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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

8-12-1993

August 12, 1993

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 16

August 12, 1993

Spreading the Gospel in Europe

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**How can
Arkansas
Baptists
help?**



Southwestern Seminary to offer off-campus classes in Little Rock

Seminary classes offered this fall in Little Rock will feature a new sponsoring seminary with a very familiar name.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will offer three master's level classes at the Baptist Building in Little Rock. The off-campus seminary program previously was administered by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

According to Lehman Webb, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's continuing theological education program, Southwestern's involvement will provide professors and students greater convenience in travel between the two sites. As an example, orientation for new students in the program will be held Aug. 23-24 on the Fort Worth campus.

The change also will provide Arkansas off-campus students with the resources of Southern Baptists' largest theological seminary. While Southwestern will administer the master's level off-campus program, Midwestern will continue to provide doctor of ministries seminars in Little Rock.

David Fite, director of continuing education at Southwestern, said seminary officials "are very pleased to be working in Little Rock."

Noting that Midwestern has provided "a very fine program there over a number of years," Fite added, "We are delighted to build on the work Midwestern has done as they pioneered in the early years of the program."

Southwestern classes to be offered this fall in Little Rock include "General History," an eight-week course beginning Sept. 13 taught by James Spivey, assistant professor

of church history; "Biblical Hermeneutics," a 12-week televised course beginning Sept. 13 taught by Tommy Lea, professor of New Testament; and "Modern History," a four-week course beginning Nov. 8 taught by Spivey. The courses are held each Monday with the history courses beginning at 9 a.m. and the hermeneutics course starting at 6 p.m.

Boyce Bible School

In addition to the master's level courses, bachelor's level courses are available through Boyce Bible School, a program administered by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Boyce courses available beginning Aug. 20 include "Old Testament Survey I, part 1," at 6 p.m. on Fridays, taught by Carl Goodson; "Study Skills," at 8:25 p.m. on Fridays, taught by Bill Falkner; and three Saturday classes, "Church Education Program," at 7:45 a.m., taught by Greg Jackson; "Biblical Backgrounds," at 10:15 a.m., taught by Robert Stagg; and "Church Growth," at 12:50 p.m., taught by Freddie Pike. The classes will be held at the Baptist Medical Systems Support Center in Little Rock.

Arkansas Baptists' continuing theological education program is designed "to offer theological training regardless of where a person is academically," Webb noted.

Individuals interested in additional information about Boyce Bible School, Southwestern Seminary classes, the doctor of ministries program or other continuing theological education programs may contact Webb at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5249.

Cover Story



Evangelism in Europe 6

Revival in Europe would be "the greatest thing that could happen to worldwide Christianity," according to European Baptist Convention president Bill Clark Thomas. Arkansas Baptists are preparing to start a three-year partnership with European Baptists beginning in 1994.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

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The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$40 per year (individual) \$6.36 per year (Group Baptist Family Plan), \$7.00 per year (Group Plan), Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-576-6791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 92 • Number 16

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Iowa partnership takes new twist

As flood cleanup begins, Arkansas disaster relief teams aid Iowans

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

The Arkansas-Iowa partnership has taken on a new twist in the light of the recent Midwest flooding. Usually such partnerships are primarily evangelistic, often including church construction projects. But Arkansas Baptist volunteers currently are assisting Iowa Baptists as they manage a disaster response for the first time.

Instead of construction, Arkansas disaster relief teams are getting involved in destruction — the necessary demolition of sheetrock, cabinets and other residential interiors that have been damaged by the raging waters.

The Arkansas teams have been rotating on a five-day trip basis, primarily in the Davenport area. "Des Moines, although damaged, has more resources and more volunteers," explained Jimmy Barentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist missions department, who serves as coordinator for the partnership. "The presence of the Baptist men is much more evident in Davenport," he commented.

Barentine, who recently toured the flooded area, said that many of the homes damaged or lost in the flood in the Davenport area were those of lower income families who purchased less expensive land near the river. "Iowans are incredibly self-reliant," he noted. "So friends, families and neighbors really are making an heroic effort to help each other. But there is also the newcomer, the very poor and the immigrant — we're trying to make sure they are not left out."

One of the primary problems Barentine saw was that the water level became so high that sewage, mixed with river water, backed up into the houses. That is where Ronnie O'Neal, associate in the Arkansas Brotherhood department, has been able to respond. In addition to rotating the five-man Arkansas cleanup teams, O'Neal is serving as coordinator for all the states sending teams to the area, working out of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Davenport. He currently is directing the work of Baptist volunteers from Alabama, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and North Carolina.

One of the Arkansas team's projects was the cleanup of a homeless shelter in downtown Davenport. "It was a large building that housed 50 residents and fed 50 more during the day," O'Neal explained. "Part of the facility had taken in more than four feet of water, which had been pumped down to six or seven inches. We went in

with sump pumps and cleaned the rest."

Affirming the volunteers' dedication, Barentine noted, "They were down in this incredibly filthy basement, taking up tile and cleaning away sewage, praising God for the opportunity they had to serve Him."

Delbert Scott, a team member from Sherwood First Church, enjoyed the contact with people they were helping. "At the mission, we didn't have much chance to talk to the people, because it was quite a job. But helping with houses, we really got a chance to talk to the people."

One residence they helped clean up was that of a Baptist church member and her non-believer husband. "We really had a chance to be a genuine witness," Scott recalled. "He said that no one had ever helped him before. A neighbor could not believe people had come all the way from Arkansas to help; while they were in the neighborhood, the team helped her move furniture."

Tears of joy provide reward

At another site, the team assisted a woman whose cottage industry, making rattan planters, had been damaged. "She was so happy for the help that she cried," Scott said. "Making people like that happy was our reward. We saw how people feel when you help them out when they're really down."

Steve Melvin, Iowa's Brotherhood director, said he was learning a lot from his first exposure to disaster relief. "I knew disaster relief existed, but not much more," he explained. "This has been quite an experience."

Melvin said general cleanup will go on for several weeks, since it is difficult to

coordinate efforts, especially in smaller towns.

One of the problems Melvin has encountered is lack of awareness about Southern Baptist work in Iowa. "We need to make ourselves known more in the community," he said. "When we offered Southern Baptist disaster relief teams to some towns, they were very skeptical because they didn't know who we were."

Another need is for better preparedness, Melvin noted. "Before the flood, I had talked to some Brotherhood organization about disaster relief training and received a dismal response. Now that we know firsthand how important it is, we need to get some training started — we're even thinking about doing it this year."

"Altogether it's been a positive learning experience," Melvin said. "One thing I have really learned in dealing with disaster relief — things change every couple of hours!"

Barentine noted that the partnership response to the flooding will involve local churches in Arkansas responding to specific requests from Iowa churches and associations through the ABCS missions department office. Barentine can be contacted at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5149.

One need everyone can fulfill is that of prayer, Barentine noted, especially for ministers and their families. "In the wake of Hurricane Andrew, pastors ministered to others and went too long without dealing with their own problems," he pointed out. "As a result, the divorce rate among ministry families in the Andrew area has skyrocketed. Their families came apart amid the chaos. We don't want this to happen in the Midwest."

Iowa Baptists affirm prayer, ministry

DAVENPORT, IOWA (BP)—Home missionary Larry Wartsbaugh, director of missions in eastern Iowa, said he believes God will use this summer's Midwest floods to "turn His people back to Himself." During the flood he often heard people say, "All we can really do now is pray."

In Iowa, where Southern Baptists are less than 1 percent of the population, disaster relief projects give much-needed visibility, Wartsbaugh said. "People here speak well of Southern Baptists now. It's helped them understand that we are real people who care about their needs."

Cornerstone Baptist Church in Ankeny, Iowa, reported its "biggest and best" Vacation Bible School ever, partly due to disaster relief efforts. The church coordinated the use of two water purification units donated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

Publicity from the units, plus a "marvelous job" by a volunteer youth team from Texas, resulted in an average VBS attendance of more than 100. Providing water at the rate of more than 12,000 gallons a week, created unique opportunities to witness Pastor Ronny Carroll said.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABS Executive Director

The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators, released by William J. Bennett, reflected some alarming facts that indicate we are a culture in crisis. Since 1960 the population has increased 41 percent while violent crime has increased 500 percent. In 1965 the juvenile violent crime arrest rate was 137 per 100,000. In 1990 the rate was 430.6 per 100,000. The number of cases of child abuse has increased 40 percent since 1976.

Who can doubt these figures? There is hardly a time or place where anyone feels safe. Schools, parents, courts and police have lost control. Individuals have lost control. Loss of respect for self, parents, authorities, property and even God have left many people with a mindset that favors the stone age.

Somebody has to do something. Aaron Wheeler, pastor of the New Jerusalem Southern Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, is doing something. He is using his influence, contacts, skills and abilities to organize men who can serve as mentors for youth who are at risk of becoming a part of the dreadful waste of human life. A part of his strategy is to gather thousands of people together at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 21 in downtown Little Rock for a parade to the capitol. This united effort by blacks, whites and ethnic groups will be saying: We want to make a change.

