but I still want a little control.' You have black involvement, but whites control the budget and don't expect full commitment from black people."

■ Partnership. "This is where you come together and respect each other for who you are," Kwok said. "You make decisions together and everybody pulls their own weight. That is genuine partnership."

He said the ladder is a necessary progression in moving from prejudice to full partnership. "I don't see many people, if any, who have jumped the ladder of racial reconciliation from prejudice to partnership in one step."

Where are state Baptists on the ladder? "We are in all of those areas," he acknowledged. "It comes down to attitude. As you go across the state, you will find Baptists at all levels of race relations."

Emphasizing the importance of attitude, he added, "You must also have the willingness to explore and obtain accurate information about people, to question some of the myths and misinformation that have been passed down to us."

To conquer prejudice, Kwok said, "it all starts with what you think. Look into your life and determine if there are any doctrines in your life that are prejudicial and contrary to the Scripture. If there are, then ask the Holy Spirit to remove those."

But it is not enough just to change one's thoughts, he said. "You must practice it. Treat people the way they are supposed to be treated. If the culture is to denigrate people of other races, then stop living like the culture."

Baptists worldwide expressed their views against racism at the Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1993. Kwok was one of several Southern Baptists who contributed to the Harare Document, adopted by BWA leaders at the meeting.

Evidence also exists that Southern Baptists nationwide are moving toward the partnership phase with minorities.

Kwok said he was "thrilled" by the election at the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention of two minorities as convention officers. Simon Tsoi, an Asian-American, was elected first vice president and Gary Frost, an African-American, was elected second vice president.

In June the SBC Committee on Resolutions will be asked to consider a resolution of repentance for racism adopted by several state conventions last fall.

Staff changes

Bruce Rodnick joined the staff of Central Church in North Little Rock Jan. 30 as minister of music, coming there from Immanuel Church in Pine Bluff where he has served for 13 years. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Rodnick is married to the former Diane McGary of Jacksonville. They have two children, Kerry and Traci.

Charlie Williams is pastor of Dalark Church, a mission of Third Street Church in Arkadelphia. He previously served Mount Bethel Church and DeGray Church, also in Red River Association.

Mike Taylor is pastor of Concord Church near Van Buren, having previously served there from 1982-89. Taylor and his wife, Diane, moved there from Booneville where he was pastor of First Church.

Mark Lashley began serving Jan. 15 as pastor of Calvary Church in Dardanelle, coming there from First Church of Delaware. In addition, Lashley currently is associational youth committee chairman for Arkansas River Valley Association. Lashley is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.; Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo.; and Mid-America Seminary. He is married to the former Patty Kay Wright.

Leonard Herring recently retired as pastor of Gaither Church of Harrison, following nine years of ministry. Other North Arkansas Association churches he has served include Burlington, Union and Bear Creek Springs where he was ordained to the ministry in 1965. Herring, a 10-year U.S. Air Force veteran, is continuing his secular employment with the Tiffany Division of American Lubricants. He attended Boyce Bible School, the North Arkansas Association Bible Studies Institute and has completed Southern Baptist Seminary Extension work. Herring and his wife, Marjorie, have three children, Jeanne Herring, Rebecca Bergeron and Clayton Herring; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

James D. "Sonny" Tucker is serving as pastor of Second Church in Monticello, going there from West Helena Church. A native of Arkadelphia, Tucker is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Seminary where he currently is enrolled in the doctoral program. Tucker previously served churches in Sparkman, Fair Oaks and Hot Springs. He has served on various associational committees, as well as the Baptist Student Union advisory board and the Arkansas Baptist State



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Convention Executive Board. Tucker is married to the former Nicki McAnally of Arkadelphia. They have two children, Megan and Curt.

Eric N. Westermann has joined the staff of Calvary Church in Little Rock as minister of youth. He previously served as a staff member of First Church, Fort Smith, as well as churches in Texas. Westermann, a native Arkansan, is a graduate of John Brown University in Siloam Springs. He and his wife, Lora, are both graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They have one son, Evan.

Bruce Murphy began serving Jan. 22 as interim pastor of Grace Church in Camden. He recently retired as pastor of Second Church in El Dorado, following more than 20 years of service.

Jim Elphinstone has resigned as pastor of Kern Heights Church in DeQueen to begin a secular occupation.

Larry Pendegrift has resigned as pastor of Dixie Church near Lake City and will continue his secular work in Jonesboro.

Al Kerst has resigned as pastor of University Church in Jonesboro. He and

his wife, Jean, reside in Jonesboro where he will continue his work with a printing firm.

Mark Soucy has resigned as pastor of Rudy Church where he had served for two years. He is available for other ministries and may be contacted at 501-471-1844.

Lawrence Harris has resigned as pastor of Wits Chapel in Maynard to return to his home in Alabama.

Ordinations

Philadelphia Church of Jonesboro ordained Wayne Kender, Rick Mashburn, Bob Franks and Brian Duncan as deacons Jan. 8.

Hughes First Church ordained Charles Adams and Ray Hugueley to the deacon ministry Jan. 29.

University Church in Jonesboro recently ordained Butch Ellison, Brian Gray and Ralph Cook Jr. as deacons.

Church news

Immanuel Church of El Dorado broke ground Jan. 15 for a 39,000-square-foot educational building that will include 30 classrooms, a media room and a first-floor nursery area for its children and preschool ministries. In addition, the building will house 14 offices. There were more than

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700 in attendance for the ceremony that was led by pastor David Uth; founding pastor Clyde Hart; director of children's ministries Vicki Pepper; director of preschool ministries Jennifer Reames; chairman of deacons Rel Luttrell; chairman of the planning and survey committee Mike Geurin; and "Find Us Faithful" program director Marc Emrich.

Concord Association is sponsoring a "No Frills 'Super' Conference" Feb. 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith. The conference is designed to strengthen church leadership for church growth. The 26 conferences will include information on Here's Hope revival music, Sunday School, discipleship, "Experiencing God," youth and children's programs, sermon preparation, legal matters, use of computers in the church, financial planning and other topics. Coordinators for the event are Lyndel Hobbs, Tim Hobbs, Danny Reding, Roma Zeltner, Elton Pennington, Wally Portman, Dale Thompson, Wanna Coward and director of missions Nelson Wilhelm.

Ozone Church recently completed renovations to the church sanctuary, including interior paneling and exterior painting. Other exterior improvements include a shelter over the church bell which is still in use and construction of a stone-walled flower bed. The projects were completed in time for a March 10-12 revival to be led by Jack Ramsey, director of church extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Raymond Palmer is pastor.

Little Rock First Church music ministry will present pianist Joseph Martin in concert Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.. Martin has composed more than 250 works of sacred choral music.

Geyer Springs First Church and Little Rock Radio Station KYTN will host contemporary Christian singer Ray Boltz in concert at the church March 9 at 7 p.m..

Obituaries

Horace Christle of Booneville died Jan. 6 at age 86. His memorial service was held Jan. 29 at New Briar Creek Church in Blue Mountain where he served as pastor. Survivors are his wife, Gay; a daughter, Sherry Lem of Booneville; three sons, Chris Christie of Booneville, Mark Christie of Fayetteville and Jeb Dobbs of Booneville; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Idelle Gardner Jordan, age 98, of Warren died Jan. 16 in the Wagon Place Nursing Home. She was the widow of Thomas Hurley Jordan, a Southern Baptist minister, and the mother of the late Lydia Catherine Hatton, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil. Jordan, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was a teacher and homemaker. Her funeral services were held Jan. 19 at First Church in Warren where she was a member. Survivors are a son, David Milton Jordan of Corpus Christi, Texas; one sister; eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Charles Hampton, emeritus foreign missionary, dies

Charles Alvin Hampton of Arkadelphia, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary associate, died Jan. 31 at age 73. Hampton died in Houston, Texas, where he and his wife, Evelyn, had gone to visit a family member recovering from cancer surgery.

The Hamptons were missionaries for 11 years prior to retiring in 1988. They served in Cape Town, South Africa, where he was a church planter-developer. He also had completed service as interim pastor of First Church in Glenwood in January and prior to that was interim pastor of South Fork Church and Second Church in Arkadelphia.

Hampton recently had agreed to serve as associational director of new work for Red River Association. "He was approached about numerous other missions involvements, but had accepted this position and had begun groundwork preparations for it," noted Maurice Hitt, director of missions for Red River Association. "Our association has lost a leader who had a vision to see new churches planted.

"He also had worked tirelessly as a coordinator for a 1992 associational World Missions Conference in which 100 percent of the churches participated, as well as two Baptist Student Union groups," Hitt added.

Hampton also had assisted in coordinating the association's first joint National Baptist/Southern Baptist Fellowship in the Arkadelphia area, as well as helping organize a similar event in Gurdon. Hitt said Hampton also "had been a friend to many leaders and children in our association by serving as both a teacher and counselor at our camp."

The retired missionary had served as a pastor of Arkansas churches, including those in Wilmar, Hazen and Glenwood, as well as churches in California, Texas and Illinois prior to going to the foreign mission field.

He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and had attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

In addition to his widow, other survivors include three sons, Larry Hampton of Fort Worth, Allen Hampton of Louisville, Ky., and Rick Hampton of Columbia, Mo.; one daughter, Charlyn Thomason of Middleburg, Fla.; and six grandchildren.

