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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 17

August 26, 1993

Huckabay elected president of Williams Baptist College



Gary C. Huckabay, dean of the College of Adult and Continuing Education at Dallas Baptist University, has been unanimously elected by trustees as president of Williams Baptist College. Huckabay is the fourth president of the Arkansas Baptist-related college. WBC was founded in 1941, moved to Walnut Ridge in 1947 and gained senior college status in 1983.



Huckabay elected president of Williams Baptist College

WALNUT RIDGE—Gary C. Huckabay has been unanimously elected president of Williams Baptist College by the college's board of trustees. He began serving in his new position Aug. 16, one week before fall classes began on the Walnut Ridge campus.



Huckabay

Huckabay, 45, has served since 1991 as dean of the College of Adult and Continuing Education at Dallas Baptist University, a school affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Huckabay, who also taught Bible and world religions at DBU, previously was senior pastor of Woodmen Valley Chapel in Colorado Springs, Colo., adjunct professor of Old Testament at Denver Theological Seminary and professor of Old Testament and chairman of the division of Christian studies at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.

The new president succeeds Jimmy Millikin, who resigned as president in February to accept a position as chairman of the New Testament department at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Describing his unanimous election as a "challenging and humbling experience," Huckabay added, "I'm counting on God to accomplish the good and I'll just put the shoe leather to it."

Trustee chairman Wendell Ross, who also chaired the presidential search committee, said board members were "enamored" with Huckabay during the

search process. "We could never have found a candidate of this caliber unless the Holy Spirit led him to us," Ross declared. "We're elated."

Noting that "the board, faculty and students are so excited to have a leader with his type of intellect and vision," Ross said Huckabay is committed to help build "a first class Christian college."

Huckabay said he plans to work with trustees, faculty and senior staff members "to formulate a clear vision for the school," including an assessment of "where we want to go and how we want to get there in terms of curriculum, personnel and physical plant."

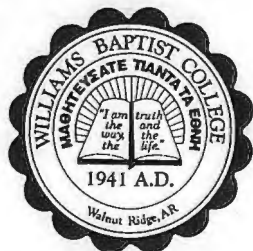
He said his goals include expanding "technology and world consciousness" on the Williams campus "without sacrificing the family environment we have here."

"We want graduates who have a Christian world view and a Christian world vision," Huckabay added, noting that a Christian world view will help students "know who they are and the strength of being a Christian with the guidance of God's Word." He said a Christian world view will help students "impact both the local community and the international community with the gospel of Christ."

Huckabay is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Denver Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A fighter pilot who earned the rank of captain, Huckabay was a classroom and flight instructor at the Air Force Academy.

Huckabay and his wife, Charla, are the parents of two children: Danika, a student at Dallas Baptist University, and Ryan, an entering Air Force Academy cadet.

Cover Story



New president 2

Gary C. Huckabay has been elected president of Williams Baptist College. Huckabay, who began serving in his new post Aug. 16, is the fourth president of the Arkansas Baptist-related college.

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Student missionaries touch lives

Ministry involvement provides students insight into missions needs

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

"I hope to go back as a US-2 missionary," said Jaimie Harmon, describing his experience as a student summer missionary. Harmon, from Harrison, was one of 55 students who participated in summer missions through the Arkansas Baptist Student Union. Not every experience culminates in such a commitment, but each of the students who participated came away with a true sense of what missions is all about, commented George Sims, associate in the Arkansas BSU department, who supervised the project.

Harmon had the unique opportunity to serve at the same location for a second summer, by his own request as well as that of the ministry he aided. Serving at the Rachel Simms Mission in New Orleans last summer, Harmon became aware that the kids involved in programs at the social ministries center needed more stability in their lives and decided to serve again. "People get close and then leave them," Harmon said. "They don't have a stable family."

"I want them to know that I really care about them," he continued, explaining his desire to return as a US-2 missionary after he graduates from Williams Baptist College in the spring.

Harmon, a self-confessed "jack of all trades," taught weight-lifting classes, led teen and boys clubs meetings, helped with Vacation Bible School, assisted in senior citizens' program and tutored neighborhood kids.

Glamour and prestige are not a part of summer missions for these students. For this summer's work, Harmon and the other students each receive a \$60 stipend per week provided by BSUs statewide. The summer missionaries are responsible for paying all their own expenses.

Arkansas Baptist students participated in missions all over the United States and abroad. "We had students in Israel, El Salvador and the Philippines," Sims said. The two students in Israel worked at a Baptist camp, serving as counselors and serving meals. The students in El Salvador served as interim manager of the Baptist Book Store, filling in for a furloughing missionary. The student serving in the Philippines worked with Vietnamese refugees, teaching them English, driving skills and typing.

In addition to Louisiana, students from Arkansas also served in Texas, California, Florida, Hawaii, Washington D.C. and Iowa.

They worked in a variety of functions, from assisting churches and missions to providing programs in recreation areas, to working with various Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries facilities.

David McClung from North Little Rock traveled throughout Arkansas and Louisiana as a member of the BSU Share Team. "We were doing something different all the time, from performing a drama program on Sunday to youth revivals and camps," he said. McClung, a junior at Williams Baptist College, was a little anxious about going to New Orleans, where they were to work with the Friendship House.

"The kids come right up and sit in your lap and give you a hug. It was the most wonderful feeling in the world."

— David McClung
BSU Share Team

"I didn't know how the people would react to us," McClung commented. "But the first day we were performing in a park and the kids come right up and sit in your lap and give you a hug. It was the most wonderful feeling in the world."

