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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 17

August 25, 1994

Arkansas Baptists Making a Difference



BETH ANNE RANKIN, Miss Arkansas 1994, credits her success to the influence of family and her Christian faith. She is an active member of Central Church, Magnolia.



LARRY HENDERSON (right) recently became the highest-ranking chaplain in the Arkansas National Guard. He is endorsed by the Home Mission Board as a counselor and part-time chaplain.



Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteers aided dozens of families with flood clean-up and child care services following recent flooding in Albany, Ga.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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'See You at the Pole' events set stage for Christian clubs

Arkansas students participating in "See You at the Pole" activities Sept. 21 also will have an opportunity to establish Christian clubs in their schools following the event. And the Christian Club materials they will use stem from a local perspective: They were written by two Arkansans.

The Christian Club Guide: How to Organize and Operate a Christian Club, was written by Randy Brantley, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, and Dave Hughey, minister of youth for Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. The book is the official See You at the Pole follow-up resource guide for student Christian Club leaders.

See You at the Pole (SYATP) is a student-led prayer gathering for junior high school and high school students which began in 1990. It is traditionally held around the school's flagpole as participants pray for national and community leaders, non-Christian friends and the influence of Christ on their school.

Brantley said increasing numbers of Arkansas youth have participated in the annual event. "Arkansas first participated in 1991 with more than 11,000 youth," he said. "In 1992, we had 17,000 participate and last year more than 18,000 youth participated."

He added that SYATP was observed on 337 of the 450 secondary schools in the state in 1993. "Students in three quarters of Arkansas's schools participated in SYATP last year and I'd like us to break 20,000 participants in 350 schools this year."

Brantley and Hughey said the idea to write the follow-up guide came after the

success of See You at the Pole in Texas in 1990, then around the nation in 1991.

"We wrote it because we felt we needed something to put in students' hands after SYATP," Brantley recalled. "We felt we could use SYATP as a springboard for campus impact."

Hughey said, "I got burdened that I was telling my kids about SYATP, but they needed something to follow up on it. The whole reason I wrote the guide was for the kids at my church, but, because there wasn't a whole lot out there to use as a follow up, we started getting more calls."

Brantley and Hughey said the book was originally intended for use only in Arkansas, but they were soon contacted by National Network of Youth Ministries, an interdenominational group which promotes SYATP, about marketing the guide.

Brantley said the first edition was published in 1991 "but following feedback, we realized youth were starting Christian Clubs but did not know what to do once they organized them." He explained that a second edition was published this year "to get them beyond organizing a club, to give them some simple meetings and to show kids how to run them."

Brantley also wrote a companion piece to the guide, *The Lifesaver Pocket Book Student Planner*, a daily prayer workbook used by Christian Club members.

Hughey urged Baptist youth to initiate a Christian Club as quickly as possible. "The window is open now, but I'm not sure how long the Supreme Court is going to allow this. Get all over this while you can because the chance may not be there long."

Cover Story

ABN photo / Russ Dilday



Making a difference

Larry Henderson (right) recently was named the highest-ranking chaplain in the Arkansas National Guard (see page 11). Other Arkansas Baptists featured on this week's cover who are "making a difference" are Beth Anne Rankin, Miss Arkansas 1994 (see page 12) and disaster relief volunteers who aided flood victims in Georgia (see page 3).

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Trennis Henderson.....Editor
Russell N. Dilday.....Associate Editor
Colleen Backus.....Assistant Editor

Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
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Relief teams serve despite hardship, loss

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas Baptist disaster relief teams know that they will see hardship and devastating losses while on the field. But the teams that recently went to help with flood relief in Georgia could not have imagined that the hardship and loss would be their own — the July 28 deaths of Glendon and Marjorie Grober in a car accident many states away. Glendon Grober, Arkansas Brotherhood director, directed disaster relief work and his wife, Marjorie, often led the child care team.

"He traveled all over the world, but he had a passion for disaster relief," recalled Ronnie O'Neal, assistant Brotherhood director. O'Neal currently is directing Arkansas disaster relief and construction work.

"One of the reasons the Arkansas team was chosen (by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission) for the Georgia project was because of our work in the Midwest flood of 1993," O'Neal pointed out. "We had the equipment and the experience that was needed."

Seven men started out from Little Rock on July 25 with a cranky truck and hearts full of determination. They got no farther than Lake Village before the radiator overheated. "There was a radiator shop out in the country, and they had the truck fixed, in 45 minutes," said team member Carl Robinson, from Bayou Meto Church in Sherwood. "The man was a Southern Baptist and wouldn't take a penny."

"Back on their way, Robinson said the team stopped at the "Hilton" — Hilton Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga. After a morning prayer meeting, they discovered a problem with the truck's steering column. "A man who had a parts store came up to us and told us to come to his shop," Robinson said. "He fixed the truck and he wouldn't take any money either!"

"Our equipment isn't in the best shape," O'Neal noted with a laugh, "but the Lord provides."

Finally in Albany, site of the flooding of the Flint River, the team went to work. In addition to Robinson, team members included: Delbert Scott, Sherwood; Ed Lauderdale, Heber Springs; Turk Cunningham, Newark; Steve Hammond, Hot Springs, and Danny Raulerson and William



Arkansas Baptist disaster relief child care workers Virginia Lederer (left) and Donna Cheatham aid youngsters in Albany, Ga.

Burton, Nashville. Team members ranged from retired workers to 16-year-old William Burton who also accompanied the team to the midwest floods last year.

Working out of Sherwood Baptist Church in Georgia, the team gutted two houses. They removed sheet rock, masonry and even bathroom fixtures — all required before the federal government will assist homeowners. "It's hard, demanding work," O'Neal said. "The men waded through sewer water and perform physical, stressful labor. I admire the men so much for putting themselves on the line."

Team member Turk Cunningham was injured when a water-soaked wall buckled behind a mirror he was removing and the mirror fell, lacerating his arm and requiring more than 30 stitches.

"We met other people that were helping there from all areas of the country — even Canada — and from all walks of life," Robinson commented. "There were groups of Mennonites from Missouri and Mississippi who offered a prayer song every morning at breakfast," he recalled. "We looked forward to the singing every morning — it was really moving."

With five team members slated to leave July 28, Robinson and Lauderdale stayed to help the Arkansas Child Care Unit set up the next day. That night, the Grobers were killed. O'Neal notified SBC Brotherhood officials, who informed the child care team upon their arrival in the early morning hours of July 29.

"I felt they would want to turn around and come home," O'Neal said. "But all

the team wanted to stay and work the child care unit. They demonstrated Christian service to the fullest, since more of the ladies were close to the Grobers." Mrs. Grober originally was scheduled to accompany the team, but was unable to make the trip because of a death in the family. "The ladies felt Marjorie would want them to stay," O'Neal commented.

Virginia Lederer from First Church, Mahvern, was the on-site coordinator for the child care team. The team, which operated child care facilities in Albany until Aug. 7, aided 460 children.

Operating with only four team members — Lederer, Betty Taylor from Second Church, Russellville; Polly Owen from First Church, Waldron; and Debbie Cooper, Northvale Church in Harrison — the women cared for children whose parents were applying for flood recovery assistance from the federal government. Working out of a Red Cross Service Center in a hotel setting, the ladies provided care for babies and children up to seven years old. "We had games for them, lunch and snack," Lederer said. The Red Cross also supplied snacks and toys, so the ladies made up "goodie bags" to send with the children.

Based out of First Church, Albany, Lederer said the unit could not have operated successfully without help from church volunteers. "We would call and assistance would be there immediately," she pointed out.

On August 2, two team members had to leave, and were replaced by Donna Cheatham, Russellville; Shirley Bradford, Knoxville; and Bonnie Harris and Dorothy Rapert, both from Pocohontas. Fred Lederer and Jim Bradford drove the child care unit. "It just makes me feel good" to help, Bradford noted.

Lederer recalled that one little girl came and told them, "All of my toys were ruined. The water got everything on the floor, but not on the shelves. From now on, I'm going to put my toys away on the shelf."

Acknowledging how difficult it was for the ladies to be unable to attend the Grobers' memorial service, and choosing to provide ministry instead, O'Neal told Virginia Lederer, "You ladies are my heroes."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABS-C Executive Director

What more can be said than has been said about the shocking death of our beloved friends, missionary leaders and employee? We remain almost speechless. Glendon and Marjorie Grober, while snatched from us by an automobile accident, can never be removed from the memories that inspire us. They will truly live on in the lives of all of us who have been touched by them. How privileged we were to have had them as friends and fellow laborers both as our missionaries for 30 years and as a convention employee for the past 10 years.

In Glendon's absence the following people will be responsible for overseeing the work in the areas named. They will have full authority and support of the administration in acting on our behalf during the interim. Please look to them, pray for them and help them.

- Royal Ambassadors: Ozzie Berryhill
- European Partnership: Doyme Plummer
- Lay Renewal: Bob Fisher
- Disaster Relief: Ronnie O'Neal
- Construction Teams: Ronnie O'Neal
- Golf Tournaments: Ronnie O'Neal
- Softball Tournament: Charles Keenan

No area of work under Glendon is more urgent than our response to requests from European Baptist Convention churches. The 59 churches in several countries have submitted 71 requests to us through the Foreign Mission Board. Forty-two of these have not been taken by any of our churches or associations. This is a pressing need.

Could you, your church or association help with church planting, leadership retreats, training, interim pastorates, evangelistic activities, assistance with an orphanage, construction or summer assembly leadership? Call Doyme Plummer in the Brotherhood office for more information; phone 376-4791, ext. 5190.

Your prayers for God's leadership in finding someone who can lead these ministries will be deeply appreciated. It is hard to believe that another person exists who can provide the inspiration and leadership needed to carry on this work. We must have God's direction.

RONNIE ROGERS

The President's Corner

Preachers and politics



Can you imagine a preacher who loves God in 1858 saying he did not speak out on the personhood of black people because he did not want to get involved in politics? And what do we think of the preachers who because of fear of being political, did not speak out against the killing of Jews in 1944? Thank God for men like Dietrich Bonhoeffer who described a Christian as "a man for others," and who spoke out regardless of politics.

If government says that we can no longer worship on Sunday, will preachers speak out then? Or if the government says we cannot rear our children in a Christian home, will preachers speak out then?

The church should "speak the truth in love" whether it concerns politics, economics, education, etc. I do not know of one scripture which supports the notion that when an issue moves into the political realm or a person becomes a politician, it/he becomes mysteriously off limits. The issues of abortion, homosexuality, pornography, ad infinitum were moral issues before they were political issues, and they will forever remain moral issues. A church that does not address the moral issues of the day is not the New Testament Church, but an anemic, phobic, paralyzed social club without a moral conscience.

Some have bought the lie that you cannot legislate morality. Actually all

legislation is legislated morality. The question is not can you legislate morality, but rather whose morality will be legislated.

The infamous Vladimir Lenin said, "Take your bayonet and if you find steel retreat, if you find mush advance." Could it be that the enemy has taken so much ground in America because of a mushy church?

Some say don't get involved in politics because it will hurt evangelism. Nothing more than a mere glance will reveal we are rapidly losing our freedom to present the Christian truth in many public places like public schools, the workplace with the EEOC's proposed regulation, May 1994, or the banning of Gideon Bibles where once they were welcomed. The past exclaims that silence in one area will assure being silenced in another.

Evangelism cannot be hindered by speaking the truth in love, but only by a mute church. God did not exempt politicians from His love and truth, nor did He exempt the church from speaking in the political forum. Thank God for preachers who stand like Nathan, saying, "David, thou art the man" or John The Baptist who told Herod, "You ought not to take your brother's wife."

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"My prayer has been for God to use my life. I would hate to look back on my life and see that I lived it for me."

—Beth Anne Rankin, Miss Arkansas 1994

"You can lose more people through poor Bible teaching than you can ever gain through aggressive outreach."

—Ed Hinkson, associate, Arkansas Baptist Sunday School department

Gambling: A bad bet for Arkansas

It's official. Arkansas voters will face proposed constitutional amendments in November seeking to legalize casinos, a lottery and bingo in the state.

With just over 10 weeks until the general election, citizens concerned about the evils of expanded gambling in the state must make their voices heard. While Arkansas Baptists and other Christian groups traditionally have opposed gambling on moral grounds, there are numerous other reasons to vote "no" Nov. 8 on all three gambling schemes.

For those swayed by moral issues, economic factors should capture their attention — and their votes. Shortly after the "Arkansas First" casino/lottery/bingo campaign was introduced in April, both Democratic and Republican politicians voiced reservations about the plan.

"It's not the most stable form of economic development," Sen. David Pryor told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

"It would be a very bad approach for the state," agreed Rep. Tim Hutchinson. "If you look at the states that have the

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

lottery, you see declining revenue. It's a very unreliable way of funding anything."

Another crucial factor is the number of compulsive gamblers in states where casinos and lotteries operate. Research indicates as many as 9.3 million adults and 1.3 million teenagers in the U.S. exhibit some form of problem gambling behavior.

While most people would not consider themselves among the 2 to 4 percent of Americans who are most susceptible to becoming compulsive gamblers, what

about our social responsibility to those who are? According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, two of three pathological gamblers commit illegal acts to pay gambling debts, one in five attempts suicide and their children are more apt to have alcohol, drug, and gambling problems, depression and suicidal tendencies than their peers.

A host of other studies emphasize that gambling creates no new wealth, that it takes a higher toll on low-income people and that 40 percent of white-collar crime is committed by gambling addicts. Among the most telling statistics is that the typical odds for winning a lottery jackpot are about one in 5 million while the odds of being hit by lightning are one in 600,000.

Gambling proponents are spending millions of dollars seeking to convince Arkansans to vote for expanded gambling. Don't be taken in by slick advertising campaigns and meaningless slogans. Study the statistics and vote your convictions. When you know the facts, it's clear that gambling is a bad bet for Arkansas.

Leadership by example

I am a 74-year-old retired Southern Baptist minister. I remember in the '40s the Southern Baptist Convention emphasis was "Every Baptist a Tither." Also, churches were encouraged to give to the entire program of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program on a percentage basis of their undesignated gifts rather than by a dollar amount in their annual budget. As long as that emphasis was pushed our work flourished financially.

The new emphasis needed leadership by example by our denominational leaders and the pastors of our largest churches in leading their churches to increase their percentage giving through the Cooperative Program. The statistics for the last 15 years reveal that during the tenure of the last seven presidents of the SBC their churches averaged giving 4.93 percent through the Cooperative Program. Last year the churches of the SBC Executive Board members averaged 7.5 percent through the Cooperative Program. The report of the SBC Stewardship Commission for 1993 shows that the top 18 churches in membership averaged giving 3.8 percent through the Cooperative Program.

Baker James Cauthen, president of the Foreign Mission Board in the '60s when communism blocked missions in Russia, China and many other places, wrote that the main thing blocking missions "was not the Iron Curtain or the Bamboo Curtain but the Plush Curtain." That is the problem



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

today. Our churches are hiding behind the Plush Curtain. They spend too much on themselves and give too little through CP. I know of one church that 15 years ago lowered its Cooperative Program percentage to build a new building. When the building was paid for, the percentage to the CP was not restored. Other churches have done similar things.

