

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

8-13-1992

August 13, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94



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

Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "August 13, 1992" (1992). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 83.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/83

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

Arkansas Baptist



Climbing closer
Page 10

Vol. 91, No. 17

August 13, 1992

COVER STORY

China Song

Page 18

Abortion message takes aim

Page 17

SBC not dead, Hobbs says

Page 20

FMB, WMU board members meet

Page 23



Arkansas Baptist

At a glance

10 Climbing closer to God

A new chapter was written in Arkansas Baptist history July 6-11 when 10 boys from Pine Bluff Youth Services Center participated in a wilderness backpacking expedition. This first time feat was done in cooperation with the Colorado Baptist General Convention as a means of providing an in-depth personal and spiritual growth opportunity for the Arkansas youth.

17 Abortion message takes aim

Compromising preachers, conspiring politicians and complacent people are to blame for the "holocaust" of abortion, according to an Arkansas Baptist leader who preached in Lexington, Ky., July 27. David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association in Heber Springs, was the keynote speaker for a "pro-life rally." More than 800 people heard his 45-minute message at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, which is not affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

20 SBC not dead, Hobbs says

The Southern Baptist Convention is not dead, despite the warning issued by some Southern Baptists opposed to the denomination's current direction, said Herschel Hobbs. Widely regarded as the SBC's elder statesman, Hobbs advised disgruntled moderate-conservatives, who have lost control of the SBC to fundamentalist-conservatives in the last 13 years, not to leave the denomination.

23 FMB, WMU board members meet

Representatives from Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union met July 27 for a discussion about the past and future relationship between the two entities. The three-hour dialogue ended with two agreements: that John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman, initiate dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and that the FMB and WMU continue to dialogue.

Prayer Alert: Rain for Africa

The consequences of the drought in Africa — the worst that the eastern and southern sections of the continent have experienced in 100 years — are worsening. Many people are starving and missionaries and nationals are requesting concerted prayer for rain. The director of the Foreign Mission Board's International Prayer Strategy Office, Minette Drumwright, has asked Southern Baptists to launch a major prayer focus on the need for rain in Africa.

Cover story

(BF) photo / Don Rutledge



China song

18

Southern Baptist teacher Sue Todd embraces Zhang Xin Rong, one of her many young Chinese friends. They call the 72-year-old teacher 'Mama Sue.' Her door—and her heart—are always open to them. Another friendship Todd began, with a poverty-stricken Chinese student named Charles, changed the lives of everyone in his family.

Also inside

Speak Up

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Tribute to J. Everett Speed.....	5

Local & State

Arkansas All Over.....	6
Retired workers elect officers.....	8
Immanuel celebrates 100th.....	9

Nation

Across the Country.....	16
Church Growth Conference.....	16

Lessons.....	21-22
--------------	-------

World

Heart to hands.....	24
---------------------	----

Next issue: Aug. 27

SECOND IN A FOUR-PART SERIES

The Impact of Conflict

by Glen McGriff

Special to the Arkansas Baptist

According to information gathered from churches by our Baptist Sunday School Board and from other sources, more and more of our churches seem to be experiencing turmoil. If indeed we consider this condition as a "virus," conflict is one contributing cause.

Conflict should not be considered only as negative. The word conflict has a Latin root and means "a striking together." There can be a striking together without a tearing apart. Ideas often clash but do not necessarily lead to disintegration. Differing opinions may be presented by persons on any given subject and lead to a productive disposition of the matter. Such opinions do indeed "clash" or "collide" but merge together in parts to form a new cohesive unit.

When real and honest persons are together and give expression to their thoughts, feelings, and desires, conflict will occur. This is both normal and healthy. It is the very stuff from which good and productive decisions are made. What is needed is not the absence of conflict but the presence of wisdom to manage it. Groups should not be afraid of conflict but become creative in processing and resolving it. Some understanding of the causes may lead to such creativity.

When one begins to dig at the roots of conflict, he will discover a cluster that could be called individual self-will. Isaiah 53:6 states the issue well: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way." When several individuals are seeking their own way, conflict arises. Then in Proverbs 21:2 we read, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes." In James 4:1 we are given another root of conflict: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" This trio consisting of self-will and assertion, self centered opinions, and personal lusts or desire certainly produce conflict.

Stress is another factor known to create conflict. Stress might be defined as any demand that necessitates a response. Life without stress is simply not possible. Life makes many demands. Persons constantly are faced with the necessity to respond to some demand. When demands become so numerous and the ability to respond is depleted, distress is experienced. A state of internal conflict occurs and is likely to erupt when others are present.

Change also brings new demands, thus

elevating stress. Recent years have created changes more rapidly than the church could assimilate. The alteration in social attitudes toward the church has often been confusing. The loss of social recognition and prestige has brought frustration. The questioning of the integrity of church leaders with a corresponding reduction in influence and community esteem has added stress.

There seems to have been what might be called an institutional change. Indications of a significant shift in the historical Baptist faith and tradition seem evident. Church leadership historically was by moral and spiritual influence and by the dissemination of full and adequate information. Now it is often by the power of authoritarian domination and manipulation. There was a day when it was believed that if you give Baptists adequate information and sufficient time they will do the right thing. Conflict usually will occur when people feel rushed or when information is limited. When people are not given information they tend toward imagination

which usually leads to exaggeration and creates disintegration.

Good communication is of great importance in managing conflict. No negotiation transpires without communication. Good communication only occurs when the message of the recipients is the same as the message intended by the sender. Messages often get muddled with loud volume, harsh tone of voice, and ill-chosen words. Congregations need really to learn to share themselves through productive communication.

The human spirit yearns for intimacy. To truly know and be known is basic human need. To be loved and valued and to be a part of something significant is the pursuit of all. The church is considered to be an authentic community where every person is cherished as a unique creation. Each person is equipped by spiritual gifts to make a significant contribution to the body. When conflict arises in the midst of such expectation, great pain is experienced. We urgently need to pursue with diligence a productive process to conflict management in the church.

Glen McGriff is director of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Arkansas Baptist

Millie Gill...Executive Assistant to the Editor
Colleen Backus...Production Manager
Paige Umholtz...Operations Manager

Diane Fowler...Production Artist (part-time)
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus


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

The *Arkansas Baptist* (ISSN 1040-6506) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 6014 W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (individual), \$6.35 per year (Every Resident 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 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

VOLUME 91 • NUMBER 17

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Fort Smith, president; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Harold Gateley, Fayetteville; Don Heur, Batesville; Greg Kirksey, Benton; Rick Hyde, Murrefreesboro; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; and Lucie C. Hagins, Fordyce.




Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples
- Kichlight®
- Baptisries
- Windows
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Baptistry Heaters

1-800-522-1400
102 New One
Northbrook, IL 75053-1400

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED



Call or write for our free catalog



Quality Van Sales

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

PEWS

NEW & USED (800) 366-1716



DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

This year's Sunday School Conference, Sept. 25-26, will offer more than ever to help your Sunday School reach, teach, win, and develop the lost and unchurched in your area. More is being tailored for different types of churches. Location, size, and potential do have a bearing on how you approach your Sunday School work.

Your church may have placed people in leadership without giving them adequate preparation. The state Sunday School conference can help meet that need. Some churches may have leveled off or even experienced decline. Sparks of hope and help will be flying in this conference. Sunday School leadership might catch fire. When that happens, great things begin to take place.

Jesus said we are to "teach them to observe all things I have commanded you..." (Mt. 28:20). Sunday School is the primary teaching ministry of Southern Baptist churches. The task is not just teaching what Jesus said, but teaching Sunday School workers to "observe" or obey. Our neglect of this great word of instruction by Jesus has weakened our churches and hindered our witness.

Hebrews 10:24-25 indicates that there will be greater need for effective Sunday School work "as you see the day approaching." Now is the time to make your plans if you want to make the most of this year's Sunday School Conference. The next conference is not until 1994.

PK '92 (Preachers/Staff Kids Retreat) will be held at Spring Lake Baptist Camp, Lonsdale, during the Sunday School conference. This is for those in grades 7-12. They will be bussed from the Sunday School Conference on Friday and returned in time for departure on Saturday. Please give us the name of your teenagers so that we may give them a special invitation. Only teenagers of vocational Christian workers are invited. We need the names and addresses by Aug. 31.

PK '90 and PK '91 were a great success. With your encouragement and help, this one will be even greater. You should write or call (376-4791, ext. 5102) in your teenager's name and address now, while you are thinking about it.

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



KAY KINCL

Woman's Viewpoint

Making heads or tails of our faith



Fortunately a blessed life is not decided by the flip of a coin: heads you win, tails you lose.

However, if your faith is bringing up the rear in a long list of priorities, you're sure to fall behind in God's blessings.

God wants each of us to prosper in life. "And the Lord shall make thee a head and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath" (Dt. 18:13a).

This promise of blessing is followed by the condition that we "harken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God... to observe and to do them" (Dt. 28:13b). Sometimes we expect to "get the good" from God without meeting his expectations of obedience; we try backing into his blessings. It doesn't work.

We always will find ourselves on the tail-end of God's best when our priorities are centered around ourselves, our families, our work, and our fun rather than on his will. We become irritable and hard to please: "In the morning thou shalt say, 'Would God it were even' and at the even thou shalt say, 'Would God it were morning!'" (Dt. 28:67).

Having no brains of their own, tails simply follow someone else's lead and spend a lot of time and energy swishing back and forth. We can be like that if we're not careful; trying to "do it all" at the expense of church involvement can put us in a tail-spin and hurt the family life we're trying to enhance.

"Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity" (Dt. 28:41).

Some Christians are neither heads nor tails; they're navels. Once in a dependent relationship with one greater than themselves, they now are at the center of their own lives, serving no purpose... collecting dust.

Where does your faith fall? Is it hot? Cold? Lukewarm?

Are you headed in the wrong direction? Use your head and determine to change course.

There is room at the cross—for you to turn around.

Kay Kincl is a partner in ministry with her husband, Rich L. Kincl, pastor of Magnolia Central Church. She is a writer, speech teacher, and mother of two.

BAPTIST GOLFERS OF ARKANSAS Third Annual Baptist Men of Arkansas

4 MAN SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT



New date: **October 1, 1992**
9:00 a.m. Shotgun start
DeGray State Park, Arkadelphia

\$80 Entry fee per team
(includes green fees and cart)

Let us know how many 4 man teams
your church or association
would like to enter.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Glendon Grober, Brotherhood Department
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 376-4791, ext. 5158

Classifieds

For Sale—1989 GMC, 31 passenger bus, air conditioned, overhead storage racks, tinted windows, top outside rack. All required safety features, 12,000 miles, excellent condition. Contact: Vera Lloyd Home, Monticello. 367-9035. 730

For Sale—14-12ft. solid oak pews. In good condition. Ph. 501-439-2027. 813

Employment opportunity—Church secretary position (part-time). Forty-Seventh Street Baptist Church, North Little Rock, is now accepting resumes for the position of church secretary. Resumes Only, no phone calls please. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Please address resumes to: Church Secretary, 47th Street Baptist Church, 4700 Pike Avenue, North Little Rock, AR 72118.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 50 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.