I want to commend a brother who will try to do something. I want to encourage others of us to help him and others who are trying to do something to salvage the society. Many of you could join in the march. Others could join in other ministries. We all know that ultimately the only hope for an individual or society is the redeeming power and influence of Jesus Christ. In other words, we need to join our efforts and prayers to address this enormous problem.

This is not a problem one part of our society can address. Every part of society needs to take a part. There is a lot of shame, a lot of blame and a lot of pain. There is not much concerted effort. Maybe you can help with this one.

NORENE REED

Woman's Viewpoint

Living God's love

The phone rang. It was one of my Hispanic friends whose baby was ill. This was planting time and her husband worked from early until late each day. We took her with the baby the 20 miles to medical services and helped in the communications between Spanish and English. The baby is fine now. What an opportunity to become better acquainted.

My husband and I enjoy the friendships with Hispanics that have developed over the years and feel that this is one way of sharing God's love. The church we now serve saw the need of the Hispanics in this area to have an opportunity to learn English. Three laypeople took the necessary training to teach English as a second language. They have been teaching weekly classes for men, women and youth. Three more individuals volunteered to take care of the children, helping them with homework and other learning experiences. Their actions live out the love of God.

During the past number of years we have seen how God has used dedicated Christians to be witnesses of His love to people with whom they could not converse. One senior adult couple felt led to teach preschool children at the

Hermitage Mission Center every Sunday afternoon during the regular services and have continued this ministry year-round for approximately eight years along with their regular church activities. Other people in the area serve as their churches accept the responsibility of providing workers for nursery and older children for a month at a time. Doctors dentists, nurses, bilingual Hispanics for interpreting and maintaining records have given of their time in the medical clinic at the center.

Mission trips are great! It is exciting to be a part in God's working in nearby and far away places. It may not be possible to share in such a trip. We can experience the same thrill, the same giving of self in Jesus' name right where we are. "God, open my eyes and heart to those around me and love someone through me."

Norene Reed is the wife of Raymond H. Reed, pastor of Grady First Church. For 15 years, she served as associational secretary and worked with Hispanics in Bartholomew Association while her husband was director of missions. Currently she is church organist and works with Hispanics teaching English as a second language.

Personal perspectives

"People here speak well of Southern Baptists now. It's helped them understand that we are real people who care about their needs."

—Larry Wartsbaugh, director of missions in eastern Iowa, discussing Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts

"To really be a Christian means that we are salt and light wherever we are and that we never go off the clock as Christians."

—Arkansas Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee

"The one indisputable thing we have in our work is our character. If we are not what we claim to be, the world will know it even before we do."

—Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

A heartfelt flood of compassion

It's more than a relentless flood of water; it also is a relentless flood of emotions. The Midwest's devastating floods of '93, like other disasters throughout the nation and world, bring out the best—and the worst—in people.

For folks in Missouri and Iowa and other hard-hit states throughout the Midwest, the worst may be yet to come. Even with the rush of floodwaters that has brought life's normal routines to a standstill in many regions, the greatest shock and discouragement may come when the water has receded and the tedious, toilsome task of cleanup stretches from weeks into months.

Professional counselors warn that flood victims may experience anger, guilt, fear, sleeping and eating disorders and a host of other emotional and physical symptoms as they strive to restore order to their lives, homes and businesses.

For those who have lost homes, farms, crops and such cherished possessions as photographs and heirlooms, grief is another emotion which must be recognized and addressed.

Adding insult to injury are the occasional reports of price-gouging and looting. Thankfully, however, the vast majority of reports coming out of the Midwest are of friends, neighbors and total strangers working together to battle the floodwaters,

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

evacuating when necessary and then quickly returning to provide food, shelter and cleanup assistance.

Arkansas Baptist disaster relief teams and other volunteers from states throughout the Southern Baptist Convention are providing quick and enthusiastic responses to the region's pressing needs.

Teams from Arkansas currently are working in our partnership ministry state of Iowa, shoveling mud out of flooded buildings and offering words of encouragement in the name of Jesus Christ. They are to be commended for their willingness to set aside personal priorities in order to offer comfort and hope to flood victims.

According to Arkansas Baptists' disaster relief manual, the ministry effort is based

on the biblical admonition in II Corinthians 1:3-4 to "comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted by God."

As physical and emotional needs mount, consider how you can help make a difference in the lives of those in greatest need. A few suggestions include:

■ If you are a trained disaster relief volunteer, offer your services to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department. If you are not trained in this area of ministry, consider receiving training in order to respond to future needs.

■ If you are unable to assist in physical cleanup, contact the ABSC missions department to discover how your church can provide cleaning supplies, canned goods and other needed items.

■ If you have family or friends in flood-ravaged states, call or write them to offer words of support and encouragement.

■ Above all, pray for those affected by the flooding, asking God to meet ongoing physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Take time also to thank God for the blessings which He gives even in the midst of chaos and recommend yourself to help "comfort them which are in any trouble." The best way to overcome a flood of water and a flood of emotions is with a heartfelt flood of compassion.

Revisited or Revised?

The Baptist Faith and Message Revisited or Revised? It's politically incorrect to disagree with agenda setters, but as our Lord Jesus did, I do. The whole series needs clarification, explanation and imagination.

Dr. Hobbs' statement in the March 11 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* reads: "The elected officers of the convention are not its bosses but its servants. If this one recommendation in the Peace Committee report were followed, the almost 14-year controversy could be solved overnight." This is the same as saying all the problems in our local churches are because the pastors are bosses, not servants! Every born-again Christian who has any experience in our Lord's church knows this is not true. It is hypocritical to say that the leader of any democratic body is the sole cause of the problem. It is true that he or she carries a substantial amount of influence, but Samuel and Saul were not the cause of Israel's problem! Surely Dr. Hobbs knows this truth.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I think it's only fitting, fair and balance for readers of this News-magazine to hear the conservative side of this issue. The SBC controversy is far older than 14 years.

Why was the Baptist Faith and Message committee appointed in 1962? Don't educate the average Arkansas Baptist about Dr. Ralph Elliott's *Message of Genesis* or the *Broadman Commentary Vol. 1*. Deny that all those 1960s professors in our seminaries didn't exist—those that mocked the infallibility of the Scriptures.

Someone is being deceived by believing the SBC controversy began in 1979! These are but a few of the many problems that have plagued the SBC for more than two generations.

Jim Glover
Heber Springs, AR

A sacred vow of service

We were brought up to hold in the highest esteem an individual who had been called to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. That individual's acceptance of the call and ordination meant that he had dedicated his utmost ability to a full time of service as a minister. The mere title of "minister" was held in awe by those who believed that the call to the ministry was the highest of all vocations or callings. The sacredness to that acceptance was considered to mean that the person was going to perform ministerial duties the rest of his life.

If that "called" person breaks that sacred vow of service, how does one believe that this person can be trusted to keep his promises made as a mere human being while serving as Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas?

T.J. Silvey
Calico Rock, AR

Editor's Note: Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee responds to those concerns in an article on page 7.

European Baptist leaders outline evangelism goals

By Trennis Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND—"I believe the greatest thing that could happen to worldwide Christianity would be revival in Europe," declared Bill Clark Thomas, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Paris, France.

Thomas, who also is the current president of the European Baptist Convention, said revival in Europe is crucial because of the region's "strategic international importance as well as its tremendous spiritual decline."

In addition to recognizing the need for revival, European Baptist leaders are developing strategies to accomplish that goal. Arkansas Baptists have an opportunity to help implement those strategies through involvement in a proposed Europe-Arkansas partnership set to begin in 1994.

The European Baptist Convention (EBC) is an international fellowship of 60 English-language churches in 18 nations. Among the EBC's long-range goals for 1994-96 are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to plant English-language Baptist churches in Europe and to promote local and world missions through a program of missions education and mission action.

The EBC's primary outreach strategy is to establish international English-language Baptist congregations in major cities throughout Europe. That vision, which has gradually unfolded during the past decade, has been heightened by the drawdown of U.S. military troops across Europe.

During the first 20 years of the EBC's existence, churches were established near U.S. military bases and often were composed primarily of Americans. Today, however, nearly half of all EBC churches include the word "international" in their name, indicating an openness to worshippers from around the world. Even among churches without the "international" label, members are responding to growing international ministry opportunities.

According to EBC general secretary John Merritt, "The primary motivating factor is the Great Commission." He noted that internationals who attend EBC churches "will have an opportunity to hear the gospel in a language they can understand—an opportunity they may have missed in their home country."

Although "new church planting near U.S. military bases, I think, is over," Merritt

added, "As long as there are military people here, we want to have a ministry among them."

But the primary focus for the future is reaching internationals and the key to attracting internationals to EBC churches is the appeal of the English language.

"English is obviously the international language of the future," Thomas pointed out. "When Europeans meet together, they usually speak English."

"The minority groups who move into European countries often come speaking English," the EBC president explained. "We feel there is a tremendous opportunity to minister to these diverse groups who are united primarily by their ability to speak English."