His funeral services were held Feb. 4 at First Church in Arkadelphia. The family has requested that memorials be made to the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions.

1995 Challenger Congress/ Basketball Tournament

March 17-18, 1995

Events for Boys in 7th - 9th grade

- Basketball tournament
- Swim meet
- Hot Shot tournament
- Speak Out competition

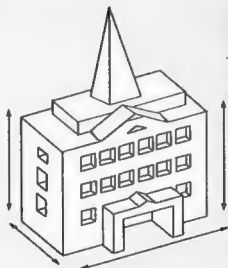
Events for Boys in 10th - 12th grade

- Basketball tournament
- All Star selection for mission trip
- Hot Shot tournament
- Speak Out competition
- Swim meet

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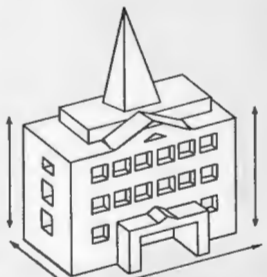
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ATS places Southwestern on probation

FORT WORTH, TX (ABP/BP) — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been placed on probation for two years by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada due to actions by the seminary's trustees.

ATS, the school's primary accrediting agency, said the trustees acted within their authority last March when they fired president Russell Dilday, but they violated school procedures in their treatment of Dilday and other faculty members and allowed interference in the school's academic freedom.

"It is important to note that probation does not mean a loss of accreditation," said current seminary president Ken Hemphill, emphasizing Southwestern remains fully accredited.

According to Daniel O. Aleshire, associate director of the ATS Commission on Accrediting, "The commission is of the opinion that students can receive an creditable theological education at Southwestern during this period of probation. Both 1994 visiting committee reports have assured the commission that the seminary has a talented faculty skilled

in their disciplines and loyal to the seminary, that students are appropriately qualified and motivated to pursue graduate theological education, and that an able and experienced administrative staff supports the work of the newly elected president."

Hemphill, elected by trustees to the Southwestern presidency last July, said ATS officials acknowledged substantial progress has been made and the academic process has continued unhindered at Southwestern.

Hemphill pledges cooperation

Acknowledging his disappointment with the ATS decision, Hemphill said, "I would hasten to add that we are going to work as fully and cooperatively as possible with ATS to resolve quickly the issues so that we can further strengthen the work and ministry of one of the finest theological institutions in the world."

Probation, according to ATS, is intended to allow an institution time to correct "major inadequacies." While not as serious as withdrawal of accreditation, probation can hinder a school's ability to attract

students and financial support.

Southwestern, the largest theological seminary in the world, registered 3,117 students for the spring term — 197 fewer than last spring. The school suffered a similar drop of 204 students last fall, at a time when enrollment at the other five SBC seminaries grew 7 percent.

Most of the criticisms from ATS were directed at trustees, who had been in conflict with Dilday for several years over the direction of the school.

In a recent faculty survey, used by ATS in making its evaluation, two thirds of faculty members said the academic freedom of some professors has been violated and 88.1 percent said trustees are not acting responsibly in guiding the seminary.

Hemphill defended academic freedom at Southwestern, noting "there has not been one documented incident where academic freedom has been violated... We consistently have assured the faculty that they have no reason to worry about any loss of academic freedom as long as they teach in harmony with the 'Baptist Faith and Message.'"



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'95 single adult conference highlights 'Outrageous Joy'

Growth, inspiration and "joy" will meet participants at the Single Adult Conference Feb. 17-18 at Second Church in Little Rock. The program theme, "Outrageous Joy," will focus on fellowship and growth. It will feature two Arkansas pastors as keynote speakers, as well as a wide range of conferences and a "comedy club."

"It's an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, one of the largest segments of the population," said Gerald Jackson, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department. The conference is jointly sponsored by the department and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The program will feature music and comedy by Alan Lee Walden and his alter ego, "Bubba." Walden is a popular inspirational gospel soloist who has performed with Christian recording artists Sandi Patti, Larnell Harris and Steve Green.

Eddie Simpson, pastor of First Church, Sheridan, will lead the Friday evening worship session featuring "The Joy of Being

in Christ." Host pastor Ray Higgins will lead the Saturday worship session featuring the theme "Joy of Relationships in Christ."

Conference options include the popular BSSB-produced discipleship topics: "Experiencing God," "Search for Significance" and "The Mind of Christ." Other conferences will include "Time and Life Management," "The Middle-East World in Our Midst and the Christian," "Christian Sexuality and the Single Adult" and "Love is a Choice - Relationships."

Jackson said there also will be a special workshop for single adult ministry leaders.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. Friday and conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday. The cost for the conference is \$10 per person. Participants must provide their own lodging and meals.

To register, send name, address, telephone number and \$10 per person to the ABCS Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. For more information contact Jackson at 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.

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Accepting resumes — for minister of music/education. Calvary Baptist Church, Hwy. 4 East, Camden, AR 71701.

Part-time position available — Bayou Meto Baptist Church, S.B.C., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resume to 26200 Hwy. 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076. Phone 988-1966.

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Accepting resumes — for part-time youth director. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Fairfield Bay Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1029, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088.

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PRESIDENT SEARCH

The President Search Committee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is now receiving recommendations and resumes for the office of president. Recommendations will be received until March 15, 1995. All correspondence should be sent to: Search Committee, Attn: Chairman Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary P.O. Box 9868, Colorado Springs, CO 80932

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Missionary to Guatemala shot in highway robbery attempt

QUETZALTENANGO, GUATEMALA (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Keith Stamps is recovering from gunshot wounds sustained Jan. 20 in an attempted highway robbery in Guatemala.

Stamps, 38, was treated in a hospital in Quetzaltenango and released Jan. 22.

A missionary to Guatemala since 1986, Stamps was shot in the right arm and shoulder while returning from teaching at a Baptist church in San Pedro, about an hour's drive from his home in Quetzaltenango. The injuries caused some nerve loss in two fingers on his right hand.

Stamps was driving alone at night on an isolated stretch of road when someone tried to flag him down from the roadside. He kept driving. Suddenly, a man stepped onto the road's shoulder, raised a shotgun and fired point-blank through the window on the passenger's side.

Stamps managed to maintain control and keep driving for about six miles until he reached the next town. Local rescue officials gave him first aid and drove him in his vehicle to the hospital in Quetzaltenango, where he underwent further treatment.

A heavy leather jacket Stamps was wearing absorbed part of the impact of the shotgun blast. "Without the protection of the coat, the injury would have been much worse," reported Don Doyle, Southern Baptist missionary administrator in Guatemala.

Stamps apparently wasn't targeted as a missionary or as a North American in the violence, according to Joe Bruce, who directs mission work in Central America for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"It evidently was an attempted highway robbery," Bruce said. "We feel like it's one of those isolated things."

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Handbell Festival scheduled for March 10-11

Youth and adult handbell choirs will receive an opportunity for training, performance and fellowship at the Arkansas Baptist Handbell Festival March 10-11 at First Church in Little Rock.

Glenn Ennes, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, said the festival is for "any youth or adult handbell choir that is active in a Baptist church in Arkansas."

Ennes explained that the festival is divided into "A" and "B" tracks to accommodate different levels of ability by the choirs.

"Festival A is for three- to five-octave choirs who have sufficient experience to ring medium difficult music and wish to ring for adjudication," Ennes said. "Festival B is for choirs with less experience who do not wish to be adjudicated. More time will be devoted by Festival B to technique and bell information."

Participants in both Festival A and B are required to purchase and learn the music for the festivals prior to the event. "It is imperative that all music be learned prior to the festival," Ennes said. "This is the key to a successful festival. Mass rehearsals are not the time for note learning."

Don Brown, dean of music at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., will direct Festival A participants and Mike Paslay, minister of music for First Church, Fayetteville, will direct participants in Festival B.

Music selections for Festival A include: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" by Dobrinski, (Agape #1702); "Joy Celebration" by Check, (Lorenz #AG35033); "To God Be the Glory" by Dobrinski, (Agape #1683); and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Wagner, (Agape, #1681).

Music selections for Festival B include: "Softly and Tenderly" by McChesney, (Lorenz #20/1016); "Two Meditations on

the Cross" by Kinyon, (Agape #1545); and "God of Our Fathers" by Kinyon, (Agape #1670). All festival music is available through the Baptist Book Store.

The cost for the festival before Feb. 13 is \$35 per choir, \$35 per additional choir with additional bells and \$25 per additional choir without an extra set of bells. The cost for the festival after Feb. 13 is an additional \$10 per category.

Ennes noted that there is a 25-bell set limit for the festival and that "arrangement for a keyboard, when needed, will be the sole responsibility of each individual choir."

To register, send the total cost to the ABCS church music ministries department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. For additional information, contact Ennes; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5121.

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919 985-4499

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Total cash contributions through the Cooperative Program and Designated Gifts received in the office of the Executive Director of the Executive Board, from January 1, 1994-December 31, 1994. If any errors are found in this report, please notify Don Moore, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203-0552.