ABN photo / Mike Gill

Memorial gift—A gift of \$2,025 was received in the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine office July 21 as a memorial to the late Editor J. Everett Sneed from the McDonald Bible Class of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, of which Dr. Sneed was a member. The money, to be used toward retiring the Newsmagazine's indebtedness, was delivered to ABN Operations Manager Paige Umboltz (right) by (left to right) Erwin L. McDonald, class teacher and ABN editor emeritus, and Jim Howell, class outreach leader.

A tribute to J. Everett Sneed

Dr. J. Everett Sneed was a Christian statesman, a family man, a theologian, a journalist, a preacher, a teacher, a counselor, and a care-giver. He was the most Christ-like man I ever met.

While serving on his board of trustees for more than 11 years, never did my ears hear him say an unkind word about another human being. He always looked for the best in other people. Even when other people may have rebuked him, challenged him, threatened him, or failed to support him, he never took out his frustrations on others.

Dr. Sneed loved God's Word. He read it. He studied it. He preached it. He taught it. Most of all, he lived it. Yes, he loved to dialogue about Scripture—to discuss the nuances of meaning in Greek or Hebrew as compared to today's translations. He would not impress his interpretations on others, but one would always know where he stood. His knowledge of the Bible was exceeded only by his love for the Bible and how he lived it out in his life.

Dr. Sneed, as a journalist, was not one who sat idly by watching evil corrupt that which was good. No, he was a prophet who told forth the word of the Lord. When he saw evil, he cried out against it. He challenged those who perpetrated

evil in the community, in the church, and in the convention. He did this in his writing and in his editing of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. He was always extremely careful to check the facts before challenging the evil. However, when he confronted the evil, he would expose the evil and reveal the truth, in a most Christ-like fashion. He labored long and hard in his confrontation with evil. He was a tireless defender of truth, the truth he found in God's Word and in God's world.

Why did God take him or allow him to go home to be with him at this time? No one knows. Some could guess. But only God knows. This I do know, my life has been blessed greatly by the gift of J. Everett Sneed. God gave him to us and I am so thankful to God that he allowed Dr. Sneed to be the editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* for these past 20 years, that we all have had the chance to learn from him, and that I have had the good fortune of knowing him as a friend and fellow struggler.

Let us rejoice with Everett as he has entered into the complete presence of our Lord and Savior—to dialogue, to study, to learn, to teach, and probably to edit.

—Lane Strotter, Mountain Home

INSPIRATIONAL TRAVEL 1992

Escorted by
Rev. John Adkerson

Tour HL #42
Holidays in the Holy Land, Dec.
12 SP \$1,495. Our 42nd group.
Tour SP #5
Australia and both Islands of New
Zealand, Sept. 24



John Adkerson
Hosted 74 tours to
87 countries
worldwide

Go with experience!

Pastors: Call for TOUR HOST information.

Contact: John Adkerson
P.O. Box 451174, Atlanta, GA 30345
Phone: (404) 414-1950

For Sale:

Typesetting Equipment

Compugraphic MS-10,
preview, 8400 typesetter,
& processor.

Call 376-4791, ext. 5153

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Rich Kincl observed his fifth anniversary of service July 19 as pastor of Central Church, Magnolia, when special congregational acknowledgment was given in the two morning services. Dr. Kincl, his wife, Kay, and their two children, Sarah and Barry, came to Magnolia from First Church of Berryville.

Stephen C. Reynolds, a former Little Rock resident, has been named president and chief executive officer of Memphis Baptist Memorial Hospital, effective October 1. While assuming the role as president, Reynolds also will continue to serve as executive vice president of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, a parent corporation of the Memphis hospital.

Anna Laverne Oholenndt Gosser of Little Rock died July 21 at age 84. She was a member of Little Rock Second Church where memorials may be made to the Senior Department. Survivors are a son, Bobby Gosser of North Little Rock; a daughter, Joan Gosser Brooks of Little Rock; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Lee Moore, a bi-vocational pastor in Lavaca, will return Aug. 27 from a two-week trip to the Republic of Ukraine as part of a volunteer SBC-Partnership arrangement with the Foreign Mission Board.

Gordie Givens has resigned as pastor of Victory Church, El Dorado.

Steve Stoneart has joined the staff of Barcelona Road Church, Hot Springs Village, as minister of music and youth.

Sandy Hinkson joined the staff of Markham Street Church in Little Rock Aug. 2 as part-time minister of education.

Cliff Jenkins resigned July 26 as assistant pastor/education and administration at First Church of Orlando, Fla., to enter full-time Sunday School evangelism and church growth consulting. He is residing at 3404 Edward in Springdale, AR 72762; telephone 501-750-9101.

Chris Wray has resigned as minister of education and youth at Van Buren First Church to continue his education.

Jim Glover is serving as interim pastor of South Side Church, Heber Springs.

Rick McMillan has joined the staff of First Church in Pine Bluff as minister of youth and children. A native of North Carolina, he is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. McMillan and his wife, Karen, have two children, Lauren and Cameron.

Sandy Ulmer recently observed 10 years of service as secretary for First Church of Booneville.

Andrew M. Hall of Fayetteville began serving Aug. 2 as interim pastor of First Church of Berryville.

Esther Edwards of Sherwood died July 28 at age 82. Survivors include her husband, Raymond Edwards; two sons, Ray Edwards of Sherwood and Elvis Edwards of North Little Rock; a daughter, Patsy Smith of Texarkana, Texas; two brothers; a sister; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Pike Avenue Church in North Little Rock where she was a member.

Mark Lashley began serving July 19 as pastor of First Church of Delaware.

Thomas E. Hatley is serving as pastor of Immanuel Church in Rogers, coming there from Lockwood Church in Dallas, Texas.

Isabelle McKibbin of Peel has earned and received the Diploma in Biblical Studies from Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute, a correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries. The diploma was presented to McKibbin Aug. 1 at First Church of Peel at the White River Association Hymn Sing. Making the presentation were Robert Stewart, her pastor; L.B. Atchison, director of missions for North Arkansas Association; and Ed Powers, director of missions for White River Association.

Sharon Perry has resigned as director of preschool education at First Church of Springdale. Gina Franke will serve as interim director of preschool education.

Mason Bondurant is serving as interim pastor of Highland Heights Church in Benton. He recently completed a Foreign Mission Board assignment in Senegal, West



First Church of Mountain Home recently burned a 20-year, \$1 million note that had been paid off in six years. This indebtedness was incurred as the congregation moved from its historic home in downtown Mountain Home to its new location on Club Boulevard. Pastor David L. Johnson said, "The church realizes that payment of this indebtedness is a miracle and that, without God's help and the faithfulness of the members, it could never have happened in six years." Participating in the mortgage burning were (left to right) Jim Tillman, Buna May Carroll, Everett Wheeler, Guy King, Robert L. Kerr, Johnson, and Robert Stewart. First Church has a resident membership of 850 and a total membership of 1,400.

Africa where he served as supply pastor of International Church of Dakar in the absence of furloughing missionary, Gerald Taylor.

David Welch will begin his first pastorate Sept. 13, serving as pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. He will go there from Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock where he has been serving since July, 1987, as associate pastor. A native of Seagraves, Texas, he is a graduate of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Welch and his wife, Buria, have two daughters, Julie Ann and Jennifer.

Briefly

East End Church at Hensley will be in revival Aug. 16-19 with William Blackburn of Fort Smith as evangelist. The congregation will observe its 56th annual homecoming Aug. 30 with traditional worship services, a noon potluck meal, and a 1:30 p.m. program. Johnny Jackson will be speaker. Rick Morrow is pastor.

Spadra Church near Clarksville ordained Pastor Willis Jones to the ministry July 19. Jones, age 71, answered the call to preach and was licensed in September of 1991 by Clarksville Second Church. Participating in the ordination service were George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association; Carrol Pruet of the Spadra Church; Arch Wheeler, former Spadra pastor; Robbie Jackson, pastor of East Mt. Zion Church; David McLemore, pastor of Russellville Second Church;

Truman Owen of Russellville; and Marvin James, pastor of Clarksville Second Church.

El Dorado Second Church mission team has returned from Moulton, Iowa, where they led a vacation Bible school. In Centerville, Iowa, they used puppet and handbell performances to assist in establishing a new work.

Life Line Church in Little Rock mission team has returned from New Orleans, La., where they worked at the Baptist Friendship House.

Morrilton First Church mission team will be in Hope to assist with activities at the Hope Migrant Mission Center.

Pettit Jean Mountain First Church held a revival July 19-22 that resulted in 23 professions of faith and three rededications. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was evangelist and Pastor Eddy Howell was soloist.

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro mission team will return Aug. 15 from working in Lemars, Iowa.

Warren First Church mission team completed work Aug. 1 at Lake Tenkiller.

Tupelo First Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 30 with activities that will include Sunday School at 10 a.m., morning worship, 11 a.m., a noon meal, and a 1:30 p.m. afternoon service. Speakers will include Pastor Marvin S. Ogle and Bill Burnett. Former pastors and members are to be special guests.

Texarkana Beech Street First Church mission team recently returned from working with University Church in Ames, Iowa.

Parkway Place Church in Little Rock will observe homecoming Aug. 23 with a 10:30

a.m. worship service, a noon luncheon, and a 1:30 p.m. service. Pastor James Wilson will preach the morning message. Former Pastors Don Hook and Lawson Hatfield also will be speakers. Former members of Baptist Tabernacle and/or Parkway Place will be special guests.

Arkansans graduate Southwestern

Seven Arkansans were among those graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement exercises in Forth Worth, Texas, on July 10.

Receiving the associate of divinity degree was Virginia Daniel Henley.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were John Robert Sayger and Winnie June Walsmley.

Receiving the master of arts in Marriage and Family Counseling was Clyde Randolph Windham.

Receiving the master of arts in communication was Bradley Wayne Sutton.

Receiving the doctor of education degree was David Charles Strawn.

Receiving the doctor of philosophy degree was Scott Allan Andrew.

Correction

The July 30 issue of the ABN should have reported that the pulpit of the newly-organized Bethel Church in Jacksonville is being supplied by Wayne Kocourek, Gary Moore, and Richard Moore. The church has not called a pastor. The ABN regrets the error.