We need bold leadership on the part of all our pastors to lead their churches to increase the percentage they give through the Cooperative Program. If pastors do expect their people to tith, is it too much to ask their churches to do likewise, to give at least 10 percent of all undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program?

E. Fred Savage Jr.
College City, AR

What is needed most?

"It may occasion some surprise today to note that in 1891 one-fifth of all representatives in the state legislature were ordained ministers. But we must remember that, at the time, ministers made up a sizable part of the educated minority of the Arkansas populace. An outstanding

example of the minister-politician of this day was James P. Eagle, 21 times president of the state convention and thrice president of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The previous statement comes from *A History of Baptists in Arkansas 1818-1978* by E. Glenn Hinson. Eagle also served two terms as governor of Arkansas as well as a state representative and a constitutional convention representative.

I ask, which is needed most — the ability to read and write, or do what is right? This is the major issue we are always confronted with. During the late 1800s the priority was doing what was right. We have supremely literate people today who are morally bankrupt and outrageously dishonest.

We're presently suffering from four generations who have been white-washed, brain-washed and dumbed down to a point of utter disbelief. Jesus said to one of the most educated teachers, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). What kind of state, nation or world do we expect when we insist and teach our young that Bible-believing Christian ministers are forbidden to serve in government? What kind of logic systems have we adopted that tell us to bow and submit to atheistic, totalitarian tyrants? God help these who claim any intellect, while exhibiting total disregard of truth, fact, absolute, law and unquestionable proof, while proclaiming this exercise in foolishness; education!

Jim Glover
Heber Springs, AR

Debating 'The Issue' - what is right?

Regarding the recent abortion-clinic protests in Little Rock, I share the following thoughts.

Many very fine Christians gather in coffee shops or at breakfast tables or in Sunday School classes and in the comfort of this clinical, sterile and sanitary environment discuss The Issue. Is it right? Is it wrong? Is there really anything that can be done about it? Every point is made and remade again and again and again. And it remains forever only a discussion for the vast majority of us.

We work it out in our minds, but the slaughter goes on. We discuss (Nero fiddles), and babies die (Rome burns). We are dealing with The Issue! Those who stand on the sidewalks in the vicinity of abortion clinics (facilities where unborn children are murdered) are *not* dealing with The Issue of abortion. No! They are dealing with the imminent death of a living, innocent human being! They are dealing with the fact that a potential mother is carrying a living child into this place to be killed...to have its little body torn apart bit by bit in the murderous act of abortion. They are hoping and praying that by their prayers and pleading that one life might be spared, that one mother might be saved for the Kingdom.

We who major in *discussing* The Issue say that we care. Perhaps we do. But James says that faith that produces no evidence of its existence is dead. It just might be that "concern" that produces no action is dead also. Compassion *always* moved our Lord Jesus to do something for the object of His compassion.

We who deal only with The Issue have no moral right to be critical of those who deal with the imminent and real and horrible reality of child murder. When Judgment comes which group will hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant?"

1

PERSON'S VIEW



By EDWARD E. STACKS
Pastor, Dallas Avenue Church, Mena

While we debate The Issue, millions more will be murdered. We have talked about it for over 20 years and the slaughter goes on unabated. We still vote for politicians who are willing for the carnage to continue. We still put into office men and women who have no real convictions about it. And they cannot be elected without a significant number of Christian votes.

In America we want to do it "by the book." But in this case it has been demonstrated conclusively that "by the book" means that millions more will die before anything is done. How can Christians be at ease with that thought? How can we be at ease with the thought that if we continue as we are now nothing may ever be done? The truth is that abortion for birth control, abortion for sex selection, abortion for parental convenience, may well soon become more accessible than ever before.

If President Clinton does in fact sign the Freedom of Choice Act (which is coming back!) as he has promised to do, what then? More discussion, more clinical, academic, sterile, uninvolved debates? God forbid.

Can anyone honestly believe that our

Lord Jesus, given the nature of this situation, would stand by and do nothing but discuss The Issue while 4000 more babies are killed every day that He discussed it? But then we don't have to wonder very long: This would not be the same Jesus who went into the Temple and angrily turned over the tables of the moneychanger and then chased them out. Yes, He could have gotten Himself into trouble with the authorities, but He seemed more concerned about other things than His own personal safety.

And, then, He could have "lost His witness" to certain people for the manner in which He did this. (He could have said, "Now fellas, you know this isn't right. Why don't you find someplace else to do your business?") But tolerating sin has never enhanced the real Christian witness! Not ever.

We applaud Martin Luther King, Jr. for his acts of civil disobedience in what is almost universally recognized as a just cause. We applaud his leadership. We call him a great man and a great American. Some call him a great Christian. We name streets after him. We declare national holidays in his honor. Yet, not in all of recorded American history have 30 million black people been violently murdered. But those who try to rescue the babies are told, sometimes by the religious establishment, that they are doing it all wrong...that they are breaking the law and giving up their witness. Well, dear friend, please tell me: What is right? How do we keep the 4,000 that are scheduled to die tomorrow from dying? How? By talk? Not likely. We've been doing that since 1973 and not even one life has been saved.

I hope, I pray, that we Christians are not hiding our apathy behind our arguments. But, sometimes we have to wonder...

Variety of methods needed to avoid 'teaching rut'

By Chip Alfrod

Baptist Sunday School Board

RIDGECREST, NC (BP)—Ann Cannon knows about the world's worst teaching method.

It isn't lecturing or even reading the lesson from the book. "The worst method is the one you use every week and it can be something very creative," she explained. "But no matter how great it is, your kids are going to get bored with it if you keep using it over and over."

"You've got to have some variety, change things up a little," noted Cannon,

a Christian writer, conference leader, and youth worker at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. She led the seminar "How to Break Out of My Teaching Rut" for youth workers attending the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference Aug. 9-13 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Common "teaching ruts" identified in Cannon's session included: depending too much on one creative method, failing to get the youth to participate in the lesson, using the same teams or class groupings, keeping the same room arrangement and waiting until the last minute to prepare.

Cannon said research has shown that the average youth worker spends only 17 minutes a week preparing to teach the Sunday School lesson.

"You've got to spend more time than that and you can't leave God out of the process," she said. "Your prayer life is also very important. You need to be praying for the lesson and for each class member by name."

Teachers interested in avoiding the "rut" must be willing to risk trying things that may be outside their comfort zone, such as drama, monologues or storytelling, Cannon said.

Resource kits aid anti-gambling campaign

How can Arkansas Baptists and other concerned citizens battle the multi-million-dollar campaign being waged by gambling advocates? One way is with the anti-gambling resource kit compiled by the Christian Civic Action Committee.

Copies of the kit, which are being distributed to Arkansas Baptist churches through their area associations, contain a videotape, an audiotape and several pages of written resources that provide practical information about the impact of expanded legalized gambling.

According to Larry Page, CCAC executive director, the kit contains "a good deal of factual, statistical and informational material that makes the irrefutable case that legalized gambling offers a myriad of problems that run the gamut from the spiritual to the economical to the psychological."

The videotape, "Empty Promises & Broken Dreams," provides a brief overview of the negative impact of gambling. The audiocassette, "Gambling: Is It Right or Wrong?" is a message by Ronnie Rogers, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The cassette also includes suggestions for "what you can do to stop the spread of gambling in Arkansas."

Among the written resources is a report on "why gambling is a bad bet and deserves our staunch opposition." Noting that gambling violates biblical principles, wrecks the economy, harms society, destroys lives and perverts the role of



government, the report concludes, "If we gamble with the future of our children and our state, we will lose!"

The resource kit material encourages concerned citizens to pray about personal involvement in the anti-gambling effort, to register to vote and encourage others to do so and to consider financially supporting

the CCAC's anti-gambling campaign. CCAC leaders have requested that congregations provide \$2 per church member to help finance the effort to defeat ballot proposals calling for legalized bingo, lottery and casino gambling in the state.

CCAC leaders also filed suit last week against one of three gambling proposals approved for the November ballot. The suit asks that the "Arkansas First" proposal to allow casinos at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs and Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis be removed from the ballot because of concerns over the ballot title and popular name. A similar effort in 1990 was successful in removing a proposed lottery amendment from the ballot.

Page said the proposal's popular name does not specifically mention casinos, adding that the proposed amendment is "misleading, deceptive and replete with ambiguity." He noted that the ballot title also fails to acknowledge that the proposal would give the two race tracks "a monopoly on for-profit gambling operations" in the state.

Individuals interested in additional information about opposing expanded gambling in the state may contact Page at the Christian Civic Action Committee, P.O. Box 193256, Little Rock, AR 72219-3256; phone 562-1304.

Video emphasizes gambling pitfalls, costs

Noting that his gambling became "habit-forming" after casinos opened in nearby Tunica, Miss., a member of Gamblers Anonymous explained, "I decided I wanted to make a change. It didn't make sense to work all week and blow that money gambling in one night."

Unfortunately, thousands of compulsive gamblers fail to recognize their destructive behavior. Money intended for food, clothing, medical needs and shelter often is gambled away while family members suffer financially, physically and emotionally. The end result often is "Empty Promises & Broken Dreams."

A videotape with that stark title is part of the anti-gambling resource kit produced by the Christian Civic Action Committee. The 12-minute video emphasizes the financial and personal costs of gambling that are ignored by those seeking to expand legalized gambling in the state.

Describing gambling as "a regressive form of taxation," CCAC executive director Larry Page explained that "the poor gamble at a rate three times the rest of the population."

Charging that legalized gambling "perverts the role of

government," he added, "Among the most noble tasks of government is that of protecting and enhancing its citizens' lives....When a state runs a lottery, it becomes an economic predator of its people, particularly its weakest people."

Arkansas Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee declares on the video: "Casinos and lotteries are not only a bad idea morally; they're an even worse idea economically....Our state can ill afford to exchange the idea of the virtue of work for the vice of wagering."

According to Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "There is not a bigger hoax on the scene today than the fraudulent claim that gambling income is a good way to finance state programs." Rather than generating new money for needed programs, he warned that state funding for education and crime generally decreases in direct proportion to gambling receipts.

Barry Kling, CCAC steering committee chairman, concludes the video by challenging viewers to help alert voters to the "dire consequences - economically, morally and socially - of further expansion of legalized gambling in our state."

Iowa partnership efforts reach 'strongest point ever'

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"It was awesome," Acteen Ginger Box said of her recent trip to Iowa. "I even had them take me to a corn field so I could really see Iowa."

Box was among seven Acteen Activators and three leaders who participated in a mission trip to Keokuk, Iowa, as part of the Iowa-Arkansas Partnership. The 1994 Activator team included: Box and Darlene Savell from Bayou Meto Church, Jacksonville; Sheila Bailey, Beth Benzing, Janice Cole and Kim Stewart from Central Church, Jonesboro; Sheri Box and Heather Sadler from Strawfloor Church, Jonesboro; and Katie Galucki from Second Church, Cabot.

Angela Lowe, Acteens director for Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, accompanied the group. "Their primary task was to sow gospel seeds in the heartland of America," Lowe explained. The Activators worked with home missionaries Bob and Amy Little. He is pastor of Bethany Baptist Chapel, which recently moved into a building given to the church by a Congregational Church that was disbanding. Although the Littles have been working in the community for three years, the girls helped raise awareness of the church in the neighborhood, since the congregation had been in its new location only five weeks.

The Activators conducted 10 Backyard Bible Club sessions with an enrollment of 50 children. The team led Sunday and Wednesday worship services as well as clowning and puppet programs at a senior citizens' center and nursing home.

"Once you get used to it, being a clown for the Lord can be effective," said Acteen leader Sheila Bailey. "Even if you are shy, which some of the girls were, you can be different as a clown — people won't wave to you, but they will wave back at a clown."

Impressed by the devotion of the Littles, Bailey said she hoped the trip helped "build a fire for the Lord."

Lowe noted that team members stayed in the homes of church members. "Staying in the homes was a good experience," she commented. "Often the church members were new Christians, or only the mom was involved." This gave the girls an opportunity to be witnesses.

Ginger Box was staying with a family that had a teenage daughter, Laura, visiting her father during the summer; the girl usually lives with her mother in the

country. Ginger and Laura quickly found that they shared a love of horses, and Ginger went to Laura's horse show in addition to taking her along on all of the Activator activities. After the horse show, Ginger gave her a gift bag with some chocolate kisses, a salvation bracelet and a New Testament. "At least I planted a seed," Ginger said hopefully.

Planting seeds

Another partnership team planted seeds in Iowa during the first part of July. Black River Association sent a team of 17 volunteers to Sioux City. Mount Olive Baptist Church, a black Southern Baptist congregation, had recently purchased a Jewish synagogue in the inner city and needed help getting the building ready to house a church.

"When we first arrived, the people treated us with caution....By the time we left they were hugging us and wouldn't hardly let us go."

— Norman Lewis
DOM, Black River Association

"We were a Baptist group going to work on a Jewish synagogue, staying at a Catholic college," said Norman Lewis, director of missions for Black River Association. "The bill for our stay at the college was \$840, but the nuns gave us a grant for \$500. That is very unusual."

During the day, the men on the team worked on the church building and the women conducted Vacation Bible School. "Instead of refreshments, the ladies just went ahead and fed the kids — 82 of them — lunch with us," Lewis said. Some of the children would normally have to go without a noon meal, he pointed out.

After working all day, the team held tent revivals at night. "The corner where the church is located has gang graffiti, and we saw open drug dealing," Lewis explained. "But after the second night, we didn't have any trouble — they just sat on their porches and listened."

Work on the Jewish temple, which Lewis described as "ornate," ran into a snag with the discovery of a balcony badly

damaged by water. Attempting to repair it, "we could not get anything to hold," he noted. So the team purchased a blue velvet curtain — 50 feet long by 12 feet high — and built and painted blockades for the stairwells. "They won't need the space for several years, and we saved them a couple hundred dollars a month on heating and cooling costs," Lewis explained.

"When we first arrived, the people treated us with caution," he added. "By the time we left they were hugging us and wouldn't hardly let us go."

"The Iowa-Arkansas partnership is at its strongest point," noted Jimmy Barrentine, missions department director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and partnership director for the state.

"The quality of the project requests have improved" since the partnership started in 1992, he pointed out. Requests have grown from simple paint and repair projects to requests for teams to lead revivals, Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs and even to work in the benevolence center in Des Moines. Much of the "request improvement" came out of Arkansas Baptist response to the devastating flooding that hit Iowa during the Midwest floods of 1993. "The local people know what Baptists can do," Barrentine affirmed.

"Some things are happening that are going to make the partnership easier," Barrentine emphasized. This year, US-2 missionary Andrea Ramage, working out of the Arkansas missions department, is coordinating much of the partnership work. As a result, a printed list of projects is immediately available to anyone who is interested in participating in the partnership.

Plans under way for '95

Planning for next year is being facilitated by an October deadline for 1995 project requests. "This will allow more lead time for project planning," Barrentine explained.