Arkansas River Valley												
Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>										
Arkansas River Valley-Russellville	.00	1,021.16	Gardner-Hamburg	5,489.64	1,765.96	Hoxie First-Hoxie	3,939.35	1,202.35				
Atkins First-Atkins	6,703.28	1,894.06	Hamburg First-Hamburg	47,104.33	16,267.57	Imboden First-Imboden	8,033.59	4,789.69				
Bakers Creek-Russellville	3,600.00	1,787.67	Magnolia-Crosssett	16,311.27	4,799.88	Immanuel-Newport	4,333.51	509.75				
Bluffton-Bluffton	1,090.94	543.00	Marlville-Hamburg	2,577.94	374.00	Jacksonport-Jacksonport	4,101.20	.00				
Briggsville Second-Danville	68.90	.00	Meridian-Crosssett	10,268.00	1,225.16	Murphy's Corner-Newport	.00	25.00				
Calvary-Dardanelle	2,689.48	602.00	Mount Olive-Crosssett	64,572.52	6,961.43	New Hope #1-Smithville	1,254.77	.00				
Centerville-Centerville	492.00	100.00	Mount Pleasant-Montrose	2,455.47	580.00	New Hope Hardy-Hardy	1,998.56	1,001.64				
Crow Mountain-Russellville	8,763.21	1,151.94	Mount Zion-Hamburg	1,377.00	.00	Newport First-Newport	70,863.63	13,854.34				
Dardanelle First-Dardanelle	26,128.48	122,565.45	North Crosssett First-Crosssett	4,366.67	1,644.85	Old Walnut Ridge	1,394.80	152.00				
Danville First-Danville	19,733.06	9,614.25	Pleasant Lane-Crosssett	1,578.69	812.95	Pitts-Cash	312.61	8.36				
Delaware First-Delaware	2,761.81	917.63	Shiloh-Hamburg	701.42	233.82	Ravenden First-Ravenden	782.00	188.00				
Dover-Dover	32,228.53	5,373.15	South Main-Crosssett	4,272.00	1,687.00	Sedgwick-Sedgwick	2,344.12	1,300.00				
East Point-Russellville	2,752.53	773.84	Temple-Crosssett	5,449.61	2,520.36	Smithville-Smithville	2,813.29	1,245.24				
Fair Park-Russellville	1,337.57	1,748.00	Wilmot-Wilmot	10,840.43	4,405.15	Spring Lake-Willford	5,102.28	1,064.58				
Grace Memorial-Belleville	282.00	5,005.00		386,751.40	81,671.20	Swifton-Swifton	3,777.00	1,094.76				
Havana-Havana	3,456.78	2,886.77	Bartholomew			Tuckerman First-Tuckerman	3,957.25	3,622.39				
Hector First-Hector	1,139.38	291.55	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Walnut Ridge First	52,771.68	16,989.65				
Hogewell-Atkins	1,228.83	200.00	Antioch-Hermitage	567.77	428.45	White Oak-Walnut Ridge	500.00	1,028.06				
Kelley Heights-Russellville	3,860.56	482.00	Bartholomew-Warren	.00	667.25							
Knoxville First-Knoxville	3,778.55	2,870.43	Calvary-Monticello	13,667.24	3,248.48	Buckner	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>				
London First-London	4,399.63	2,384.25	Cominto-Monticello	2,439.00	.00	Abbott-Manchester	.00	180.00				
Moreland-Russellville	130.00	.00	Corinth-Wilmar	2,270.68	645.10	Bates-Waldron	300.00	.00				
New Hope-Dardanelle	16,618.44	808.25	Eagle Lake-Hermitage	1,919.49	95.00	Boles-Boles	912.46	335.00				
Ola First-Ola	9,498.75	3,407.28	Ebenzer-Warren	2,107.74	1,585.25	Calvary-Booneville	73.40	109.70				
Plainview First	3,429.14	1,751.78	Enon-Monticello	4,031.67	728.38	Cauthron-Waldron	50.00	.00				
Pleasant View-Russellville	1,024.43	334.14	Florence-Monticello	1,060.19	496.00	Cedar Creek-Waldron	79.16	50.00				
Pottsville-Pottsville	1,437.81	600.00	Green Hill Community-Wilmar	2,161.20	501.00	Dayton-Mansfield	1,764.00	185.00				
Rover-Rover	1,757.41	767.07	Hermitage-Hermitage	8,290.30	3,379.84	Evening Shade-Waldron	617.98	.00				
Russellville First	161,604.89	66,107.69	Immanuel-Warren	50,508.27	19,409.71	Fellowship-Huntington	6,940.16	4,508.25				
Russellville Second	51,321.96	22,888.93	Ladelle-Monticello	1,403.30	.00	Friendship-Mena	187.00	.00				
Scranton First-Scranton	5,272.58	1,386.40	Macedonia-Warren	1,058.45	.00	Hartford First-Hartford	16,944.87	6,062.09				
	363,591.73	153,671.59	Monticello First-Monticello	62,214.84	14,068.82	Haw Creek-Waldron	5,181.71	2,179.00				
			Monticello Second-Monticello	19,647.61	5,333.57	Hon-Waldron	1,103.70	200.00				
			North Side-Monticello	3,115.15	750.38	Huntington First-Huntington	394.14	316.89				
			Old Union-Monticello	2,455.40	890.00	James Fork-Mansfield	4,208.12	2,101.60				
			Prairie Grove-Hamburg	1,675.35	609.00	Long Ridge-Booneville	2,179.00	1,560.00				
Arkansas Valley			Saline-Hermitage	1,973.41	377.79	Mansfield First-Mansfield	26,578.69	9,470.95				
Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Selma-Tillar	192.00	.00	New Providence-Hackett	1,734.90	111.00				
Barton-Barton	1,294.95	400.00	Southside-Warren	92.74	.00	Parks-Parks	1,210.25	2,565.64				
Bethel-Elaine	313.64	.00	Union Hill-Hermitage	4,869.20	2,020.00	Pleasant Grove #2-Mansfield	1,374.32	550.00				
Brinkley First-Brinkley	63,394.63	38,405.40	Warren First-Warren	62,568.25	21,729.11	Pleasant Grove #3-Waldron	610.11	61.00				
Broadmoor-Brinkley	2,600.24	5,464.24	West Side-Warren	2,487.07	2,764.43	Rock Creek-Mansfield	1,430.72	105.00				
Calvary-West Helena	780.00	.00	Wilmar-Wilmar	4,193.81	2,768.88	Southside-Waldron	546.91	738.93				
Clarendon First-Clarendon	15,736.00	3,744.93		257,802.11	82,489.41	Temple-Waldron	840.59	425.63				
Elaine-Elaine	18,866.10	3,482.15	Big Creek			Union-Waldron	359.36	360.00				
Friendship-Marianna	2,259.00	1,075.00	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Waldron First-Waldron	42,796.92	10,701.41				
Helena First-Helena	18,491.56	7,233.95	County Line-Gepp	68.00	100.00	West Hartford-Hartford	724.31	290.00				
Holly Grove First Southern	321.60	.00	Elizabeth-Elizabeth	362.75	389.00	Winfield-Waldron	2,182.56	1,582.00				
Hughes First-Hughes	10,400.00	5,517.00	Enterprise-Viola	560.91	365.44		122,042.37	44,749.09				
Immanuel-Wabash	2,149.49	480.00	Flora-Salem	180.00	10.00	Buckville	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>				
Lambrook First-Lambrook	1,038.88	441.00	Mammoth Spring First	495.98	644.69	Church	2,372.82	434.94				
Lexa-Lexa	7,126.80	2,560.71	Mount Lebanon-Hardy	1,001.29	45.00	Rock Springs-Buckville	2,372.82	434.94				
Marianna First-Marianna	36,005.05	26,473.48	Mount Zion-Salem	90.00	370.54							
Marvell First-Marvell	24,958.41	2,925.80	Saddle First-Mammoth Springs	450.82	54.14	Cañdo River	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>				
Monroe-Monroe	240.00	480.00	Spring River-Hardy	540.00	1,177.72	Church	240.00	130.63				
Moro-Moro	3,300.00	2,204.35	Union Hill-Mammoth Spring	141.98	30.00	Big Fork-Mena	306.80	133.60				
Petty's Chapel-LaGrange	371.25	.00	Viola-Viola	5,849.49	3,188.87	Black Springs-Norman	3,821.84	200.00				
Snow Lake-Snow Lake	50.10	.00		10,731.22	6,375.20	Caddo Gap-Bonnerdale	220.00	100.00				
Turner-Turner	2,103.63	282.90	Black River			Concord-Plainview	1,200.00	50.00				
West Acres-West Helena	200.00	629.92	Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Glenwood First-Glenwood	16,745.80	7,132.74				
West Helena Second	17,482.25	5,748.36	Alicia-Alicia	774.66	160.00	Lake Ouachita-Mount Ida	6,898.42	2,676.00				
West Helena-West Helena	25,245.79	15,019.46	Amagon-Amagon	300.00	147.69	Little Hope-Oden	500.00	465.00				
	254,629.37	122,568.65	Banks-Mammoth Spring	521.33	.00	Mount Glidd-Norman	963.30	.00				
			Black River-Hoxie	.00	225.00	Mount Ida First-Mount Ida	15,951.84	6,260.23				
Ashley County			Black Rock First-Black Rock	5,457.19	888.65	Murphy-Norman	200.00	60.00				
Church	<i>Coop Prog</i>	<i>Designated</i>	Calvary-College City	3,571.05	3,857.71	Norman First-Norman	1,100.00	833.65				
Ashley County-Crosssett	.00	500.00	Campbell Station-Diaz	720.00	502.19	Oden First-Oden	2,378.70	246.73				
Calvary-Crosssett	1,584.05	61.00	Clear Springs-Imboden	336.53	550.30	Pencil Bluff First-Pencil Bluff	4,323.78	935.36				
Community Chapel-Crosssett	167.08	50.00	Crossroads-Portie	532.85	178.00	Refuge-Story	1,238.00	104.45				
Corinth-Bastrop	2,909.77	746.00	Diaz-Diaz	3,803.21	2,840.00							
Crossett First-Crosssett	195,996.49	34,042.17	Grubbs First-Grubbs	2,278.80	725.00							
Crossett Second-Crosssett	838.59	450.00										
Eden-Hamburg	4,890.42	2,108.80										
Fellowship-Hamburg	800.00	200.00										
Fountain Hill First-Fountain Hill	800.00	215.00										