Sims said one of the more unusual missions opportunities was a short-term mission trip to Guatemala. This provided students unable to participate for the entire summer with an opportunity to experience missions. "I'd go again in a heartbeat," said Toni Clayton of Paragould, who went on the trip. Clayton felt especially blessed because she had been seeking to participate in mission trips prior to the opportunity, but had been unable to until this trip — which occurred immediately after her graduation from Williams Baptist College.

"God was already at work in Guatemala," Clayton noted. "We had 150 kids for backyard Bible club the very first morning we were there." Clayton was amazed at the immediate bond with the rest of her 11-member missions team, as well as the results her team experienced. "There were three generations of women in one house," she recalled. "I explained an English-Spanish tract and one of the women wanted to pray right then. I prayed

with her and sent for the pastor — he came and validated that she knew fully what she had done. She started crying — it was incredible."

Clayton found it difficult to return home from the missions experience. "They are so humble; because they have very little, the Guatemalan people concentrate on important things like family and friends," she explained. "It was a struggle to come back to the rat race — I had the opportunity to share with so many hearts. It was awesome."

Other missions opportunities for students are provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Missions department, with funding from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The work is directed by Pete Petty, an associate in the ABSO Missions department. These students serve in resorts and other missions department-related ministries, such as language and migrant missions.

"We had 25 students in Arkansas, serving at the migrant center, apartment ministries, in language missions in Pine Bluff, and all over the state in national and state parks," Petty noted.

One of the "neater ministries" was in Eureka Springs, Petty pointed out. A four-member fine arts team from a Florida Baptist Student Union assisted Maria Scott, the US-2 missionary who directs Ozark Mountain Ministries.

"They were a wonderfully balanced and talented team," Scott said. "There were two boys and two girls. Their voices complemented each other; two played keyboard, and one played guitar. They were like a little family."

The team performed illusion, mime and drama three days a week at the small park in the center of the Eureka Springs shopping district. They assisted Eureka Springs Church with Vacation Bible School and regular Sunday services, conducted services at two campgrounds, and on Sunday evenings traveled to various churches in the association to perform. "They really believed God had called them to this ministry," Scott commented.

An eye-opening commitment to missions and broadened horizons seem to bind the experience of student summer missionaries. In addition to the hundreds of lives touched by the student missionaries, the experience helped strengthen the maturity and dedication of the dozens of young people who dedicated the summer of '93 to making a difference on mission fields at home and around the world.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

You will be glad to know that God has been hearing the fervent prayers of Arkansas Baptists. No place can I see it better than in the progress of my wife, Shirley, who is trudging through months of struggle and treatment for immunoblastic "B" Cell Diffused Lymphoma. It has manifested itself in both the soft tissue and bone structures, notably, in her skull, vertebra and large leg bones. God has blessed the radiation and chemotherapy, causing it to work and enabling her to endure it. The family is at peace for her not to have a bone marrow transplant.

The months ahead will call for much grace and strength from the hand of the Lord. Your prayers, up till this very moment, have made all the difference for us. Please continue them. It will be to your own edification and God's glory to see the power of God displayed once again.

At the same time we pray for sick physical bodies, we need to rally an army of prayer support for the sick spiritual bodies, the churches that have succumbed to "the world, the flesh and the devil". Has there ever been a time when such lifelessness, powerlessness and lovelessness existed in so many of our churches? I do not know. I do know that coldness, compromise and impotence characterize most fellowships. Frankly, I see no hope apart from the miraculous intervention of God. Those who care are being prepared to fight a spiritual war to reclaim the territory. It is happening in the realm of prayer. Nothing about this will be easy. I just pray that I will be in the fight and in the vanguard of the storm troops who lead the charge against "the strong man" (Luke 11:22).

Prayer is also the best weapon you have to help your children as they go back to school this fall. It is a secret weapon they cannot fight, if they are inclined to resist your influence. It is safe and effective.

Something parents and grandparents should do for their college and university students is to help lead them to become involved in Baptist Student Union activities on campus.

WILLIAM H. SUTTON

The President's Corner

Stand firm



In the days before the "walkie-talkie" or radio communications, soldiers were commanded by voice or trumpet. Sometimes the command was to advance. Sometimes it was to retreat. But in every army there was a crucial command which every good soldier had to know how to carry out. It was the command to "stand firm."

At Waterloo, desperate British troops near the breaking point from Napoleon's artillery barrages and cavalry charges looked to Wellington for inspired strategy to relieve their situation. He merely responded, "Hold on." It was the winning strategy.

On many fronts of Christian service today we find that it behooves the cause of Christ to simply "stand firm." Severe attacks are being made by the strongest forces in our society against Christian resolve to hold that a literal Bible is a serious and realistic standard of conduct. Furious thrusts are made against old fashioned scriptural notions of faithful families, responsible upbringing of children, decent speech, sobriety and a genuine concern for the

lost. True devotion to a Godly church where honest commitment requiring sacrifice of time, "freedom" and "things" is mocked as despised boredom.

Foes openly hostile to Christianity and the church find more and more allies in government, law, theater, art and education. With such formidable opposition we must hear voices of strong men and women of God calmly but assuredly sounding, "Stand firm." Don't run, preacher! Don't quit, deacon! Don't faint, father or mother! Stand firm and pray with the Psalmist: "Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways and sinners will be converted to Thee" (Psa. 51:10-14).

Buddy Sutton, a Little Rock attorney and active member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"It was a struggle to come back to the rat race—I had the opportunity to share with so many hearts. It was awesome."