"We still need churches and associations to participate in Project 15 — the 15 priority counties where there is no Baptist work and where evangelical work is weak in general," Barrentine noted. "They will need to be long-term partners for basic cultivation, hopefully culminating in a church start." There are still more than 50 counties in Iowa that have no Baptist work.

Barrentine said the reason for the partnership being at its strongest point is that "church and associations consider it their partnership — and that's the way it should be."

Individuals interested in additional information about the partnership may contact Barrentine at 376-4791, ext. 5149.

Teens shoot hoops and spread the gospel

An enthusiastic response to the Word of God was the reward received last month when Arkansas Baptists' all-star basketball team and sponsors went to Caracas, Venezuela, on a sports evangelism mission trip.

"It was so rewarding to be able to share the gospel with those who are unable to hear it every day as we are," declared team member Jason Kingston from Southside Church in Paragould.

Team member Bobby Thomas of First Church in West Memphis found the Venezuelans to have gracious spirits and the willingness to learn. "I also felt privileged to be able to work side-by-side with the foreign missionaries who were so willing to assist and guide us while in Venezuela," he noted.

Other team members included Jeff Abbott of Central Church in North Little Rock; Brad Baine of Southside Church of Paragould; Tommy Bean of First Church in Amity; Don Beasley of First Church in Monticello; Dustin Chumley of First Church in Judsonia; Lucas Emberton of First Church in Clinton; Jason Hall of Second Church in Little Rock; Dan Heard of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock; and Jonathan McLaughlin of Fairfield Bay Church.

Neal Guthrie, minister of music and youth for First Church in Judsonia, who served as project coordinator, said the team members were chosen during the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Challenger basketball tournament. Affirming the team's efforts, Guthrie noted, "Sports evangelism has become a way in which we as Southern Baptists reap big dividends for our efforts."

Guthrie also praised the team members' part in assisting church planter Mike Glenn in establishing a new mission while there. "Suddenly, our high school young men became church planters and had the joy of knowing their efforts resulted in reaching people for Christ," he explained.

Coach David Wallace of Park Hill



Members of Arkansas Baptists' Challengers all-star basketball team hold a basketball clinic in Venezuela as part of a recent sports evangelism mission trip.

Church in North Little Rock who had been on two other mission ventures in Venezuela also was elated that a new work was launched during the trip. He said the response of the Venezuelans to attend services whether in an apartment, elementary school or basement of a hotel was fantastic. "They are so hungry for the gospel they have the ability to worship no matter what the circumstances," he declared. "I just wish people of our country were that eager."

Other coaching staff members who assisted with services, basketball clinics and evening tournaments were Gary Bean

of First Church in Amity and Brian Carroll of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. During the clinics the Arkansas Challengers not only shared their ball playing skills, but met one-on-one with local team members to share their faith and exchange gifts.

"Our team returned undefeated in play this year, a first since the games began in Venezuela," Guthrie concluded. "We had a double blessing in both athletic accomplishment and knowing that others came to know Christ as Lord and Savior. I believe this project is one we will surely see repeated again and again."

Three Arkansas young women appointed journeymen

Three Arkansans have been appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to serve as overseas journeymen. Journeymen are volunteer missionaries who serve two years in a foreign country.

Lizette Beard, 24, of Mountain Home will serve in Ivory Coast where she will be assistant director of the student center at the University of Abidjan. She left for the field on Aug. 16.

Beard is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia and has spent the last two years as a Southern Baptist Home

Mission Board semester missionary in Fairbanks, Alaska, where she was involved in Baptist student work at the University of Alaska. Her home church, Mountain Home First Church, held a commissioning service for her on July 31.

Holly Nobles, 26, of Batesville, will serve in Hong Kong where she will teach English as a second language at Hong Kong University and be involved with student work. A recent graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, she is also a graduate of Williams Baptist College in

Walnut Ridge. Nobles has been involved in summer missions in Indiana, Alaska and Guatemala. Her home church is First Church in Batesville.

Kelly Risker, 22, of Paragould, will serve in Guatemala where she will be teaching the children of missionaries. She also will assist missionaries Gary and Susan Fulton of Guatemala City in church planning. Risker is a graduate of Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. Her home church, Eastside Church in Paragould, held a commissioning service for her on July 24.

Interim coordinator outlines urgent partnership needs

The "number one priority" of the partnership between European Baptists and Arkansas Baptists is to match partner churches, said Doynne Plummer. "In the meantime, specific project requests need to be met."

Plummer, interim coordinator for the three-year missions partnership between the European Baptist Convention and Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said only nine ABSC churches have entered into formal partnerships with EBC churches since the partnership began in January. "It tells me that we are running behind in getting into the partnership," he noted. "We need to do this very quickly."

Plummer is a layman and member of First Church, Cabot, who recently finished a six-month term with his wife, Betty, as on-site coordinators for the partnership.

Partner churches needed

He said 31 of the 59 European Baptist churches, all English-speaking, have requested partners and he expects 45 to eventually make the request. He added that while many Arkansas Baptist churches have volunteered to pray for EBC churches, "we now need to partner Arkansas churches with European Baptist churches for both prayer and action projects."

"It is important to distinguish the difference between praying for an EBC church and being a partner with one," he said. "About 150 Arkansas Baptist churches volunteered to be prayer partners for EBC churches last year and that has caused some confusion about being a partner."

Plummer said the process in becoming a partner with an EBC church is simple if church members:

■ **Pray and communicate.** "Church leadership should pray and discuss their interest in a partnership as soon as interest is shown," he noted.

■ **Call for a list of locations.** Plummer maintains a complete list of specific locations and needs. He said Arkansas Baptist churches could select a partnership location from among the 22 remaining locations to be filled, including churches in Germany, Italy, Britain, Denmark, Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Spain and the Netherlands.

■ **After selecting a partner, contact the EBC pastor.** "By calling the pastor, you can confirm the partnership and assess their needs," he said.

■ **Establish regular communication between the two churches.** After initial contact, the two churches can decide

how to best fulfill the partnership.

"A partnership is whatever the European Baptist church and Arkansas Baptist church feel by God for it to be," Plummer explained. "At a minimum, there should be regular communication, an exchange of newsletters and activities and visits. Then, as the EBC church feels led to request assistance, the Arkansas partner can respond."

A church-to-church partnership "can happen quickly," he said, "if an Arkansas Baptist church contacts me."

In addition to recruiting Arkansas churches as partners, Plummer also wants to reduce churches' fears of committing to partnerships.

"This does not mean the Arkansas church is taking on a huge financial responsibility," he explained. "It could involve one or two visits, but the Arkansas partner could ask sister churches in their area to help."

He said other help is available. "If an Arkansas church cannot meet a request, they can refer the request to my office. We may be able to meet the needs through state or Foreign Mission Board volunteers. It has happened twice already."

In addition to his call for church partners, Plummer called for Arkansas Baptist volunteers and churches to help respond to requests from non-partnered churches and EBC staff.

"We have some immediate needs in September, such as construction projects at a church in Germany and one in Britain," Plummer said. "We also have a big need for leaders for a spiritual emphasis weekend during Thanksgiving."

Plummer said other urgent needs include interim pastors and a science or math teacher for 20 children of Southern Baptist missionaries in Bulgaria.

Although some needs have been met, Plummer said two projects have been canceled because of the lack of Arkansas volunteers.

"When we cancel a project, a fear I have is that the European Baptists will become discouraged and quit making requests," Plummer acknowledged. "I hope they realize that, with the death of Glendon Grober, things will be set back some."

Plummer stressed the need for Arkansas Baptists to help enhance the ministries of European Baptists. "At least 94 nationalities are represented in the EBC's 59 churches on any given Sunday," he said. "This is the Lord's work. It is a way to truly reach the world."

Teachers to preview youth curriculum at training event

Sunday School teachers of youth must speak directly to the needs of today's youth, said Larry Sherman. "And beginning in October, improved Sunday School youth curriculum will help teachers do just that." He said the changes will "simplify time spent in study and preparation for the Sunday School lesson."

Sherman, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department, said the State Sunday School Convention will offer training to teachers "in interpreting and using the improved curriculum."

The convention will be held September 23-24 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church. Sherman said Friday evening conferences will focus on improvements for *Youth in Discovery*, *Youth in Action*, *Bible Book Study for Youth and Sunday School Youth*. Specialized Saturday morning conference sessions will offer help for youth ministers, new teachers of youth and youth teachers in smaller membership churches.

Additional conferences will train teachers in using *WORData* and *Youth Sunday School Teacher's Notebook*. Other Saturday conference sessions will discuss teaching methods and outreach ideas.

Featured conference leaders will include: Martin Babb, minister of youth for Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock; Bob Metcalf of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Gwen Sherman, ABSC Sunday School department special worker; Mark Seanor, minister of youth for First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and Sherman.

Gene Nabi, BSSB special education consultant, also will lead conferences for teachers who minister to people with special needs. Conferences for general officers, teachers and church architecture also will be offered. Approximately 35 conferences will be offered during each of the four conference sessions.

The convention will begin on Friday at 6:30 p.m. and the base conference will begin at 7:45 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. Saturday conferences will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:45 p.m.

There is no cost for the convention. Participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. For more information, contact the ABSC Sunday School department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5128.

Henderson named state's top Guard chaplain

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

A Southern Baptist minister recently was distinguished as the highest-ranking chaplain in the Arkansas National Guard.

Larry Henderson, a member of Calvary Church, Little Rock, was promoted last month to the rank of colonel and will direct the work of the ANG's 17 chaplain's assistants from the state headquarters at Camp Robinson in Little Rock.

His duties will include implementing training opportunities for the chaplains, developing the Master Religious Plan for the state, and working with the state's adjutant general in coordinating chaplaincy duties. The Arkansas National Guard has more than 2,000 full-time and nearly 12,000 part-time employees.

"It's a heavily administrative position," Henderson acknowledged. "It also will include holding services each month for the state area command and making sure we have a service each week at Camp Robinson."

Although his promotion is significant, he is low-key about his rank. "We prefer to be known as chaplains first, with our rank second. Rank is a necessity of the system."

Henderson said he enjoys his work as a chaplain, noting that it is unique among types of ministry. "When you have that uniform on, you have a right of access to where people are that most other pastors never have," he pointed out.

"I can walk up to the person who is tearing down a truck in a garage or in the office at their desk," he added. "I can talk to them at 3 o'clock in the morning while they are in maneuvers out in the field, while we are eating, or at the firing range. We are there with the people, more thoroughly invested in their lives than any other aspect of ministry."

"You cannot tell me any industry or job anywhere else that has that right of access," he emphasized. "We are with the people 24 hours a day."

He said the right of access also extends to National Guard leadership. "One of our jobs is to be the spiritual and morale consultant to the commander. If there is something going on that needs to be addressed, we go in and get something done about it."

Maj. Gen. Mel Thrash, adjutant general for the state National Guard, said he is looking forward to Henderson's service "because he is people-oriented. The soldiers can relate to him."

"He gets out and mixes with them, he understands their problems...and they can see Christ in him. This is what we want



National Guard chaplain Larry Henderson (right) receives his promotion to colonel from Maj. Gen. Mel Thrash, adjutant general for the Arkansas National Guard.

(from chaplains) in the military."

Henderson said he will begin working on his goals for the Arkansas National Guard's chaplaincy program, including "broadening denominational representation. We have several Baptists, some Methodists, a Catholic, Presbyterian and Lutheran, but we need a spectrum that's more representative of the membership."

He also wants to see more female chaplains join the ANG ranks. "There has recently been a strong infusion, especially on active duty, of female chaplains," he said. "Currently, we do not have a female chaplain of any denomination in the Arkansas National Guard." He said the need for female chaplains is urgent "because we have a large number of females in the National Guard."

He said as the top chaplain in the state, the only "challenges" he faces are the typical National Guard challenges of being away from his wife, Martha, and their children, Jonathan and Angie, while out in the field.

A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Webster University in Little Rock, Henderson earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a Southern Baptist minister in Indiana, Kentucky and Arkansas and served the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department for four years as chaplain of the Arkansas Youth Services Center in Pine Bluff.

Henderson is endorsed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, holding a

full-time HMB commission as a pastoral counselor and a part-time commission as a military chaplain.

He said as a Baptist, he is carrying on a long-standing tradition of military chaplaincy. Historically, Baptists have been leaders in chaplaincy "even before the United States was a country," he noted. "John Gano was a Baptist minister who was George Washington's chaplain at Valley Forge."

Although Henderson's National Guard duties are extensive, he also has an active civilian ministry. He is the adult program services director for Rivendell Psychiatric Center in Benton and maintains a private counseling practice in Little Rock.

He is serving for the second year as president of the Arkansas Mental Health Counselors Association, the state's 1,000-member organization of Licensed Professional Counselors.

In addition to his counseling and National Guard duties, Henderson has starred for seven years on "Just Kids," a 30-minute children's Christian program produced in Little Rock for the American Christian Television System.

Henderson said he looks forward to his continuing role as a National Guard chaplain and explained that the strength of National Guard chaplains includes being able to reach a variety of people.

"It is an exciting place to be," Henderson said about the chaplaincy. "It is the spirit of missions in action. You walk the walk in the sense that you work with them, yet you stand apart as God's representative."

Beth Anne Rankin credits parents, faith for success

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The young lady who played the piano for high school homecoming queen ceremonies became a queen herself July 2 as she was crowned Miss Arkansas. Beth Anne Rankin, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and member of Central Church in Magnolia, credits God with her achievement.

"It was my fourth time as a pageant contestant and I was a little hesitant to enter," she remarked. "I thought, 'If God had wanted me to win, He could have done it in the first three years.'" She previously competed as Miss Southwest Arkansas (1991), Miss Magnolia (1992) and Miss OBU (1993). She competed this year as Miss Diamond Lakes.

Her previous attempts at the crown earned her second runner-up in 1992 and third runner-up in 1993. "I needed the experience I gained from losing," she said. "It wasn't easy, but now I know it was important to have those experiences."

She said, though, that she "always knew God had a purpose in my life. My prayer has been for God to use my life. I would hate to look back on my life and see that I lived it for me."

Mac Sisson, assistant director of public relations at OBU, also serves as state field director for the Miss Arkansas Pageant and co-executive director of the Miss Diamond Lakes Pageant. He said Rankin "always demonstrated that you can benefit from both losing and winning. She has shown a lot of resiliency and learned from her past pageants."

Because of her victory, "God is going to open doors for me," she said. "I totally trust Him."

She said some of those doors will include "being able to speak in schools and churches. I will be doing a lot of Saturday events and I'm talking to my agent about speaking at area churches the next morning."

"I'm so blessed and grateful for the crown on my head, but so many people were behind me—not just at the pageant, but others," she said. "So many have invested their lives in me without gain to themselves."

Among those who have invested themselves in Rankin are her parents, David and Toni, also members of Central Church. He is a business professor at Southwest Arkansas State University and she is a homemaker.

"My parents have always been my spiritual leaders and a gift to me," she said. "I'm grateful I've had two parents. Not every young person has two parents these days."

She said the role of pageant winner didn't come easily, describing her junior high and high school days as "some of my rockier moments."

"My (grade) school years were horrible," she quipped. "I never really found my niche and was left out of a lot."