	55,108.08	19,329.09	Coy-Coy,	1,950.08	1,140.76	Walnut Valley-Hot Springs,	2,421.96	1,531.00
Calvary Church			DeWalls Bluff First	2,429.93	866.75		822,928.69	320,733.90
Disaband	6142	985.00	Des Arc First-Des Arc,	40,940.80	5,393.48	Clear Church		
Amloch-Beebe,	1,124.00	1,105.00	England First-England,	19,237.70	6,414.42	Church Creek		
Augusta First-Augusta,	21,289.68	5,721.42	Hazen First-Hazen,	15,425.68	4,000.99	Alma First-Alma,	76,264.36	13,842.73
Beebe First-Beebe,	32,639.88	12,004.20	Immanuel-Carlisle,	3,351.02	1,370.45	Altus First-Altus,	1,338.88	27.00
Bethany-Georgetown,	1,121.87	162.40	Keo-Keo,	5,787.11	2,482.21	Batson-Ozark ,	50.00	233.00
Calvary-Bradford,	1,861.00	121.00	Lonoke-Lonoke,	47,941.53	9,047.33	Cabin Creek-Lamar,	.00	120.00
Calvary-Searcy,	.00	500.00	Mount Carmel-Cabot,	34,485.97	17,278.52	Cedarville-Cedarville,	3,200.04	1,345.00
Calvary-Searcy,	3,398.31	1,179.34	New Hope Springs-Cabot,	2,363.82	933.73	Clarksville Second	8,473.22	3,016.95
Central-Bald Knob,	33,698.13	17,109.10	Oak Grove-Austin,	1,072.53	1,058.27	Clear Creek-Ozark,	.00	150.00
Cotton Plant First,	2,625.00	575.00	Oakridge-Austin,	325.00	384.07	Coal Hill First-Coal Hill,	1,491.74	1,915.00
Crosby-Searcy,	1,155.00	590.00	Old Austin-Austin,	2,553.86	507.00	Concord-Van Buren,	31,363.70	4,132.00
Denmark-Bradford,	532.00	214.00	Pleasant Hill-Cabot,	9,483.29	872.41	Dyer First-Dyer,	2,348.08	726.24
El Paso First-El Paso,	856.83	91.00	Roberson-Lonoke,	1,204.45	279.00	East Mount-Zion-Clarksville,	10,583.76	4,684.00
Good Hope-McCrory,	1,328.60	501.00	South Bend-Jacksonville,	2,650.89	528.75	Eastern Heights-Van Buren,	2,113.47	.00
Grace-Augusta,	2,350.00	3,660.64	Steel Bridge-Lonoke,	1,904.57	1,303.10	Graphic Southern-Alma,	805.23	.00
Gregory-Gregory,	316.98	100.00	Telec-Scott,	5,740.40	1,059.19	Hartman First-Hartman,	3,180.00	950.00
Griffithville First-Griffithville	2,444.57	180.00	Ward First-Ward,	8,420.87	1,534.77	Kidder-Alma,	10,064.74	10,538.25
Hunter Hunter-Hunter,	800.00	.00	Wattensaw-Lonoke,	3,358.82	954.17	Lamar-Lamar,	4,307.00	2,770.41
Judsonia First-Judsonia,	16,653.93	10,469.88		400,619.05	84,090.38	Lee Creek-Van Buren,	6,049.89	2,030.37
Kensett First-Kensett,	8,130.00	2,959.57	Centennial Church			Lountsburg First	1,298.70	2,722.65
Liberty-Searcy,	511.62	310.00	Abscheiden First-Roe,	1,756.74	1,882.76	Mulberry First-Mulberry,	11,571.58	3,375.02
McCrory First-McCrory,	19,649.43	6,736.10	Almyra First-Almyra,	26,647.00	5,012.26	North Park-Van Buren,	23,993.23	5,094.38
McRae First-McRae,	6,447.93	2,199.54	DeWitt First-DeWitt,	26,449.49	19,229.10	Oak Grove-Van Buren,	17,497.04	4,692.13
Midway-Judsonia,	977.08	76.87	East Side-DeWitt,	1,364.00	629.00	Ozark First-Ozark,	96,865.87	6,975.95
Mount Hebron-Searcy,	4,574.03	2,137.21	Faith-DeWitt,	2,682.33	1,807.08	Ozone-Ozone,	2,133.42	1,215.00
New Morrow-Searcy,	108.00	.00	Gillett First-Gillett,	3,577.79	1,807.08	Rady-Rudy,	440.00	428.00
Pangburn First-Pangburn,	9,196.11	652.00	North Maple-Stuttgart,	2,772.31	112.26	Shady Grove-Van Buren,	1,562.06	.00
Pleasant Grove-McCrory,	1,237.44	403.37	Reydl-Reydl,	1,650.00	1,137.21	Shiloh-Van Buren,	1,970.54	447.27
Rocky Point-Judsonia,	2,081.82	89.98	Saint Charles-Saint Charles,	4,974.68	1,368.42	Southside-Alma,	11,509.36	306.75
Rose Bud-Rosebud,	5,781.89	3,179.00	South Side-Stuttgart,	5,193.71	1,331.22	Spadra-Clarksville,	450.20	560.00
Searcy First-Searcy,	165,061.06	83,947.77	Stuttgart First-Stuttgart,	108,825.11	72,468.40	Trinity-Alma,	600.00	30.62
Sidon-Rose Bud	942.59	246.70	Tichnor-Tichnor,	60.00	120.00	Union Grove-Clarksville,	2,381.55	1,173.03
Temple-Searcy,	17,223.52	5,603.06		165,848.16	106,280.40	Uniontown-Uniontown,	1,255.86	230.00
Trinity-Searcy,	29,515.72	8,591.81	Central Church			Van Buren First-Van Buren,	53,816.93	18,663.46
Tupelo First-Tupelo,	3,847.12	1,860.30	Barbooa-Hot Springs Village,	20,786.63	8,629.00	Van Buren Second-Van Buren,	471.00	20.00
Union Valley-Beebe,	9,126.36	3,622.62	Barcelona Road	65,556.63	21,058.44	Vine Prairie-Mulberry,	2,134.60	436.64
Valley-Searcy,	18,406.23	2,886.00	Benton First-Benton,	180,873.05	52,645.13	Webb City-Ozark,	3,399.84	2,092.99
West Point-West Point,	1,557.44	545.13	Calvary-Benton,	21,905.64	5,081.88	Woodland-Clarksville,	2,486.50	1,229.33
	427,781.17	180,424.01	Calvary-Malvern,	2,041.95	1,100.42		357,469.40	96,174.77
Cary Church			Central-Benton,	503.81	523.81	Concord Church		
Bearden First-Bearden,	8,308.54	2,219.09	Central-Hot Springs,	16,202.13	9,232.25	Barling First-Barling,	4,223.84	624.56
Bethesda-Thornton,	1,171.91	1,141.10	Congo Road-Benton,	3,963.08	2,590.37	Bethel-Barling,	87.72	170.00
Calvary-Carmden,	36,114.79	5,482.75	Gilead-Malvern,	909.39	738.68	Bloomer-Charleston,	420.00	2,415.00
Eagle Mills-Carmden,	5,567.00	1,050.00	Gravel Hill-Benton,	4,818.24	.00	Bluff Avenue-Fort Smith,	5,292.62	1,208.84
Faith-Carmden,	758.05	218.20	Highland Heights-Benton,	41,272.51	11,982.50	Booneville First-Booneville,	46,963.37	14,122.33
First Southern Baptist-Sheridan	95.70	.00	Hildade-Alexander,	1,176.00	1,034.00	Briar Creek-Branch,	9,312.04	3,203.99
Fordyce First-Fordyce,	49,097.44	31,369.12	Hot Springs First	89,486.14	26,291.45	Briar Creek-Magazine	15.00	45.00
Grace-Hampton,	1,549.08	582.00	Hot Springs Second	160,146.58	91,593.37	Burville-Greenwood,	672.68	.00
Hampton First-Hampton,	16,255.49	1,010.30	Lakeshere Heights	11,392.12	6,245.44	Calvary-Fort Smith,	12,516.06	4,981.12
Harmony-Thampton,	833.99	835.00	Lee Chapel-Pearcy,	13,429.62	10,102.00	Central First Southern-Lava,	1,950.00	774.00
Holly Springs-Sparkman,	2,543.08	802.34	Lonsdale-Lonsdale,	713.11	70.00	Charleston First-Cherlesta	36,579.68	14,049.39
Manning-Sparkman,	2,887.95	180.00	Macedonia-Mountain Pina,	540.15	70.00	Crestview-New Blaine,	1,549.88	314.86
New Hope-Sparkman,	3,351.91	458.00	Magnet Cove First Southern	6,896.36	3,175.32	East Side-Fort Smith,	198,092.47	24,728.92
Duachite-Sparkman,	1,447.00	733.77	Malvern First-Malvern,	17,338.60	11,201.85	Enterprise First-Lavaca,	574.18	634.50
Prosperity-Bearden,	1,122.88	970.00	Malvern Third-Malvern,	31,201.00	10,428.63	Excelsior-Greenwood,	1,469.41	.00
Shady Grove-Sparkman,	250.00	813.00	Mealwoodville-Sheridan,	2,525.24	1,340.48	Faith-Fort Smith,	2,499.53	294.00
South Side-Fordyce,	2,292.99	385.00	Memorial-Hot Springs,	4,746.68	682.25	Fiana Hills-Fort Smith,	30,299.05	4,006.42
Sparkman First-Sparkman,	29,179.30	28,084.75	Memorial-Hot Springs,	3,977.52	4,233.13	Fort Smith First	181,929.83	95,146.05
Thornton First-Thornton,	2,701.42	317.87	Mount Vernon-Benton,	2,875.04	1,252.50	Glendale-Booneville,	7,102.28	1,750.43
Tinsman First-Hampton,	240.00	.00	New Life-Alexander	3,995.00	50.00	Grand Avenue-Fort Smith,	224,003.58	89,939.81
Tulip Memorial-Carhage,	525.67	1,245.00	New Life-Hot Springs,	279.64	50.00	Greenwood First	79,260.27	17,775.03
	166,275.19	77,877.37	North Main-Sheridan,	1,417.45	508.98	Hackett First-Hackett,	5,435.82	1,528.06
Caroline Church			Old Union-Benton,	4,759.23	1,068.77	Haven Heights-Fort Smith,	42,054.28	5,190.22
Austin Station-Austin,	4,850.15	1,377.52	Owensville-Lonsdale,	7,692.00	2,374.55	Highway 96 First-Levick,	500.00	241.00
Baugh Chapel-Altus,	4,600.71	688.00	Piney-Hot Springs,	13,129.48	4,222.53	Immanuel-Fort Smith,	29,433.14	10,583.38
Bisco First-Biscoe,	8,506.93	2,426.00	Pleasant Hill-Bausitie,	15,154.33	3,659.85	Jenny Lind-Greenwood,	5,667.20	1,305.80
Brianwood-Cabot,	4,235.07	403.90	Ridgecrest-Benton,	2,691.86	1,515.10	Korean-Fort Smith,	.00	200.00
Brownsville-Lonoke,	3,805.28	273.00	Riverdale-Davidson,	4,822.01	1,821.07	Lotian (off Grand Avenue)	.00	300.00
Cabot First-Cabot,	115,896.01	14,903.34	Royal-Royal,	1,016.39	429.85	Lavaca First-Lavaca,	57,648.93	25,524.43
Cabot Second-Cabot,	1,157.89	622.14	Salem-Salem,	2,871.63	6,100.48	Magazine First-Magazine,	6,788.07	773.60
Calvary-Ward,	2,498.27	2.62	Social Hill First-Malvern,	193.00	194.00	Memorial-Hackett,	2,655.21	3,348.50
Caney Creek-Lonoke,	501.28	472.62	Temple-Benton,	3,965.75	2,051.80	Midland First-Midland,	4,985.82	2,379.00
Carlisle First-Carlisle,	32,520.86	1,736.98	Trinity-Benton,	23,189.68	5,306.80	Mixon-Booneville,	2,855.00	100.00
Cocklebur-Ward,	9,743.08	2,414.89	Trinity-Malvern,	7,910.38	8,061.92	Mount Harmony-Greenwood,	85.00	.00
						Mount Zion-Greenwood,	2,898.54	3,845.39
						New Hope-Greenwood,	6,347.26	2,561.57