McAtee honored for library work

Mrs. D.C. McAtee was honored July 12 by First Church of Forrest City in recognition of her retirement as media library director, following more than 12 years of service. She was presented a floral arrangement from the reception table by Don Matthews, associate pastor, and an orchid corsage by Mrs. Hoyte Martin, assistant librarian of 10 years. As well as serving the Forrest City church, Mrs. McAtee established nine other libraries in churches where her husband served as pastor, served for 18 years as a school librarian, and served as a library consultant for churches in Tri-County Association. In 1991, she served as a volunteer-in-missions to the only English-speaking church in the capital city of Suriname, South America, setting up a library of more than 1,200 books purchased from a retiring missionary.

Retired workers elect officers **New BSU director at NACC**

Arkansas' Fellowship of Retired Southern Baptist Workers convened July 16 in Park Hill Church of North Little Rock with President Lehman Webb presiding.

Don Moore, ABSC Executive Director, as featured speaker, using 2 Kings 4:24 as Scripture text, encouraged the retirees to keep pressing on in their prayers and labors, highlighting the special ministry that many retirees are having in interim pastorates.

Moore also gave a Cooperative Program update, stating that 52.35 percent of the annual CP budget had come during the first six months of the year. Praising Arkansas Baptists he said, "This has been made possible because Arkansas churches are giving 7.03 percent above what they gave to the same point last year."

Other program features included special music by Don and Jill Nichols of Immanuel



Officers are seated (left to right) Erline Bauer, secretary; John Ashcraft, president; standing (left to right) Ralph Douglas, first vice president; and Carl Goodson, second vice president.

Church, Rogers; a witnessing conference led by Don Campbell of the Oasis Center; and latest Annuity trends given by James Walker, ABSC Annuity director.

Elected as 1992-93 officers were John Ashcraft of Little Rock, president; Ralph Douglas of Pine Bluff, first vice president; Carl Goodson of Arkadelphia, second vice president; and Erline Bauer of Little Rock, secretary.

Leslie H. Hadley began serving as Baptist Student Union Director at North Arkansas Community College in Harrison on Aug. 1. He is an adult education instructor and computer lab manager at the same institution. He earned a B.S. degree in education from University of Central Arkansas and additional hours in adult education from the University of Arkansas. His experience includes teaching grades 7-12 in the Lead Hill Public Schools.

He is a member of Harrison First Church. He and his wife, Tamra, have two children, Tiffani and Katie.



Hadley

WBC begins fall semester

Williams Baptist College will begin its 1992 fall semester classes on Wednesday, Aug. 26. For information on WBC registration procedures, contact the registrar's office at 886-6741, ext. 104.



Secretaries seminar

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, in cooperation with the Baptist Sunday School Board, hosted seminars July 13-16 at Park Hill Church, Little Rock, in which 33 church and denominational secretaries participated.

Jammie Tanner of Port Arthur, Texas, led 25 through the Basic Certification Seminar which offered help in understanding the work of the church and denomination; communication and planning skills; general office management; and spiritual growth.

Eight secretaries participated in the Advanced Certification Seminar led by Glenda Posey of Shreveport, La. This seminar focused on the secretary as a growth agent and time management. Sue Puckett, church secretary for First Church of Wilson, said, "The advanced seminar provided a wonderful time of spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship for us, as well as a chance to improve our technical skills."



Robert Beach (left) was chosen to represent the future of Immanuel Church in Little Rock and possibly participate in the 2042 opening of a time capsule that was filled and positioned as the church celebrated 100 years of ministry July 26. Others assisting were (left to right) Associate Pastor David Napier, and Pastor Rex Horne and his son, Truett. Raymond Robinson, centennial committee chairman, helped with the placement of the capsule and the commemorative plaque.

LITTLE ROCK

Immanuel celebrates 100th

by Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

The 100th anniversary of Immanuel Church in Little Rock was celebrated in July with special worship services, the placement of a time capsule, and a drama presentation. The drama depicted the heritage of the church from its founding April 17, 1892 to the present time where heirs of the 17 charter members hold leadership positions.

Founded by faithful, praying, and giving members, the 4,300 member congregation today is the highest total Cooperative Program giving church in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. First called the Third Street Church, the name Immanuel "God With Us" Baptist Church was adopted Oct. 16, 1892.

A small white frame building, constructed in 1895, provided the needed space for earlier founders. However, as the congregation has grown there have been many building programs, including the more than \$3 million current "Faith for The Future" expansion program.

It is evident, as one studies the church's history, that establishing new works has been important. The congregation has led

in the establishment of 17 missions, 12 of which are current Southern Baptist churches with 5,296 resident members, 3,482 enrolled in Sunday School, 1,601 average Sunday School attendance, and 158 baptisms in 1991. Five of the missions were merged with other churches that are still operating. The oldest church was established as Tabernacle Church in 1908 at 10th and Cedar Streets in Little Rock. It moved west and changed the name to Parkway Place Church. The greatest growth in missions becoming churches was from 1943 through 1957 when nine missions were lettered out and became self-supporting churches.

Immanuel Church began to reach out in evangelism at the turn of the century. In 1992, there have been 40 days of prayer in preparation for an evangelistic outreach Aug. 16-19. Junior Hill of Hartselle, Ala. will be evangelist with Lynn Madden, the church's minister of music, directing the music program.

Sixteen pastors have led this 100-year-old congregation with W.O. Vaught having served 38 of those years. These men have led in a continued educational advancement through Bible study, Sunday School,

discipleship training, music programs, and missions education organizations. These efforts have led to a current Sunday School enrollment of 2,850 with 497 enrolled in discipleship training and 1,059 involved in the music programs. Woman's Missionary Union records show 280 participating in Baptist Women, 25 in Baptist Young Women, 72 in Girls in Action, 10 in Acteens, and 95 in Mission Friends. The Brotherhood program shows 65 active Royal Ambassadors.

As the result of the church's programs, people such as John McClanahan, Ben Joe McRoberts, Jimmy Dodd, Leslie Smith, Meredith Wilfong, Cliff Springer III, Fred Selby, Stephen Hatfield, Tom, Jim, and Bill Elliff, David Hughes Jr., Jeff Founders, Bill Cook, Ruth and Hugo Culpepper, John Miller, Amanda Tinkle, Tommy Haisell, and Glendon Grober have answered the call to serve as pastors and missionaries. Nancy Cooper and Elma Cobb, who have served in many positions at the church, are best known for their work with Arkansas' Woman's Missionary Union while another member, William H. "Buddy" Sutton, currently is serving as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Dr. Vaught's idea to use visual aids, dramas, and colorful publicity led to the establishment of both tape and television ministries. This necessitated additional staff with today's nine-member administrative staff being led by Pastor Rex Horne, who recently observed his second anniversary of service.

As the centennial celebration drew to a close Horne challenged the congregation as he said, "So many 'best' from our past must be preserved. The emphasis on God's Word, missions, evangelism, and ministry, such as our newly launched Wednesday evening program of tutoring underprivileged children, must grow stronger and stronger. Other areas of our church should be improved. Let us commit ourselves to the tasks of preserving and improving."



imperial
PEWS—PULPITS

Manufacturer Serving the Nation, Since 1960
1-800-234-6624

For \$25 see the Great Passion Play & stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort for GROUPS of 12-180, in Eureka Springs, Ark.
Air-conditioned lodging, swimming,
\$9 tickets, cheeseburger cookout, dessert
and breakfast. All included!
Call 501-253-8418 today!



Colorado convention special ministries director Steve Hoekstra aids troubled Arkansas youths in a mountain climb.

Climbing closer to God

by Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

A new chapter was written in Arkansas Baptist history July 6-11 when 10 boys from Pine Bluff Youth Services Center participated in a wilderness backpacking expedition.

This first-time feat was done in cooperation with the Colorado Baptist General Convention as a means of providing an in-depth personal and spiritual growth opportunity for the Arkansas youth.

Benny McCracken, ABSC Youth Services Center chaplain for more than 13 years, had known for some time he needed another mode of reaching those participating in the center's drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. He said, "The nature of the students has changed so dramatically in the past five years that I had been trying to envision a way of training them to work together, and to face themselves and their weakness without reverting to drugs or alcohol." He stated their more violent behavior was the result of gang involvement.

McCracken said, "My answer came while participating in a 1991 world missions conference with Steve Hoekstra, director of Special Ministries for the Colorado Convention's Missions Department." As the two shared, Hoekstra told of the "Recreational Alpine Adventure Trip," sponsored by the Colorado convention. He stated the six-day backpacking expedition into the wilderness of the Rocky Mountains near Vail was a program designed to pro-

vide young people with an in-depth personal and spiritual growth opportunity.

As the two shared about their particular ministries, it became apparent here was the answer to the needs of those at the Youth Services Center and an opportunity to bring two unique forms of youth ministry together.

McCracken, upon his return to Pine Bluff, began to launch plans for participating in the 1992 Colorado expedition. He contacted churches and individuals, asking them to provide the \$445 financial assistance per student needed to purchase heavy clothing, headgear, boots, camping accessories, and food.

The screening process came next with 10 finalists selected from a field of 20. A rigid training program of callisthenics and running, three hours a day-five days a week for four weeks was the final step. As this began, McCracken soon found he had difficult days ahead. The boys, because of their former drug and alcohol abuse, could only run two-tenths of a mile in those first days. However, at the conclusion of the training period they were running two miles in 18 minutes.

Proud of their accomplishments, the 10 youth and McCracken, accompanied by Lee Crabb, a counselor from the Youth Services Center, set out for Colorado in a bus provided by the state of Arkansas. Upon arrival they were joined by Hoekstra and a summer missionary for the expedition that included not only hiking, but Bible study and therapy groups.

As they ascended into the Rockies the boys found their physical fitness training sessions did not have them totally prepared. The high altitude, 60 pound backpacks, 10 to 50 mile an hour winds, snow, and bouldering had some shedding tears of frustration. McCracken told of literally moving the feet of one of the youth, one step at a time, due to his fear of falling between the sharp and narrow crevices. However, as they made their final ascent to Jackson Peak, far above tree line, the boys discovered they had faced death with the challenges presented by the rugged Colorado mountains without resorting to drugs and/or alcohol. They also had gained insight through the Bibles studies and therapy sessions that their inner strengths and resources were gifts from God. McCracken said, "These findings were something the boys had to experience. It was not something they could be taught."

He noted three of the 10 participants lives definitely had been changed as a result of the wilderness expedition, but wishes the boys had not been assigned to residential drug and alcohol treatment programs so quickly after returning to Arkansas. McCracken said, "We needed time for more on-campus follow-up." He felt the three additional steps needed for completion were: (1) To ask the boys what they had learned, (2) How they could apply their findings to their daily lives, and (3) Time for more therapy and counseling.