I never was homecoming queen. I played the piano as other girls were being escorted."

Looking back on those days, she remarked, "It was a blessing. It made me closer to my parents and I excelled at other things, such as flute, piano and twirling."



Beth Anne Rankin

Her life changed when she enrolled at Ouachita in 1989. While growing up in Magnolia, she had taken dance, piano, flute and voice lessons, but OBU gave her a new forum for her talents.

"Ouachita was like a whole new world to me," she said. "The school afforded me the chance to use my talents, mind and spirit to the best extent."

During her college years she was elected Outstanding Senior Woman and homecoming queen by fellow Ouachita students, won the Miss OBU Pageant and became a charter member of "Ouachita Sounds," a touring show choir.

Ben Elrod, president of OBU, said Rankin was a "favorite" of his while she was a student. "I think the interesting thing about Beth Anne was that she had an unusual combination of character. She is unusually bright, has an unusual amount of talent and an unusual commitment to Christ. She is one of my all-time favorites among students—and I try not to have favorites."

Rankin graduated magna cum laude with the bachelor of arts degree in May while active in pageant preparation.

"She has been very consistent in her pageant experience," Sisson remarked. "Pageants for Beth Anne are a vehicle to being all she can be, not an end in themselves. She lets her religion, family and community all be an important part of her life."

"She is not what many people think a pageant contestant is like," Sisson added. "She is very sincere and dedicated at what she does. She is very caring."

Other Miss Arkansas contestants agreed when they awarded Rankin the Miss Congeniality honor this year for the third time in a row.

"Not only winning Miss Arkansas, but also winning Miss Congeniality is a combination that never happens," Elrod noted. "They (other contestants) were saying that this is a most unusual person."

"It says a Christian spirit is beautiful," Elrod affirmed. "She has an inner beauty that exceeds her outer beauty. It wasn't just a young lady who could get up there and look good."

"She has a commitment to always see ways to use her talents for the benefit of people around her," Sisson noted. "She has always shared herself with those around her, in church, the community or school."

Rich Kincl, pastor of Central Church, Magnolia, also has followed Rankin's successes since she joined the church six years ago. Rankin not only has been an active member, but also served as the church's interim youth minister this summer prior to her Miss Arkansas win.

"As interim youth minister, our people needed a good role model," Kincl said of Rankin. "The young people in the community have watched her life, accomplishments and achievements and realize that what stands out the most is her commitment to Jesus Christ. They admire and respect her and like to be around her."

And Rankin wants to influence young people. Her platform as Miss Arkansas is "excellence in youth." She told pageant officials in a pre-contest statement that "in today's modern society it is crucial that the youth of America come to realize their importance in the shaping of our nation."

"A spirit of confidence and determination needs to be instilled in young Americans," she added, "so that they will stand for what they believe in, not give in to outside peer pressure, and be willing to push themselves to the utmost limit in order for their dreams to come true."

Her own dreams include pursuing master's and doctor's degrees in music and, of course, seeking to win the Miss America Pageant to be held this fall in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Although Rankin has far-reaching aspirations, she said she concentrates on daily life. "I thank the Lord for giving me one more day," she declared. "We have to take advantage of each day God gives us. I just pray that God can use me whenever He needs me."

Annuity Board reports growth despite fluctuations

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, meeting Aug. 1-2 in Richmond, Va., heard reports of continuing growth in assets, contributions and benefits paid despite six months of investment market turmoil.

Following market trends, earnings are down for the first six months of 1994. Despite the losses of 3.9 percent in the board's Variable Fund and 3.6 percent in the Balanced Fund, assets still ended the period with a total of \$4,386,557,532, a growth of 5 percent above June 30, 1993.

The Fixed Fund, with earnings of 2.81 percent, remains on track for its estimated performance range of 5.15 percent to 6.15 percent for the year.

Paul W. Powell, board president, said, "While we take satisfaction in our overall strategies, it is frustrating to see negative earnings. We take comfort in our close tracking of established benchmarks and hope for some market recovery in the second half of the year."

Contributions to member accounts totaled \$118,078,272, to produce what board treasurer Harold D. Richardson called "a healthy increase" of 8.5 percent over the same period in 1993.

The trustees approved an amendment and restatement of the Church Annuity Plan and Convention Annuity Plan. These documents will go to state conventions for approval of the Church Annuity Plan and to employers for approval of the convention plan.

Tied to the amendments of the Church Annuity Plan is an offer of \$35 million in billing credits to the state conventions, the credits to offset costs of the Protection Section and to supplement certain matching contributions in the years 1995-99.

The relief committee affirmed offering one-time emergency grants of up to \$2,000 for eligible victims of recent flooding in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

William A. "Lonnie" Willis, a retired Arkansas insurance executive, was among three new members elected to the Annuity Board's endowment development council. Willis rotated off the Annuity Board's trustee board in June.

22 jobs, \$1.4 million pared from HMB in reorganization

By Martin King
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—An administrative reorganization of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will save \$1.4 million a year. The new structure approved by HMB directors Aug. 10 will eliminate 22 staff positions and suspend funding for three others.

HMB directors also appointed 20 home missionaries, endorsed 39 chaplains, voted to stop receiving funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and answered a new challenge to a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals.

Half of the jobs eliminated in the reorganization are leadership positions including five national missionaries, and half are support positions including clerical, secretarial and maintenance staff.

Deletion of the national missionary positions will not eliminate the work, according to HMB president Larry Lewis. He told Baptist Press the responsibilities performed by those missionaries will be reassigned to other staff. The positions deleted include one of four national missionaries in interfaith witness, one of two national missionaries to deaf persons and one national missionary position each in ethnic leadership development, personal evangelism and outreach to Haitians.

At least nine people whose jobs will be eliminated are retiring, and most others have been or will be transferred to vacant positions at the agency, Lewis said. The reorganization will be implemented by the end of the year.

With six votes against the action, HMB directors voted to immediately stop accepting funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as directed by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., last June.

Rose Bear, a board member from Terre Haute, Ind., issued a tearful plea not to comply with the SBC directive, insisting it was "the wrong thing to do."

"If we adopt this motion we are saying it would be better for an immigrant family to not have a Bible at all than to have one purchased with CBF dollars; it would be better for a child to go hungry than to have a bowl of soup bought with CBF funds. I am not willing to say that," Bear said.

"Our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters who have been giving to this missions agency are not our rivals," Bear continued. "They are our allies."

Walter Carpenter, an attorney and board member from Houston, said the agency needed to reject CBF funds because "we have been accused of being more interested in money than principle."

Wade Armstrong, an evangelist and retired pastor from Ceredo, W. Va., said, "I hope no church will feel we are telling them what they can or cannot do, but I don't think we have a choice."

Regarding Roman Catholics, Bill Streich, a deacon at First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, offered a resolution rejecting a document signed in March by Catholics and evangelicals, including HMB president Lewis.

Streich's resolution also asked the full board to nullify an HMB executive committee resolution passed in June to clarify its views of the document concerning evangelism.

Board affirms resolutions

Instead, directors voted 40-28 to adopt a substitute resolution from Armstrong to affirm both the executive committee's resolution and a resolution on Catholic dialogue passed during the SBC in June.

Streich said he wanted the board to go on record opposing the document because of its "negative impact on missions."

He quoted a letter from Foreign Mission Board executive vice president Don Kammerdiener as saying he feared the document would decrease missions work in areas with a high percentage of nominal Catholics.

President Lewis said he was "aghast" that some interpret the document as opposing missions. "I would not sign on to anything that was opposed to evangelism or missions."

The document, he said, was designed to address such common concerns as abortion and pornography—not theology.

"There's a great association out here across America of people of many different denominational persuasions who will never agree on the doctrines of the faith, but we do agree that we're fighting for the soul of America," Lewis said.

Board chairman Bob Curtis of Ballwin, Mo., reported on formation of a special committee to study relationships between the agency and state Baptist conventions. The committee was authorized by the HMB executive committee in June. Curtis said the committee will hold its first meeting later this month, meet with state executive directors in September and submit a report to directors in November.

Church news

Park Street Church in Bentonville honored pastor Ronald Roughton and his wife, Evelyn, Aug. 14 with a fellowship dinner and a gift and card shower in recognition of eight years of service.

Rogers First Church music and art participants recently presented "Light the World with Music and the Arts" to conclude a five-day camp at the church that included classes in orchestra, beginning strings, hand chimes, handbells, art, drama, puppetry and clowning.

Gould First Church will celebrate its 72nd anniversary with homecoming Aug. 28 with activities that begin with a 7 a.m. prayer breakfast, followed by Sunday School at 10 a.m. Former pastor Houston Austin will speak at the 11 a.m. worship service that will be followed by a potluck dinner in the church's Christian life center. Pat Phillips and John H. Rogers will lead an afternoon "old time" musical program. Al Green is pastor.

Clarksville Second Church mission team of 11 youth and six adults was in Auburn,



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Nebr., July 23-30 to lead an afternoon Vacation Bible School and evening revival services. In addition, they presented a gospel concert in the Auburn city park. Their efforts resulted in 21 professions of faith and numerous other decisions. Joe Craft is pastor.

Plainview First Church designated its 1994 Vacation Bible School offering to Brinkley Heights Church in Memphis. Plainview pastor R. Scott Miller reported the Memphis church will use these funds to further its ministries as part of the Mississippi River Ministry project.

Little Rock Second Church honored the Tom Wideman family Aug. 14 in recognition of his 10th anniversary of service as minister of music. At a late afternoon reception, the adult choir performed a selection, written by Bill and Linda Cates and commissioned by the choir

for Wideman. In addition, he received a pin and plaque. The family was given a stereo system and Mrs. Wideman was presented with a musical jewelry box. The musical ministry, under Wideman's leadership, has 125 participants who participate in either the SBC Choral, Second Chance ensemble, adult choir, handbell choir or children and youth choirs.

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock observed Lucile Holley Day Aug. 14 in recognition of her more than five years of service as church secretary. She was presented a silver tea service by the congregation at an evening reception.

East Side Church in Paragould will hold a noteburning service Sept. 11, celebrating payment of an \$850,000 building program that followed a 1985 arson fire. The note will be burned in a 10:30 a.m. worship service for which former pastor Jim Fowler, now pastor of First Church in Salisaw, Okla., will be the speaker. Other former pastors, former members and friends are invited to be special guests for the worship hour that will be followed by a noon "dinner on the grounds."

Markham Street Church in Little Rock fielded the winning team in the recent Arkansas Baptist State Softball Championship. Immanuel Church, El Dorado, finished second and Three Creeks Church, Junction City, was third.

Highland Heights Church in Benton held an appreciation luncheon Aug. 16 for leaders of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive board staff and administrators of Arkansas Baptist agencies. The luncheon was hosted by the church's senior adults in appreciation for the ministries provided by the staff and agencies. Steve Butler is pastor of Highland Heights Church.

East End Church of Hensley will celebrate its 58th anniversary Aug. 28 with homecoming services which will include a potluck luncheon and a 5 p.m. musical program to be followed by the first service of a three-day revival. Laverne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist College, will be the evangelist. Robert "Bob" Martin is pastor.

Piney Point constitutes as church

In an open-air pavilion service July 31, Piney Point Mission was constituted as Piney Point Church with 28 charter members. Fred Spencer is pastor of the new congregation, the 11th to become a part of the state convention this year.

The mission was started in August 1991 by Lowell Church, beginning as a Bible study in the home of Jerry and Mayme Evans. Services later were moved to the facilities of the Fox Hunters' Association.

"This arrangement has proven to be beneficial to both groups," said Spencer. "We have helped to pay for and apply new siding to the cook shack which made a much warmer place to meet once the cracks and holes were covered, and a larger heating stove was installed."

The church has recently acquired seven acres of land. "We are excited about using this as a meeting site when a double-wide chapel becomes available from the state convention," Spencer noted. "Building plans include the construction of a basement, to be followed by the pouring of a foundation and completion of the framework as funds are provided."

Spencer said the congregation's

"primary emphasis will be to reach out to all those residing in this Beaver Lake community. Various fund drives this past year to assist community residents have resulted in an average attendance growth to approximately 50 each Sunday."

Piney Point Church currently needs musicians and additional children's church workers. "The Lord has met all of our needs thus far and we know He will provide these workers, as well as other future needs we will have as we continue to bring the lost to Christ and to disciple those whom He saves," Spencer concluded.

Guest speaker Jack Ramsey, ABSC director of church extension, speaking from Judges 6:1-11, challenged members to "not become complacent nor confused about what God had called you to do. You must be confident in your faith and function courageously as you do the work God has called you to do."

Others participating on the program were Mark Linkous, Dorothy Springer, Tom Gripka, Ben Rowell, Gary Thomas, Mayme Evans, Jim Metzger, Gary Thomas, Jerry Evans, Spencer, Tony Preston and Tommy Poplin.

Ordinations

Palestine Church of Quitman ordained Tommy Shaw as a deacon July 10.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock licensed Aaron Harvie to the gospel ministry Aug. 7. Harvie, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, has been serving the church as youth intern.



Members of Pleasant Hill Church, Sardis, held a noteburning service Aug. 14 to celebrate the final payment on a \$40,000 note for a new church parsonage. The parsonage, valued at approximately \$80,000, was completed in February 1993. Burning the note are chairman of deacons Ralph Vocque (left) and building committee chairman James Simmons as Central Association director of missions Jim Swedenburg and pastor John Guerra observe.

West Hartford Church ordained Dale Barnes to the deacon ministry Aug. 7.

Valley Ridge Mission at Jonesboro ordained pastor Terry George to the ministry Aug. 24.

Booneville First Church ordained Ron Smith to the deacon ministry July 17.

Crow Mountain Church in Russellville ordained Samie Chansley, Bryan Heikes, Chuck Sanders and Jerrell White as deacons July 17.

Staff changes

Bryan Webb will begin serving in late August as pastor of Central Church in North Little Rock, coming there from First Church in Centerton. He previously served Broadmoor Church in Brinkley, First Church in Hatfield and Shady Grove Church in New Albany, Miss. Webb is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Mid-America Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Mary Lynne, have four children, Alison, Steven, David and Sarah.

Allan McKinley joined the staff of Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff Aug. 21 as minister of youth, coming there from 12

years of service as minister of music and youth for East Side Church in Pine Bluff. He and his wife, Rose Lynn, have a son, James Micah.

John Caddy joined the staff of Wynne Church Aug. 14 as minister to youth, coming there from Pope Drive Baptist Church in Anderson, S.C. He and his wife, Lana, who are natives of Little Rock, have a son, Anson. Caddy is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Alan Moore has joined the staff of Woodland Heights Church in Conway as minister of music and education, going there from South Highland Church in Little Rock. He previously served Sagamore Hill Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and Calvary Church, Hope. Moore and his wife, Lynda, have two children, Austin and Emily.

Preston E. Beeks is serving as pastor of First Church of Farmington. A native of Fayetteville, he is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas. He and his wife, Inice, have four children, Sherrie, Carolyn, Will and Camille. They also have two grandchildren.

Heath Clower is serving as minister to youth and children at Ironton Church in

Little Rock. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a bachelor of arts degree in Christian counseling and psychology. Clower recently married Dawn Martin of North Little Rock.