Victory-Dumas,	1,737.70	.00
Watson Chapel-Pine Bluff,	88,601.96	12,731.57
White Hill First-White Hall,	57,595.40	10,710.13
Yorktown First-Yorktown	3,667.80	720.00
	548,810.08	147,921.97

Independence

Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Arbanne-Mountain View,	2,325.30	2,979.55
Batesville First-Batesville,	103,176.25	20,307.55
Calvary-Batesville,	34,592.12	23,527.91
Calvary-Timbo,	3,175.82	1,625.20
Cord-Cord,	6,283.00	9,960.00
Desha First-Desha,	6,204.57	2,208.97
Eastside-Ceve City,	7,268.39	8,475.22
Emmanuel-Batesville,	2,304.94	1,149.40
Fifth-Batesville,	1,372.66	550.00
Fellowship-Batesville,	999.00	396.00
Floral-Floral,	7,985.94	3,864.17
Foothills-Mountain View,	6,605.85	1,014.27
Marcella-Marcella,	1,421.15	630.00
Mount Zion-Batesville,	4,198.00	1,493.59
Mountain View First	19,181.19	8,786.55
Newark Southern-Newark,	5,272.31	2,774.14
Northside-Batesville,	2,081.63	383.24
Pilgrims Rest-Batesville,	1,511.26	1,293.50
Pleasant Plains	1,586.42	674.30
Rehobeth-Batesville,	3,597.33	1,322.99
Rosie-Rosie,	3,835.06	2,817.74
Ruddell Hill-Batesville,	13,807.32	2,396.71
Salado-Salado,	1,507.00	1,025.00
Strawberry Southern	158.20	.00
Sulphur Rock-Sulphur Rock,	3,453.74	1,150.26
West-Batesville,	60,163.52	16,891.40
White River-Oil Trough,	2,932.32	615.50
	307,811.09	109,311.21

Liberty

Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Caledonia-El Dorado,	3,000.00	1,745.33
Calion-Calion,	4,019.16	2,153.55
Camden First-Camden,	75,134.64	29,805.91
Camden Second-Camden,	533.91	.00
Chidester-Chidester,	3,877.77	3,080.00
Cross Roads-Loann,	116.00	.00
Cullendale-Cullendale,	55,124.01	11,382.52
East Main-El Dorado,	28,042.21	6,926.02
Ebenezer-El Dorado,	19,004.59	15,668.86
El Dorado First	100,421.20	54,798.54
El Dorado Second	55,381.89	25,225.58
Elliott-Camden,	12,905.81	998.86
Fairview Road-Camden,	2,150.37	872.00
Felsenthal-Huttig,	2,925.00	1,263.00
Galilee-El Dorado,	838.03	1,257.26
Grace-Camden,	6,014.15	3,819.93
Harmony-El Dorado,	4,859.40	2,032.11
Hillside-Camden,	19,752.55	2,462.77
Huttig First-Huttig,	8,419.80	2,583.10
Immanuel-El Dorado,	133,618.20	36,702.94
Joyce City-Smackover,	9,683.72	1,454.55
Junction City First	11,478.83	5,671.50
Knowles-Strong,	2,298.87	1,048.00
Lapite-Strong,	1,034.00	.00
Lawson-Lawson,	3,911.04	1,127.00
Liberty-Lawson,	3,633.50	1,000.00
Loann-Loann,	219.08	65.00
Maple Avenue-Smackover,	6,555.19	2,154.42
Marrable Hill-El Dorado,	7,490.02	4,476.75
Midway-El Dorado,	2,061.00	235.00
New London-Strong,	3,127.87	.00
Norphet First-Norphet,	21,122.22	7,783.40
Northwest-El Dorado,	3,297.05	524.61
Parkers Chapel First	10,263.91	3,085.03
Parkview-El Dorado,	8,155.83	1,725.89
Philadelphia-El Dorado,	1,805.30	438.00
Reader-Chidster,	905.00	810.00
Salem-Stephens,	4,594.00	1,062.55
Smackover First	43,492.12	4,955.33
South Side-El Dorado,	4,887.63	743.40
Stephens First-Stephens,	12,659.17	7,991.00
Strong First-Strong,	12,315.03	1,096.00

Sylvan Hills-Camden,	1,221.18	141.00
Temple-Camden,	1,385.87	76.74
Temple-El Dorado,	2,184.87	749.00
Three Creeks-Junction City,	16,607.39	5,963.42
Trinity-El Dorado,	2,719.26	211.00
Union-El Dorado,	12,906.54	3,538.00
Urbana-Urbana,	1,078.85	1,440.00
Victory-El Dorado,	3,379.39	370.00
Village-Magnolia,	6,717.90	1,347.50
Weston-Junction City,	1,884.68	359.00
West Side-El Dorado,	4,095.96	9,847.42
White City-Camden,	1,604.05	95.00
	768,915.71	274,363.79