Though plans are being made to participate in the 1993 Colorado expedition at a cost of \$300 per student, McCracken knows of four areas of improvement needed: (1) A third staff member to accompany them, specifically equipped to develop an even more in-depth treatment program on the mountains; (2) A structured program with less hiking and more treatment/Bible study; (3) a change in screening methods; and (4) less time on the road.

Even though the chaplain plans to go to Colorado again, he envisions using Arkansas resources to provide the setting for a similar wilderness treatment program. He prays the Baptists of our state will assist in launching this effort to assist young men in developing the confidence, self esteem, and spiritual resources needed to live a meaningful and abundant life.

Eureka Springs!

Lovely Victorian Suites-Honeymoon, Anniversary, or any special Occasion. Private entry/patio, King bed, large Jacuzzi, Refrigerator, coffee service, and Toaster. Very reasonable, with discounts on Sun., Mon., Thurs. The Cottage, 501-253-5821.



Hot Springs National Park — a great place to visit

Hot Springs National Park is the only place where you can in one day ride a duck, go sailing, sing along to music shows, go horseback riding, enjoy museums, or be captivated by a musical Passion Play.

Thermal baths and natural wonders permeate the atmosphere of the area — a great place to unwind, relax, and take a break from today's fast-paced world.

THE NATURAL STATE

Arkansas



The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa

Two grand hotels located at the end of Bathhouse Row in the redeveloped historic district of Hot Springs. The Arlington offers rates from: Single \$40.00, Double \$50.00. Double rates \$78.00 and up include full breakfast. Special packages available at both hotels.

Central at Fountain
(601) 623-7771
1-800-643-1502

Downtown Historic Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas



Majestic Resort & Spa

Combined facilities feature: 700 rooms and suites, convention facilities for hundreds, five restaurants, two bathhouses, three pools, hot tub, two beauty salons and a variety of specialty gift and clothing stores. The Majestic offers rates from: Single \$42.00, Double \$52.00. Full breakfast included.

Central at Park
(601) 623-5511
1-800-643-1504



Places to go
Things to do
in
Hot Springs

Hot Springs

Resort

- Family Packages
- Sr. Citizens Discount
- Handicap Rooms
- Hot Tubs
- Large Pool
- Cable TV and HBO
- 9 Hole Golf Course
- Major Credit Cards

Three Diamond Rating
By the 1992 AAA Guide Book

624-4436

1871 E. Grand Ave.
Next to Magic Springs

**Ron Coleman's
QUARTZ CRYSTAL MINES**

Come dig for your very own quartz crystals. Keep everything you find. A retail shop, a wholesale showroom for dealers, and a casual restaurant will make your visit a memorable experience.

Open daily 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. (seasonal)

Highway 7 North (14 miles North of Hot Springs)
(501) 984-5396

Stop by Rock-R-Gems retail shop at
1700 E. Grand (Hwy. 70 E. and 70B).

Rock-R-Gems offers a large selection of quartz, wheelstones, amethysts, agates, minerals and handcrafted jewelry.
Open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily • 501-624-7280

• Live Gators • Wild Animals • Museum • Gift Shop

• Over 100 Arkansas alligators ranging from 6" to beyond 6 ft long. Some alligators are over 50 years old. Ask about the special alligator feeding times. It's unique.

• Visit our petting zoo and have fun touching and feeding hundreds of wild animals from white-tailed deer, to pygmy goats, ostriches and llamas.

• See many other such as Arkansas mountain lions, wild turkeys, albino raccoons, and monkeys.

• Stop by our museum.

25¢ off Per person
Show this ad

Groups welcome • Open year-round • Be sure to bring your camera

Magic Springs

Arkansas Baptist
Youth Day

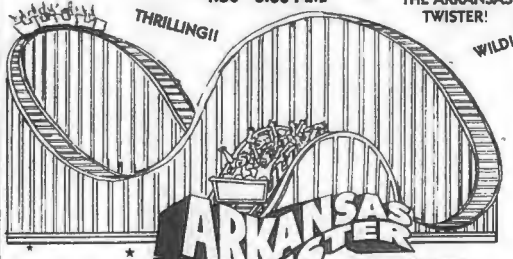
Saturday, September 12, 1992

10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

DiscipleLife Rally

4:30 - 6:00 P.M.

DiscipleLife



**ARKANSAS
TWISTER**

Don't Miss These..

Christian Artist Showcase

A DiscipleLife Interpretation

Meet a Missionary

Information Galore!

PICNIC LUNCH OFFER!

Extra Special! Big Value!

\$2.50 per person

Ticket Price
Only \$6.75

per person advance
**(\$7.75 After 9/1/92 and At Gate)
*(Add 7½% State Sales Tax)

Order Tickets Directly from
Magic Springs
(1-624-5411)

For More Information Contact: DiscipleShip Training Department
P.O. Box 552 • Little Rock, AR 72203 • Phone 376-4791, Ext. 5160
An Exclusive Event for Arkansas Southern Baptist Churches

Special Features

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

A special, in-depth "reservation only" training institute for Youth Ministers, Pastors and Youth Leaders.

1:00-3:30 p.m.

(Includes FREE Admission and Youth DiscipleShip Training Packet). Led by Barry Sneed

DISCIPLELIFE RALLY FEATURES



Doreen Alexander
Christian Artist
Nashville, TN



Barry Sneed
Youth Communicator
Nashville, TN

The Mullenix Family's



NOW IN OUR 10TH SEASON!
Family Entertainment Featuring
• Country • Western • Bluegrass
• Patriotic Music • Gospel
• Rib Ticking Comedy

Hwy. 270 West/2720 Albert Pike
Hot Springs, Ark. • 501-767-3841



Witness Productions

Written by Jimmy and Carol Owens

Admission:

Box Seats (no discount) \$9.00

Adults General Admission 8.00

Senior Citizens 6.00

Children (12 & under) 4.00

The Greatest Story Ever Told has never been greater than when it is portrayed by this dynamic outdoor musical drama. *The Witness* is the compelling story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as told and sung by the Apostle Peter.

Everyone can see a little of themselves in this common fisherman whose life was forever changed by the miraculous events he witnessed. And as each panoramic scene unfolds, you too will find yourself caught up in the everyday struggles of the early disciples. . . their great faith and their very human doubts.

Breathtaking Setting

What setting could be more appropriate than the natural wooded surroundings of the **Mid-American Amphitheatre** nestled between the mountains of the beautiful Ouachita Range in **Hot Springs National Park**.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

8:30 P.M. (dusk) 1st Weekend June until Labor Day

P.O. Box 6434 • AR 71902-6434 • (501) 623-9781

MID-AMERICA AMPHITHEATER

270 West • 623-9781

**Musical
Passion Play
Hot Springs
National Park
Arkansas**

*(10% off groups of 15 or more.
Call for reservations.)*



Group Rates Available

Hot Springs National Park

623-1415 Showtime 8:00 p.m.

**The "Original"
White & Yellow
Duck
Tours**



Land & Water Sightseeing Tours
411 Central Avenue, Hot Springs
623-1111

Bring coupon for \$1.00 off ticket price.
Group Discounts

**SCENIC
Tours & Strolls**

Discount tour packages for church groups—
Youth, Singles, Adults, and Seniors

- Hotel Accommodations
- All Attractions
- Transportation

320 Ouachita, Hot Springs
501-623-0923

HOT SPRINGS HEALTH SPA

- Coed Whirlpool • Sunken Marble
Tubs • Thermal Water Swimming
Pool • Redwood Hot Tubs &
Whirlpool • Full Line Of Exercise
Equipment • Bubble Pool • New
Suntana Sun Bed • Massages
• Steam & Vapor Cabinets
- Children Under 12—Half Price
Memberships Available

500 Reserve Street **321-9664**

"MAKE THE QUALITY CHOICE"

- ◊ FREE CABLE TV-HBO
- ◊ RESTAURANT
- ◊ IN-ROOM MOVIE
- ◊ MEETING ROOM
- ◊ SWIMMING POOL
- ◊ CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
- ◊ HOT TUB
- ◊ VIDEO GAME ROOM
- ◊ HIKING TRAIL TO MOUNTAIN TOWER
- ◊ BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPED COURTYARD



Ask For Special Baptist Convention Rates

624-3321

For Reservations only 1-800-228-6151

1125 E. Grand • Located next to the trail to the Hot Springs Tower



Looking Ahead

August

- 13 OBU Board of Trustees Meeting (OBU)
14-15 Exodus State Softball Tournament, *First, Hot Springs (Bbd)*
15 Associational WMU Officers Training, *Calvary, Little Rock (WMU)*
18-23 Church Music Emphasis Week (M)
21-22 Associational DT Leaders Conference, *Park Hill, North Little Rock (DT)*
22 CP Supporter Training, *First Church, El Dorado (Ad)*
22 Volunteer/Part-time Music Leaders Retreat, *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (M)*
24 How to Enlist Tithers Seminar, *First Church, Arkadelphia (SA)*
24 IMPACT 92, *First Church, Arkadelphia (WMU)*
24-26 Building Witness Relationships, *Camp Paron (Ev)*
25 How to Enlist Tithers Seminar, *Central Church, Magnolia (STAN)*
25-26 IMPACT 92, *Central Church, Magnolia (WMU)*
26 OBU Fall Registration (OBU)
27 How to Enlist Tithers Seminar, *First, Warren (SA)*
27 IMPACT 92, *First Church, Warren (WMU)*
31 IMPACT 92, *Central Church, North Little Rock (WMU)*
31-Sept. 3 National Church Growth Conference, *Tarrant Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas (Ad)*

September

Foundation Month (FND)

- 1 How to Enlist Tithers Seminar, *Calvary Church, West Memphis (SA)*
1-2 IMPACT 92, *Calvary Church, West Memphis (WMU)*
3 IMPACT 92, *First Church, Paragould (WMU)*

Abbreviations: Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CL - Church Leadership; CHFM - Children's Homes and Family Ministries; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mr - Missions; NB - National Baptists; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union



MEET ETHYL

Ethyl had always been a loving wife, devoted mother and added a little bit of sunshine to the lives of all who knew her. Her friends and family noticed several months ago that Ethyl didn't seem like herself. She was confused at times, forgetful and becoming increasingly anxious. Ethyl was encouraged to visit her family doctor who recommended the LEVI LIFE CENTER in Hot Springs.

Ethyl began an intense individual treatment program working on the issues of retirement, loneliness and loss of independence. Ethyl's family also participated and was able to fully understand what Ethyl was going through.

Today, Ethyl is using the concepts that she learned while at the LEVI LIFE CENTER to overcome the challenges that she faces. Sometimes she still has bad days, but the sparkle is returning to Ethyl's eyes.