Neil Franks has resigned as youth minister at Third Church in Malvern to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hillmon Davis resigned Aug. 14 as minister of youth at Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff to continue his studies at Mid-America Seminary.

J.B. Huffmaster has resigned as pastor of Alicia Church. He and his wife, Jeannette, have moved to Paragould.

Jim Bynum, who was a student at Williams Baptist College, has resigned as pastor of New Hope Church at Smithville. He and his wife, Cheryl, have moved to Missouri.

Don Belk has retired as pastor of Pitts Church, following 28 years of ministry. He and his wife, Violet, are residing in Jonesboro.

Ed Stoddard recently resigned as pastor of Spring River Church, following more than 10 years of service. He and his wife, Earline, are living in Cabot and he is teaching at Walnut Valley Christian Academy in Little Rock.

LeRoy Wagner recently became pastor of Percy Church. He previously was pastor of churches in Texas, Indiana and Arkansas. In addition, in the past 22 years, he has served as an evangelist in 250 churches. Wagner and his wife, Kim, have two children, Rachel and Caleb.

Obituaries

James Loy Moody of Clinton died July 30 at age 81. He had been pastor of Half Moon Church since 1970 and had served other Arkansas churches. Moody had retired as an employee of Duncan Parking Meters of Harrison, following 28 years of service. Survivors are his wife, Penzil Moody; one stepson, Danny Bagley, and a stepdaughter, Rita Tedder, both of Lake Jackson, Texas; three brothers; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Ray R. Canary of Flippin, a retired Southern Baptist minister, died Aug. 4 at age 82. Canary had been pastor of churches in White River Association, including First Church of Cotter, Rea Valley Church, Midway Church and Pyatt Church. His survivors are a son, Bill Canary of Mount Vernon; two daughters, Glenna Nutt of Flippin and Jan Williams of Alton, Ill; one brother; one sister; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

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A sample of services and ministries your gifts provide:




Dixie Jackson and state missions

The Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering aids the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department in helping associations and churches discover and respond to missions needs in Arkansas. In fulfilling that assignment, the state missions department assists in the development of missions leadership and helps start and mature new churches and ministries.

The missions department also gives leadership to the Theological Education Program including Seminary Extension in the associations, Boyce Bible School in Little Rock and the Seminary Studies Program with classes in the Baptist Building.

State missions is, of course, broader than the missions department. As God and His people have made possible and allowed, the missions department does provide assistance; but the real work of state missions is done by the churches and associations of Arkansas. In fact, *you* are state missions. Without *you*, without *your* giving, *your* prayers, *your* participation in volunteer projects, state missions would not exist. *Thank you!*

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Your gifts make it possible...

1 State/Associational Leadership Development	11%	\$71,000
2 Language Missions	13%	84,500
3 Missions Ministries	8%	52,000
4 Chaplaincy	24%	156,000
5 Theological Education	3%	19,500
6 Church Extension	26%	169,000
7 Church and Community Ministries	15%	97,000

\$650,000

...and state missions dollars go a long way.

10c

Will buy a witnessing tract used by a volunteer working with the Mississippi River Ministry.

25c

Will buy a toothbrush for a prison inmate.

30c

Will provide educational materials for a children's Bible study in a state park.



50c

Will buy an occasional soft drink for a college-age summer missionary working in the heat and sun.

60c

Will buy a New Testament.



\$1

Will buy a training guide for associational missions leaders.

\$2

Will buy a pupil's quarterly for Mission Sunday School or an adult teacher's quarterly for Mission Vacation Bible School.



\$5

Will buy supplies for dramatic presentations of the gospel in resort and tourist centers.

\$10

Will buy a personal health kit for a migrant worker.

\$15

Will buy literacy Missions tutor materials for volunteers around the state.

\$20

Will buy teaching supplies for a chaplain in a prison or rehabilitation center.

\$25

Will buy staple foods for a summer missionary for an entire week.



\$50

Will pay for supplies and the cost of a course for a bivocational pastor in training at Boyce Bible School.

\$120

Will pay the cost for an entire semester of studies for a bivocational pastor in training at Boyce.

\$250

Will provide a scholarship for a director of missions to attend training at Glorieta or Ridgecrest.



Dixie Jackson

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1994 SEASON OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS

September 18-25, 1994 • Goal: \$650,000



Does SBC action foreshadow split?

Role of Fellowship raises questions on definition of 'denomination'

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

(ABP) — Are Southern Baptists headed for a split?

It's a question many people have been asking for 15 years but more earnestly since June, when the Southern Baptist Convention distanced itself from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The convention action — which instructed SBC agencies not to accept contributions channeled through the Fellowship — was seen by some in both camps as an attempt to force the Fellowship to declare itself a new denomination and leave the Southern Baptist Convention.

Founded three years ago by moderate Southern Baptists upset with the SBC's conservative leadership, the Atlanta-based Fellowship conducts annual meetings, collects money to support a variety of ministries (\$11 million last year), and accepts churches and individuals into membership.

Some observers say the Fellowship already is a new denomination, at least for all practical purposes. Others, including several historians, say it's too early to tell, and it may never happen. Still others say the Fellowship is gradually but inevitably becoming a denomination, whether or not that is the intent.

For its part, the Fellowship so far has shunned the label "denomination." Fellowship coordinator Cecil Sherman, in a recent letter to Baptist editors, denied charges the Fellowship is launching a new denomination. "It is not true," Sherman wrote. "The Fellowship has worked hard to remain within the SBC."

But such disclaimers have left many SBC leaders unconvinced.

"In America you don't have to declare yourself a denomination to be one," said Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a critic of the CBF. The Fellowship fits an "organic definition" of a denomination — that is, it behaves like a denomination and bears all the marks of one, Mohler said.

"A denomination is a fellowship of churches united around certain definable programs and working within certain definable structures to accomplish a purpose," he explained. "The Fellowship clearly has those structures and programs in place.... I see the Fellowship as a new Baptist denomination."

That's not enough, say some church historians.

"As long as they say they want to stay in,

they are not a separate denomination," said Martin Marty, professor of modern Christian history at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

"The simplest way to put it is, we have a new denomination when both parties declare it," said Marty. "If you have a dissenting group that wants to stay in, it's not a new denomination as long as it stays in."

If a split occurs, Marty said, it will be because the Fellowship "grows so uncomfortable it will want to get out, or it will be seen as an irritant and be put out."

Complex questions

When a Baptist convention or denomination is formed, it is seldom a simple thing. Much of the complexity is due, historians say, to Baptist polity, which vests local congregations with most of the power. While hierarchical or connectional denominations can easily decide which churches are in, which are out, and where the line is drawn, congregational denominations — like Southern Baptists — have remarkably little say in the matter.

When a split takes place in non-congregational denominations, Mohler said, it is formalized. Clear lines are drawn and clear choices made. "Baptist polity is messier than that," he said.

"There is an evolution that occurs in the formation of some denominations," noted historian Walter Shurden of Mercer University. If the Fellowship evolves into a new denomination, it will be in good historical company, Shurden said. The Separate Baptists, who started as a movement within New England Congregationalism but were forced out, "became the source of Baptist life in the South," including Southern Baptists, he said.

"They are a perfect example of a group that became a denomination not out of any deliberate action of their own but by exclusion by the establishment," said Shurden.

Missions has been the centerpiece of the Southern Baptist enterprise since its formation almost 150 years ago. Missions also has been a battleground between moderates and conservatives in the fight for Baptists' loyalty.

"When the CBF took on a missionary-sending program, it was as if they went back to 1845 and decided to do something new," said Mohler.

In addition to the missions program, which now employs 41 missionaries at home and abroad, the Fellowship helps support two new seminaries, ethics and

public policy agencies, a newspaper and a news service, and it endorses a new publishing house. And the CBF recently started a foundation, which further enhances its image of permanence.

All that lends fodder to the argument of Mohler and others that the Fellowship is a de facto denomination. But most of those ministries are independent ventures that are neither owned nor controlled by the Fellowship — a radical departure from conventional denominationalism.

No matter, says Mohler. "Even though the Fellowship does much of its work by proxy, it is more or less a denomination.... It is a different model of denominationalism. But I do not think it is legitimate to say it's not a denomination just because it does not mirror all the characteristics of one. It presents itself as a comprehensive alternative to the Southern Baptist Convention, and they describe themselves less and less as Southern Baptists."

The fact the Fellowship performs many functions of a denomination, such as supporting schools and publications, doesn't make it one, countered Martin Marty. "It's hard for Baptists to say that's a new denomination," he said. "All the parachurches do that." Campus Crusade for Christ, for example, performs many of those tasks, as do other groups that are not denominations, he said.

"Does anybody refer to Campus Crusade as a denomination?" echoed Cecil Sherman. And many Southern Baptist churches send funds to Campus Crusade and other independent ministries without being labeled disloyal, he added.

Ironically, he noted, fundamentalists unhappy with the SBC's moderate leadership in the 1970s created alternative agencies. "I don't believe people said you are no longer Southern Baptists. Now those very people...will define us away when we do it."

Sherman said it's not reasonable to compare the handful of alternative services offered by the Fellowship with the massive, institutionalized SBC. Nor do those services alone make a denomination. But on one important point he concedes something significant is afoot.

"We are creating these alternate services to the churches," Sherman said, "and if this loose network constitutes a denomination, I suppose we are a denomination aborning. We may be one in process."

"There are people in the Fellowship who want it to take the 'D' word and get on with it," confirmed Baptist historian Bill Leonard, chairman of the religion

Texas Baptist committee seeks to redefine Cooperative Program

By Toby Druin

Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP/BP) — A Texas Baptist committee is calling for a redefinition of the Cooperative Program, the unified budget plan which funds both Baptist state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee, commissioned by the Texas convention last fall, adopted its final report Aug. 8. The recommendation would permit churches to support only Texas Baptist causes or designate recipients of missions dollars, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and still have the gifts counted as Cooperative Program.

The report now goes to the state's administrative committee and then its executive board, and eventually to the state convention meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Amarillo.

It is its sixth meeting in Dallas, the committee scrapped a two-tier plan approved earlier that committee members agreed was too confusing. They adopted instead a broad definition of Cooperative Program that includes not only undesignated gifts divided between Texas and the SBC, but also gifts which remain in Texas and those designated to particular SBC agencies, the Baptist World Alliance or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Currently only undesignated gifts for support of both the state and national conventions are counted as Cooperative Program.

Because of tensions over the SBC's 15-year battle for control of the national convention, the Texas convention in 1991 adopted a plan that allowed churches to exclude up to five items in the unified budget and still have their gifts counted as CP. But gifts cutting out the SBC entirely have been considered "designated" and reported separately from CP gifts.

The study committee was authorized in 1993 when the state convention approved a motion asking the president to appoint a committee "to study how to enhance cooperative missions giving among all Texas Baptists."

Several committee members have said gifts through the Fellowship should be included in the description of "Cooperative Program." "To list them in any other way, they contended, would

perpetuate a "second class" perception.

Opponents of the change noted the Cooperative Program traditionally has been a partnership between the local church, state convention and SBC.

In 1993 the SBC Executive Committee expanded its definition of cooperative giving when it approved a plan that allowed churches to bypass state conventions and fund only national SBC causes. If cutting out state conventions is fair, bypassing the national convention should be too, said proponents of a Texas plan.

The latest SBC action regarding CP gifts came at the recent SBC annual meeting in Orlando when messengers to the convention directed its agencies to no longer receive funds channeled through the CBF.

Members of the study committee who backed the panel's final report emphasized that their recommendations affirm the local church's right to give as it chooses.

"The only thing we have changed," said committee chairman Cecil Ray, "is to recognize all gifts (for Baptist causes) as under the Cooperative Program. We erased the distinction between some as Cooperative Program and directed (designated) and grouped them all as part of the Texas-operated Cooperative Program."

According to Texas state convention president Jerold McBride, "While maintaining our strong ties with the Southern Baptist Convention, it opens up as many channels as possible for the support of missions. All of this is done while recognizing the autonomy of each local congregation and while encouraging voluntary cooperation on the highest level."

Those who opposed the plan said they had problems with redefining the Cooperative Program and would have felt better if giving that had not previously been considered CP support had been retained in a special category.

"To me that would be a great concession," said John Hatch, the committee's vice chairman. "I am willing to make that concession, but to call those gifts Cooperative Program is not right, not acceptable."

Hatch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake Jackson, said he and "four to six" others on the committee are considering filing a minority report opposing the changes in the CP structure.

department at Samford University.

Leonard said the Fellowship should take a more "intentional" approach, allowing its members to define their future rather than letting its opponents state the terms.

The Fellowship has little to gain by publicly fighting the "denomination" label, Leonard added. But neither should it claim the title too quickly, since most churches aren't ready for a break with the SBC. Instead, he advised, the Fellowship should promote a "societal approach," in which churches pick and choose which causes to support, while waiting to see what new kind of denominationalism will meet churches' needs in the next century.

No 'clean break' expected

If a split occurs in the SBC, either sooner or later, it's not likely to be a clean break, most experts said. Even if the Fellowship declares itself a new denomination or convention and attracts a significant number of churches, few Baptist congregations are expected to shed their SBC identity totally. Most will likely remain members of both groups, shopping for denominational services in both camps, according to their needs and preferences.

Such a scenario is possible because Baptist polity allows such "dual alignment." Two other apparently conflicting factors will contribute, the historians agree: intense residual loyalty to the SBC, even within many moderate congregations, which will prevent many churches from making a clean break, and the weakening role of all denominations in society, which will make it difficult for any group to retain the unwavering loyalty it has enjoyed from its churches in the past.

"I would disagree with those who think there will be a large number of churches seeking dual alignment," said Morris Chapman, the SBC's chief executive. "I would not anticipate all the churches that have given some gifts to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship becoming dually aligned. There is a great loyalty to the denomination among Southern Baptists." A split, however small, would be the first in the SBC's 150-year history. While the convention would inevitably feel the loss, both financially and otherwise, it's a loss conservative leaders seem ready to accept.

"For the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, their course is in their own hands," said Mohier. "The vast, vast majority of Southern Baptists will eagerly support the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptist institutions. For those who choose to move in another direction, our response should be respect and not retribution. We owe that as Christian brothers and sisters. But we also owe each other honesty and clarity."