—Toni Clayton, student summer missionary to Guatemala

"Baptists will win the world by the cross and not the sword... It is only if we point to Christ and His cross that we as Baptists have a future."

—Denton Lotz, general secretary, Baptist World Alliance

"If you want to defeat Satan, then be obedient when you have the opportunity to witness....Not everybody will respond, but everybody ought to have the opportunity to respond."

—Stan Clark, Mission Service Corps volunteer

Beware of scam

Our FBI office has been notified of a scam that has been utilized for the past three years, with an overall loss to churches throughout the United States of over \$1 million. Please alert all your member churches of this scam.

Details of the scam: A female subject makes a collect telephone call to a church pastor and explains convincingly that her family, consisting of her husband and five children, are in dire need of financial assistance. She explains to the pastor that about six months previously, the family had attended services at the pastor's church while visiting the area and they were impressed. She explains that her family is moving from the Midwest to the pastor's area and they will join the church upon arrival.

Her problem is that, while en route in their 1979 Lincoln, the transmission broke and must be replaced with a used transmission from an auto salvage, costing \$187. She claims to have only \$30 for food and provides her location as a small town near Peoria, Ill. She provides the telephone number of the auto salvage, so the pastor can verify her story and cost of the transmission. The pastor is requested to send the \$187 (any amount accepted) via Western Union money transfer to a location in Peoria or vicinity for pick up. She promises to repay the pastor when she arrives at the church.

Steven D. Irons
FBI Supervisory Special Agent
Little Rock, AR

Enlarged field of ministry

I would like to respond to T. J. Silvey of Calico Rock, whose letter was published in the Aug. 12 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

I voted for Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee and would do so again. It is time in our country for those who have good morals and knowledge of right and wrong to be in political office. Our country needs to hear and be led by Christian people now. We are fast becoming an oppressed, voiceless and overtaxed people. We vote for term limits to be applied to our senators and representatives and they counter-sue and our vote no longer counts. We have laws in our state of Arkansas against sodomy and the president struggles to force ungodly laws upon us.

God calls us to be light in our world (Matt. 5:14-16). Are we to keep this light inside the walls of a church building? I believe the first words of the Great Commission are "Go ye."

God's call into ministry is sacred. Becoming a lieutenant governor doesn't

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

change that at all, it only enlarges Mr. Huckabee's field of ministry. We have bivocational pastors all across the Southern Baptist Convention who are doing a wonderful job of working two jobs. Paul made tents and was a very effective missionary. Peter was a fisherman and preached powerful sermons (such as at Pentecost) when over 7,000 people were saved.

I believe Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee will continue to honor his calling in more ways than just preaching God's Word. I had rather see a man live a Christian life than just talk about living the Christian life any day. Two weeks after his election Rev. Huckabee led a youth crusade in Bastrop, La. If we as Christians were to stop pointing fingers, we might get busy and win some lost people to the Lord.

Margie Dopson
Crossett, AR

Faithful to the calling?

Who does Mike Huckabee think he is kidding? He has always wanted to be in politics - long before the church got so excited about abortion and homosexuals. To imply that at last we have a Christian in politics is an insult to other Christians in government.

If Mike Huckabee couldn't make a difference preaching to an audience of 1,000 to 1,200 people, how can he make a difference with one vote? Politicians have to compromise on issues many times. Billy Graham could have run for president, but he was faithful to the high calling of God.

Flo Hollman
Little Rock, AR

Historic precedent

While I cannot speak for Mike Huckabee, I have some thoughts concerning his entry into politics.

In a book called *The Chaplains and Clergy of the Revolution*, J. T. Headley tells of numerous ministers of the gospel who not only prepared the colonists for the war for independence, but were active participants themselves, giving religious sanction and inspiration for the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. After the war many served in various government positions. They regarded obedience to God and serving one's country as one and the same duty. Indeed, they looked upon service to country as works which proved their faith in God.

By allowing our lives to be divided into secular and sacred compartments, we are not only unaware of our Christian heritage, but we no longer apply Christian solutions to our problems.

How sad when a Christian's enemies are of the household of his own faith.

Gwen Carpenter
Magnolia, AR

'One Person's View' makes its debut

In an effort to enhance the exchange of ideas among Arkansas Baptists, this issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* marks the debut of the opinion column, "One Person's View."

The first installment of the column, published on page 6, is an essay by Rex Holt, pastor of Central Church in Jonesboro. The article focuses on the response by Holt and his congregation to a recent witches march held in Jonesboro. He notes that prayer and worship allowed Central Church to experience "a day of great victory and joyful celebration" in the face of external distractions.

"One Person's View" will be published in the *Newsmagazine* periodically, perhaps monthly, in order to allow readers to express views on

current issues of concern to Arkansas Baptists. Possible topics could include such diverse issues as gambling, race relations, teen suicide, single parenting or genetic engineering.

Individuals interested in submitting an essay for consideration should send a typed manuscript of approximately 800 to 1,000 words. Essays will be selected for publication based on the significance and timeliness of the topic as well as the clarity and strength of writing style.

Our desire is for the *Newsmagazine* to be a useful ministry tool for all Arkansas Baptists. We hope "One Person's View" succeeds in providing Arkansas Baptists an additional outlet for positive, productive interaction. Let us know what you think.—TH

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

Confronting the reality of our day

I could hardly believe my eyes. "A witches march is being planned for Sunday morning, Aug. 1, that will pass directly in front of Central Baptist Church and end at the courthouse steps," the newspaper stated. "They are marching for their freedom of religion," the paper added.