"This opportunity to teach English gives us an unparalleled opportunity to reach some people who would never otherwise darken the door of a church."

— Ray Reynolds
Church planting consultant
European Baptist Convention

In addition to ministering to internationals who speak English, the EBC is seeking to minister to internationals who desire to speak English. Ray and Helen Reynolds, church planting consultants for the EBC, see English as a second language classes as a vital ministry tool.

"We believe teaching English is a tool for reaching people for Christ," Reynolds said. "We believe this opportunity to teach English gives us an unparalleled opportunity to reach some people who would never otherwise darken the door of a church."

"It's a tremendous witness," Mrs. Reynolds agreed. "Internationals can get ahead in their English. We are helping them help themselves. Through the relationship, they see what Christianity is on a firsthand basis."

Reynolds and his wife also are actively involved in helping start new churches throughout Europe. They use demographic data, telephone surveys and other tools to help determine where to plant new congregations in Europe's major cities.

"The Lord has been retooling us, teaching us and stretching us," Reynolds pointed out. "It's been an adventure in faith." So far, the effort has resulted in nine new churches, with a goal of starting 20 churches in the next few years.

"God has opened the doors, the European Baptist Convention has the vision and we're seeking to respond to the opportunity," Reynolds emphasized. "God's Spirit is the catalyst. When God's Spirit is working, there is an open door."

Arkansas Baptists' roles in the next few years will include providing volunteers to assist in church planting efforts, leadership training, simultaneous revivals and other ministry projects. A statewide intercessory prayer network is another key component of the partnership plans.

Floyd Lewis, pastor of First Church, El Dorado, was part of the Arkansas Baptist team which participated in a recent partnership planning session with EBC leaders in Interlaken, Switzerland. "I think Arkansas Baptists can make a contribution to work in Europe," he said. "There are exciting possibilities."

Noting that "part of our success may be dependent on our willingness to do different kinds of things than we did in Guatemala and Brazil" during previous partnership efforts, Lewis added, "We're going to have to come into this as learners and if we learn quickly, some great things can happen."

"I'm convinced that churches in the States can make a difference in other churches around the world if we're willing to be a part of these kinds of ventures," Lewis emphasized. "If we refuse to be a part of what God is doing in the world, we forfeit some incredible experiences."

According to Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union director Julia Ketter, "The new church planting is going to provide a tremendous opportunity for our people to serve. We've never had the opportunity to touch so much of the world as we will there."

Highlighting the widespread evangelistic opportunities throughout Europe, Merritt explained, "We're not just repeating the gospel for people who have heard it all their lives."

He said he hopes the joint effort between Arkansas Baptists and European Baptists "will be a partnership of joy" in which participants "look back and say it was a very, very high point in their Christian lives."

Huckabee views new post as 'God's will'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

LITTLE ROCK—"I don't have to be in a certain role to be God's person," declared Mike Huckabee. "Fulfilling God's will is discovering what it is He uniquely wants me to do now."

Huckabee, former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was sworn in Aug. 3 as Arkansas' new Lieutenant Governor following a narrow victory over Democratic candidate Nate Coulter in a July 27 special election. The election was held after former Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker became governor following Bill Clinton's presidential election.

Huckabee, who served as ABSC president in 1989-91, resigned last year as pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana, pursuing an unsuccessful effort to unseat U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers. During both campaigns, Huckabee faced critics' charges that he had abandoned a higher calling in order to pursue secular politics.

"I think we are on dangerous ground when we start saying what God's will is for another person unless we have prayed in that man's shoes," Huckabee responded. "It is inconceivable to think that people are willing to usurp the authority of the Holy Spirit and determine how a person fulfills a call to the ministry."

Noting that he preached each Sunday during both campaigns and plans to continue doing so, Huckabee explained, "I don't personally ever see myself as a dichotomy of the minister Huckabee versus the politician Huckabee. God gives us identity as a whole person and I don't think we have to cut ourselves into compartments and pieces to be Christian."

"In fact, I think it is anti-Christian to compartmentalize Christian life versus secular life," he emphasized. "To really be a Christian means that we are salt and light wherever we are and that we never go off the clock as Christians....The highest calling anyone has is to follow Jesus Christ, not to fill a particular ecclesiastical role."

Although he has strong ties to Arkansas Baptists as a former state convention president, former pastor and graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Huckabee said that was not a key to his recent victory. "There were as many Baptists who were adamantly opposed to what I was doing as there were were fervently behind what I was doing," he acknowledged.

During a prayer service at First Church of Little Rock prior to Huckabee's inauguration, keynote speaker Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist



Mike and Janet Huckabee participate in a prayer service at First Church, Little Rock, prior to his official installation as lieutenant governor of Arkansas.

State Convention, said the gathering was designed to acknowledge "the blessing of God upon a fellow believer who dared to invade the darkness of secularism."

Moore added, however, that "this is not to imply the opposition party or candidate are anti-Christian or anti-spiritual. It is to forcefully say, though, that the system, so wondrously founded upon God's Word and its principles, has been so ignored, rejected and denied that society reflects little kinship to the Light, much less friendship with the Light."

Acknowledging that "it has bothered some that a strong Christian leader would give himself for public office," Moore noted that James P. Eagle, governor of Arkansas in 1889-93, "was both governor of the state and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at the same time" and later served as president of the SBC.

"According to Scripture, public leaders are ordained of God and purposed by God for the welfare and order of society," Moore said. "This

business of strong, spiritual leaders running for public office is not anything new."

Noting that "it will create great stress for any believer who takes seriously his responsibility to stand for truth and righteousness in a secular society," Moore said Huckabee "has voluntarily run the risk and paid the price to become a gladiator in an arena where children of light are viewed as obstructors of progress."

"The United States, including Arkansas, has probably never needed dynamic spiritual leadership more than it presently does," Moore declared. "Every believer needs to commit himself to pray for Mike and others like him who sincerely seek to have a spiritual impact upon this society."

Emphasizing that "intercession for those in authority is a New Testament command that must not be ignored or neglected," Moore added, "Sometimes we have to do more than pray, but we dare not do less than pray."

Huckabee said the prayer service was "a personal expression of my faith" which provided an opportunity "not only to celebrate, but to begin carefully focusing and preparing my life and my spirit for the task ahead."

Recognizing that a prayer service in a Baptist church prior to his swearing-in ceremony provides additional ammunition for critics, Huckabee said, "Frankly, it is good for them to hear that the Lieutenant Governor believes in a resurrected Jesus. I don't have any qualms about being very bold in that."



Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, urges Christians to pray for Mike Huckabee and other elected government officials.

Hobbs continues fast-paced writing ministry

By Chip Alford

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Time and discipline. Those are two things a good writer can't do without, Herschel Hobbs told a group of editors gathered recently for an informal dialogue session at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, should know. After writing more than 150 books and a quarter of a century's worth of Sunday School commentaries, the 85-year-old author and speaker continues to find time to put pen to paper.

Two or three times a night he gets out of bed to exercise his legs. While he's up, he also takes 15 to 20 minutes to work on one of two or three manuscripts he always has laying on his desk. He recently completed a 10-part series, "The Baptist Faith and Message Revisited," for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

"I think God's given me a gift of writing," Hobbs noted. "It's nothing to brag about. Any quality or gift that you have, God gave it to you."

Hobbs was honored July 20 at a special chapel service at the Sunday School Board for completing 25 years as author of "Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons," a quarterly commentary on lessons from the Life and Work curriculum series.



Herschel Hobbs (right), pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, recently was honored for completing 25 years of commentary writing for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hobbs began writing the lesson commentaries in 1968 after Sunday School teachers at his church complained that other study helps provided by the BSSB were "too simple."

Determined to provide a useful, challenging study help, he gave an expository treatment of each focal passage in the Life and Work lessons. He introduced the materials, examined background material, clarified the central teaching of the passage and discussed applying lesson truths to everyday life — the same format he uses today.

The success of the commentary was phenomenal. Soon other churches in his association got wind of it and began requesting copies, followed by numerous

churches across the country.

"Pretty soon we were mimeographing it and sending it to more than 250 churches, including First Baptist, Dallas, and First Baptist, Nashville," Hobbs remembered.

The Baptist Sunday School Board, which earlier had granted permission for Hobbs to write the commentary, later suggested the publication might represent a "conflict of interest" and suggested Hobbs cease distribution outside his church. He did so, informing churches on his mailing list of the reasons for his decision.

"I think the Sunday School Board got quite a bit of mean mail," Hobbs said with a laugh. He was soon asked by then BSSB president James L. Sullivan to write the commentary as a quarterly board publication, and he has done so ever since.

In the last quarter century, Hobbs has gone through the Bible five times with his commentaries. But he insists the work never becomes boring.

"I see something new every time I go through it," he said. Southern Baptists aren't tiring of his wisdom. The commentaries are more successful today than ever before, selling about 94,000 copies each quarter.

Hobbs has no plans to stop writing; he's currently working on the lesson commentaries for 1995. He won't use a word processor, insisting on writing out everything by hand.