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September
23-24, 1994

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THROUGH**
WITNESS TO WIN

CONFERENCES

GENERAL INTEREST

General Sunday School Directors
Who Direct - My Job...No One
Else Can Do It
Tommy Gilmore, Kennesaw, GA

Learning Life Styles for Church
Staff, Sunday School Leaders,
and Class Members
Ray Zecharias, Nashville, TN

Curriculum Changes, Formats,
Content and Projected Calendar
of Sunday School Events
Truett King, Nashville, TN

The Prayer Life of a Sunday
School Teacher

Beginning an Intercessory Prayer
Ministry in My Church

Intercessory Prayer That Reaches
Around the World

Speakers, Resources, Calendar
and Organization That Works in
Intercessory Prayer
Alga Hitchcock, Altus, OK

Helping the Small Church
Full-Time and Bi-vocational
Minister of Education
Dennis Coop, North Little Rock

Plans, Resources, Trends,
Personnel and Discussion for
Ministers of Education in
Churches with 500 or More in
Attendance
Georl Spicer, Little Rock

The Minister of Education in the
21st Century
Bill Taylor, Phoenix, AZ

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

How Do I Finance My Building?
James Walker, Little Rock
Services of "Church in a Day"
Calvin Jones, Sherwood

Services of State Building
Consultant
Ed Hinkson, Little Rock
Services of Nail Benders
Frank Allen, DeWitt

Master Planning/Worship and
Education Space
Gary Nicholson, Nashville, TN

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ministering to People with
Special Needs
Gene Nebi, Nashville, TN

ADULT

Teachers Who Use Bible Book
Series
Teaching the Lesson
Phil Myers, Hendersonville, TN
Teachers Who Use Life and Work
Series
Homebound
Randy Millwood, Nashville, TN

Leaders of Single Adult Work
Outreach Leaders and Care
Group Leaders
Snookie Dixon, Arkadelphia
Outreach - How to Set Up and Do
a Churchwide Outreach
Program

Basic Adult Sunday School Work
Bruce Raley, Jonesboro

Working with Senior Adults
Bible Teaching Principles for
Adult Teachers
Dennis Smith, Sherwood

Characteristics and Trends of
Today's Collegiates

How to Effectively Teach
Collegiates in Sunday School
Questions/Discussion/Sharing
Ideas about Collegiates
Scott Allen, Nashville, TN

YOUTH

Teachers Who Use Convention
Uniform Series
It's Okay to Be Small
Gwen Sherman, Jacksonville
WORDate: How to Use it in Youth
Sunday School
Youth Sunday School Workers'
Notebook: It Can Help Me be a
Better Teacher
Larry Sherman, Little Rock

Teachers Who Use Bible Book
Series
For Youth Ministers Only
Bob Metcalf, Nashville, TN

Teachers Who Use Youth in
Discovery
Help I'm a New Youth Sunday
School Worker

Methods: Don't Teach the Same
Old Way
Martin Babb, Little Rock

Teachers Who Use Youth in
Action
Youth Ministry Ideas
Outreach Ideas
Mark Seenor, Huntsville, AL

CHILDREN

Looking at the New Curriculum -
Bible Learners
Teaching Children Bible Truths
Using Drama
Kathy Strawn, Little Rock

Looking at the New Curriculum -
Bible Discoverers
Teaching Children Bible Truths
Using Music
Rob Sanders, Nashville, TN

Looking at the New Curriculum -
Bible Searchers
Teaching Children Bible Truths
Using Games
Edith Wiley, Searcy

SPEAKER



Bill Taylor
Executive
Pastor/Minister
of Education,
North Phoenix
Baptist Church
Phoenix, AZ

SCHEDULE

Friday Evening, September 23

8:30 General Session
Special music:
*Sanctuary Choir,
Geyer Springs First
Baptist Church*
Speaker: *Bill Taylor,
Executive Pastor/
Minister of Education,
North Phoenix
Baptist Church,
Phoenix, Arizona*
7:45 Conferences
9:15 Adjourn

Saturday Morning,
September 24

8:30 Conferences
9:45 Break
10:00 Conferences
11:15 Break
11:30 Conferences
12:45 Adjourn

Looking at the New Curriculum -
Children's Bible Study
Teaching Children Bible Truths
Using Art
Roma Zeltner, Ft. Smith
Help for Children's Division
Directors
Jackie Edwards, Little Rock

PRESCHOOL

Teachers of Preschoolers in
Smaller Sunday Schools
Preparing Older Preschoolers
(and Their Parents) for Worship
Using the Bible All the Time
Ivetta Black, Roland
Teachers of Babies and Ones
Beyond Babysitting
Cradle Roll
*Linda Myers,
Hendersonville, TN*

Teachers of Twos and Threes
Guidance and Discipline
Safety/Security/Hygiene
Rachel Coe, Nashville, TN
Teachers of Fours and Fives
Ministering to Preschoolers
and Their Families
Helping Preschool Teachers
Grow Spiritually
Belvin Cox, Nashville, TN
Preschool Division Directors
I Said "Yes" - Now What am I
Expected to Do?
Pet Ratton, Little Rock

Nilson Fanini nominated as BWA president

UPPSALA, SWEDEN (BP)—Baptist leaders from around the world meeting in Sweden July 18-24 pledged to help work for reconciliation among people "that the world might believe in Jesus Christ."

Members of the Baptist World Alliance general council also approved a slate of officers. Nilson do Amaral Fanini, a Brazilian Baptist pastor, was nominated to a five-year term as BWA president. He will succeed current BWA president Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, whose term ends following the 17th Baptist World Congress, Aug. 1-6, 1995, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

C.B. Hogue, the executive director-treasurer of the California Southern Baptist Convention, was nominated as a BWA vice president for the North American Baptist Fellowship. Hogue will succeed Harold C. Bennett, retired president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, whose term ends next year.

The BWA is made up of Baptist unions and conventions representing an estimated global community of 70 million Baptists in more than 200 countries.

General council members also voted to present the BWA's first human rights award to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman.

Carter will be honored with the Carl and Olive Tiller Human Rights Award during the 1995 BWA Congress. The award is given for "significant and effective activities to preserve and respect or restore human rights."

The nomination for the award noted Carter's efforts to help improve human rights in the Middle East, Latin America, Argentina, Africa and Asia. The statement described him as "a loyal and devoted Christian" who "stamped his years in the White House uniquely with the mark of human rights."

In questions of human rights, the statement continued, Carter "exercised his power as a world leader according to the precepts of Jesus Christ. In this award his fellow Baptists salute him with respect and affection."

Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said in a statement after the meeting:

"I was impressed with the leadership of (BWA general secretary) Denton Lotz and the excellent staff he is building on his leadership team. I was amazed at the growing impact Baptists are having in the world, especially Third World countries. We have built such a solid reputation of compassionate ministry that we are able to go through doors that are closed to others.

Actions deplore African violence, support families, religious liberty

UPPSALA, SWEDEN (BP)—World Baptist leaders citing "the inescapable biblical principle which calls all Christians to be peacemakers" have urged immediate international action to restore peace in war-ravaged Rwanda and Burundi.

A resolution adopted by the Baptist World Alliance general council "deplores the violence and bloodshed" in the African nations and "laments the destruction of at least half a million lives in Rwanda alone," where the Tutsi-dominated rebel army recently declared victory in the Rwandan civil war.

The resolution was one of seven approved during the annual BWA council meeting July 18-24 in Uppsala, Sweden.

In the statement, Baptist leaders recognized "the growing burden which is being placed on the nations receiving Rwandan refugees." They also called for peaceful intervention by members of the international community to help provide "a substantial humanitarian response."

The resolution also encouraged Baptists around the world to "respond by giving promptly and generously" to a \$1.5 million Africa Refugee Assistance fund established by the BWA general council.

Continuing reports of religious persecution in a number of nations prompted a resolution reaffirming the "historic Baptist commitment to religious liberty for all people." Baptist leaders said they view "with alarm" the denial of the right of religious liberty to groups including evangelical minorities in Bulgaria, Albania, Iran, Ethiopia, China and the republics of Central Asia. The Coptic Orthodox community in Egypt also was named in the resolution as a victim of religious persecution.

The statement pledged "continuing

vigilance and prayerful support" while urging governments and international authorities to guarantee and safeguard religious liberty for all.

Another resolution supports the United Nations' proclamation of 1994 as the International Year of the Family. The statement by Baptist leaders proclaimed "the biblical definition of the family—a permanent, monogamous, heterosexual union—is the original divine plan for family life which must continue to serve as a foundation and ideal for an ordered and effective society."

Because family life is "under threat in all cultures," the resolution noted that Christians must ensure effective marriage preparation, teach family members to communicate with each other, provide relevant models of parenting and benefit from the wisdom of the older generation of Christians.

The world Baptist leaders adopted a resolution acknowledging European Baptists "face the challenge of being church and of undertaking evangelism in a society where secularized values have come to determine patterns of thought and behavior."

Other resolutions approved by the BWA general council:

- Challenged all Baptists to "repentance, prayer and costly action" as they engage in the ministry of reconciliation "that the world might believe."

- Affirmed the "priority of evangelism in the countries of Latin America" and invited Baptists of the world to pray for one another and attend the 17th Baptist World Congress Aug. 1-6, 1995, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- Expressed appreciation to Swedish Baptists and other religious and government leaders for hosting the 1994 general council sessions.

"I was moved to hear the testimonies of men who have suffered persecution for the cause of Christ and the cherished Baptist belief of religious freedom," Henry continued. "I was reminded that Baptists around the world appreciate and look to Southern Baptists for leadership and a growing involvement of encouragement to our larger Baptist family that now

touches every continent and nearly every nation of the world."

In other action, BWA council members set a goal to collect \$1.5 million for an African refugee assistance fund to help Rwandans displaced by that country's civil war. They also accepted an invitation from Australian Baptists to host the BWA's 18th congress in the year 2000.

HMB refugee office faces Haitian crisis

GLORIETA, NM (BP)—Of the approximately 1,000 Haitians who leave their homeland in boats each day, Southern Baptists end up being directly responsible for an average of 60 of them.

According to Bill Fulkerson, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's refugee office, it is a responsibility that is reaching crisis level.

"It's a chronic state that might become acute," Fulkerson said. "The refugee situation is not getting any better. In fact, it's getting worse."

The United Nations has identified more than 19 million refugees worldwide—a number which has increased by 5 million in the last five years. From the time a refugee is identified as such by the U.N., it can take anywhere from two months to 10 years to be resettled with a sponsor.

The HMB's refugee office, working in cooperation with government-contracted refugee resettlement services in the country, receives refugee cases continually. Those cases can range from an individual to a family of six or seven.

The HMB is given only two days to resettle Haitian refugees before their case is passed to another resettlement service.

"For every case we can't resettle, we are denied a case in the future," Fulkerson said. "We've seldom had to return a case because we don't want to lose the future opportunity."

More refugee sponsors are needed to adequately handle the influx of refugees, he said. The HMB could use 50 more churches willing to be refugee sponsors.

The HMB asks the entire church to be the sponsor and to shoulder the responsibility—financial, emotional, physical and spiritual.

For more information on refugee resettlement, contact the Southern Baptist Refugee Resettlement Office, 1350 Spring NW, Atlanta, GA 30367; phone 404-898-7395.

Jackson to coordinate European crusades

FRANKFURT, GERMANY (BP)—A former Southern Baptist missionary and leader of numerous volunteer crusades overseas has been named to coordinate evangelistic crusades in Western Europe during the next two years for the Foreign Mission Board.

W.H. "Dub" Jackson and his wife, Doris, will work with Baptist leaders in the 11 countries of the region to plan outreach projects involving Southern Baptists and European churches.

"Christians of Western Europe are praying for God to show Himself mighty in their lands," said John Floyd, the board's area director for Europe who assigned Jackson to the post through the board's International Service Corps program. "I believe one of the best servants of the Lord for this type of ministry is Dub Jackson."

The new position signals a departure from business as usual in Western Europe, where church growth has seemed somewhat sluggish compared to other parts of the world, said Eddie Cox, associate to the area director for Europe. But Baptist leaders there seem ready for the new approach, he said.

Jackson said partnership efforts "are now planned for Denmark and Spain in 1995, with Norway and Sweden thinking of 1996 and Germany suggesting the fall of 1997." France is considering requesting up to 500 Southern Baptists to work in 50 French churches in 1996.

Naylor gets medical license extension

BANGALORE, INDIA (BP)—Southern Baptists' only resident missionary in India, surgeon Rebekah Naylor, has received a two-year renewal of her license to practice medicine at the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore.

"Rebekah has just heard from the (government) Ministry of

Health—her license has been renewed for two years up to Oct. 23, 1996," reported Naylor's administrative assistant, Florence Charles, in an Aug. 12 message to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "Praise the Lord! All our prayers have been answered."

Naylor regained her medical license last November after India's health minister personally overruled the national medical council, which had denied her a license the month before.

The health minister also overruled the council's decision not to grant Naylor a license in 1991. The council's 1991 and 1993 decisions made it illegal for Naylor to practice medicine at the Baptist Hospital, where she has worked since 1973. The 143-bed hospital treats more than 74,000 patients a year. About half of them are too poor to pay their medical bills.

Despite the high-level intervention, the 1993 renewal was good for only one year, and the medical council told Naylor it would continue to deny future renewals. "I'm kind of on borrowed time," she said then.

She's still on borrowed time, but this time it's two full years—a hopeful sign for the future.

Evangelism blitz in Albania nets believers

TIRANA, ALBANIA (BP)—An international evangelical effort to bring the gospel to a former "forbidden country" has resulted in more than 2,300 Albanians registering decisions for Christ this summer.

Called "Project AERO, Albanian Evangelical Rural Outreach," the objective has been to show the "Jesus" film in the Tirana and Shkoder districts. More than 15,000 villagers in 175 villages have viewed the presentations.

"Project AERO is a model of how Great Commission Christians must work together in the future to reach difficult areas of the world," said James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Begun as a shared vision of workers with Southern Baptists' Cooperative Services International and Campus Crusade for Christ in Albania, the scope of the project required support from other organizations, including the Brotherhood Commission.

International Service Corps volunteers will carry much of the long-term follow-up load and church planting responsibilities.

Matt Harmon, a telecommunications major at Ohio University in Athens, was on a team that used donkeys to move film equipment between some villages. In one locale, 20 to 25 people held the first ever church service in the village on the last day of follow-up.

"A week before these people had never heard about Jesus and now they were gathered for a service," Harmon affirmed.

HMB drama team compiles sketches

ATLANTA (BP)—A book of one-act plays performed by a home missions drama team has been published for church drama groups and others interested in sketches about missions.

The book, *Drama on Mission*, contains 18 sketches by MissionsUSA Live, a traveling team of seven US-2 home missionaries with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Since their formation last year, MissionsUSA Live has performed more than 200 times in churches and on college campuses in 29 states to promote home missions through music and drama.

Most of the sketches were written by group members or home missionary Tom Eggleston, the team's supervisor. The sketches require from two to eight actors and no longer than seven minutes to perform.

The sketch book can be ordered from the Home Mission Board's customer services department at 1-800-634-2462. An audio cassette of music by MissionsUSA Live is also available.

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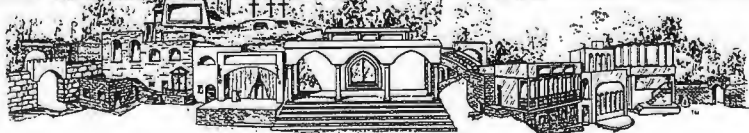


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Hinkson: Quality Bible study reclaims absentees

By Chip Alford
Baptist Sunday School Board

RIDGECREST, NC (BP)—Interested in reclaiming those chronic absentees in your Sunday School class?

According to Ed Hinkson, the place to start is examining the quality of Bible study being offered.