A protest march was quickly organized by mostly out-of-town people led by the father of a West Memphis child slain in what most people believe to be a satanic ritual murder. The protesters gathered in front of our church to meet the approximately 75 marchers. The entire Jonesboro police force had been alerted and it seemed that most of them were in front of our church. Inside we fell to our knees and prayed. We experienced an unusual and awesome presence of God in our services. The march passed rather calmly and without significant incident.

On Monday morning the telephone began to ring. From New York to Mississippi people wanted to know what took place. *USA Today*, *CNN*, *Newsweek* magazine, radio stations and even a Japanese TV station came to Jonesboro or called to report the event.

Monday's *Jonesboro Sun* carried a front page article and picture of the witches marching in front of our church. As I looked at the picture I was suddenly sobered by the reality of the day. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1).

I was gripped by three facts that have had a profound impact upon my life and our church body.

1. This is a day of national crisis and emergency. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. Thus said Isaiah and so it is today. I received a long letter the week after the march from a witch in Pennsylvania with brochures telling about the Wicca religion. He said, "We are your neighbors, your police officers, your doctors and lawyers. We are everywhere and we will not be denied our rights."

I inwardly shuddered as I read those lines from the pen and heart of an American witch. There must come into our praying, our preaching and our witnessing a new sense of urgency. The same note of urgency sounded by Jesus in Matthew 9:36-38 must be heralded today by true believers. There can be no slumbering spirit in a time of emergency. Spiritual adrenaline must flow in fresh force through the body of Christ.

2. We must first and foremost be a house of prayer. The week before the march I was in Glorieta, N. M., for Home



By REX HOLT
Pastor, Central Church, Jonesboro

Mission Week. During a prayer session a man stood and said, "Rex, I read in *USA Today* that the witches are going to march in your city this Sunday." Special prayer was made by churches in Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Georgia and elsewhere for our city on that day. Many in Jonesboro fasted and prayed on Saturday. Our Prayer Room and Night Watch Prayer Warriors prayed a covering over our city.

When we arrived at church Sunday morning the "Judah Tribe" was prepared to work. We organize our Host and Hospitality Committee Sunday Watchmen into 12 tribes. Manned with walkie-talkies they watch the cars, help people cross streets, in and out of buildings, etc. Sunday the lot fell on Judah, a name that means "praise." The men paced and prayed and

praised. God put a hedge of protection about the church. Inside there was an atmospheric awareness of God's holy presence. We sensed deeply that God was in the midst of His people.

3. The gates of hell shall never prevail against the church that Jesus is building (Matt. 16:18). Something very wonderful happened in Jonesboro on Aug. 1 that filled me with new hope. God's people were faithfully at their post. They prayed. They sang wholeheartedly and with great conviction. They refused to be sidetracked from the will of the Father, to worship in spirit and truth on His day. They carefully followed our counsel to not become entangled and involved with the marchers or protesters. There was a quietness and strong confidence in the demeanor of God's people.

As the Sunday drew to a close I paused and pondered the day. There had been effectual fervent prayer, souls were saved and baptized, and people had worshipped the true and living God. It was a day of great victory and joyful celebration. I gave thanks to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I knew that Jesus, the church-builder, is still at work. His glorious, triumphant church is marching victoriously into eternity.

I went to sleep that Sunday evening, happy and humbled at the incredible privilege of being a pastor in this awesome hour.

'See You at the Pole' slated for Sept. 15

Sept. 15 is the date for this year's "See You at the Pole" national prayer effort for youth. A brochure promoting the event in Arkansas describes it as "a united effort of Christians praying for the crisis facing our nation's teens."

The strategy calls for students to gather around their school's flagpole an hour before classes to pray for classmates and other needs. Dean Finley, youth evangelism specialist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and suicide among teenagers underscore the need for the prayer effort.

Randy Brantley, youth evangelism associate for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said he believes God is using the grassroots emphasis "to blow a 'current revival' across our state and our nation." He added that "it is a significant indication that God is at work among our teenagers when they

are willing to rise early and be at the pole by 7 a.m."

Among the suggestions provided in promotional material are to "Expect great results! God is just waiting for a group of students to get excited about seeing Him change the lives of their friends" and to "Use your creativity! Make the day an unforgettable event. One group planned a Christian tailgate party with juice and donuts after they prayed."

"The material also encourages parents to meet and pray at the city hall, court house or some other flagpole." Finley noted that rallies on school campuses must be organized and led by students to avoid legal problems, explaining that adults wishing to join the effort should meet off-campus.

Brantley encouraged students who participate in the prayer effort to provide his office an attendance and praise report by calling 376-4791, ext. 5222.

Australia trip broadens Arkansans' vision

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

"They made sure we saw plenty of kangaroos and koala bears," Glendon Grober said of his recent mission trip to Australia. Grober, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood director, headed up the Arkansas part of the Australian trip, which was part of the TTEOTE (To the Ends of the Earth) campaign. Arkansans made up one-third of the 90-member American team.

Why Australia? "It was a door that opened in an area of the world Arkansas Baptists had never been in before," Grober said. "It was a broadening of our vision."

Grober supervised work in 10 areas on the south coast of Australia. "The programs were extremely varied," he said. "In some churches we conducted services, but had better luck with informal breakfasts, teas and luncheons." Team members went to civic group meetings, conducted nursing home ministries, led home Bible studies and did "a lot of door to door visitation," according to Grober.