"I refuse to use anything that knows more than I do," he said, explaining his aversion to computers.

"Just how much I've written for the Sunday School Board I couldn't begin to tell you," said Hobbs, a frequent contributor to "Open Windows," the board's daily devotional guide, and author of numerous books for Broadman & Holman Publishers and Convention Press. "One thing I can tell you; it's been a joy and a privilege."

In a short sermon preached during the special chapel service, Hobbs challenged board employees to walk worthy of their calling.

"The one indisputable thing we have in our work is our character," he said. "If we are not what we claim to be, the world will know it even before we do."

FMB missionary killed in car accident

CONCEPCION, ARGENTINA (BP)—An Aug. 1 car accident claimed the life of first-term Southern Baptist missionary Jim Johnsonius and severely injured his wife, Jan.

Johnsonius, 38, died of chest and head trauma shortly after he arrived by ambulance at a hospital in Concepcion. Mrs. Johnsonius suffered a broken pelvis and several other broken bones.

They had left a church meeting in the town of Villaguay and were driving to Buenos Aires, about six hours away, when the accident occurred at 10 p.m.

Details of the accident were sketchy, but initial reports indicated they were traveling on a straight stretch of newly paved road and swerved to avoid an

oncoming car in their lane. Johnsonius lost control of his car and it overturned.

Mrs. Johnsonius has been moved to British Hospital in Buenos Aires where she can receive more up-to-date medical care, said Tom Vassar, associate director for the Foreign Mission Board's work in Spanish South America.

The two were appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board in June 1991 and had lived about a year in Villaguay. He was a church music promoter. Mrs. Johnsonius has asked that her husband be buried in Argentina, Vassar said.

The two were married in 1981. They have no children. Besides his wife, Johnsonius is survived by his mother, a twin brother and two sisters.

Arkansans help lead hundreds to Christ in Latvia

Latvia, like other former Soviet republics, is a nation which is ripe for revival. A team of Arkansas Baptist volunteers participating in a recent TTEOTE (To the Ends of the Earth) project had the opportunity to help respond to those spiritual needs.

The Arkansas team, led by TTEOTE coordinator Glendon Grober, assisted international evangelist Nilson Fanlin in a series of citywide crusades throughout Latvia. Team members also remained in each of the cities following the crusades in order to provide follow-up discipleship training.

"We majored on follow-up tied to local churches," explained Grober, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department. He said team members participated in two nights of crusades at each site followed by two nights of follow-up.

The crusades in the cities of Riga, Liepaja, Ventspils and Daugavpils resulted in 1,750 public decisions, including 900 professions of faith.

"We had an awfully high number of decisions in the crowds," Grober pointed out. "We saw nights over and over again where more than 100 people were saved. Helping that many people come to Jesus was overwhelming and delightful."

Grober said the follow-up teams helped individuals understand and work through their decisions as well as encouraging them in church involvement, Bible study, prayer and witnessing.

According to Ronnie O'Neal, ABCS Brotherhood associate, "The highlight for me was the follow-up we did in the four cities. The Latvian people were very receptive to the teaching. They are really anxious to hear the Word."

Dorothy Holt, a member of Riverside Church in Maumelle, was among the Arkansas Baptist volunteers participating in the mission effort. "I thought it was wonderful," she said of the experience. "I was very impressed with the people. They were very loving, reaching out to us with their hearts and their eyes."

In addition to the Latvia trip, another team of volunteers is returning this week from a TTEOTE mission trip to Australia. The next TTEOTE trip will be to India Nov. 1-15.



Arkansas High School Baptist Young Men distribute tracts during a basketball camp held as part of a recent mission trip to Venezuela.

Arkansas youth share gospel, basketball skills in Venezuela

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas' All-Star High School Baptist Young Men's basketball team recently returned from Venezuela where they spent a week sharing both their Christian testimonies and basic basketball techniques. They also returned as gold cup winners, taking top honors in a basketball tournament by defeating Venezuela's national basketball team.

Arkansas team members provided their own funding for this evangelistic emphasis, noted Neal Guthrie, trip coordinator. "Though Venezuela is a difficult area to reach people for Christ, our team members were very effective in their witnessing efforts," Guthrie said.

"Each day, the boys would follow their basketball instructional clinics with a time of personal testimonies," he explained. "Local pastors would then share the plan of salvation and offer an invitation. There were 30 professions of faith at our very first clinic."

Team members included Damon McKenzie, Scott Stephens and Mike Wright, all members of Central Church in North Little Rock; Bryan Brooks, a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock; Leonard Langhorn, a member of First Church of Judsonia; Sammy Poe of Walcott and a member of Southside Church, Paragould; Benji Mahan, a member of First Church of Mountain Home; Lance Keeling,

a member of Tomahawk Church; and Preston Molsdec, a member of Piney Church in Hot Springs.

David Wallace, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, served as team coach. Other Park Hill members assisting were Brian Carroll who served as assistant coach and head cook and Richard Jones who was referee and spiritual leader.

Wallace affirmed team members for their enthusiasm in sharing their testimonies and their sports involvement. "They were like 'Pied Pipers,'" he said. "They collected children who listened intently as they shared. Team members far exceeded anything we could have expected, never hesitating when testimonial time came." Wallace said the nine players and four adults shared personal testimonies 650 times and distributed 2,700 tracts.

Wright said he was amazed at the response of the teenagers. "It was neat how they listened so attentively to what we had to share," he said. "In our country you do not receive this type reception."

"The trip also changed my life," Wright continued. "I am more appreciative of my church and the programs it offers me. I also am proud of the country in which I live."

"I am glad that we were able to share Jesus Christ with people who had never heard of Him," declared Brooks. "Never again will I take for granted all of the things that are available to me in my home, church, state and nation."

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Staff changes

Jarrell Woodfull is serving as youth minister for Immanuel Church in Fort Smith. He moved there from Greenwood where he was on the staff of Excelsior Church.

Jim Wiseman resigned as minister to youth at Central Church of Jonesboro, effective July 18. He plans to enter the field of coaching and missions.

Tom Edwards began serving Aug. 8 as pastor of First Church in Camden. He came there from First Church of DeKalb, Texas. A native of Georgia, Edwards is a graduate of Georgia State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Vickie, have two sons, Corey, who just completed his freshman year at Ouachita Baptist University, and Rusty, a high school senior.

William L. Hester Jr. has resigned as pastor of Markham Street Church in Little Rock, effective Aug. 10. He has accepted the call to serve as associate pastor of First Church in Jackson, Miss., where his responsibilities will focus on preaching, outreach, young married adult ministries and supervision of four other staff members.

Carl Lorey will join the staff of East Side Church in Fort Smith Aug. 15 as minister of music and media. He will come there from Broken Arrow, Okla., where he has been minister of music and discipleship for eight years at Clearview Church. A graduate of West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas, he previously was at Britton Church in Oklahoma City and was a choral director in Texas public schools for six years. Lorey and his wife, Kerry, have four children, Kimberly, Tiffany, Luke and Bryce.

Jeff Payne joined the staff of First Church in Springdale July 23 as associate pastor of junior high youth. He moved there from Rogers where he was a staff member at First Church. Payne and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Robert, James and Calan.

Ken Dawson has resigned as associate pastor at First Church of Hughes. He has accepted the call to be associate pastor of Friendship Church in Grenada, Miss.

Phil Powers has joined the staff of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs as minister of music and education. He moved there from Carlisle where he served on the staff of First Church. Powers and his wife, Carlene, have three children, Chris, Matt and Becca.

Mike Titsworth has resigned as pastor of Lake Village Church, effective Oct. 3.

Jerry Mayer has accepted the call to serve as minister to youth at First Church of Hackett. He will be a student at Westark Community College this fall.

Shannon Caudle has resigned as youth director at Calvary Church, Fort Smith, to attend Mid-America Theological Seminary.

Jeff Dial is serving as pastor of Westside Church in Manila. He previously was at Beech Grove Church near Paragould. Dial, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Dial of Paragould, is a graduate of Williams Baptist College. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and will attend Mid-America Theological Seminary this fall. Dial is married to the former Pamela Chapman whose parents, Truman and Carol Chapman, serve as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in Uruguay.

Tommy Stringfellow has joined the staff of Calvary Church in Benton as minister of youth. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University. Stringfellow and his wife, Connie, have a daughter, Alyssa.

Larry Dice of Pine Bluff is serving as youth director for Meadowview Church, Sheridan. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Glen Schmucker resigned Aug. 8 as pastor of First Church in Siloam Springs. He has moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he will be working with a firm in estate planning.

Lisa Arendt is serving as interim single adult coordinator for Central Church in North Little Rock. A member of the church, she is employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Eric Stanton, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, has completed his second year as a summer youth worker at Calvary Church in Batesville.

Mary Beth Gentry is retiring as education secretary of First Church in Searcy, following 35 years of service. The church recently honored her with a retirement reception.