Little Red River

Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Brownsville-Greers Ferry	1,705.42	243.41
Concord First-Concord,	1,868.45	628.99
Grace-Pangburn,	.00	75.00
Harris Chapel-Pangburn,	210.91	.00
Heber Springs First	70,181.52	23,281.84
Higginson First-Higginson	8,464.96	3,592.30
Life Line-Pleasant Plains,	200.00	.00
Lone Star-Greers Ferry,	2,775.78	968.00
Mount Zion-Concord,	285.17	151.04
New Bethel-Floral,	148.43	77.48
Palestine-Quitman,	4,015.75	769.00
Pines-Quitman,	1,824.05	613.00
Pleasant Ridge-Greers Ferry,	120.00	33.15
Pleasant Valley	3,432.72	1,238.46
Post Oak-Greers Ferry,	98.41	194.81
Quitman-Quitman,	.00	277.35
South Side-Heber Springs,	1,855.97	3,138.60
Sugar Loaf-Heber Springs,	7,575.00	2,524.00
Tumbling Shoals	1,509.65	752.50
West Side-Greers Ferry,	13,114.98	6,159.84
Woodrow-Prims,	2,440.63	1,163.85
	121,825.80	45,882.42

Little River

Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Ashdawn First-Ashdawn,	24,786.03	6,202.90
Ben Lomond First	213.39	119.00
Brownstown-Lockesburg,	366.01	127.00
Central-Mineral Springs,	5,850.74	4,579.52
Columbus-Columbus,	885.33	1,655.55
Cross Roads First-Winthrop,	2,780.42	1,616.79
Dierks First-Dierks,	2,723.33	1,582.15
Foreman First-Foreman,	8,120.91	4,003.00
Hicks First-Ashdawn,	973.27	698.96
Horatio First-Horatio,	7,854.97	2,116.47
Kern Heights-DeQueen,	3,297.95	1,910.00
Lakeside-Kirby,	1,921.40	361.59
Little Mineral Springs,	638.00	227.95
Lockesburg First-Lockesburg,	8,761.39	3,847.82
Lone Oak-Horatio,	360.00	300.00
Maranatha-Nashville	1,642.01	300.00
Millwood-Ashdawn,	1,685.51	1,010.10
Murfreesboro First	11,247.88	5,994.65
Nashville First-Nashville,	62,541.49	9,305.00
Oak Grove-Ashdawn,	3,322.25	1,223.09
Ogden First-Ogden,	1,954.85	781.32
Ridgeway-Nashville,	13,932.48	3,762.98
Rock Hill-Lockesburg,	.00	200.00
State Line-Winthrop,	1,038.32	662.89
Washington-Washington,	715.00	677.00
Wilton First-Wilton,	1,818.00	1,619.02
	169,430.93	54,884.75

Mississippi County

Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Armour-Armour,	10,976.64	2,178.55
Bethany-Gosnell,	1,902.00	142.29
Bethany-Mania,	240.00	.00
Blackwater-Mania,	1,221.14	355.10
Blytheville First	181,651.68	25,143.13
Brinkley Chapel-Osceola,	330.00	120.00
Brown Chapel-Mania,	680.00	350.00
Calvary-Blytheville,	8,369.03	1,613.48
Calvary-Osceola,	9,481.16	5,811.84
Clear Lake-Blytheville,	5,602.54	4,488.79

Cole Ridge-Blytheville,	3,362.93	600.59
Crossroads-Blytheville,	412.77	105.00
Dell-Dell,	4,342.25	1,990.00
Dyess Central-Dyess,	4,880.00	341.25
East Side-Osceola,	1,187.87	613.00
Emmanuel-Blytheville,	1,351.88	290.00
Etowah-Etowah,	221.00	.00
Gosnell-Blytheville,	21,445.48	3,799.89
Joiner-Joiner,	627.53	751.00
Keiser First-Keiser,	3,596.10	428.20
Leachville First-Leachville,	26,083.00	3,882.00
Leachville Second-Leachville,	6,434.39	1,366.85
Luxora First-Luxora,	3,946.98	.00
Mania First-Mania,	15,779.51	7,538.45
Marys Chapel-Armour	240.00	49.76
Memorial-Blytheville,	282.68	62.00
Mississippi County-Blytheville,	.00	50.00
New Harmony-Mania,	831.25	278.75
New Liberty-Blytheville,	6,999.52	2,231.15
New Life Korean-Blytheville,	550.00	978.00
New Providence-Leachville,	1,017.00	300.00
Nodena-Wilton,	1,188.97	697.15
North Tenth-Blytheville,	12,138.01	1,603.10
Number Nine-Blytheville,	791.52	774.21
Osceola First-Osceola,	23,007.84	11,053.23
Ridgecrest-Blytheville,	2,902.00	1,145.00
Rosa-Luxora,	240.00	.00
Trinity-Blytheville,	13,994.18	2,042.02
Wardell-Joiner,	1,149.00	225.00
Westside-Mania,	6,723.11	1,924.55
Whitton-Ironson,	616.40	50.00
Wilson First-Wilson,	18,044.84	1,420.88
Woodland Corner-Blytheville,	1,161.70	75.07
Yarbo-Blytheville,	3,297.44	3,151.25
	408,195.24	91,020.54

Mount Zion

Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Disbanded	3439	100.00
Alsup-Bay,	.00	864.00
Bay First-Bay,	10,836.97	3,097.96
Bethabara-Lake City,	2,860.15	671.00
Black Oak-Lake City,	3,916.92	1,913.09
Bono First-Bono,	634.46	1,119.47
Bowman-Lake City,	3,738.01	708.07
Brookland-Brookland,	2,528.41	1,776.24
Buffalo Chapel-Caraway,	197.00	.00
Caraway First-Caraway,	9,876.50	11,316.22
Cash First-Cash,	4,441.27	1,152.54
Central-Jonesboro,	264,032.06	73,920.38
Chidress-Monette,	542.41	701.00
Dixie-Lake City,	533.00	200.00
Egypt-Walnut Ridge,	350.00	230.00
Friendly Hope-Jonesboro,	3,822.20	3,322.00
Highland Drive-Jonesboro,	23,009.00	9,257.02
Jonesboro First-Jonesboro,	4,354.66	89,206.03
Lake City First-Lake City,	6,523.35	6,009.98
Lunsford-Lake City,	65.00	22.00
Magnolia Road-Jonesboro,	4,020.24	1,339.46
Monette First-Monette,	17,034.45	1,551.83
Mount Pisgah-Jonesboro,	1,010.77	2,751.94
Mount Zion-Jonesboro,	.00	50.00
Mount Zion-Paragould,	7,494.90	1,944.50
Needham-Jonesboro,	1,684.34	755.26
Nettleton-Jonesboro,	68,499.96	14,553.07
New Antioch-Brookland,	5,961.64	1,021.16
New Hope-Black Oak,	1,757.88	897.03
New Hope-Jonesboro,	1,686.99	274.07
North Main-Jonesboro,	10,655.32	1,691.81
Philadelphia-Jonesboro,	17,238.28	4,584.55
Providence-Jonesboro,	1,598.50	.00
Rowe's Chapel-Caraway,	1,164.14	212.29
Strawfloor-Jonesboro,	4,609.34	2,070.55
University-Jonesboro,	8,011.00	3,679.00
Valley Ridge-Jonesboro,	1,980.88	.00
Walnut Street-Jonesboro,	46,395.29	14,636.44
Westvale-Jonesboro,	1,758.00	323.00
Woodsprings-Jonesboro,	958.48	370.00
	550,435.96	254,716.96

Elkins-Elkins	220.00	320.00
Elmdale-Springdale	71,172.38	21,180.91
Farmington First	11,288.98	2,270.61
Farmington-Farmington	1,488.37	635.50
Fayetteville First	109,447.43	39,328.75
First Southern-Kingsdon	59.74	72.34
Friendship-Springdale	4,193.23	2,396.64
Goshen First Southern	6,411.37	270.00
Greenland First-Greenland	3,100.00	1,701.99
Hindsville-Hindsville	2,349.96	703.31
Huntsville First-Huntsville	12,790.32	2,387.25
Immanuel-Fayetteville	1,414.69	386.28
Johnson-Johnson	1,338.00	260.00
Lakg Hill-Fayetteville	90.00	50.00
Liberty-Lincoln	5,497.91	1,450.03
Lite Change Com. Fellowship	899.98	530.64
Lincoln First-Lincoln	11,442.95	2,381.62
Northeast Southern	935.97	410.00
Oak Grove-Springdale	2,160.28	246.58
Old Missouri Road-Springdale	1,504.00	990.00
Prairie Grove First	9,454.70	5,011.16
Providence-Fayetteville	1,948.84	681.14
Ridgeview-Fayetteville	15,313.67	1,425.00
Sang Avenue-Fayetteville	2,379.06	9,573.18
Silent Grove-Springdale	4,728.57	833.00
Sonora-Springdale	3,555.65	2,501.84
Southside-Westfork, AR	726.00	385.54
Spring Valley-Springdale	957.32	855.00
Springdale First	219,500.02	58,879.87
Sulphur City-Fayetteville	1,409.94	366.00
University-Fayetteville	35,000.00	34,820.70
Wedington Woods-Fayetteville	141.53	.00
West Fork First-West Fork	14,856.68	4,768.52
Western Hills Southern	881.00	129.20
Winslow First-Winslow	3,644.02	1,833.98
	596,083.60	215,561.89