"The people were very receptive and we had a good number of decisions," Grober noted. The oldest person saved was a 93-year-old woman in a nursing home and the youngest child was about eight, he recalled.

One helpful tool in reaching young people was through the schools, Grober added. In Australia, volunteers can teach Scripture during class time at the public schools.

Another advantage was the fact that there was no need for translators — after both Australians and Americans became accustomed to each others' accents. Going to an English-speaking country gave team members the opportunity to share their testimonies and teach Bible studies freely. Another advantage, Grober remarked, is the warm and gracious nature of the Australian people. "We were always welcomed and received warmly," he said.

"One thing I didn't expect, even though the Australian Baptists had prepared us, was the informality of their society. Most pastors don't even wear ties," Grober explained. For that reason, the approach suggested by Australian Baptists of using informal settings such as teas, breakfasts and luncheons was extremely successful. "If we had gone in and conducted revivals, we would have had a good chance of reaching far fewer people," Grober pointed out.

Another difference from other mission trips is that the teams encountered no physical needs. "The needs were purely

spiritual, which requires an entirely different approach," Grober explained. "Australian society is extremely secular, and it leaves the people lacking something. We had something to offer. If we were willing to go that far, people were willing to listen to our testimonies."

That sentiment was echoed by Barry King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs. King headed up the group that went to Bega Baptist Church in the state of New South Wales. "Statistics show that only 2 percent of Australia is religious — religion of any kind — making their society 98 percent secular," he pointed out. "Christians are an overwhelming minority."

In addition, when King arrived, he found that the New Age movement has made great inroads into the country. "The *New South Wales Baptist* reported in its July issue that 60,000 people attended this summer's Mind, Soul, Body Festival in Sydney," King recalled. "A psychic hotline started operation this summer and in the first two weeks, 5,000 people had called."

"Australian society is extremely secular, and it leaves the people lacking something. We had something to offer."

— Glendon Grober
ABSC Brotherhood director

Despite those challenges, significant work went on through Bega Baptist Church, King noted. "Bega is a small town of about 5,000, and the church has 35 members, with as many as 60 people participating on a regular basis," he said. "We planned our program around special evangelism events — a banquet for young mothers, a men's prayer breakfast, and a Bible study breakfast for high school students."

One of the team's biggest surprises was the turnout for the three days they conducted kids' clubs. "The church told us to prepare for a maximum of 30. The first day we had 101 kids, the second day we had 112, and on the third 122 kids came. It didn't bother me, but the craft

ladies really had a panic," King said with a laugh. "Somehow they came up with supplies and it came off really well."

King said the spiritual highlight of the trip was 45 professions of faith made through the evangelistic events at the church. Additionally, 26 of the church's members made public rededications. "The church had made prayer a real priority before we came, and that made the difference," King said. He believes the team's visit will have a long-term spiritual impact on Bega.

Bill Jones, the bivocational pastor of Monroe Church in Brinkley, took his 18-year-old daughter, Amy, with him to Australia on her first mission trip. "She was impressed that even going halfway around the world, we could feel at home with people who love the same Lord we do," he said. The team King and his daughter were on served in Moruya, also on the south coast.

In a town of 3,000 people, the 11-year-old church averages about 60 people and had just moved into a new building. Jones' team also led in home Bible studies, held a ladies' luncheon that drew 65 women and a men's breakfast with 55 men. They also taught Scripture in the schools, held two youth rallies and worked with a men's civic club.

Bob Shelton, pastor of Alma First Church, worked with Warilla Church, which had specifically requested assistance with church growth. At 250 members, a large congregation by Australian standards, the church had plateaued. Leadership training, prayer services and visitation took up the bulk of the team's time. Shelton also preached at the church's worship services.

"Their services were extremely innovative," he recalled. "Instead of the traditional piano and organ, the church has four people who lead in the music and a five-piece band." Prayer services also were different than Shelton had previously experienced. "One evening they scheduled a half-night prayer services, and it was exactly that — four hours dedicated to prayer."

Grober anticipates an ongoing relationship with Australian Baptists and hopes that an Australian team can come to Arkansas in the spring. Emphasizing that Arkansans can learn lessons of faithfulness and commitment from Australian Baptists, Grober cited an Australian Baptist baptismal service as an example. "Two adults wrote out their testimonies, the church printed them in the bulletin, and they went to be baptized in the river — in 35 degree weather."

Summer camps meet diverse needs

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

The summer of 1993 has provided Arkansas Baptist children, youth—and even senior adults—an opportunity to be involved in summer camps sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

A total of 81 senior adults from 14 Arkansas Baptist churches participated in the sixth annual SummerSing July 26-30 at Ouachita Baptist University.

"This was to have been our final SummerSing," acknowledged Glen Ennes, an associate in the ABCS Church Music department. "We were informed by the senior adults that it must continue to be an annual event and therefore we will plan a 1994 SummerSing.

"I would encourage all Arkansas Baptist senior adults to participate in this event," said Retha Snider, a member of First Church in Warren. "The Christian fellowship is marvelous. It is just like being in heaven on earth for the whole week.

Snider, 85, won the camp's female Opsimathy (the ability to learn in later years) Award and Karlton Kemp, a member of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana, won the male award. "I won this award because God has let me be on this earth all these years and because I like new challenges," Snider said.

Louis Criswell, a staff member at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, served as SummerSing camp director. Bob Woolley, retired director of the Missouri Baptist Convention church music department, directed a mass choir presentation of "Rejoicing in His Presence" which he composed.