First Church of Hampton recently broke ground for the Pauline M. Thomason multi-purpose building that is to be constructed in the near future. Thomason and her family are active members of the church. Participating in the service were building committee members Pat Donaldson, Louise Thomason, Bruce Stringfellow, Pat Newton, Phillip Mitchell, Loren Stringfellow, pastor Duaine Miller and Shirley Jones.

People

Doug Grubbs observed his fifth anniversary of service Aug. 1 as pastor of First Church in Clarendon. Under his leadership, the church has experienced

growth through baptisms, averaging 20 baptisms each year.

John F. Anthony, a native of Hope, and **Connie G. Anthony**, a native of Mount Ida, were recognized in May by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for 20 years of service as Southern Baptist representatives in Jerusalem, Israel. The presentation of 20-year service pins was made by Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Warren of First Church of Norphlet, **Mr. and Mrs. Larry Owen** of First Church of Camden and **Mr. and Mrs. Ben Spencer** of First Church of Fort Smith were among the 11 couples who attended the first reunion in 25 years of First Church of LaFere, France. The reunion was held at Beech Springs Camp near Smackover and was attended by eight other couples who were in the Air Force and stationed at Laon Air Force Base in Laon, France, from 1961 to 1966. Approximately 50 families from the Laon base joined together to form a Southern Baptist church.

Arkansas Baptist Conference for the Deaf officers elected for 1993-94 include **Patsy Mercer** of Rose Bud, president; **Carol Thomas** of North Little Rock, first vice president; **Linda Williams** of Little Rock, second vice president; **Kathy Hill** of Heber Springs, secretary; **Richard Fulford** of North Little Rock, treasurer; **Maxwell Mercer** of Rose Bud, parliamentarian; **Shirley Herald** of Mabelvale, conference chairperson; **Linda Tan** of Little Rock, conference chairperson; and **Sandy Mabry** of Ashdown, **Nancy Wilson** of El Dorado and **Fern Powell** of Little Rock, trustees.

Obituaries

Joy Vee Davis died of cancer July 14 in Atlanta, Ga., where she was manager of the Peachtree Branch Library. A graduate of Baylor University and Indiana University, she was the daughter of the late Lois and Ralph V. Davis of Little Rock. Her father served Arkansas Baptists for more than 40 years as director of Church Training.

James Seth Hopkins of Pine Bluff died July 20 at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock where he was waiting for a heart transplant. Hopkins, age 58, was serving as chairman of the pastor search committee for Matthews Memorial Church in Pine Bluff where he had been a member since 1960 and had served as a Sunday School teacher, a member of various committees and on several occasions had preached in the absence of the pastor. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he had been an employee of the U.S. Postal Service at

Pine Bluff for 33 years. Survivors include his wife, **Ruby Clark Hopkins** of Pine Bluff; two sons, **Charles McBryde** of Benton and **Michael McBryde** of North Carolina; four daughters, **Patrice Ryan** and **Suzette Weast**, both of Pine Bluff, **Pam McBryde** of Arkadelphia and **Heather Hopkins** of Little Rock; his mother, **Mary Bell Lloyd** of McGehee; a brother; three half brothers; two sisters; and three grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Matthews Memorial Church.

J.P. "Pete" Cragar of Perryville died July 31 at age 78. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he had served churches in Conway-Peery Association, including Houston, Solgohachia and Wye Mountain, as well as churches in Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois and Michigan. In addition, he was interim pastor of First Church of Petal Jean and Casa. Survivors include his wife, **Allie Doughty Cragar** of Perryville; one son, **Ted Cragar** of Laguna Niguel, Calif.; two daughters, **Shirley Cragar** of Olathe, Kan., and **Linda Cragar Hathcock** of Moscow, Russia; two brothers; three sisters; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Church news

Ridgeview Church in Fayetteville hosted the 18th annual Tom Cox Evangelistic Association Bible Conference July 24-30. "People Need the Lord" was the theme for the conference that was launched with the dedication of the Sunshine Mountain Retreat Center.

Levy Church in North Little Rock youth mission team has returned from assisting the Seaside Church at Jamaica Beach, Texas. Their outreach efforts resulted in nine professions of faith and a prospect list that will help the Jamaica Beach Church in its evangelistic work.

Hillside Church in Camden will observe **Daisy Speer** Aug. 29 in recognition of her 100th birthday. The celebration will begin with the 10:45 a.m. worship service and will continue with an afternoon reception.

Calvary Church of Batesville youth mission team recently returned from Audubon, Iowa, where they conducted Backyard Bible Clubs in a local park and surveyed the community to discover people interested in having a Southern Baptist church started in the area.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock Baptist Women honored **Billie Adams** July 13 in recognition of her retirement as director of Woman's Missionary Union, following 25 years of service.

OBU professor Jim Berryman dies

James Cleo Berryman died July 20 at Baptist Medical Center in Arkadelphia following a short illness. Berryman, 57, was professor of religion and philosophy at Ouachita Baptist University.

He was a graduate of OBU and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Russellville, he joined the OBU faculty in 1964, and had served as director of the university's general education program, director of summer school and acting vice president for academic affairs. He was a charter member of the OBU chapter of the American Association of University Professors.



Jim Berryman

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he had served as co-executive director of the Joint Educational Consortium, an alliance of OBU, Henderson State University and the Ross Foundation of Arkadelphia. He also was chairman of the Central Arkansas Development Council, dealing with poverty problems in a five-county area.

Berryman, named OBU's outstanding faculty member in 1970-71, was president-elect of the Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers for the 1991-93 academic year. He also was president of the Association of Baptist Teachers of Religion in 1987-88 and was a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Arkansas Philosophical Association.

His funeral services were held July 24 at First Church of Arkadelphia where he served as Sunday School director, Church Training director, and as a Sunday School teacher/trainer. An ordained minister, he had served as pastor of churches in Russellville, Mayflower and Tushka, Okla.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, **Mary Anne**; two children, **James Andrew Berryman** of Dallas and **Cathryn Anne Berryman** of Birmingham, Ala.; and a brother.

Memorials may be made to Ouachita Baptist University or to Christian International Research Center.

Crow Mountain: successful model of cooperative church start effort

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

Crow Mountain Church, started in July 1989 with a Backyard Bible School for children in the Crow Mountain area on the eastern edge of Russellville, dedicated a 12,384-square-foot church complex July 25. The new congregation was established as a direct result of the cooperative efforts of Second Church of Russellville, Arkansas River Valley Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, according to Jack Ramsey, ABSC director of church extension.

"As a part of Arkansas Baptists' New Start Program, Crow Mountain exemplifies what the Cooperative Program is all about because of the involvement of an association, a local church, a state convention and a Southern Baptist agency," Ramsey explained.

The establishment of a Southern Baptist church on Crow Mountain began when the Missions Development Committee of the Arkansas River Valley Association decided to explore the need in the growing area. Director of missions Jeff Cheatham, committee chairman Bobby Walker and Ramsey canvassed the area in January 1988.

Although an initial effort to launch an ongoing Bible study was unsuccessful, members of Second Church of Russellville followed that effort with the successful

summer Backyard Bible Club. Under the leadership of pastor David McLemore, the ministry effort was launched at the home of Second Church member Mary White.

"As we began this work with home weekly Bible studies, I stressed the importance of our members making commitments of being missionaries and planting their lives at Crow Mountain," McLemore said. "I feel that God has blessed both congregations because of the good relationship that exists between the two churches and because Crow Mountain grew out of a sense of mission and not out of a spirit of competition."

"The weekly study soon grew from an average attendance of 16 to 40 and we saw the need to purchase property and establish a meeting place," McLemore continued. "More than nine acres were sold to us without interest and we were able to pay for this in three years as a result of the financial assistance given to us by the ABSC missions department and the association. Our congregation also provided both a piano and organ for the first service in a portable chapel that had been placed by the state missions department."

In the formative weeks there were numerous supply preachers, including Al Sparkman of Rogers who was unanimously called a few months later as the first pastor of the Crow Mountain congregation.

Sparkman and his wife, Bobbie, began their ministry there in September 1990 with 19 persons in Sunday School and 55 in the morning worship service. The church was formally constituted one year later with 70 charter members.

"Today our church membership is 94 and our Sunday School enrollment is 113," Sparkman noted. "For our dedication day, we had set a Sunday School goal of 100 and had 110 present with 150 in worship attendance and 158 in the dedication service."

The red brick facility that was dedicated is valued at approximately \$500,000 and includes a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 300 and an educational unit that includes a church office, pastor's study, restrooms, choir room, 11 Sunday School rooms and a basement with a fellowship hall, kitchen and restrooms. The congregation has raised approximately \$200,000 of the cost and volunteers from within and outside the membership, including a group from Levy Church in North Little Rock where Sparkman previously served, have kept the cost well below the construction value.

Dedication speakers were ABSC president William H. "Buddy" Sutton, associational moderator Bob Parsley, McLemore and R.L. "Bob" Moore, a volunteer from Levy Church. Truman Owens and Rick Smith of Second Church presented special music.

Sparkman presented plaques to building committee members Gaines White, chairman, Jean Taylor, Sam Cullum, Bryan Keikes, Donny House, Wayne Wilkerson, Connie Campbell and Mike Burns.