White River Church	Coop Prog	Designated
Antioch-Flippin	801.47	795.48
Arkana-Mountain Home	2,588.00	258.00
Big Flat-Big Flat	463.48	128.22
Bruno-Everton	877.07	53.57
Bull Shoals-Bull Shoals	7,231.01	1,804.56
Cotter First-Cotter	3,997.17	2,314.48
East Oakland-Mountain Home	551.40	173.45
Eastside-Mountain Home	23,949.66	7,240.49
Flippin First-Flippin	25,623.23	8,228.22
Gamaliel-Gamaliel	795.90	468.35
Gassville-Gassville	9,608.49	2,524.42
Henderson First-Henderson	7,640.00	1,496.05
Hill Top-Oakland	195.00	130.00
Hopewell-Mountain Home	949.11	150.00
Lone Rock-Norfork	3,751.72	646.00
Midway-Midway	7,594.03	2,381.88
Mountain Home First	99,534.20	37,004.93
Mountain Home	6,753.09	1,964.54
New Hope-Yellville	2,676.70	100.00
Norfolk First-Norfolk	1,743.16	333.75
Peel-Peel	730.59	287.09
Pilgrims Rest-Gassville	780.00	198.44
Pyatt-Pyatt	3,532.90	1,457.45
Rea Valley-Flippin	1,186.68	.00
Tomahawk-Saint Joe	3,196.49	319.59
White River-Flippin	.00	800.00
Whiteville-Gassville	1,085.74	948.52
Yellville First-Yellville	19,632.86	9,185.10
	237,480.15	81,393.95

Miscellaneous Organizations	Coop Prog	Designated
	64,236.60	347,614.12
Individual Contributions	Coop Prog	Designated
	500.00	35,327.16
Grand Total	15,636,123.36	6,046,365.32

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

National CP gifts down, still above budget

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January dropped 2.16 percent below that of the month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

However, the month's CP receipts were 22.57 percent above the required amount in the SBC program allocation budget and, for the year-to-date, receipts are 6.43 percent above the budget requirement to this point.

For January 1995, the total was \$13,946,164, compared to January 1994

of \$14,254,071, for a decline of \$307,907. The monthly budget requirement is \$11,378,310. The fiscal year-to-date (October through January) figure of \$48,441,082 is .37 percent below the previous year-to-date income figure of \$48,621,957, for a decline of \$180,874.

Designated gifts for January totaled \$20,071,120, compared to January 1994 of \$21,655,020, a drop of \$1,583,900 or 7.31 percent. The year-to-date designated gifts total stands at \$27,138,827, compared to 1994 of \$28,113,779, which is a decline of \$974,952 or 3.47 percent.

ABN's CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Baptistries/Steeple

Construction Sales Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1049
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049
1-800-526-9663 FAX: 501-234-6475
Also Laminated wood arches, beams and decking.

Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)
9101 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-225-6009

Church Musical Instruments

Tillery-Carden Classic Keyboards
P.O. Box 60
Bigelow, AR 72016
501-759-2215 or 501-759-2367
Church Organ Specialists

Costume Rental

Gayla's Costume Shoppe
2018 New Congo Rd.
Benton, AR 72015
501-778-1383
Costume Rental for all occasions

Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning
1612 Park Avenue
Stuttgart, AR 72160
673-2081

Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Almco Wholesale
10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72204
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Convention Uniform

The lonely warrior

By Ed Saucier, pastor,
Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith
Basic passage: Matthew 27:1-61
Focal passage: Matthew 27:46
Central truth: Jesus only. Jesus alone.

There's an almost ineffable atmosphere surrounding the events recorded in these verses. It's hard to even talk about all this without feeling somewhat involved on the one hand and invading on the other. It was God's private work that His dearly beloved Son was accomplishing and it was on our account that it needed doing.

Jesus, having loved mankind more than we will ever understand, has been comprehensively misunderstood by the very men among all others who should have recognized Him; the highly educated and informed spiritual leaders. But they didn't recognize Him, or at least if they did, they kept it to themselves. They should have loved Him. They should have fallen at His feet in repentance and lifted their eyes in devotional praise for His presence and His work. But it didn't happen.

Instead of anything even resembling love, they handcuffed Him, had some thugs beat Him up, and hauled Him before the civil authorities on trumped-up charges, where He was convicted as a renegade turncoat in a kangaroo court with only lies, jealousy, hatred and religious prejudice serving as evidence.

The sentence? Death by crucifixion; a grotesque, inhumane punishment prized by the Romans. Hang a man on a cross like some rat nailed to a wall and watch him squirm. It was just one among loads of industrious ways the Romans had to take away a man's life. But it was their favorite. And it was the fate awaiting the lovely Lord Jesus.

He faced it too. But He didn't face it alone. His Father was with Him and stood beside Him every step of the way, until now. Suddenly, a sensation He'd never known before! He was absolutely alone. The disciples had already turned tail and run, but He knew they would. He expected nothing more from them. But He'd never known isolation from His own Father. He screams out at the top of His voice: "Father God, why have you left me alone?"

It's the deep and desperate cry of a lonely warrior who fought His battle alone and won. For you.

Life and Work

True discipleship

By Kenneth W. Overton, pastor,
First Church, Marked Tree
Basic passage: Mark 8:27-50
Focal passage: Mark 8:34-38; 9:35
Central truth: The true disciple focuses on Christ.

So much has been said about the phrase, "deny himself" in verse 8:34. It does not mean to do without some or even many things. It is not self-rejection or self-hatred. It is renouncing self as the primary object of your life. To deny self is to place God as the primary object of your life. Everything that you are is surrendered to God.

Carrying your cross is similar. Some erroneously denote it to mean enduring some problem. Neither is it identified as making trouble for ourselves simply to be opposed as a Christian. The cross is a symbol of death and to "come after" Jesus means to accept the direction He plans even if it means toward death. It should never be cheapened by equating it with some irritation caused by being a Christian.

What we see is an attitude of sacrifice. If Christ was willing to suffer, so must His disciples. It is possible that some Christians cannot bear this thought.

The next passage (v. 8:35-37) deals with what happens when we choose life for Christ or life for self. Some try to find life by gaining what the world offers. To gain the world is to possess what it offers: riches, honors and pleasures. These people will find nothing when it is all over.

Wholeness of life is found in following Jesus. Is the cost of discipleship too much? When the alternative is considered, the answer is no. Not accepting discipleship is an indication of being ashamed of Jesus. It is a desire not to be identified with Jesus.

This is easily seen in the illustration of an older sister and younger brother. The sister does not want to be identified with the younger brother who acts silly.

Could anyone really be this ashamed of Jesus? According to the nature of discipleship and life with Christ, we either openly identify with Him or are identified with "this adulterous and sinful generation."

Jesus said it clearly (v. 9:35) that if you truly follow me, you must become the servant of all others. Those who have no selfishness, who are only ready to be servants of the lowliest fellow man can follow Jesus appropriately. In the Kingdom of God ordinary human values are reversed. In the gospel, the way to greatness is through the way of service.

Bible Book

The fruit of discipline

By Stan Parris, pastor,
First Church, Hope
Basic passage: Jeremiah 21:1-25:38
Focal passage: Jeremiah 24:1-10
Central truth: Genuine repentance brings hope to any situation.

Jeremiah's role changed greatly when he became a prophet whom the king consults in an hour of need (vv. 21:1-2). King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, was hoping for a miraculous victory as he sends envoys asking Jeremiah to intercede on behalf of the nation. The faithful prophet delivers the Word of the Lord, even though it is unpleasant and undesirable.

He advised the people to surrender and survive because Jerusalem's destruction is certain (vv. 21:3-10). The following passages reveal both the causes and the truth of this discipline.

Sins of the kings

King Jehoiakim (vv. 22:1-9; 22:13-19). In contrast to King Josiah's attempts to be just (vv. 15-16), Jehoiakim lived in luxury, sought personal gain, shed innocent blood and practiced violent oppression. Jeremiah predicted that he would die unburied and disgraced (vv. 18-19).

King Jehoaahaz (vv. 22:10-12). Jeremiah called the people to mourn not for Josiah, the slain king, but for Jehoaahaz, the king who would never return from captivity.

King Jehoiachin (vv. 22:24-30). Jeremiah predicted he would be exiled to Babylon, would not return and would be "childless" — his heirs would not sit on David's throne.

Verses 23:1-4 bring this section on the sins of the kings to a strong climax. The Lord declares that these "shepherds" have neglected God's Word and God's flock.

Sins of the prophets (vv. 23:9-40)

This passage reveals how the priests and prophets contributed to the downfall of Judah. These false prophets were responsible for leading (by word and example) the people into evil because they were lacking in purity and they had no authentic message. They clearly had no message from God because they had no relationship with God (vv. 23:18, 25-32). When God sends a prophet, His prophecy profits the people.