Other camp activities included music classes, ukulele band rehearsals, crafts, an exercise program and a mid-week picnic at DeGray Lake, according to Ennes, camp coordinator.

Music Arkansas

Music Arkansas for youth in grades 7-12 convened on the OBU campus along with SummerSing. Peggy Pearson, an associate in the ABCS Church Music department, was coordinator and Richard Wade, minister of music at Second Church of Monticello, was camp director.

"We had 146 participants, representing 20 churches, take part in this," Pearson said. "The children attended various classes, including handbells, sign language, drama, music theory, sight reading, children's choir and band." The camp also featured an honors choir directed by Larry Grayson, minister of music at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock.

Jeri Graham Edmonds, artist in residence at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., directed a series of anthems that were combined with drama, sign language and creative movement, Pearson noted. Lonnie Latham, director of missions for Bartholomew Association, served as camp pastor for both Music Arkansas and SummerSing while Joe Morris of Berry Street Church in Springdale served as band director.

Luke Hollingsworth, a member of Central Church of Jonesboro, was selected as junior high star camper for the second consecutive year and Anthony Efrid, a member of First Church of Ashdown, was senior high star camper.

"I liked the different styles and kinds of music plus the camp fellowship," said Hollingsworth. "I can't think of one single thing that would improve Music Arkansas."

Efrid, who also affirmed the effectiveness of the camp, noted, "I like the opportunity to learn good music and the camp provides me with an opportunity to get my life right with Christ."

"The neat thing of the senior adults and young people meeting together is the relationship that develops between them," Ennes remarked. "This is evidenced in the things they do for each other and their final performances for each other."

Young Musicians Camp

The Church Music department also sponsored a Young Musicians Camp June 28-July 1 on the OBU campus.

"There were 407 campers who studied hymns and hymn writers in special classes," said Pearson, camp director. "Carrie Taylor from First Church of Hamburg worked with worship music director Jim Farris from Immanuel Church of Warren and camp pastor Latham to involve children in leading worship each night."

The camp was divided into four choirs which competed in Peanut Olympics and memorized an entire musical for performance on the final day.

Directors and musicals included: Bruce Rodtnick, Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff, "Hymnology"; Retha Kilmer, First Church of Malvern, "Christmas Questions"; Mary Ann Marsden, First Church of Paragould, "The Gospel According to Children"; and Elaine Barteck, Central Church, Jonesboro, "Fancy C.—The Hymn Queen."

"As the children memorized their musicals, studied hymns and experienced worship, they learned to 'sing by heart' spiritual truths for future reference," Pearson added.

Girls in Action camps

"Under the Big Top" was the theme for July Girls in Action camps sponsored by Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union at Camp Paron.

"Although many mothers and chaperons had to juggle home, work and church responsibilities, there were 583 people from 53 churches, representing 252 associations who came to the 'Big Top,'" said Sandy Wisdom-Martin, state GA director.

"All those who attended rushed to get in to hear Max and Betty Alexander who talked about extraordinary feats of ministry in Thailand and Wendy Hoag who told campers about the extraordinary feats of the work of Arkansas Acteen Activators in Iowa," Martin continued. "Hope Coleman, Baptist Student Union director for the Baptist Nursing School in Little Rock, led Bible studies for adult chaperons and Bee the Clown (Pete Petty, an associate in the ABCS Missions department) did magic tricks to illustrate missions."

"The leadership for these camps was fantastic," declared camp nurse Martha Dewbre, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. "I thought one of the most heartwarming experiences of the camps was seeing the mothers and daughters coming and participating together.

"I also was touched by the commitment of the leaders who shared of their time and the Alexanders were the most outstanding camp missionaries I have ever had the privilege of working with," Dewbre concluded.

"We thought the camp was wonderful," declared Alison and April Blackwood, a mother-daughter team from First Church of Marvell. April said being with her mother in such a setting was very special. Mrs. Blackwood was impressed with the devotional book from which they studied. "We were able to communicate in our quiet times together from this book," she said.

"Jennifer and I, as well as the other GAs from my church, had a wonderful time at camp," said Debbie Kluck from Second Church, Arkadelphia. "I will have no problem in getting my group to return because they had such a great time with the lessons and activities. They all learned so much from their time at camp."

"Yes, the Big Top has been taken down, but those who attended the July camps will remember them as a remarkable place," concluded Martin. "They will remember their quiet times and the times of decision making and a place where the

quiet voice of God could be clearly heard, even above the splashing at the swimming pool and the loud singing."

Hart of the Hills Camps

"Hart of the Hills Camps," sponsored by National and Southern Baptists in Arkansas, were held at Camp Paron July 19-23 and July 26-30.

"We registered 38 professions of faith, the largest in my five years as director of the ABSC Cooperative Ministries department," noted Jack Kwok. "Total attendance for the two camps was 288."

Robert Willingham, pastor of Mount Pleasant Missionary Church in Little Rock, was camp pastor. His assistant was Chester Woods, pastor of the First Mission Church in Fort Smith. Evening vesper services were led by National Baptist pastors from the Little Rock area.

"Our 1993 camps featured two new dimensions," Kwok said. "We enlisted Pete Petty to lead two sessions. He used illusions and clowning presentations to illustrate sharing the gospel, discipleship and missions, both worldwide and personal."

"Adventure recreation, physical activities that lend themselves to learning biblical principles, was the other new dimension," Kwok explained. "We also had our traditional competitive sports, including softball, swimming, basketball and races."