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TV violence warning labels 'won't help much'

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, FL (ABP) — Don't expect the TV networks' new on-air violence advisories to do much good, observers say.

The country's four major networks — ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox — announced in June they will attach warning announcements to heavily violent programs beginning this fall. The voluntary proposal is viewed as a compromise to avoid government regulation of TV violence.

But critics are wondering what good the advisories will do, since the networks concede none of their current shows is violent enough to warrant the warning announcement. And only one new program slated for a fall debut is expected to carry the warning — "NYPD Blue" on ABC.

Most observers said the warnings will do little to reduce violence and offer little practical help for parents. The warnings may in fact only promote viewership of violence by attracting the curious, according to Quentin Schultz, author of several books on the effects of television viewing.

"They are raising a red flag that is going to attract people and they are not going to help the typical parent with day-to-day decision making," said Schultz, professor of communication at Calvin College, an evangelical Christian school in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The warnings will be attached only to

the most violent programs, which most people could easily identify anyway, critics say.

Peggy Charren, retired director of Action for Children's Television, said the advisories won't help parents, who don't need help identifying violence but need viewing alternatives.

Two Baptist ethics specialists agreed.

"The guidelines appear to be more window-dressing than substance," said Louis Moore, director of media for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"It's just another small step that won't make much difference at the present time," added Ray Higgins, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "But it shows that people are moving toward greater frustration with violence on TV and are more likely to do something about it in the future."

Prime-time violence

A child watches an average of 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence before finishing elementary school, according to estimates from the American Psychological Association.

According to the National Coalition on Television Violence, 25 percent of prime-time shows in 1992 contained "very violent" material, and the "TV homicide rate" rose 27 percent in that one year.

Although some details of the networks' proposal remain unclear, each network

will be left to decide how much violence is enough to warrant labeling. The factors to be considered include the context of the violence, the intended audience and the time period during which the program appears.

The voluntary labeling agreement will be in effect for two years. The advisories are "an anemic, very gentle first step" that may produce a negligible reduction of violence, the CLC's Moore said, but they are too little too late.

Both Moore and Schultz said a more helpful proposal would be a ratings system similar to the one used by the movie industry but which would identify the troublesome content of TV shows — such as violence, adult language, adult situations and nudity.

"There has to be some way that we as a society can provide objective information for parents to make decisions," Schultz said.

Moore said he favors direct consumer action against offensive television content, such as a boycott of companies that advertise during violent programs.

"That is the free-enterprise way of responding," he said. "It's very much American."

Instead of fighting the networks, said Southwestern's Higgins, Christians should learn — and teach their children — how to use television properly. He said studying Schultz's book, *Redeeming Television*, is a good way to become an "intelligent viewer."



First Baptist Church of Marianna, Arkansas, invites you to attend their First Family Reunion, August 15, 1993. The church, founded in 1868, is celebrating 125 years of ministry. The reunion will begin with a morning worship celebration at 10:30 a.m. in the recently renovated sanctuary. This service will feature guest speaker Roy Buckelew, Professor at OBU. Special music will be provided by Leslie Willis, Minister of Music, Lifeline Baptist Church (LR). Following the morning worship, there will be a First Family Potluck and a First Family Sing 'N' Share. Come be a part of this exciting celebration!

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Yeltsin refuses to bar foreign missionaries

By Marty Croll

SBC Foreign Mission Board

MOSCOW (BP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin refused Aug. 3 to sign a controversial new law restricting religious freedom, reportedly telling lawmakers to bring it into line with international human rights agreements.

In a meeting with the Russian Orthodox priest who led the committee that wrote the law passed by Parliament, Yeltsin specifically objected to a provision allowing Russian officials to bar foreign missionaries.

The lawmaker priest, Vyacheslav Polosin, kept up his ardent campaign for the law in its current form. On Aug. 4 he was quoted in Pravda, the national news service, as still supporting it.

Yeltsin has presented Parliament with proposed changes written by his own legal advisors. The extent of those changes is unknown at this point.

The law — which has inspired Western ire, opposition from the White House and a cross section of U.S. congressmen and threats to press for cutting off monetary

aids — also gives the government power to declare certain groups of Russian religious believers illegal.

Despite Yeltsin's action, many religious liberty experts believe he eventually will have to sign some form of the law to keep mainstream Russian Orthodox leaders happy.

The bill sailed through Parliament — dominated by Orthodox, nationalist and communist forces — with nearly no opposition July 14. To call it law, Russian lawmakers must vote for it twice more.

If that happens, opponents of the law expect Orthodox priest Gleb Yakunin, a Parliament member and reform leader, to spearhead an appeal in constitutional court.

The law would give the Russian Orthodox Church favored status in the nation, possibly returning to government officials the right to open and close churches. The Orthodox Church, which claims 60 million members, considers itself the nation's true church by culture and heritage. In government circles its voice is by far the most influential among religions.

Western religious and human rights

groups are calling Yeltsin's rejection of the law a victory — for now. Their enthusiasm is tempered by the knowledge of Russia's instability and the marriage between the mainstream Orthodox Church and communists in Parliament.

At stake, observers say, is what force will prevail to guide Russia into the 21st century: the rule of law in line with United Nations standards or an authoritarian oligarchy calling itself something other than communism.

Yeltsin has been strongly opposed to the religion law since it was sent to him, according to at least one source in Moscow.

Law proponent Polosin claims evangelicals in Russia were given a chance to contribute input but chose not to do so. Evangelicals, however, say their voice was never heard on the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Conscience, which drafted the law.

The law would be enforced through the Justice Department, according to Polosin. Ultimately, that would give a government agency the job of judging how and when to allow religious organizations to exist.



A Window of Opportunity in India

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- **For additional information contact: Glendon Grober, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department director, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5158.**
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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Baptist Medical System announces plans to construct eye care center

LITTLE ROCK—Baptist Medical System has announced the construction of the Baptist Eye Center, a new comprehensive eye care and surgery center to open in the fall of 1994.

"The Baptist Eye Center will feature state-of-the-art technology and a network of leading ophthalmologists, providing one of Arkansas' most comprehensive resources for the detection, diagnosis and treatment of eye disease," said Russell D. Harrington Jr., president of Baptist Medical System.

The new six-story facility, containing approximately 70,000 square feet, will be built on the Baptist Medical System campus in Little Rock. Groundbreaking for the facility is scheduled for Aug. 17.

The Baptist Eye Center will feature a

complete diagnostic center, operating rooms equipped with advanced laser surgery technology and space for private physician offices.

Eye care services provided through the center will include preventive and routine eye care exams, low vision services, retinal and no-stitch cataract surgery, corneal transplants, ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery, glaucoma and macular degeneration treatments, and radial keratotomy.

Harrington said community service will also be an essential part of the Baptist Eye Center mission, including an annual "Gift of Sight" program to provide free screenings and cataract surgeries to a number of individuals who are medically and financially needy.

Continuing Theological Education

What is Boyce Bible School? Boyce Bible School is an institution established by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. It is for the purpose of bringing quality, academically accredited theological education as geographically near as possible to the person who wishes to sharpen his or her skills as a servant of Christ. Classes for Boyce are offered from the Baptist Medical Systems Support Center at 11900 Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock.

What is Seminary Extension? This is a ministry education system of the six theological seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, with headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. Seminary Extension offers courses through two avenues: centers and independent study. There are sixteen certified Seminary Extension Centers in Arkansas. The Independent Study program is by correspondence.

What is Southwestern Seminary in Little Rock? This is an off-campus ministry of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to bring academically credited master's level studies to Little Rock. Seminary faculty members commute from Fort Worth, Texas, to teach classes meeting in the Baptist Building.

What is the Doctor of Ministries Program? It is a ministry of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., to offer Doctor of Ministries seminars in Little Rock. These seminars meet at the Baptist Building.

For further information concerning any of these, please contact Lehman F. Webb at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone 376-4791, ext. 5249.

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A/B/93

BSSB vice president King resigns position

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Citing proposals for changes in the role of chief financial officer of the Baptist Sunday School Board, E.V. King, vice president for finance and administration, said he has resigned his position, effective immediately.

King, 50, who joined the board in 1984, will serve as a consultant to BSSB president James T. Draper Jr. through December 1994.

"I have had an opportunity to review a study of the board's corporate overhead structure and senior management positions," King said Aug. 2. "After discussing it with Dr. Draper, particularly the changing role of the chief financial officer, I think it is best for me to look for other opportunities and let the board bring in new leadership in this area."

"E.V. and I have agreed this change is in the best interest of the Baptist Sunday School Board," Draper said. "I am deeply grateful for the many contributions and excellent leadership he has provided."

A native of Tennessee, King served as executive director of the Tennessee Housing Development Corporation for 10

years before becoming BSSB vice president for business and finance. He became vice president for finance and administration in 1991.