Ethyl's name has been changed for confidentiality. However, many people face the same problems.

We are proud to announce the opening of an office at the Good Samaritan Cedar Lodge in Hot Springs Village on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m., beginning August 6.

If someone you know needs help, please call the LEVI LIFE CENTER for an appointment.

1-800-272-2171 ext. 520

Hot Springs Village: 922-5444

Hot Springs: 622-3520



LEVI LIFE CENTER

A PROGRAM OF LEVI HOSPITAL
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS 71901

Present Convention I.D. Card/Badge
for Group Admission price.

Summer Hours:

Sun.-Thur. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday & Sat. 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

For Ticket information call: 767-3461



Get into Hot Springs and get

25¢ OFF



Ride the glass express elevator to the top for a spectacular view of the Hot Springs and Ouachita mountains areas. This coupon cannot be combined with any other discount and/or promotional offer. Operated under a concession contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. National Park Service.

ADMISSION FOR EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY OR GROUP.

For information call 623-6035.

GA mini-camps take a journey

WMO photo / Sandy Wisdom



Girls in Action campers go to 'Eureka Springs.'

"Welcome Aboard! Thank you for choosing GA Airlines. We hope you enjoy your flight." GAs heard these words as they boarded a "plane" to fly to Camp Paron this summer. When they "landed" at Camp Paron, they were greeted by French custom officials who inspected their passports.

"I had a great time at GA Camp. I'll see you next year when I am in 2nd grade. And I like the missions and the swimming and I liked GA camps," signed Rebecca

"I had lots of fun. I went to Girl Scout camp and had a lot of fun there but I have not had this much fun in my whole life.

The theme for the 1992 GA Mini-Camps was "Journey Into Missions." Twenty-three stops were made during the trip as GAs learned about Southern Baptist missions around the world. A few of the scheduled stops included Togo, New Zealand, Australia, Haiti, Mexico, Iowa, and Eureka Springs. There were 612 participants during the four GA Mini-Camps. Here are some reports from camp:

Young musicians camp

Young Musicians Camp, held on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University on June 22-25, saw 494 campers (grades 4-6), counselors, and faculty this year, gathered to learn about God and family through music.

In an effort to promote the "Strengthen Families" emphasis, married couples co-directed each of four choirs to learn a complete musical from memory. In two of the musicals, the drama took place in a family setting. Choir I, directed by Janie and Will Thompson, Arkadelphia First Church, performed "Wise Guys" on Wednesday evening. Choir II began a musical marathon on Thursday morning with "O Me, O My, O Nehemiah," directed by Rusty and Lori Hart from North Little Rock Central Church. Choir III, directed by Carrie and Al Ray Taylor, Hamburg First Church, followed with "Destination: Christmas."



Nearly 500 participants attended young musicians camp.

Choir IV ended the marathon with "Why?" directed by Ken and Barbie Stogsdill from Fort Smith East Side Church.

In addition, Mary Ann and Joe Marsden from Hot Springs Central Church created and led child-centered and child-involved worship experiences on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Three decisions were made for salvation and one for assurance following the closing worship service.—Peggy Pearson, YMC Camp Director

Thank you for helping me getting into better contact with God," your friend, Donna Smith, cabin 1D.

"GA Camp was everything it should be. It's a great place where girls automatically receive affirmation from the staff. They assume they are loved from the moment camp begins," Mistle Page.

"It was a great camp. The GAs had a great time. I appreciate how the messages at worship were designed for their age and were aimed to challenge them. The staff was very capable and a fun group. Thanks!" Becky Bradley.

—Sandy Wisdom, GA director

Lotz to speak at Women's Conference

Anne Graham Lotz will speak at the Third Northwest Arkansas Conference for Women at Immanuel Baptist Church in Rogers on Sept. 10-12.

Lotz, 39, is the daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, the mother of three children, and is married to Daniel Lotz, a Raleigh, N.C. dentist. The Lotzes are members of Providence Baptist Church in North Raleigh. A strict inerrantist, Mrs. Lotz is well known for her Bible Study Fellowship class, which she has taught for 11 years. It boasts an attendance of 500, with 150 on the waiting list.

For more information on the conference, contact Bettye Atchison at 636-8912 or Rogers Immanuel Church at 636-1230.

Ouachita Baptist University

Ozark Institute

Fall Courses Offered:

- Old Testament Survey
- New Testament Survey
- Life of Christ
- Early Epistles of Paul
- Introduction to Ministry Formation
- Christian Counseling
- Christian Education of Youth

Students will receive 3 hours of college credit per course

Pre-register through August 27
Register August 27-28

For more information contact:

Dr. William H. Cook, Vice President/Director
Ouachita Baptist University Ozark Institute
505 W. Maple St.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
501-582-2301

Across the Country

Penn-Jersey search committee seeks resumes

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The executive director search committee for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey has announced a Sept. 23 deadline for receiving resumes of prospective nominees. Resumes with cover letters should be mailed to Search Committee, 4620 Fritchey St., Harrisburg, PA 17109.

SBC's ACTS to share channel

DENVER (BP)—Southern Baptists' ACTS (American Christian Television System) and the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network signed agreements July 28 to share a single channel reaching some 21 million households. The two networks will maintain their own identities and separate program times on the channel, to be launched Oct. 1 as "VISON-ACTS, The Faith and Values Channel."

Lankford nominated to manage Ridgecrest

NASHVILLE—G.W. Lankford, manager of the engineering, maintenance and construction section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's property management department, will be recommended to become manager of Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, effective Sept. 1. Board trustees will be asked to approve Lankford, 48, during their semi-annual meeting at Ridgecrest Aug. 17-19.

Lankford, who previously worked at Ridgecrest five years, would succeed Ken McAneer, who retires Sept. 1 after 25 years as manager of the national conference center.

Golden Gate relocation no longer issue

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—After nearly six years as president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, one question continues to pester William O. Crews: Do you still plan to sell the Mill Valley campus and move to a new location? "The answer is 'no,'" he tells visitors. "We're here on this lovely 150-acre campus overlooking the San Francisco skyline and we intend to stay."

Crews regrets the two and a half years spent in limbo when the school considered moving. After many delays, the seminary is selling 24 single-family home sites, plus space for a 30-unit condominium. Water lines and all the improvements are in place. Golden Gate expects to net \$10 million from the sales for permanent endowment.

Arkansans Attend Nationwide Church Growth Conference

As of Aug. 5, 81 Arkansas Baptists have registered to attend the first Nationwide Church Growth Conference sponsored by Southern Baptists. The Conference meets Aug. 31-Sept. 3, at the Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas. The conference is designed to address the needs of churches in all types of settings and situations all the way from the town and country, small city church, to the larger city church. The plenary sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights will feature major addresses and testimonies on church growth issues by Ken Hemphill, John Bisagno, Richard Jackson, Rick Warren, and other leaders of growing churches.

Two conference tracks will be provided for participants. One track will give emphasis to churches in all situations and settings. The second track will feature 130 special interest conferences and give attention to a variety of church growth concerns.

The conference begins on Monday evening, 6-45 p.m., and concludes on Thursday morning. Individuals desiring to attend should contact their associational office or the state convention office for registration information.

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Registration cost for the Nationwide Church Growth Conference is \$35 for Southern Baptists, except for students who pay only \$5 for conference materials. Cost for non-Southern Baptists is \$75.

To register, send name, address and phone number, along with a check for the appropriate amount to Nationwide Church Growth Conference, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203. For more information, contact (615) 251-2294.

7 "HOW TO" CONFERENCES

How to Enlist Tithers

How to Plan for Retirement

August 24	First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia	6:30 p.m.
August 25	Central Baptist Church, Magnolia	6:30 p.m.
August 27	First Baptist Church, Warren	6:30 p.m.
September 1	Calvary Baptist Church, West Memphis	6:30 p.m.
September 14	Concord Association Office, Fort Smith	10:45 a.m.
September 15	Western Sizzlin, Fayetteville	6:30 p.m.
September 17	Nettie's Cafeteria, Mountain Home	6:30 p.m.

For Pastors, Staff Members, Church Treasurers,
Chairpersons of Finance/Budget Committees

Contact the Stewardship/Annuity Dept., (501) 376-4791, ext. 5114, for details



Abortion message takes aim

At Southern professor, presidential candidate

by Mark Wingfield & Marc Whitt
Kentucky Western Recorder

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—Compromising preachers, conspiring politicians, and complacent people are to blame for the "holocaust" of abortion, according to an Arkansas Baptist leader who preached in Kentucky July 27.

David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Baptist Association in Heber Springs, Ark., was the keynote speaker for a "pro-life rally" at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington. More than 800 people heard his 45-minute message at the church which is not affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Miller specifically took to task Southern Baptist Theological Seminary — the Southern Baptist school where he serves as a trustee.

"It grieves me to tears that our oldest and dearest seminary in the Southern Baptist Convention does not take a (position) on abortion," he said. "Dr. Paul Simmons of Southern Seminary is speaking on behalf of the pro-choice stance of the Bible in his ethics class. Please pray for us on the board that he can find another place to teach."

Simmons, professor of Christian ethics, has faced opposition from conservative trustees because of his support of abortion rights. However, trustees have not been able to act quickly to remove him, primarily because he is a tenured professor.

In April 1990, Southern's trustees passed a resolution opposing abortion except when the life of the mother is endangered. Miller proposed the resolution, which also encouraged faculty and staff to hold a similar viewpoint and called abortion "the greatest moral issue faced by Christians today."

Speaking last week, Miller said the argument in favor of abortion that scares him most is that a fetus "should be aborted if it is found to be handicapped or mentally deficient."

Referring to his own physical disability that confines him to a wheelchair, Miller said, "I'm glad my mother was not dependent upon Dr. Paul Simmons' ethics class at Southern Seminary."

Contacted for a response, Simmons said: "I defend David Miller's right to believe and express what he will about abortion. I wish he would grant me and others who disagree with him the same respect."

"It would also be nice if he would understand my views more precisely and represent them more accurately," Simmons added. "I do not recommend abortions to

women for any reason, but I do support those women and couples who decide to terminate a pregnancy rather than bring children with serious anomalies into the world.

"Miller is aware of the fact that I teach according to the seminary's Abstract of Principles and fulfill my contractual obligations," he concluded.

In addition to Simmons, Miller criticized other "compromising preachers" afraid to speak out against abortion.

"There was a time when pulpits shook with moral-valued preachers," he explained. "Those times are long gone. Today, pulpits are now silent because preachers are to remember the separation of church and state. Preachers who would like to speak out are afraid because they might have their tax-exempt status with the IRS removed.