Sins of Promise (vv. 24:1-10)

It would be the "captives of Judah" who, in response to the loving discipline of the Lord, would return to God with their hearts. The repentant exiles were the hope for the future, not the self-righteous remnant with the "rotten hearts."

Convention Uniform

The resurrection

By Ed Saucier, pastor,
Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith
Basic passage: Matthew 27:62-28:20
Focal passage: Matthew 28:6
Central truth: The crux of
Christianity rests in the single fact
of Christ's resurrection.

Every claim that Jesus made, every miracle that's recorded in the Bible, every promise that you or I dare to believe about Him and the life He gave us depends totally on the unbelievable fact that He's not dead anymore. He's not in any grave and not just one more in a long, long list of religious zealots who wooed His world with lofty ideals, then died or gave it all up.

To begin with, lots of people across the centuries have died for causes they've believed in, religious and otherwise. This isn't to detract from the atoning death of the Lord Jesus at all. Just that there's far more to it than that. As wonderful and humbling as it is that Jesus died for us, equally meaningful and essential is the fact that God raised Him from the dead for us.

I don't think we've really done business with that awesome fact in the church. We speak a lot about His death for us and we should. But we've dropped the ball when it comes to giving sufficient attention to the liberating fact that He was raised from death in order to give us His life and live it through us!

"He's not here. He's risen!" Believe it! It means everything to you as a believer.

You don't have a shred of hope of living the Christian life without realizing that you can't do it. Only He can! And the wonderful thing is that He said He would, if you'd let Him. He doesn't even want you to try. He wants you to quit trying, so you'll start depending on Him while He does it!

Millions of well-meaning Christians are wearing themselves out trying to "live for Him." There's a performance trap built into the church world that's an energy-zapping joy killer. We keep telling people all the different things they need to be doing and that if they really love Jesus they will do them. So they try and try and try. And they fail and fail and fail.

Does He really ask you to live for Him? Not really. What He asks, in fact demands, is that you let Him live through you. That's how it's supposed to work, you know. In fact, it's the only way it will. Why not let Him?

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Life and Work

True wealth

By Kenneth W. Overton, pastor,
First Church, Marked Tree
Basic passage: Mark 10:17-31
Focal passage: Mark 10:29-31
Central truth: It is worth any loss to
follow Jesus.

This passage is a wonderful promise from Jesus. Jesus promised to replace beyond imagination what we lose in service for Him. Jesus is capable of His promise, but it is overwhelming that Jesus chooses us to receive the promise. Psalm 8:4 expresses the thought well: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"

There are those who see the negative. They would not even dare think of jeopardizing family and possessions. The question they really raise is the value of choosing family against serving Jesus. Jesus did not hide the problems associated with being a follower. He used one word to sum up the negative: persecutions.

From Peter's statement in verse 10:28, we can see that this promise was intended to be an encouragement to the disciples. Many of them had left a great deal just to follow Jesus. Jesus said that they will be compensated beyond the imagination.

Can this apply to Christians today? Absolutely yes. What have you already received from Christ as a result of following Him? You have been compensated with a pardon, you are in favor with God and you have peace in life. You also can meet trials and death with His support.

Jesus made it very clear that the promise is fulfilled while we are alive on earth. It is not reserved just for the eternal life. It is available now. Can you find anything more superior than to be a part of the family of God called the church? The church is to be a fellowship of sharing and caring.

The last verse (v. 10:31) reminds us of Mark 9:35. It has direct correlation with the previous two verses. Our judgments about circumstances and people around us are obviously corrupted by worldly ideas. Because of this, we are probably going to be surprised to discover who really served the Lord. Will it be the highly visible pastor at the hospital? Will it be the neighbor who carries the pot of food next door? Will it be the teacher who cleans the wound of a little girl? Will it be the one who prays for a spouse's salvation? There is no discounting any one of these. There is a place of importance in acknowledging Jesus as the reason for service.

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Bible Book

Submitting to God

By Stan Parrish, pastor,
First Church, Hope
Basic passage: Jeremiah 26:1-29:32
Focal passage: Jeremiah 29:10-14
Central truth: In all circumstances
God is at work to perform His
perfect purposes.

■ Chapter 26: A sermon on submission. Verses 1-6 contain the Temple Sermon (vv. 7:1-23) in a nutshell: "Submit to my way or you will be disciplined."

The emphasis of verses 26:7-24 is not on the content, but the people's response to the prophet's message. They mobbed him and may have killed him, had not Ahikam, one of the most powerful men in the land, intervened and saved Jeremiah's life (v. 26:24). We can see the hand of a sovereign God behind the hand of Ahikam performing His perfect purposes.

■ Chapter 27: A symbol of submission. Jeremiah, at the Lord's command, wore an ox-yoke as a vivid symbol of submission. Three times the prophet explained the significance of the symbol to neighboring kings (vv. 27:1-11), then to King Zedekiah (vv. 27:12-15), the priests and the people (vv. 27:16-22). In each case the message was the same (vv. 8, 12, 17). Jeremiah 27:6 makes it clear that God would use the pagan king as His instrument to perform His perfect purposes. Submission to God's plan and not explanation and understanding of God's plan would be the key to their future hope.

■ Chapter 28: An opponent to submission. Hananiah challenged Jeremiah. He falsely stated that God had broken the yoke of Babylon and that within two years both the exiles and the temple furnishings would be returned to their rightful place. Hananiah then takes the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah and breaks it (v. 28:10).

Because Hananiah's message of revolt was contrary to the will of God, Jeremiah proclaimed that he would die within the year. In two months, the false prophet was dead, a strong warning against those who would plot against the sovereignty of God.

■ Chapter 29: A letter about submission. Jeremiah sent the same message of submission to the exiles. Verses 29:4-7 offers help for the present, while verses 29:10-14 gives hope for the future. Jeremiah assured them that, in spite of the fact that they are separated from the temple, they are not necessarily separated from God. Submission to Him never separates us from Him, it enables us to truly find Him.

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NEWS DIGEST

SBC study committee to offer unanimous proposal

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The seven-member study committee looking at the programs and structure of the Southern Baptist Convention will present a unanimous recommendation at the SBC Executive Committee meeting Feb. 20 in Nashville, Tenn.

However, committee members will not announce what that recommendation is and what changes are proposed for the denomination until the Feb. 20 presentation.

The study committee, which includes Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springfield, and Rex Terry, an attorney from Fort Smith, was appointed by the chairman of the Executive Committee in September 1993 in response to a motion referred from the 1993 SBC Annual meeting. The committee's purpose is to "study the program statements of SBC agencies and institutions, and evaluate existing structures which are required to effectively implement such programs."

U.S. Senate elects Presbyterian pastor as new chaplain

WASHINGTON (BP)—Lloyd John Ogilvie, newly elected chaplain of the U.S. Senate, says he feels "deeply called" to leave his longtime pastorate in Hollywood, Calif., and his television/radio ministry to be a pastor to 100 senators, their families and their staff members.

The Senate elected Ogilvie, pastor of Hollywood's First Presbyterian Church since 1972, as chaplain by unanimous consent Jan. 24. He replaces another Presbyterian, Richard Halverson, 79, who is retiring because of health reasons.

He will seek to emulate the ministry of Halverson, who has been a "pastoral chaplain" to the senators, as well as their staff and families, Ogilvie said. In his personal relationships with the senators, Ogilvie said he hopes to help them grow in their spiritual lives and to be sensitive to God's leadership.

RTVC to launch weekly 'Home Life' television show

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is working with the Baptist Sunday School Board to produce "Home Life," a television series using the same title as the board's popular *Home Life* magazine.

The one-hour program will be broadcast weekly on ACTS (American Christian Television System) and FamilyNet beginning the first week in March.

"The television program discusses topics related to home and family life and focuses on lifestyles, values and relationships," said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president of television services. "While part of the program's aim is to develop a wide and loyal audience through upbeat and entertaining segments, its primary purpose will be to celebrate and undergird family life through inspiring interviews, challenging applications and practical instruction, while providing role models for healthy families."

Nobles hospitalized following arrest by FBI agents

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—Former Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles was hospitalized in San Francisco Jan. 26 after he collapsed while being arrested by federal law enforcement agents. They were acting on a fugitive warrant issued after he failed to appear earlier in the day at a pretrial court hearing in Jackson.

David W. Johnson, special agent in charge of the FBI in Mississippi, said Nobles, 69, was located around midnight Jan. 26 at a San Francisco hotel where he had registered under an alias.

U.S. District Judge William Barbour has ordered a psychiatric evaluation of Nobles be performed at a federal facility after he is released from the hospital.

Nobles is scheduled for trial on a 20-count federal indictment charging him with diverting at least \$1.7 million in contributions intended for the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton.

SBC leaders vote to transfer college to National Baptists

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Members of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary voted Jan. 24 to begin steps to turn over complete governance and ownership of the financially strapped American Baptist College to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

In a special called meeting in Nashville, Tenn., the commission unanimously adopted a motion which would transfer governance and ownership within two years or less. The motion further stipulates an end to all Cooperative Program funding of American Baptist College (ABC) by the end of fiscal year 1996-97.

ABC, located in Nashville, is the only four-year accredited Bible college designed primarily for training black church leaders. It has been jointly owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention since 1924.