National CP gifts up in July, down for year

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for July surpassed last year by 1.05 percent but in spite of the increase the year's total remained 1.54 percent behind the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

All gifts to the SBC-Cooperative Program and designated—remained slightly below last year at the 10-month mark of the SBC fiscal year: \$237,478,143 in 1992-93 compared to \$240,351,807 in 1991-92, a 1.20 percent decrease.

Cooperative Program gifts for July were up \$118,861 over a year ago: \$11,491,306 compared to \$11,372,445. Year-to-date Cooperative Program totals show 1992-93 behind the past year by \$1,796,956: \$114,835,034 compared to \$116,631,990, or a 1.54 percent decrease.

GAs flood missionaries with Kool-aid, cards

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—Clyde and Ann Berkley, Southern Baptist missionaries to Kenya, are "drowning" in Kool-aid thanks to thousands of young girls across America.

Last fall, members of Girls in Action studied work that Baptist missionaries are doing in Kenya. The October GA leader magazine, *Aware*, included a letter written by the Berkleys to be shared with GA members. In the letter, they told the girls about the students they work with during school holidays and vacations.

"You can help us by praying for our students and by sending a package of unsweetened fruit drink mix when you write to us this Christmas," they wrote.

The Berkleys use the drink mix to serve refreshments in the Bible clubs they lead during school vacations and holidays.

Recently, Barbara Massey, editor of both *Aware* magazine and *Discovery*, the GA member magazine, received a letter from the Berkleys telling how they had been overwhelmed with cards and Kool-aid. GAs in 2,553 churches in 44 states and Canada sent 15,156 Christmas cards and 15,560 packages of Kool-aid.

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MISSIONARY NEWS

John and Brenda Bayer, missionaries to Panama, are in the States (address: c/o Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38120). He considers Clinton his hometown and she is the former Brenda Wynn of Clinton. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1988.

Ron and Elinda West, missionaries to Taiwan, are in the States (address: 392 N. Center St., Boonville, AR 72927). They are natives of Booneville; she is the former Elinda Tidwell. They were appointed in 1978.

Steve and Sharon Ford, missionaries to Portugal, are on the field (address: c/o Igreja Ev. Baptista, Av. 25 de Abril, 17, R/ C-D, 8500 Porimao, Portugal). He is a native of Magnolia, and she is the former Sharon Chrufts of Tennessee. They were appointed in 1983.

Kenneth and Shelly Lizzard, missionaries to Togo, have completed language study in France and arrived on their field of service (address: B.P. 877, Cotonou, Benin). He is a native of Florida. The former Shelly Eilenburg, she was born in Helena and considers Marvell her hometown. They were appointed in 1992.

Van and Ruth Gladen, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are in the States (address: 3505 Diamond Dr., El Paso, TX 79904). He is a native of Texas and she is the former Ruth Franks of Lepanto. They were appointed in 1956, resigned in 1985 and reappointed in 1989.

Tony and Cindy Ludlow, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 2477 Tarbet Dr., Memphis, TN 38119). He is a native of Fort Smith, and she is the former Cindy Goad of Memphis, Tenn. They were appointed in 1988.

MK Prayer Calendar

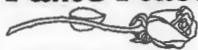
Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in August:

■ Aug. 8, Belinda Burnett, 4301 W. Markham, JBSU Box 134, Little Rock, AR 72205; sophomore from Equatorial Brazil.

■ Aug. 15, Beth Turner, P.O. Box 30405, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa; sophomore at OBU, address: OBU Box 4222, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

■ Aug. 24, Jodi Kirby, 2923 Charter Oak, Little Rock, AR 72207; sophomore at UALR, from Venezuela.

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Ellis serving as BSU director for Arkansas College

Leslie Ellis began serving this month as director of Baptist Student Union work at Arkansas College in Batesville.

Although this is her first full-time BSU position, Ellis has served as a BSU volunteer in Florence, Ala. "My interest in BSU students began while

teaching a college Sunday School class for Woodmont Church in Florence," Ellis explained. "This led to me becoming a BSU volunteer worker at the University of North Alabama."

"Leslie comes to us believing that God has prepared her for

this position," said David James, Baptist Student Union director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "Her background with BSU and her love for students certainly positions her to be effective."

"Her references are outstanding," James added. "We are excited and privileged to have Leslie on our team."

Ellis, a graduate of Connors State College in Warner, Okla., is the wife of Edward Ellis, minister of education at First Church of Batesville. They have three daughters, Carmen, Sara and Lindsey.

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Hope for the home

By Kenneth W. Moore, pastor, First Church, Walnut Ridge

Basic Passage: Ephesians 5:21-6:4

Focal Passage: Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Central truth: God has a plan for the home.

Home life in America is on shaky ground. Divorce is striking the home at a staggering rate. There are many homes where love and communication are gone but the couple remains together for reasons known only to them. Tragically the home degenerates into a battlefield, sometimes noisy and sometimes quiet but always tense. The home becomes only a house. From these situations come juvenile delinquents, neurotics, alcoholics, drug addicts and worse. Is there any hope? Yes! But only if we take the counsel of God's Word.

First, let's look at the counsel for the husband. We are commanded to love our wives as Christ loved the church. What is love? Love is to want the very best for another individual regardless of whether they deserve the very best and regardless of the sacrifice you have to make in order for them to have the very best. That is how Jesus loved us. Many of us as men try to give things to our families when all they really want is to have us. Loving our families involves giving them our time. The old adage "an apple a day will keep the doctor away" also could be: "Thirty minutes of meaningful communication a day will keep the marriage counselor away."

Second, there is counsel for the wife — submission. Submission is misunderstood. Submission is support, voluntary allegiance, and cooperation. It leaves room for creativity and even questioning. Submission is never to be demanded but is to be taught by example as the husband submits to God and loves his wife.

Third, there is counsel for the children. Children are called on to honor and obey their parents. God uses parents as His chisel and hammer to sculpt our lives into a beautiful piece of art. Honor your parents by acknowledging that they are God's instruments to sculpt your life.

Fourth, there is counsel for the parents — train them in God's Word. We provoke children to anger when we do not give them the love, affection and direction they need. Work on establishing a good relationship with your children. Train them by living out God's Word before them.

Life and Work

The prayer of faith

By Ron Ford, pastor, Central Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: James 5:12-20

Focal passage: James 5:13-17

Central truth: Prayer is a powerful and effective force.

James concludes his book with one of the greatest concepts of the faith. Verse 16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James says there is unimaginable force generated when righteous folk pray. I believe that with all my heart. I have never really understood how prayer works.

Certainly, God is all-powerful and knows our needs before we ask. He is sovereign. Yet, in a mysterious way, God adds our power to His power when we pray and marvelous things begin to happen. I live in a world where God is living and active through prayer. I sense it and feel it even though I cannot explain it. There is power in prayer. Truly, the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

You have a power at your fingertips that you may not realize. If you do not pray, you may miss the opportunity for God to work His powerful work in your life. I challenge you to live a life of prayer.

You ought to pray when you are in trouble. Verse 13 says, "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray." This is referring to any kind of difficulty that you may find yourself. You ought to pray when you are sick. Verse 14 says that if anyone is sick he should call the elders to the church to pray and anoint with oil. "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."

This is directed toward serious illness. The word for sick here is a word for someone who is down and cannot get up and out. If you are so sick you cannot get out, call for the pastor to pray for you. The initiative lies with the sick person calling for the pastor to come. Oil in the Bible stood for medicinal treatment. The oil represents competent medical treatment for the day. Prayer and the proper medical treatment formed the basis for relief of sickness in James' day and ought to be our pattern for today.

You ought to pray for your country. James concludes with the story of Elijah praying that it would not rain so God could get the attention of the nation. We need to pray for our nation, that it will experience again the glory of God.

Bible Book

How to stop the hating

By R. Dale Wicker Jr., pastor, First Church, Conway

Basic passage: 1 John 1:1-2:17

Focal passage: 1 John 2:7-11

Central truth: Believers must abandon hate as a part of their character through a progressive Christian growth.

Hatred is an all too normal human character flaw. Christians must not allow hatred to become a characteristic of their lives. Hatred is caused by anger which is personalized and focused. Anger can stem from frustration at thwarted personal goals, or an experience of injustice, or the pain of a threat or a hurt, or as a wrong coping mechanism which has been learned.

Evidently, some under John's influences were guilty of hatred. The Gnostics, a first century heretical sect which John and others fought, were often arrogant and prejudiced. But, every believer must be careful of their attitudes. Love of the brethren precedes love for a lost world.

John begins with a command: Walk in the light. The command has a direct impact on the issue of interpersonal relationships.

After reminding his readers of the command, the author moves to the capacity for love over hatred (v. 8). This command is both old and new. It is old because its roots are in the Old Testament. And, to be sure, it is old since believers have heard the doctrine of love from the beginning of their instruction in the Christian way. But it is a new command in its emphasis. In Christ, there is a new understanding of what love is. In Christ, there is a new experience of love that comes from the center and extends outward. In Christ, there is a new progress of Christian growth (v. 8).