"It would be better to lose that status than to lose status with God," Miller said. However, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said preaching against abortion could not endanger a church's tax-exempt status. The IRS has warned churches not to endorse political candidates but has not prohibited churches from speaking on moral issues, said CLC staffer Louis Moore.

Miller described abortion as "meanness, madness, and murder."

He condemned public schools for promoting "safe sex" rather than abstinence. "Most of our local schools won't hand out aspirin to students without the consent of the parents," he added. "Why, then, can these same children have an abortion without that consent?"

Miller also criticized the governor of his own state, Bill Clinton, a fellow Southern Baptist who is the Democratic nominee for U.S. president.

Miller described abortion as "meanness, madness, and murder."

"Bill Clinton of the great state of Arkansas denied for 10 years he was ever with the pro-choice crowd," Miller charged, "Now, Bill Clinton is stumping on the pro-choice bandwagon. Conspiring politicians are with the meanness of abortion."

Finally, Miller said "complacent people" are to blame for the ready availability of abortion in America.

"These people have the attitude, 'It does not affect me. I'm only one person.' I tell you tonight that complacency is killing our democracy," he said.

At the conclusion of his message, Miller called on Southern Baptists to pray for and minister to people contemplating abortion: "We should throw up our arms to these women who are pregnant and love them and show them the way of the Lord. We can go further. We can provide medical centers and godly parents."

NATIONAL CONTINUING WITNESS PASTOR/LEADER TRAINING SEMINAR

South Side Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.

September 28-October 1, 1992

Sponsored by

Home Mission Board Evangelism Section and
Arkansas Baptist State Convention Evangelism Department



For Registration information call or write:

Paul McClung, Evangelism Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203
376-4791, ext. 5132

China Song

by Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—In the rural town of Mexian, China, Erin Thomas teaches her students a new song.

"To the tune of 'Every Day with Jesus,' singing fills the halls of Jia Ying University. 'Every day in China is sweeter than the day before. Every day in China I love her more and more. Striving hard to serve her, helping her to bless the world. Every day in China is sweeter than the day before.'"

Thomas, of Ponca City, Okla., lives what she sings. Nearly two years ago the Southern Baptist teacher crawled through a hole in the smoldering fuselage of a crashed plane strewn across the runway of a Chinese airport. A bungled hijacking attempt brought down the plane.

That October day in 1990, Thomas couldn't find her fellow passenger and teacher, Mary Anna Gilbert of Alabama. Gilbert, who died in the crash, sacrificed her young life for the land and people she came to serve. But after treatment for burns and a broken leg, Thomas returned last year to teach English at the southern China university.

Her song has become the theme for Southern Baptist teachers in classrooms across China. Hearing the words for the first time, many ask what Thomas loves most about China. Her answer is always the same: the people.

When Southern Baptists reflect on China, many now think of 1.1 billion people — plus 46. The billion represents the Chinese masses. Most have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. The 46 are Southern Baptist English teachers and language students in China sponsored by Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptists' humanitarian aid organization.

A mere 46 people can't possibly reach a billion people for Jesus Christ. But the teachers do have regular contact with about 6,000 university students every week. Students are the group most responsive to the gospel in China. Most have never met a Christian before. But observing the Cooperative Services International workers, many express interest in Chris-

tianity. Nearly all grow to understand what it means to be a Christian.

Since its China work began in the mid-'80s, Cooperative Services International has located more than 300 Southern Baptist teachers and students in China. Only seven have been career-type personnel. The rest are long-term volunteers, two-year workers or "tentmakers" — people who

spread their faith while using their professional skills abroad. Most serve two-year stints, but many have stayed a third year.

More than 100 other volunteers have worked in various short-term educational or medical assignments in China, including summer English seminars, nursing workshops and other medical projects.

The Southern Baptists may never know the impact of their work in China, but these illustrations shed some light:

— A Chinese student of teacher Connie Franke of Louisville, Ky., heard she did something before eating each meal and wanted to know what it was. Franke's explanation of prayer led to other questions about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Several students gathered around to listen to her explanations.

— Joe and Earlene Strother of Ruston, La., were discouraged when they left China following a one-year stint. They didn't know one person who had become a Christian through their work. That was three years ago. The Strothers continued contact with more than 40 of their Chinese students by mail. One-fourth of them are now Christians.

— Chinese school administrators added a course to Grady Lackey's teaching load called "The Bible as



Sunday in China—Charlie Wilson worships at St. Paul's Church in Nanjing, China, with Sue Todd, one of the Southern Baptist Teachers in the vast nation. Wilson used to teach in China too, but now he makes other teachers more effective as educational resources coordinator for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization that sponsors the teachers.

(BP) photo / Don Rutledge

GEYER SPRINGS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

REBUILDERS

DIVORCE RECOVERY MINISTRY

Thirteen sessions designed to help you "rebuild" after separation from a spouse due to death or divorce. Sessions meet each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and are led by Dr. Glen McGriff (BS, MA, D.Min.).

Begins August 26

To register or ask information contact:
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church/ 565-3474
5615 Geyer Springs Rd., Little Rock, AR 72209
Paul R. Sanders, Pastor



Dr. McGriff

Literature." That gave the Lubbock, Texas, native opportunities to explain principles of the Christian faith. His students asked so many questions it was often difficult for him to complete lectures.

— Daphne Ayllon of Belleville, Ill., had openings to share her faith — many at inopportune times. One young man asked her before class if she were a Christian. Other students heard her affirm she was. After class, the discussion continued. The man told Ayllon he too was a Christian. Another student asked for a Bible but, concerned about peer pressure, wanted her to wrap it in plain paper.

Most Cooperative Services International workers initially question the effectiveness of a "lifestyle" approach to communicating the gospel. Many aren't sure they will make a difference at all. But as one young Chinese woman told a Southern Baptist teacher: "I knew you were a Christian that first day (in class). I saw it in your eyes."

After a stint in China, every Southern Baptist worker talks about the many opportunities to share faith. They answer countless questions, privately and in small groups: what they believe, why they believe it, how they worship God, how they pray, how to live a Christian life in Chinese society. Every week Southern Baptist teachers and students worship in Chinese churches and have fellowship with Chinese Christians.

All these activities are legal in China. Answering questions about Christianity has never been illegal. Covering appropriate Christian material in class also falls within

regulations. Christians can attend church and point out local churches to non-believers.

The Southern Baptist workers seek activities — within the spirit and the letter of the law — to involve Christians in specific programs.

"Cooperative Services International colors within the lines," said Jack Shelby, the organization's Hong Kong-based administrator. "We respect the laws and regulations of China and are committed to working within them. So we're careful but not scared. We're friends of China who want to express that friendship through service."

"I won't break the laws of the country," added Sue Todd of Windsor, N.C. "We're guests here and we must respect their laws. It would be un-Christian not to, because we would not be setting a good example. But all CSI teachers are a witness — a lifestyle witness through their work and concern . . . We live what we believe. As a teacher, be the best teacher you can, faithful and dependable to your assignment and to God."

The teaching program allows Southern Baptists to serve China and the church from a humanitarian, Christian perspective. Shelby instructs CSI personnel to serve Christ, first by being the most effective teachers and students they can be. The "lifestyle" witness begins there and branches out.

That approach has won many friends in China over the past five years. Those friends, in turn, have opened many opportunities for Southern Baptists in China.

Arkadelphia couple constantly on stage

NANNING, China—An experience in Nanning, China, reminded Ken and Lou Ann Locke that they are constantly "on stage" in their positions as career Southern Baptist teachers in China.

One Sunday after church, the Arkadelphia couple went to a restaurant for dinner. The place was crowded and a Chinese man offered to share his table. He was a retired middle school English teacher, but their conversation was strained until he learned Mrs. Locke spoke Cantonese.

Then the floodgate opened. Mrs. Locke had hoped for a quiet lunch with her husband. But it wasn't to be. The man told them about his daughter in Hong Kong. He shared many family stories. He also asked them many personal questions, which they tried to answer with good manners.

The Lockes wondered to themselves where this was leading. Finally it came out. The man was a Christian and because he knew English he wanted an English Bible. He had asked his daughter in Hong Kong for one, but she only offered excuses about not being able to find one.

The couple exchanged glances. Locke pulled out the Bible he had carried to church for years. His wife wrote a note on the inside leaf and gave it to their new friend. They exchanged addresses but told the man they were leaving Nanning to take a teaching assignment at a school in Guangzhou. The Lockes gave him the address of the church in Nanning. They prayed together.

It was all they could do. But it was all God had asked of them in that situation.

(Cooperative Services International is looking for more than 100 teachers and language students for China this fall. For information call 804-353-0151.)



Your invitation to participate Billy Graham Moscow Crusade

"A mountain peak event in Christian history"

October 22-30, 1992

9 Day "trip of a lifetime" - hearing Billy Graham, distributing tracts in Moscow, witnessing for Christ plus highlights of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Optional extension for one week mission work in local church or optional pre-tour to Holy Land.

Prices from \$2489 (New York departure)

Write or phone: 1-800-325-6708 for details.

BibleLand/Heritage Travel, 1204 S. Third, Louisville, KY 40203

Act TODAY. Time is of the essence.

Pam's Place



Good Line of Casual
Clothes and Dresses

Bridal Gowns and
Bridesmaid Dresses

Specializing in Pageant
Formal and Wedding

930 W. Main St., Jacksonville AR 72076
501-982-7266

SBC not dead, Hobbs says

by Mark Wingfield
Kensett Western Recorder

COLUMBIA, Ky. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention is not dead, despite the warnings issued by some Southern Baptists opposed to the denomination's current direction, said Herschel Hobbs.

Hobbs, widely regarded as the SBC's elder statesman, advised disgruntled moderate-conservatives, who have lost control of the SBC to fundamental-conservatives in the last 13 years, not to leave the denomination.

The retired Oklahoma pastor said he was reminded of a letter he received years ago from W. A. Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas and a well-known fundamental-conservative leader. Writing long before the current controversy erupted, Criswell told Hobbs he was concerned that the SBC was dying, that "this old ship is going down."

Hobbs said he replied then that the SBC's ship wasn't sinking but just going through some troubled waters.

And the advice he gave Criswell then still applies to modern-day moderate-conservatives who think the SBC is dying, he said: "If this ship does go down, I'm still going to be on board, bailing water until the last gurgler."

Hobbs' advice to Southern Baptist churches is to ignore the controversy between Baptist factions that has preoccupied the SBC since 1979.

"I tell churches wherever I go, 'This is a struggle up at the top. Go on and do the Lord's work and pay no attention to that.' 'Southern Baptists are not up to their necks in this, but to their heads, and they're drowning in it. The average layperson is disgusted."

Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., is the oldest living former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He preached on the SBC's "Baptist Hour" radio program 18 years, chaired the committee which developed the 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message" statement, held numerous denominational posts, served on the SBC Peace Committee, and has written 141 books.

He offered his assessment of the SBC during an interview at First Baptist Church in Columbia, Ky., where he was preaching a revival July 19-22.

As evidence the SBC is not dying, Hobbs cited the \$81 million received last year for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. "That doesn't sound to me like the Southern Baptist Convention is dead," he said, recalling when the an-

nual offering goal was just \$7 million.

Instead of dying, the convention is going through a periodic "course correction," Hobbs asserted. "This time, because of the politics, we're going to come back a little to the right of center, but it won't last long," he said.

Southern Baptists "turned the corner" on the controversy this year, Hobbs suggested. "I think we turned the corner in Indianapolis," he said, referring to the June annual SBC meeting in that Indiana city.

Hobbs said he voted for Ed Young for SBC president in Indianapolis and thinks brighter days lie ahead. "I think Ed Young meant what he said when he said he wanted to turn this thing around," Hobbs explained.

In a three-way race for president, Young was the candidate favored by fundamental-conservatives.

Further, Hobbs cited division among conservatives over Houston Judge Paul Pressler's nomination as a Foreign Mission Board trustee as evidence of change. The fact that some leading fundamental-conservative pastors opposed Pressler's nomination indicates the group is not as "monolithic" as some thought, he said.

Tensions linger in the convention because of politics, he suggested.

The Peace Committee did what it was asked to do and offered a good report, which was adopted by the SBC in 1987, he explained. That report cited reasons for the conflict and called on both sides to stop their political efforts.

"All the agencies are living by that report that was adopted in St. Louis," Hobbs said. "But the two little warring parties are more or less ignoring it."

Also, the committee's recommendation that SBC leaders make balanced appointments to boards and agencies has not been heeded, he said.

Hobbs, who will turn 85 in October, said he has the advantage of a long view in making his optimistic assessment for the future. "I've lived long enough to see us go through several controversies, and I've always seen us come out stronger than we went in."

Hobbs has had a front-row seat to several other Southern Baptist fights, most notably the Elliott controversy.

When Hobbs was SBC president in 1962, conflict came to a head over the book, *The Message of Genesis*, written by Ralph Elliott. Critics accused Elliott, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, of espousing a liberal slant on the first book of the Bible.

That conflict resulted in Elliott's firing

from the seminary faculty and led to the 1963 adoption of the "Baptist Faith and Message" under Hobbs' leadership.

Some historians see the Elliott controversy as the first tremor in the larger quake to rock the SBC in the 1980s. But Hobbs said he is confident the convention will survive its current "course correction" just as it did in the 1960s.

"There's some right and some wrong on both sides," he said of the current fight. "There are no white hats or black hats, but gray hats."

"The irony is that both groups have something the other needs," he said. Fundamental-conservatives need to learn about discipleship from moderate-conservatives, who need to learn about evangelism from fundamental-conservatives, he said.

Amazingly, Hobbs has come through years of high-profile involvement in SBC conflicts with few serious critics and claims to have friends "in all strains of beliefs."

"That has been possible, he said, because his beliefs are in the middle, "where old-time Southern Baptists have been and where they are now if they only knew the terms going around."

Hobbs said he doesn't like the labels that get put on people with different viewpoints. He explained that he doesn't want to be remembered either as a conservative or a moderate but as an "old-time Baptist."

"I want to be known as someone who believes the Bible and has done my best to understand it," he said.



**J & H Custom
Furniture, Inc.**

★ Pews
★ Cushions
★ Chancel Furniture

**Call for more information:
501-439-2224**

J & H Custom Furniture, Inc.
P.O. Box 200, Pindall, AR 72669

Quality Church Furniture

Convention Uniform

Fulfill your ministry

by Earl Humble, retired, Walnut Ridge

Basic passage: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

Focal passage: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

Central truth: For the privilege of serving our Lord there is a price to pay.

Young Timothy faithfully had followed Paul's teaching, had emulated his conduct, and even had experienced some of his persecutions. At Lystra Paul was stoned and left for dead. Rebellious Jews who had rejected Paul's teachings had followed him and Barnabas from place to place and stirred up trouble. Paul operated on the assumption that distance of time and place will not change human nature.

Paul knew the kind of home in which Timothy had been reared, and elsewhere he gives credit to Timothy's mother and grandmother for their godly training of the young boy. When Paul and Silas came to Lystra on the second missionary journey, young Timothy was ready to accompany them on the journey westward, then south into Greece.

At the time of this writing Timothy was a pastor in Ephesus, but he still needed the guiding hand of Paul. Nowhere does he give the young pastor stronger advice than in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

In the closing part of today's lesson Paul comes to grips with the young pastor's preaching ministry. He writes Timothy that he must give account to God for his ministry, as well as his life, and that the same Lord who called him would judge him at the final accounting. Paul now stresses to Timothy to preach the Word at all seasons with great patience and with appropriate instruction. With prophetic insight Paul says that the time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine, but will prefer cheap substitutes.

No doubt, this prophecy began fulfillment not long after Paul wrote these words, but it is still with us, perhaps more surely than ever before. A final admonition in this selection of Scripture is to Timothy to be sober, to endure suffering, have compassion for the souls of people, and thus to fulfill his ministry.

If myths and fables were a problem in the first century, as pagans and some professing Christians grappled with these ideas, what would Paul say to us today? Liberalism, secularism, and the New Age Movement have all but flooded our nation today. Let's get back to the Word.

Life and Work

God's faithfulness

by Mitch Tapson, Mount Carmel Church, Cabot

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 23:1-5; 1 Kings 2:1-4

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 23:1-5; 1 Kings 2:1-4

Central truth: Prescription for life—trust in God.

Facing our morality is an humbling experience. To realize that death is before you makes one evaluate his existence and analyze his life's record. There is an accountability imposed on our consciousness when death becomes real.

In our passage this week, David is near the end of a full and productive life. Death is imminent and we are privileged to read some of his last words. 2 Samuel 23 is a passage of praise and is spoken to God himself. 1 Kings 2 records words to his son, Solomon.

In 2 Samuel 23 we hear the poet, the sweet singer of Israel, exult in his God. David attributes all success and honor to God almighty. Though greatly honored and endowed with admirable qualities, David acknowledges he is but a servant of God and recipient of his blessings.

David is concerned for the future of the nation Israel. What will happen to the kingdom when he dies? Will the future leader follow in a similar fashion?

The Spirit of the Lord (23:2) has assured him that not only will David's dynasty continue, but something even more wonderful will occur. The anointed one, the Messiah (23:35), will descend from the lineage of David. Though David is dying, it is not an ending, but a beginning. God assures David that even greater glory is yet to be revealed.

That was God's message to David, now David's message to Solomon is revealed. David draws Solomon to his side and shares his heart with his son and future ruler of Israel. This is no time to mince words. It is time for directness and clarity.

What are David's instructions to Solomon? Simply: (1) Obey God's laws, (2) Follow his ways, (3) Keep each of his commands. If Solomon is faithful to God, God will be faithful to him and his reign. Life can become complicated, exasperating, confusing, and problem-laden. But no finer advice could ever be given than this: In all things, and in all ways, trust and obey the Lord thy God.

Bible Book

God still acts

by Bruce A. Swihart, East Side Church, Paragould

Basic passage: 2 Kings 18:4-5; 19:15-20; 20:1-6

Focal passage: 2 Kings 20:1-6

Central truth: God can help overcome suffering even when it means replacing one prophetic word with another.

We so often busy ourselves with good things that we neglect the best thing, our relationship with the Lord. In order to get our attention the Lord slows us down in such a way that we can seek him only. What is your relationship with the Lord at this moment? What will it take for God to get your attention?

(1) A critical situation. Hezekiah became ill and before he realized it he was facing death. The Lord informed the prophet Isaiah. Then he sent Isaiah to make sure that Hezekiah knew the seriousness of his illness.

God does not owe you good health or long life. Your situation is already far more serious than you realize. You are mortal and for you to assume more from God than today is presumptuous. Satan tempts all Christians to become enamored with life. Our first priority is to love the creator of life. When your greatest concern is for quality of life or length of life your situation is critical.

(2) A clamorous prayer. God takes seriously the repentance and faithfulness of his ill and suffering children. Hezekiah's prayer had an unusual basis—his wholehearted devotion to the Lord. He knew his own heart, and God confirmed the fact. Without an extension of life, Hezekiah's petition preserved the messianic line. God wants to bless his people. He desires to hear from you. Your sincere prayer in faith is important to him.

(3) A considerate response. God is free to respond to repentant people. In his sovereignty God works in behalf of a spiritually sensitive person. He can use miracles to reverse a prophet's pronouncement. Miracles represent God's free personal response to the needs and faith of his people. The passionate prayer of the king changed the circumstances.

God still acts. He wants you to exercise faith. He desires a more personal relationship with you. When will you begin seriously to pray?

Lesson
Date:
Aug. 30

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Disciplined living

by Earl Humble, retired, Walnut Ridge

Basic passage: Titus 2:7-8, 11-14; 3:1-8

Focal passage: Titus 2:7-8, 11-14; 3:1-8

Central truth: The disciplined life has three solid dimensions; it looks inward, outward, and upward.

Every age had its problems in the realm of disciplined living. In homes where Christ is not known, children are reared in a pagan environment, often associated with vice and crime. Our day is no exception. Immorality, violence, and substance abuse are rife in America where Christ is not known and honored. We look to government to solve these problems, but government too often deals with symptoms and never touches the real problems.

Prisons are running over and new facilities are being built. Felons are paroled early to make room for still more felons. Is there any answer to these problems? There always has been a solution, but are we willing to accept it? This is set forth in God's Word, a portion of which we shall now examine.

Our solution begins with the sharing of God's Word, and the consistent example of pastors and people in the churches of our Lord. Even as we tell people the way, we must demonstrate in our lives. Paul assures young Titus that we who know the Lord must live lives set apart for God. Ungodliness and worldly living cannot be tolerated on the part of pastors and people. Even as we labor in our varied ministries, we must be ever alert for the "blessed hope" of our Lord's return. Jesus died for us that he might redeem us from sin and "purify a people for himself, a people zealous for good works."

Paul reminds Titus that all of us are subject to rulers. In that time most, if not all, of these rulers were pagans. But even that was ordinarily better than anarchy. We can change our leaders for we can vote.

Titus 3:5 is one of those treasure troves of Scripture. If we needed another passage to assure us that good works are insufficient to get us to heaven, this verse should do it. Our hope is not in ourselves but in Christ.