Siloam Springs

"The six weeks of camps at Siloam Springs resulted in 7,314 attending, 309 professions of faith, 617 rededications and 44 church vocation decisions," said Freddie Pike, ABSC Sunday School department

director. "We had 1,375 in one of our weeks, the second largest weekly enrollment in the history of the camp and in that same week we had 450 enrolled in the children's camp."

"Even though our statistics were excellent this year, we did not record as many salvation experiences as we have in previous years," Pike noted. "I feel this was caused by the fact our churches fail to see this as an outreach ministry for unsaved children. They are bringing only church members for discipling reasons."

Pike praised camp speakers Mark Evans of Wynne; Dave Edwards of Oklahoma; Rick Ousler of Birmingham, Ala.; Tierce Green of Arlington, Texas; Rich Kincl of Magnolia; and Rick Caldwell of Little Rock for their contributions to the camps' successes.

He also was excited about the "Power Week" for youth. "This seventh week was planned especially for youth and will become an annual event," Pike said. "There were 719 involved in Bible study, recreation time and share time with the latter being their favorite."

"I'm really grateful that the leadership at Arkansas Baptist Assembly decided to step out and try something new this year," noted Dave Hughie, minister to youth at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. "I've not seen the evaluations but from the comments I heard from students and leadership, Power Week was a great success."

"Probably the two greatest elements of the week were the small groups and the worship time," Hughie added. "The Bible study groups at Power Week were about half the size of other weeks. The smaller

size facilitated some good discussion. The worship is hard to describe. I don't know where I've ever been to a camp where the kids were more responsive. You could almost feel the presence of the Spirit 'settle in' during the worship times."

"Power Week was Great! I would definitely go back," declared Brooke Singleton, a high school student from Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock. "I liked the large-group teaching and the small-group sessions on purity, dating and standards—I think its good for everyone to hear. The neatest thing about the week was the worship and share time before lunch. When someone got up and shared, you could identify with them, you could see what they're going through and relate to their life."

"I learned, too, about the importance of quiet time," Singleton concluded. "Hearing the steps of how to have a quiet time and why it's important led me to make a commitment to do that personally."

"We are busy formulating new publicity plans to appeal to churches to bring the lost of their communities with them next year," Pike said. "In addition, we would like to see more Southern Baptist black and ethnic congregations participate and to be able to use workers from these congregations."

Pike also is delighted with camp improvements and management. "We had a good summer and very smooth operation because of the excellent work of our new camp manager, Ted Williams, and his assistant, Scott Hodge," Pike explained.

"Siloam Springs was terrific! It was fantastic! There are not enough adjectives to describe it," Charlie Lee Brown, pastor of First Church in Fordyce, wrote in his church's newsletter. "The best part was meeting God in a place where there were no distractions such as television, movies, magazines, newspapers or stereo players. It was just a wonderful atmosphere of seeing Christian youth involved in Bible study, worship, recreation and fellowship."

Brent Sorrels, student assistant at First Church of Conway, praised the music and teaching at Siloam Springs. "They were on the cutting edge," he said. "Also, the youth week focused on moral purity. I hope to use some of the same material in our weekly Youth Priority meetings this fall."

Amy Spence, a youth from Valley Church of Searcy, found Siloam to be a time for spiritual "recuperation" for those seeking to get back in touch with God, as well as those seeking Him for the first time. "Siloam provides a peaceful, Christian-filled atmosphere," Spence said. "It is a place where the heart can meet God face to face."



Foreign missionaries Max and Betty Alexander lead a workshop for Girls in Action and their mothers during a GA camp held this summer at Camp Paron.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Staff changes

Bob Parsley has resigned as pastor of First Church in Dardanelle, effective Aug. 29 to become pastor of Wai'alea Church in Honolulu, Hawaii. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he currently was serving as moderator of Arkansas River Valley Association and has served as pastor of other Arkansas churches. Parsley and his wife, Carole, have three children, Robert, Tim and Kelly.

David Wesley Brown is serving as pastor of Lakeshore Heights Church in Hot Springs. He previously was at First Church of Ward. He also has served other churches in Arkansas and Texas. Brown is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Terri Denise, have three children, Megan Denise, David Wesley and George Austin.

Allen Thrasher has completed his service as interim pastor of Midway Church and is now residing in Fayetteville. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 1781, Fayetteville, AR 72702; phone 501-443-0200 or 575-9541.

Paul Lancaster has joined the staff of Foothills Church, Mountain View, as music director. He and his wife, Judy, came there from East Side Church of Mountain Home.

Roy Buckelew has accepted the call to serve as interim pastor of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. Buckelew, who has been interim pastor of numerous Arkansas churches, is chairman of the speech, drama and speech pathology department and is professor of speech communications at Ouachita Baptist University. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Southern California, Anaheim, Calif. He and his wife, Louise, have two daughters.

Eddie Martin resigned July 18 as pastor of Shiloh Church near Corning. He and his wife, Eunice, have moved to Piedmont, Mo., where he will be pastor of a church.

Billy Harwell began serving July 25 as pastor of Hatton Church. He previously was at First Church in Parks and has served at Lone, Casa and Jacksonville. Harwell and his wife, Eutha Mae, and their son, Alan, moved to Hatton from Waldron.

Vaughn Blue began serving Aug. 8 as pastor of First Church of Wilson, going there from First Church of McRae. He attended Arkansas College, Batesville, and is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Boyce Bible School. Blue and his wife, Shirley, have a daughter, Beth.