Finally, John notes the stark contrast between the person who hates as compared to the one who loves (vv. 9-11). The hater wallows in darkness as a way of life (v. 11a). He walks in darkness as he yields to dark deeds (v. 11b). And he wanders in darkness without true purpose or direction in his existence (v. 11c).

There are five steps toward being hate-free: (1) Admit your hatred; (2) abandon your anger through forgiveness; (3) aim at the good in the person as an individual-like Jesus does; (4) accept Jesus' character as your standard for interpersonal relationships; (5) activate a positive and loving response.

Convention Uniform

Against substance abuse

By Kenneth W. Moore, pastor, First Church Walnut Ridge

Basic Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

Focal Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

Central truth: Use the armor of God to resist drugs.

Satan has many allurements to entice one into the use of drugs. The best way to fight off these allurements is to stand in the power of the Lord. This is not a battle we can win by ourselves. We must put on the armor He has provided.

The first pieces of armor are "truth," "gospel of peace," and "the sword of the Spirit" (vv. 14-15, 17). These speak of the Word of God. We need to know what God's Word has to say about the effects of the use of drugs and alcohol and we need to walk in obedience to the truth in the Word. There are physical effects (Prov. 20:21; 21:17; 23:19-21, 29-35). Indulgence in alcohol promotes poverty. The annual losses to individuals, families, business and society that are traceable to alcohol and drug use are enormous. These damages include loss of life, severe injury, loss of property and loss of work hours. Many families are destroyed economically, physically and emotionally by alcohol and drug use. Alcohol is the number one factor related to most automobile accidents. Also, alcohol and drug use severely impairs the user's physical and mental abilities. Alcohol and drug use is destructive.

The next pieces of armor are "righteousness" and "salvation" (vv. 14-16). The helmet is salvation. The Holy Spirit comes in and begins to live inside a person and He provides power over sin. The breastplate is our position in Christ—knowing that we are His special creation and of great value. As we realize who we are in Christ the allurements to drugs and alcohol will not be as strong. Many people are drawn to drugs because of a poor self-image. In Christ we find the proper image and as this image is ingrained in our hearts we discover "new high to life" in Christ.

Another part of armor is the "shield of faith" (v. 16). As we walk in the Word of God there will be temptations but as we spend time in God's Word studying and memorizing the Word, the Holy Spirit will aid us in lifting the shield of faith against the temptation.

The final part of armor is prayer. God says that He will answer. God promises to rescue us as we look to Him (1 Cor. 10:13).

Life and Work

Dangers of alcohol, drugs

By Ron Ford, pastor, Central Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Daniel 1:8-16;

II Corinthians 6:16-7:1;

Ephesians 5:15-18

Focal passage: Same

Central truth: A Christian recognizes the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

I don't know when I had ever been prouder of my youngest son, Nathan. It was youth night at church and he had volunteered to share his testimony. At 17, he was sharing what alcohol had done to him. He told how after he turned 16, he began to drink beer with some of his friends and how he could not control his drinking. He told of the bitter conflict that he and I had over his drinking. Now he was telling how with the Lord's help and a good counselor, he had learned the lesson drinking had taught him. He was fortunate to learn at a young age what many do not learn until their lives are ruined.

Don was a 55-year-old deacon in our church. He was a very successful businessman. He stood in the pulpit to give his testimony. It began this way, "My name is Don, and I am an alcoholic." He went on to explain that there are only two kinds of alcoholics in the world. There are those who drink and those who don't. For over three years now he was the latter. He had made a dramatic commitment to God and God had led him out of his nightmare.

Our churches are attended by folks from all age groups and all socio-economic backgrounds who fight a battle with alcohol and drugs. Only God's strength can really bring about change in such a life. The love and acceptance of an understanding church is a blessing.

Many others need to hear the clear message of the Bible. Daniel was different because he would not defile his body with the good and the strong drink of the king. And the Lord blessed. Paul stressed to the Corinthians the need for purifying ourselves from "everything that contaminates body and spirit." In Ephesians 5, Paul underscored how foolish it is to get drunk on wine. The filling of the Spirit brings much greater joy!

If you or someone you know is struggling, get help. There are many different Christian-based treatment programs. Your pastor can refer you to such a program for help. Most of all, pray for the strength to overcome the nightmare.

Bible Book

Who's in control?

By R. Dale Wickery Jr., pastor, First Church, Conover

Basic passage: Ephesians 5:15-18

Focal passage: Ephesians 5:18

Central truth: Paul uses the example of alcohol to command that believers should be under the control of the Spirit.

Someone or something controls everyone. A growing number of persons are under the control of substances which bring harm to themselves and others. A greater number of other persons, including church members, are distinctly not under the control of God through his Spirit.

Paul begins by reminding his readers of the familiar. Drunkenness was prevalent in the New Testament era. Like today, persons were consumed by what they consumed. The preacher says that such an experience was a waste of human potential.

After establishing the imagery of drunken waste and the control of distilled spirits, the writer moves on to his command to be under the control of the Spirit. Note that the command takes the following Greek form: Present, imperative, passive, plural. That is, the infilling of the Spirit is continuing; it is a command; it is something that happens to the believer from outside of his own ability or resources, and it is for all of the church.

Drunks, and others under the influence of controlled substances, exhibit changed character as long as the effects last. So should infilled believers. They should be captivated by something greater than themselves. They should be motivated to do things and even have attitudes which they would not possess except for the influence of the Spirit. And they should be activated to live, act and react differently because of God's influence in their lives.

It is a mistake to think that a person who has had a problem with abuse of a substance, attitude or action is able "just to stop." Paul shows that something new and better must replace that which was done away with.

The Spirit-filled life is a wonder! Now, instead of the waste of abuse, shines the testimony of a productive life. A person under the control of the almighty Father engages in joyful worship with fellow believers; they give thanks constantly to God and they live in harmony with others (vv. 20-21).

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Georgian leaves \$1.25 million to Southern Baptist causes

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—A Georgia Baptist layman has bequeathed \$1.25 million to Southern Baptist causes including \$250,000 to the small, rural church of his boyhood.

E. Buford Seymour, longtime resident of Eatonton, Ga., died June 29 at the age of 85. His wife, Marie, died in April of this year.

According to his will, Seymour directed \$250,000 be given to Rehoboth Baptist Church in Bowman, Ga.; \$500,000 to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; and \$500,000 to be split between the Georgia Baptist Convention and the SBC.

Harold Bennett receives good report following surgery

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Harold C. Bennett, president emeritus of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, has received "good news" after prostate cancer surgery July 27, according to his wife, Phyllis.

No cancer was found beyond the cancerous prostate that was removed, Mrs. Bennett said. "We are grateful for the prayers of so many people," Mrs. Bennett said. "We could feel the prayer and know that it helped us through."

Two disaster relief volunteers killed in van accident

JACKSONVILLE, FL (BP)—Two volunteers who were returning home after helping rebuild hurricane-damaged homes in South Dade County were killed July 23 when their van swerved to miss an oncoming vehicle on rain-slicked roads.

David Craig, 41, and Jane Kneese, 81, both members of First Baptist Church of Tishomingo, Okla., were thrown from the van and killed after it ran off the road, rolled three times and flipped. Five others from the group were listed in serious condition at area hospitals after the accident.

The van was one of two carrying a group of 14 people who had spent the week of July 17-23 assisting in ongoing disaster relief efforts in south Florida.

Velma Scott Sullivan, wife of retired SBC leader, dies

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Velma Scott Sullivan, 80, wife of James L. Sullivan, retired Baptist Sunday School Board president, died at her home in Nashville July 29 after a lengthy illness. A native of Crystal Springs, Miss., she was married to Sullivan in 1935, having earned a bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain (Miss.) College the year before their marriage.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by their three children, Mary Beth Taylor of Nashville, an employee of the board; Martha Lynn Porch of Tullahoma, Tenn., wife of the executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and James David Sullivan of Oxford, Miss. She is also survived by seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two sisters.

Retired Home Life editor dies following lengthy illness

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Reuben Herring, 71, retired senior editor of *Home Life* magazine and longtime employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, died July 21 after a lengthy illness.

Herring's 34-year career with the Sunday School Board began in 1953 when he joined the agency's staff as associate editor of *Home Life*, the board's Christian family magazine. He later served as supervisor of children's materials in the former Training Union department, editor of family life materials, editor of *The Deacon* magazine, and coordinating editor of the former Church Training department. He became editor of *Home Life* in 1980 and retired seven years later.

A native of Tifton, Ga., Herring resided in Brentwood, Tenn., at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, three sons and a daughter.

Harlan Spurgeon joins Fellowship missions staff

ATLANTA (ABP) — Missions veteran Harlan Spurgeon has been elected associate missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Spurgeon, 62, was elected unanimously July 28 by the Fellowship's Global Missions Ministry Group. His responsibilities began Aug. 1. Spurgeon recently left his post as vice president of the office of mission personnel at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, citing philosophical differences with trustee leaders.

Spurgeon, and his wife, Joann, were missionaries to Taiwan from 1957 to 1972. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo., for seven years and then as president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar for four years before rejoining the FMB as vice president in 1983.