If the gospel message we proclaim and the goodly lives we live are not sufficient to change peoples lives, I know of nothing that can. The gospel of Jesus Christ always has been able to change society, one by one, and it will be so until Jesus comes.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Southern Baptist churches, copyright by the Southern Baptist Convention, Board of Christian Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Danger—be wise!

by Mitch Tapson, Mount Carmel Church, Cabot

Basic passage: Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-35

Focal passage: Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-35

Central truth: You and alcohol—a deadly mix.

The lesson for this week will require from you prayerful and thoughtful preparation. You will find as a teacher and/or preacher of God's Word that subjects such as grace, salvation, God's love, heaven, and the world's wickedness rarely cause a ripple of comment from your class or congregation. But a lesson or message on abortion, alcohol, sex, adultery, divorce, or money will cause a stir. Be prepared!

As a teacher or preacher, you need to give a clear and certain warning to your people. And let me warn you, not all are going to agree with a stance of abstinence. There are arguments galore that are hurled at the man who makes a stand. Didn't God make the grapes? The barley? Didn't Jesus drink wine? He performed a miracle and changed water into wine (Jn. 2). Can not I drink in the privacy of my own home? I drink and I'm not an alcoholic. Paul contended that there was nothing unclean of itself, only in your attitude toward it (Ro. 14 Co. 8-9).

The Bible urges us on to wisdom. The Bible urges us to be controlled by no one or no thing other than our trust in him. Alcohol and drug abuse are controllers. Alcohol and drug abuse are destroyers. It is not just a beverage; it is not just for pleasure. The Bible declares that it is like poison; it is deadly (Pr. 23:31-32).

If most people were allowed to go to a slaughterhouse and watch the killing of cattle for the meat markets, many would never eat meat again and might lobby accordingly. Yet, since most are alienated from that business, one of our greatest pleasures is a big, thick, juicy steak. If I were to take you to some homes of alcoholic fathers, certain floors of your local hospital, pastor's offices, and jails to reveal the effects of alcohol and drugs on our society, you would never be the same. Do not let false, deceptive advertising and liberal reasoning detract you from the reality of alcohol's destructiveness and God's warning about it.

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

Bible Book

Spiritual awakening

by Bruce A. Swihart, East Side Church, Paragould

Basic passage: 2 Kings 21:11-14a; 22: 16-17; 23:1-7, 26-27a

Focal passage: 2 Kings 23:1-7

Central truth: Spiritual awakening is the extraordinary movement of God, producing phenomenal spiritual results.

The judgment of God was imminent for Judah because of their wickedness. America, like the nation of Judah, has sunk to a very low spiritual level. His judgment has already begun on America. What can you do to bring about spiritual awakening in our nation?

(1) Personal attention to God's Word. The book of the law had been found stored in a temple room. It had fallen into disuse as the religious leaders and the people neglected it. God's Word is the standard by which God's people can measure their obedience. We must persevere and learn God's Word to know what sin is. Ignorance of God's Word does not exempt a wicked people from God's wrath. Whether rejection of God's Word is expressed by disobedience or neglect, it still makes a people guilty and alienates them from God. Josiah called all the people to the temple for a public reading of God's Word. God's Word has power to help you overcome sin (Ps. 119:11).

(2) Personal commitment to God's way. Josiah is an example of one in a leadership role who took seriously his commitment in the matter of high personal and community standards. Because of the intensity and seriousness of his spiritual commitment to renewed application of God's standards for his life, others followed his example. Josiah prayed and made his renewal publicly. Reading and hearing God's Word should lead to commitment to God's way. Your commitment and life-style can be a strong communicator.

(3) Personal devotion to God's work. Josiah immediately set out to rid the land of the wickedness of idol worship. He involved the priests in tearing down the things that desecrated the land. He was devoted to restoring the worship of the Lord alone. No matter how enthusiastic and thorough the reform, it must become the hearty of the people. Reform is good, but it must take root in the life of the people and become an ongoing mission.

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

FMB, WMU board members meet

by Susan Doyle

SBC Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Representatives from Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union met July 27 for a discussion about the past and future relationship between the two entities.

The dialogue came at the request of FMB trustees who voted in June to meet with WMU leaders to discuss the 104-year relationship between the FMB, a mission-sending entity, and WMU, a mission-supporting entity. The dialogue included four WMU leaders and four FMB leaders.

The three-hour dialogue ended with two agreements: that John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman, initiate dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and that the FMB and WMU continue the dialogue. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist churches formed in protest to the Southern Baptist Convention's current leadership and direction.

Much of the discussion centered on the perceptions surrounding recent actions taken by both the FMB and WMU.

FMB leaders asked pointed questions about WMU's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

WMU has been asked to consider providing some missions education materials tailored for the Fellowship, FMB leaders were told. However, the decision to produce those materials has not been made, WMU leaders said.

WMU has not been asked to initiate or promote a missions offering for the Fellowship, contrary to rumor, the WMU leaders said.

Concerns about the FMB's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were raised by the WMU leaders. Jackson was asked by the WMU leaders to initiate a dialogue with Fellowship leaders and, specifically, to underscore the FMB's willingness to appoint people as career missionaries who have been involved with the Fellowship.

Pointed questions were asked by WMU leaders concerning the replacement of FMB President R. Keith Parks. Parks will take early retirement effective Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions. He has

cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

The WMU leaders urged the appointment not be a politically motivated appointment. Instead, they asked that FMB trustees seek someone with a history of career missionary service.

The group agreed to continue the dialogue by sending representatives to each other's board meetings beginning with the WMU executive board meeting in January 1993 and the FMB trustee meeting in February 1993. They each agreed to send seven representatives — five trustees and two staff members.

Both WMU and FMB leaders agreed healing within the controversy-torn Southern Baptist Convention will only be possible if discussions such as this one continue.

FMB trustee chairman ready to talk to moderate group

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's trustee chairman says he "will be happy to sit down and talk with" Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leaders to "clear up misperceptions" about how foreign missionaries are appointed. "Rather than continue the controversy, I want to heal relationships," John Jackson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fairfield, Calif., told *The California Southern Baptist*.

Although no timetable has been set, Jackson said he expects to talk soon with leaders of the CBF organization.

The Arkansas Baptist's

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Baptistries/Steeple

Construction Sales Co., Inc.

P.O. Box 1049

Magnolia, AR 71753-1049

800-528-9663 FAX: 501-234-8475

Also: Laminated wood arches, beams and decking.

Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)

9101 W. Markham

Little Rock, AR 72205

501-225-6009

Flowers

Frances Flower Shop

1222 West Capitol

Little Rock, AR 72201

501-372-2203

Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning

1612 Park Avenue

Stuttgart, AR 72160

673-2081

Grisham Air Conditioning

505 Sixth Street

Hot Springs, AR 71913

Dale Kemp, Owner; 501-623-1202

Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.

Ruston, La; 318-251-0290

Specialists in Audio Systems and Acoustics Applications

MP Productions, Inc.

6301 Murray St.

Little Rock, AR 72209

Ken E. Newberry, Contracting Manager

501-562-7425 Fax: 562-7521

System design, installation, and service

For a listing call the
ABN at 376-4791, ext. 5158



A Symbol
To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett
Healy & Roth

Little Rock

Forest Hills

Memorial Park

Little Rock

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills

MEMORIAL PARK MEMORIAL PARK / MEMORIAL PARK

GROSS
FUNERAL HOME

Hot Springs

PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

Subscriber Services

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine offers subscription plans at three rates:

Every Resident Family Plan gives churches a premium rate when they send the Newsmagazine to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

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

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

CAR-RT SORT 4ACR39
017557 COMP 2230
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCIAL ST. STE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the above form.

When inquiring about your subscription by mail, please include the address label. Or call us at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to give us your code line information.

WORLD

Heart to hands

by Janice Hicks
SBC Foreign Mission Board

TOKYO (BP)—After winter break, they saunter into the high school classroom with a mixed look of reluctance and playful anticipation.

Some slip quietly into their seats, others slam their books onto their desks. The teacher begins by asking about the Christmas holidays. One by one they respond and get caught up in the responses of others.

The scene could be in any school anywhere. But this is Tokyo's Ohta School for the Deaf. The course is American Sign Language. And the instructor is Southern Baptist missionary Nan Jordan of El Paso, Texas.

To teach American Sign Language in Japan, the teacher obviously must know Japanese as well as Japanese Sign Language. Jordan knows all three. Furthermore, she teaches at two Tokyo schools for the deaf. She also hopes eventually to start after-school Bible clubs for the students.

Many of the students depend heavily on lip-reading. Usually they have no formal instruction in Japanese Sign Language. Japan's philosophy is to encourage the deaf to integrate into the hearing world.

"Even their families rarely learn to sign," Jordan says.

The children are "mainstreamed" through elementary school but begin to fall behind and require special instruction by middle school. At their first encounter with other non-hearing children, they begin to pick up signing.

"Part of the challenge with these kids is just convincing them they can learn," says Jordan, who has two grown children of her own. "These kids are smart but they need more encouragement because they're so far behind their hearing counterparts."

Maeda, a boy in one of Jordan's classes, seemed more interested in clowning than trying to learn to sign. But after the students demonstrated their American signing skills in a play performance, Maeda stopped clowning.

"I can do it. I can really do it!" he said, explaining how he first thought he could not learn this new way of talking.

Jordan's interest in signing came years ago as she participated in a Girls in Action

(BP) photo / Janice Hicks



Nan Jordan works with some of her students at the Ohta Deaf School in Tokyo.

ceremony in El Paso, Texas. A young GA interpreted the missions program in sign language. That impressed Jordan. From that time on she wanted to work with deaf people.

Her dream became reality some years later when she attended Barksdale Baptist Church in Bossier City, La. The church had a deaf ministry and she began learning to sign. When the interpreter suddenly moved, Jordan became the "official" interpreter.

Her most embarrassing gaffe came one Sunday morning when she accidentally signed, "Our pastor is happy to be back from two weeks in hell." She had meant to say "on holiday."

Appointed a missionary to Japan in 1982, Jordan still had visions of working with the deaf. But when she asked her Japanese language teachers about learning Japanese and Japanese Sign Language simultaneously, her question was met with little enthusiasm. Not until five years later did the vision materialize.

Another missionary noticed a hearing woman practicing signing in a donut shop. He arranged for Jordan to meet the woman, who was studying American Sign Language. Jordan enrolled in night classes to study it also. Through contacts in that class, she later arranged to study Japanese signing.

A letter inviting Jordan to work at Shakuji School for the Deaf surprised her. She learned a stranger had recommended her for the job. The man, involved in the Japanese Theater for the Deaf, had heard of her ability to sign in both languages.

Jordan's ministry is an intricate tapestry in the making. She weaves the lives of her students into the picture.