"I am persuaded that you can lose more

people through poor Bible teaching than you can ever gain through aggressive outreach," Hinkson, associate director for adult work for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, told ministers and lay leaders attending an Aug. 10 training session at Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Center. The seminar was part of the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference.

An important key to quality Bible study,

Hinkson said, is properly trained Sunday School teachers.

"Sometimes we ask people to teach and then we abandon them and they are stuck with it till Jesus comes," he noted. "They need to know what's expected of them and how to accomplish it."

At a church he previously served as pastor, Hinkson said he required four things of Sunday School teachers: They had to be tithers; they had to use church-purchased Bible study literature; they had to agree to attend weekly workers meetings and church visitation; and they had to complete a teacher training course.

"We realized we needed to get serious about what we were doing on the inside before we got too serious about outreach," he said.

Causes of chronic absenteeism

In addition to poor Bible teaching, Hinkson listed seven other possible causes of chronic absenteeism: a lack of organization, little or no fellowship, a poor physical environment, conflict or cliques within the class, unreal expectations of class members, a lack of assimilation and involvement of members and a lack of spiritual growth on the part of the teacher and/or members.

Among suggestions for reclaiming absentees, Hinkson mentioned:

- Focus on "needs-oriented teaching. We're here to help people and meet their needs, not just cover some biblical content," he said. "Often we lose people, not because we didn't teach them something, but because we didn't show that we cared for them."

- Enlist outreach leaders and care group leaders. "I personally don't have a problem with large classes as long as you have a good organization that breaks it down into care groups," he said.

- Have monthly class and/or department fellowships to provide opportunities for personal sharing and relationship building.

- Visit absentees, listening and seeking to build trust and relationships.

- Pray for class members by name.

- Begin new classes.

- Study all aspects of a church's physical space, such as: how far people have to walk to the class, how many steps they have to climb, the color and condition of the room, the effectiveness of the lighting, the condition of the furnishings, etc.

"It's the little things that go unattended that cause us problems in church," Hinkson emphasized.

The Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division.



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Jericho '94: Call to missions may mean discomfort, risk

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, NM (BP)—God's call to missions may include discomfort, risk and devastating circumstances, along with the comforting assurance of service in the center of His will, according to speakers and participants in "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" July 30-Aug. 5 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We Southern Baptists are very comfortable thinking about corporate identity, but the focus of this week is on the individual," Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper Jr. told the 1,450 people attending the Sunday morning worship service. The theme of conference was "Be the One."

During the week, dozens made commitments to volunteer and career missions service while many others committed to mission support through prayer and giving. Participants in the Jericho missions project coordinated by the Brotherhood Commission constructed furniture and toys for the Templo Bautista of Lopez Mateos, Mexico.

As he did with Moses, God may use humbling activities, isolated places or devastating events to draw a Christian to a life-changing encounter, Draper said.

"Devastation can make you bitter, angry or hostile. Oryou can see in the devastation that there is God in the midst of that devastation waiting to greet you."

Describing dangers being faced today by missionaries around the world, Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin said God's call may be accompanied by risk and discomfort.

He said he met recently with the 11 Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from the African nation of Rwanda, and all

11 are committed to continued ministry and service with the people of that country.

Despite the risk, "the safest place your family could be is where you are in the center of God's will," Rankin said.

Woman's Missionary Union executive director Dellanna O'Brien said, "Nothing on earth could keep our missionaries in places like these (discomfort and danger) but God's call and an obedient and willing spirit."

"Will you pray that God will send your son or your daughter?" she asked.

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis challenged participants to "crucify your dreams of benefits and creature comforts and say, 'Yes, Lord, I'll go.'"

Noting that 71,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for short-term home missions projects in 1993 and 10,000 completed short-term foreign missions efforts, he challenged others to give a week, two weeks or more as volunteers.

"You'll come home more fulfilled than from any trip to Disney World or the beach," Lewis said.

Throughout the week, foreign and home missionaries shared testimonies and led conferences.

David Brownfield, who works in water development in Ethiopia, described the difficulty of leaving for mission service while his mother awaited a lung transplant. She died while he was gone.

Stephen Hurdle, a church planter in northern Nevada, said he experienced ridicule when he spoke openly about his faith at a high school graduation service.

Despite the embarrassment, he said, "I don't think of these as real risks."

Luba Smyntyna, 18, a native of Moldavia who participated in Youth Jericho, described her father's imprisonment for distributing Bibles and Christian literature in the communist country.

Smyntyna and her family came to the United States four years ago. They are now members of Calvary Baptist Church of Rapid City, S.D.

Now living in freedom, she has relished mission trips with the church youth group. "We never want glory to go to ourselves," she said.

Jericho was sponsored by the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.



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The annual "Southern Baptist Lock-In" at Wild River Country, held July 22 this year, is NOT a Southern Baptist or Arkansas Baptist State Convention event.

Despite the use of the name "Southern Baptist" in promotional material mailed to churches throughout the state, the annual lock-in is sponsored exclusively by Wild River Country.

FMB trustees focus on East Europe, missions vision

By Robert O'Brien
Foreign Missions Board

ALEXANDRIA, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees focused on plans for a major advance in missions in Eastern Europe, appointed 35 missionaries and dialogued with board leaders on a future vision for world missions at their Aug. 15-17 meeting.

They also voted to commend the action, first by the Southern Baptist Convention and then by top Foreign Mission Board staff, to decline funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In another action, trustees affirmed an SBC resolution voted in Orlando that expressed appreciation for Southern Baptist trustees and administrators. The resolution urged them to do their tasks with diligence, an attitude of love and service and a conciliatory response to divisive issues.

The trustees' Europe committee commended mission board staff for an ambitious strategy for Europe and recommended where to get much-needed funding to accomplish a proposed major thrust into Eastern Europe.

The Eastern Europe emphasis will seek to accelerate evangelism, discipleship training, church planting, theological education and the presence of missionaries and volunteers — all in a region that's unstable politically and economically but wide open to the gospel message.

"We are facing great challenges in Eastern Europe," said area director John Floyd,

who led in developing the strategy.

He said one of several challenges "is the fact that present openness may not remain long. Indeed, in some areas former communist political leaders have now been re-elected to positions of national leadership. And subtle oppression and even open hostility from the Orthodox Church and others continues."

Trustees approved motions, brought by trustee Paul Pressler, that the board fund Eastern European needs by accepting funds from interested foundations, using the first \$5 million received from the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering over and above the amount to be budgeted for 1996 and using the first \$5 million the board receives over and above the basic national 1994-95 Cooperative Program budget.

Trustees also voted to list Eastern European needs with the FMB's development office.

FMB president Jerry Rankin presented a challenge for expansion of foreign missions. He outlined missions advances under his three immediate predecessors — M. Theron Rankin, Baker James Cauthen and R. Keith Parks — and challenged trustees to help in framing a vision for the future.

He distributed an initial draft of a vision statement and list of core values and asked for trustees' input. He already has sought input from board missionaries and staff. Action on the vision statement and core values will come at a future trustee meeting.

Missionaries appointed bring the total overseas force to 4,027. Rankin urged the missionaries to seek God's direction throughout their service. "If you don't spend time with the Lord and listen to Him every day, you'll not experience the power necessary for effectiveness and service. Listen to God," he said, pledging the prayer support of Southern Baptists.

Missionary notes

Patricia Frost, Baptist representative to Middle East, is in Parks (address: HC 60, Box 33, Parks, AR 72950), her hometown.

Ronald and Alana Greenwich, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 1041, 88010-970 Florianopolis, South Brazil). They both consider Monticello their hometown.

Robert and Cheryl Headrick, missionaries to Tanzania, are on the field (address: P.O. Box Kyela, Tanzania). She considers northwest Arkansas her home.

Donald and Erma Highfill, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal #312, 38412-970 Uberlandia, MG, Brazil). He formerly was a Mansfield resident.

Tony and Cindy Ludlow, missionaries to Japan, are on the field (address: 2-8-15 Kitayamadai, Togo-cho, Alchi-gun, Alchi-ken 470-01, Japan). He is a Fort Smith native.

Fred and Gayla Parker, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 184, General Santos City, south Catobato 9500, Philippines). Both are natives of Little Rock.

Bill and LaVeta Sergeant, missionaries to Taiwan, are in the States (address: 330 Cherokee Dr., D2, Fayetteville, AR 72701).

Greg and Sue Smith, missionaries to Costa Rica, are on the field (address: Apartado 4035-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica). He is from Hot Springs. She considers Carthage her hometown.

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Williams Baptist College

Eldridge named vice president—Sharon Eldridge has been named vice president for student affairs at Williams Baptist College. She will be responsible for a wide range of student services, including residence halls, student activities and discipline. Eldridge comes to Williams from Limestone College in Gannay, S.C., where she was coordinator of student services and acting vice president for student services. She is a graduate of Winthrop University in South Carolina and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Niang wins national award—The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Allou Niang has been named a United States National Collegiate Award winner in religious studies. Niang, a native of Senegal, Africa, is a senior religious studies major at Williams Baptist College. Award selection criteria include academics, leadership and citizenship.

Ouachita Baptist University

Grant awards established—Former Ouachita Baptist University first lady Betty Oliver Grant was honored recently by the establishment by family members of an endowment fund at Ouachita for annual awards in her name for the outstanding sophomore and junior women students. Her husband, Daniel R. Grant, served as Ouachita's president from 1970 until his retirement in 1988. The award will be given each year to the woman student "who has best demonstrated in her life Ouachita's two-found standard of academic excellence and Christian excellence." Similar awards have been given for many years to the outstanding freshman and senior women, in honor of Mrs. J.R. Grant, Ouachita's first lady from 1933 until 1949.

Students are national finalists—Eleven students were finalists in the recent national Phi Beta Lambda honorary business fraternity's competition held at Anaheim, Calif. The Frank Hickingbotham School of Business sponsored the chapter's involvement in the competition.

Composer honored nationally—For the 29th consecutive year, W. Francis McBeth, chairman of the theory-composition department of the School of Music at Ouachita Baptist University and Composer Laureate of Arkansas, has been honored nationally in receiving an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Award for his music compositions. The ASCAP awards are granted by an independent panel of judges and are based on an evaluation of each writer's catalog and the performance of his or her compositions.

Advisory Board elects officers—C.J. Hall of Little Rock has been elected president of the Former Students Association Advisory Board at Ouachita Baptist University for the 1994-95 academic year. Hall is a 1982 graduate of OBU. The Advisory Board acts as a representative body of the 12,000-member FSA which provides the framework for involvement for Ouachita alumni, former students and friends in the programs of the university. Other officers elected are vice president David M. Tate of Batesville; recording secretary Lois Powell Anderson of Texarkana, Texas; and Tiger Network director Wesley Kluck of Arkadelphia.

Gift for history instruction—A deceased Alabama educator, R. Vogt Hill of Birmingham, has left a bequest of \$490,000 to OBU, his alma mater. The gift will create an endowed chair of instruction in the field of history. The Ouachita board of trustees has appointed Tom Auffenberg, chairman of the department of history, to the post created by the bequest.

"Venture '94" scheduled—OBU will host approximately 1,000 church youth group members and leaders from Arkansas and surrounding states for the 10th annual "Venture" program to be held Saturday, Sept. 24. The purpose of "Venture" is to offer a period of fellowship and spiritual growth. This year's theme is "Hearing God in One Another." For more information contact Jan Cosh at OBU, P.O. Box 3782, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; phone 245-5536.

Music/youth minister—Richland Baptist Church, Memphis, TN, is seeking a minister of music and youth. Those interested may send their resume to Mr. Gary Oswalt, chairman of the Search Committee, 170 N. Oak Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38120.

Wanted—Part-time music director, within driving distance of church. If interested, contact church office. Bayou Metro Baptist Church, 26200 Hwy. 107, Jacksonville, AR 72076. 988-1966 (day), 835-5228 (night).

Part-time minister of music—Send resume by August 31 to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Jesselville, AR 71949.

Needed—Part-time youth/education minister, Dardanelle First Baptist Church. In close driving distance preferred. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 118 South Second Street, Dardanelle, AR 72634.

Needed—Full-time music/youth director. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 578, Des Arc, AR 72040.

Part-time position available—Book-keeper/secretary, 20 hrs per week. Book-keeping/computer skills required. Contact Pulaski Baptist Association 374-0319.

Music/youth minister—Contact Music/Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box "O", Hazen, AR 72064.

Part-time minister of music—Send resume to Music Committee, Third Baptist Church, 817 Young, Malvern, AR 72104.

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, signed at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. Classified ads shall be restricted to church-related subject matter.

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24 positions cut at BSSB as restructuring continues

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Twenty-four positions in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division position have been deleted as part of ongoing restructuring of the church growth group.

The decisions followed a July 18 announcement that reducing operating expenses and reordering priorities would require the elimination of 24 to 30 positions from the 224 jobs in the division.

Acknowledging there has been widespread anxiety among employees the past several months, BSSB president James T. Draper Jr. said the extensive reorganization project is nearing completion.

The restructuring, Draper said, was initiated by a strategy planning process which began in the fall of 1991, shortly after his arrival at the board. The next February, 100 employees were organized into task forces and assigned to study the various aspects of the organization. Draper said they returned a couple months later with "an incredible report — in size and depth and complexity."

Recommendations for the restructuring and direction of the board, Draper said, were more drastic than he and the new executive team would have come up with. "We never set out to reduce the number

of employees by any particular number," Draper noted. "We said, 'Let's find out how we can function the best. What can we do to be in the very best possible posture to do the job as economically as we can and keep the prices down for Southern Baptists?'" While some further restructuring remains to be done, he continued, "as far as major changes, we feel like we're pretty well done with it."

Billie Pate, associate director of the Bible teaching-reaching division, said the latest restructuring resulted in redesign of a number of positions and minor organizational changes. The net reduction included two management, 15 professional and seven support staff jobs. Eight of the deleted positions were vacant.

Nine affected employees will take early retirement, two will transfer to other positions in the church growth group and

the remainder will receive severance pay based on years of service along with outplacement assistance.

Among those taking early retirement are Art Burcham, director of the general leadership department, a 26-year employee; Tom Lee, an 18-year employee and growth consultant; James Berthelot, lead adult consultant, 14 years; and Ruth Ann Hill, adult consultant, 10 years.

Mike Fink, coordinator of biblical studies development in the ministry-development coordination department, and Morlee Maynard, manager of the preschool ministry development section, will transfer to positions in the church growth group coordination section. Fink will become curriculum, editorial and resource coordination specialist while Maynard will assume responsibility for ministry/systems coordination.

Ouachita hires 12 new faculty members

Ouachita Baptist University has announced the employment of 12 new full-time faculty members for the 1994-95 academic year. They are:

■ Joe Bradshaw, assistant professor of chemistry, a graduate of Baylor University and Rice University.

■ Kevin Brennan, instructor in political science, a graduate of the University of Nebraska and the University of Kentucky.

■ Lisa Cobb, assistant professor of biology, a graduate of Trinity Valley Community College in Texas and Idaho State University.

■ Vincent Cobb, instructor in biology, a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Idaho State University.

■ Susan C. Kindall, instructor in music, a graduate of Bob Jones University and the University of Oklahoma.

■ Isaac Mwase, assistant professor of philosophy, a graduate of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Zimbabwe;

Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Dallas Baptist University.

■ Steve Phillips, associate professor of speech, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas State University and the University of Southern California.

■ Jon Secrest, assistant professor of music, a graduate of Friends University in Kansas, Kansas State University and Arizona State University.

■ Kristen Sommer, assistant professor of psychology, a graduate of Denison University in Ohio and the University of Notre Dame.

■ Thomas Tubb, instructor in mathematics, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

■ David Wehr, assistant professor of music and artist-in-residence, a graduate of the University of Kansas.

■ Chad Welch, instructor in communications, a graduate of Bethel College in Minnesota and Baylor University.

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NOTICE

The Arkansas Baptist Discipleship and Family Ministry Department announces that Baptist Youth Day will not be conducted at Magic Springs this year. However, Baptist Youth Day has been set for next year and the date is Friday, Sept. 9, 1995, at Magic Springs in Hot Springs.

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Convention Uniform

Getting past your fear

By Roy Bledsoe, professor,
Ouachita Baptist University
Basic passage: Joshua 1:1-9; 2:1, 8-13
Focal passage: Joshua 1:1-9; 2:1, 8-13
Central truth: Some are motivated to obey God out of faith while others are motivated by fear.

This passage focuses on the time when the people of Israel had been wandering in the wilderness for nearly 40 years and were preparing to go into the Promised Land. The story of their transition from being nomads to being a nation is high drama. In this first scene, there are two characters — Joshua and Rahab. Both obeyed God but for different reasons. Joshua obeyed because of his faith in God; Rahab obeyed because of her fear of God. Why do you obey God?

Joshua obeyed God because of his faith in Him (vv. 1:1-9). There were plenty of reasons for Joshua to believe God and obey. One was his own experiences with God, from being one of two spies at Kadesh-Barnea who believed God could give them the land He had promised (Num. 13-14), to seeing God miraculously provide their needs in the barren wilderness (Num. 11).

Another reason for Joshua's faith was the example of Moses, his father in the faith, who had remained faithful to God when situations seemed impossible.

A third reason for Joshua's faith was the promises of God. God had given His word before and kept it, and now He was giving His word again and Joshua believed Him. No wonder he could obey God with such confidence and courage! Faith in God is a powerful motivation.

Rahab obeyed God because of her fear of Him (vv. 2:1, 8-13). Joshua sent spies to scout the Promised Land. They were housed, hid and helped by Rahab, who was a prostitute. One reason she was afraid of God was because of what she knew — that God had given the people of Israel her land (v. 2:9).

Another reason she was afraid of God was because of what she had heard, "how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea" (v. 2:10). Another reason was who God was: "Your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below" (2:11).

Both faith and fear are powerful forces. Which motivates you to obey God, the fear of Rahab or the faith of Joshua? Can you move past the fear of God to faith in Him?

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Life and Work

Holiness

By Art Horne, minister of education,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: Psalms 99:9; Exodus
19:10-25; 1 Peter 1:13-16
Focal passage: 1 Peter 1:13-16
Central truth: Holiness is to be a characteristic of Christians.

As we read Psalms 99:9 and Exodus 19:10-15, we read how people used to prepare for worship. They consecrated themselves — set themselves apart just to prepare to worship God. What a contrast to the typical Baptist today, preparing to come to worship on a Sunday morning. What is a Christian supposed to do in response to God's requirement to "be holy"? We find three actions in 1 Peter 1:13-16.

■ **Prepare your minds.** Our battle ground begins in our minds. Satan struggles to gain access and control of our thoughts and lead us to sin. The Bible urges us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2). How do we do that? By reading the Word of God daily. This is a simplistic statement, but how many of us take time to read the Bible systematically? The Word of God claims the ability to "wash us" (Eph. 5:26). Our thoughts become more pure. We are better able to determine the will of God. Only through the Word of God can we judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

■ **Be self-controlled.** We are to be people who acknowledge personal responsibility for our actions. How many of us remember the peace and joy that were our experience when we received Christ as Savior? Do you still have that peace, that sense of being right with God? If not, what happened? Sin. How do we restore our broken fellowship with Him? Ask the Lord to show you your sin. Trust Him to give you repentance. Conscience to God the sins that you have committed. Ask for His forgiveness. The Bible says that if anyone knows to do right, but doesn't; to them it is sin (James 4:17). Being right with God is the way to have self-control.

■ **Set your hope in God's grace.** Can holiness mark the Christian of today? Yes. How? We must set our minds, then we must trust God. He has committed to make us into new creations; to conform us into the image of Christ. Our responsibility is to yield our bodies and minds to Christ; to become living sacrifices totally abandoned to God and doing His will. It is by grace that we have been saved through faith. Grace will lead us home.

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Bible Book

The virtuous woman

By Jack Bledsoe, retired DOM,
Carey Association
Basic passage: Proverbs 25:1-31,
31:1-31
Focal passage: Proverbs 31:10-31
Central truth: The value of virtue is far above rubies.

We cannot conclude our study of Proverbs without paying homage to this marvelous Hebrew acrostic paying tribute to the virtuous woman. It consists of 22 verses in our English translation. Each of the 22 couplets begins with a consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the significance of which is unexplained. Perhaps it helped in memorization of the alphabet in the same way a musical jingle helps our children learn the English alphabet. Whoever Lemuel was, he may have chosen this particular way in which to praise his own mother in a dramatic way. This passage is used almost universally on Mother's Day in America. The acrostic breaks itself down easily into four major areas for our consideration:

■ **She is a Good Woman.** As a good woman, she works hard in support of her family, she makes wise decisions as a business person and behaves herself in a most circumspect way, giving evidence that she has a strong faith commitment to God and a firm commitment to her marriage.

■ **She is a Good Wife.** Many a man's good name and good fortune is the result of the loyal support of his devoted companion. His trust and confidence in her is such that he can share his inmost thoughts with her in the assurance that he will never be embarrassed in public by her actions.

■ **She is a Good Mother.** Children will remember, all the days of their lives the wonderful experiences "at mother's knee," where they were taught the basic rudiments of successful living. They will truly call her blessed.

■ **She is a Good Neighbor.** Loving your neighbor as yourself is not an idle injunction from the scriptures. It is the characteristic that marks the basic qualities of the successful life. The woman portrayed in these couplets displays the concern for others that ought to mark every one of us.

There is a secret to this kind of lifestyle. It is the same secret we discovered in Job and the other Proverbs. An unshakable faith in God is the bedrock foundation for successful living.

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Convention Uniform

Putting feet to your faith

By Roy Buckelew, professor,
Ouachita Baptist University
Basic passage: Joshua 3-4
Focal passage: Joshua 3:5, 9-17; 4:4-7,
18-24

Central truth: People have the courage to act on their faith in God because of His character as well as their own courage.

The story of the people of Israel being nomads and then becoming a nation is drama at its best. This passage is scene two of that drama — the crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land and the events immediately following. The time had come for them to put feet to their faith, literally. To step out in faith, they had to depend on the character of God and their own courage.

First, the character of God. In order to be able to put feet to their faith in God, they had to trust His character completely. In chapters 1 and 2, the people showed no fear in the face of possible catastrophe and did not hesitate to follow God in faith.

From the study of persuasive speech through the centuries, we know that the character, credibility or trustworthiness of a speaker is by far the most important means of getting people to believe, to act, or to change. A speaker's character depends on what that person has done in the past. When Joshua said, "Tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things" (v. 3:5), they believed because of what He had done in the past (v. 4:23-24).

Also, God's character is awesome. He is the Lord of all people on earth (vv. 3:11-13). He is the Lord of all time (v. 4:4-9). He is the Lord of all things; even the runaway waters of the Jordan River stopped at His command (vv. 3:12-17; 4:18).

Second, the courage of the people. In order to put feet to their faith in God, it took courage by the people. Joshua showed courage in leading the people to do what God said, especially when it seemed so radical. The priests showed courage when they stepped into the rampaging rapids of the Jordan River. And the people showed courage when they walked across the river with a wall of water standing there ready to bury them at any moment.

As with the people of Israel, when we put feet to our faith, God will do His part, but we also have to do our part.

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Life and Work

Love one another

By Art Horne, minister of education,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: 1 John 4:7-5:3
Focal passage: 1 John 4: 20
Central truth: Love for other
Christians is characteristic of a true
Christian.

Fred says that he is a Christian. He hasn't been in church (much less serving the Lord) in 15 years. He won't step foot back into that church as long as that hypocrite who hurt his feelings is still teaching Sunday School. It's no secret that Fred hates that brother. He tells everyone who dares to visit him how he has been hurt. What's wrong with this picture? There probably is not a Christian anywhere who cannot identify with this fictional character. The main thing wrong with this scenario is the reaction of a professing Christian to an offense. We must measure and evaluate our standing with God by the Word of God. Our sense of right or wrong, our feelings or our opinions are not the standard. God's Word is.

How is a Christian to act when offended? Let's examine two biblical actions.

■ We are to forgive when offended (Matt. 6:14-15).

■ We are to seek forgiveness when we offend (Matt. 5:23-24).

We must remember that we bear the name Christian. What a name! It has been paid for by the blood and lives of our Christian ancestors. We are not our own. We belong to Christ. It is He who must be honored by our lives.

If you cannot love someone who claims to be a Christian, it calls you to examine your salvation. I John plainly states that a person who says that they love God, yet hates their brother is a liar; a very plain spoken statement. God did not ask us to do what we can humanly do. Forgiveness when wronged and being able to love when offended are attainable if we submit to God and ask for His power. What are the results of dealing with offenses and hurts in a biblical manner? There are several: God is honored; the community sees the Church as powerful; the work of the Lord is not hindered; testimonies abound of God's grace; children see godly examples from adults; the world sees the church as a loving community; people are drawn together; and reconciliation is a normal process. Think of examples of Christians forgiving offenses and seeking reconciliation. Then tell your friends!

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Bible Book

The ultimate good

By Jack J. Bledsoe, retired DOM,
Carey Association
Basic passage: Ecclesiastes 1:1-5:20
Focal passage: Ecclesiastes 2:24-26
Central truth: Seek those things
from above, for all that is good
comes from Him.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon outlines his journey in search for the ultimate good. We will not find his final conclusion until chapter 12, but catch a foregleam of that conclusion in chapter 2. The wisest man who ever lived was no different from any of the rest of us. Life is a journey dedicated to our selection from the cafeteria line of possibilities and options those activities that will ultimately produce our quality of life. We already know that the best is to trust in God with all of our hearts and to have a deep and unflinching faith in Him.

■ *Personal experience.* In chapters 1 and 2 Solomon tells of how he sought the ultimate good in wisdom and pleasure. He discovered that seeking through wisdom taught him a great deal, but each learning experience revealed that there is always something more, just beyond his grasp. The more you learn the less you know, for knowledge opens up new vistas not yet contemplated, so the search goes on. Solomon compared it to striving after the wind, which cannot be contained. Jesus referred to the universality of the wind in His conversation with Nicodemus in John 3. Solomon recounted his search through the medium of pleasure, the satisfaction of his physical and sensual desires. These also failed to provide the answer and he concludes that everything comes from the hand of God for our enjoyment.

■ *General observation.* In this area he discovered that divine providence has immutably fixed certain things that are beyond the comprehension and control of man. God's times are set in eternity, for He is sovereign over His creation. Man is tempted to become a fatalist in the light of such knowledge. At the same time man sees the human society of injustice, inequality and superficiality, all set against the background of God's providence.

■ *Interim conclusion.* He concludes that the ultimate good for man is to enjoy the gracious providence of an omnipotent God, for that is what God chose for His creation. Just enjoy it and be thankful. Not until chapter 12 does he conclude that the ultimate good is found in trust in God alone.

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NEWS DIGEST

Study notes one child in four lives in single-parent home

WASHINGTON (ABP) — One in four American children is growing up in a single-parent home, and that parent is almost as likely to be never-married as divorced, according to a recent Census Bureau report.

About 18 million children — 27 percent of America's kids — live in a home with only one parent, twice as many as in 1970, according to Arlene Saluter, author of *Marital Status and Living Arrangements*, a March 1993 study for the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Part of that increase is because more unmarried women are giving birth, said Saluter. Of children living with just one parent, almost as many live with a parent who has never married (35 percent) as those whose parents are divorced (37 percent).

Two factors in the increase of single-parent homes are an increase in the number of divorces and the fact that more adults are delaying a first marriage, the study reported.

Senate joins House to save sexual abstinence program

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Senate has followed the lead of the House of Representatives in restoring funding to a sexual abstinence program deleted by the Clinton administration in its 1995 budget.

The Senate recently voted 87-13 to approve a spending bill which includes \$6.7 million for Title XX, the only federal program promoting sexual abstinence among teens.

Earlier, the House approved the same amount of funding in its version of the legislation. Although the versions will go to a Senate-House conference committee to work out differences, supporters believe funding for Title XX, also known as the Adolescent Family Life program, will remain in the final bill.

Sen. Slade Gorton, R.-Wash., and Rep. Lamar Smith, R.-Texas, led an effort in their respective chambers to restore Title XX after the White House proposed its elimination.

Senate cuts funds for schools promoting homosexuality

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Senate recently passed an amendment prohibiting funding of any public school districts which teach that homosexuality is a positive lifestyle.

In the 63-36 vote, 40 Republicans and 23 Democrats joined together to amend an education reauthorization bill to prevent a school district receiving federal funds from implementing a "program or activity that has either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative." The prohibited activities include "materials, instruction, counseling or other services on school grounds, or referral of a pupil to an organization that affirms a homosexual lifestyle."

It remains to be seen if the amendment, adopted Aug. 1, will remain in the bill, which provides more than \$12 billion for elementary and secondary education. The Senate and House versions will go to a conference committee for debate. Sen. Robert Smith, R.-N.H., and Sen. Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., sponsored the Senate amendment.

Miller defends compatibility of Calvinism, evangelism

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—Calvinism and evangelism are not mutually exclusive, according to David Miller, former director of missions for Arkansas Baptists' Little Red River Baptist Association.

"I'm about ready to dispel the myth and the lie that preaching the truth of the doctrines of grace will hurt evangelism and missions," Miller told a group attending the 12th annual Southern Baptist Founders Conference at Samford University July 26-29.

The "doctrines of grace" — as they are called by Miller and many of his fellow Calvinists — include such ideas as election, predestination, the sovereignty of God and the inability of man to exercise faith unless God first regenerates him.

"We can go out with confidence, that God has chosen some and — if we preach the gospel to enough of them — God's going to save some of them," Miller declared.

Ridgecrest marriage conference offered for deaf couples

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The Oct. 28-30 Fall Festival of Marriage Conference at Ridgecrest will offer a special workshop track for deaf couples, according to the coordinator of the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored event.

"For the first time we will have a set of workshops at Fall Festival of Marriage that is led and geared to deaf couples," said David Huebner, marriage enrichment events specialist for the board.

The conferences will be offered at the fourth marriage conference planned this fall at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

Couples interested in obtaining more information about the conference may call the Sunday School Board at 615-251-2277 or Ridgecrest at 1-800-588-7222, Huebner said.