Coy Camp has retired as pastor of Yorktown Church following two years of service. He previously has been at Altheimer, Shannon Road and Hickory Grove churches. In addition he has served in Indiana and Missouri. Camp is a graduate of Mid-America Theological Seminary and International Bible Institute and Seminary of Florida. He and his wife, Ruby, are residing at Redfield. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 94, Redfield, AR 72132; phone 501-397-5580.

Mark Allen Porter began serving Aug. 15 as pastor of First Church in Murfreesboro, coming there from Temple Church of Searcy. He previously has been at First Church of Gillham. Porter is a graduate of Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Janice, have three children, Kathleen Marie, Daniel Eldon and Kindery Lynn.

Tim Johnson has joined the staff of First Church of Pochontas as minister of music and youth, going there from Eudora Church. He previously was at First Church of Gretna, La. Johnson is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trent Broussard has joined the staff of Central Church in Jonesboro as secretary to the music, worship and television ministries. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University with both bachelor's and master's degrees in music. Broussard is married to the former Margie Weller.

Allan Ellison has returned to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth after serving as summer youth minister for Oak Cliff Church in Fort Smith.

Mark Griffith has resigned as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Van Buren, to attend Mid-America Theological Seminary in Memphis.

George Domeres has resigned as director of missions for Clear Creek Association, effective Aug. 31, following 12 years of service. He and his wife, Wanda, are moving to Russellville where he will begin serving Sept. 1 as pastor of Fair Park Church.

Michael B. Moore has joined the staff of Second Church of West Memphis as minister of music and youth. He is a 1992 graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He previously was minister of music and youth at First Church of Ridgely, Tenn., and Mercer Church in Mercer, Tenn. Moore and his wife, Andrea, moved to West Memphis from Jackson.

John Ashcraft of Little Rock is serving as interim pastor of Calvary Church, Timbo.

Obituaries

Thomas Ray of Marked Tree, who was interim pastor of Riverdale Church in Trinity Association, died Aug. 10 in a Memphis hospital. His funeral services were held Aug. 14 at Black Oak Church where he previously had served as pastor.

Church news

Walnut Street Church of Jonesboro observed its 80th anniversary Aug. 15. Former pastors Derrell Whitehurst and C.A. Johnson were guest speakers for the occasion.

Post Oak Church of Greers Ferry recently honored Helen Todd. Pastor Curtis Altom presented her with a plaque in recognition of 53 years of continuous membership and leadership.

Rosedale Church of Little Rock recently recognized organist Patty Huston for 15 years' perfect attendance in Sunday morning worship service. She also received a certificate for one-year perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Olivet Church in Little Rock has launched a series of special meetings, moving its Sunday evening worship services to Monday evening. "This enables us to hear some of the pastors in this area," explained pastor David Ard. Pastors who have been scheduled to speak during the Monday evening services include Paul Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock; Cary Heard, pastor of Park Hill Church of North Little Rock; Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church of Little Rock; and Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church of Little Rock.

West Church in Batesville's 24-member youth mission team returned Aug. 14, following a week in Ivanhoe, Texas. The

group assisted the Ivanhoe Church with a Vacation Bible School, morning visitation and afternoon fellowship time. "Our efforts resulted not only in four professions of faith, but attendance grew from three to 15," said David Tohlen, minister of youth.

Central Church in Hot Springs honored Evelyn Bowden Aug. 8 with a reception in honor of her 45-year tenure as church organist. A native of Dermott, she is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and has studied at Julliard School of Music and earned a master's degree of music from the American Conservatory. Bowden retired in 1975 as associate professor of music at OBU and was elected in 1982 as church musician of the year by the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs.

Forty-Seventh Street Church in North Little Rock will celebrate its 45th anniversary Sept. 12 with a special homecoming service. John Evans Jr., a former member, will speak at a 10:30 a.m. service which will be followed by a noon fellowship meal and afternoon musical program. Dennis Turner is pastor.

East End Church of Hensley will observe homecoming Aug. 29 by launching a revival that will conclude Sept. 3. Dickson Rials of Duncanville, Texas, will be the evangelist. Billy Kilmer, minister of music, will coordinate special music that will include mini concerts which will begin each evening at 6:45.

Immanuel Church of Rogers is hosting an "Immanuel Family Worship Conference" Aug. 25-29 with Scott and Carolyn Buss as leaders.

Ordinations

Ebenezer Church of El Dorado ordained Richard Aaron, Herb Bussy and John Hammond to the deacon ministry Aug. 15.

East Side Church of Paragould licensed Packy Magel, a former member, to the gospel ministry Aug. 15. Magel, a senior at Arkansas State University, is serving as minister to youth at Highland Drive Church in Jonesboro.

Rector First Church ordained Larry French, Melvin Crockett, Joey Pruett and Scott Kirkin as deacons Aug. 8.

Little Rock Second Church ordained Mark Staton to the gospel ministry Aug. 1. Staton will serve as a hospital chaplain in Columbia, S.C.

Central Church of North Little Rock ordained John Powell to the gospel ministry Aug. 8. Powell is serving as pastor of Rupert Church.



Acteen Tracy Sanders clowns around with children in Keosauqua, Iowa.

Acteens share gospel in Iowa

An Arkansas Acteen Activator team that went to Iowa July 27-Aug. 5 fully expected to spend their time helping clean up flood damage, but found that the rural community of Keosauqua had been spared.

"The sidewalks were sandbagged, but that was about it," said Angela Lowe, Arkansas Acteens director, who led the trip, which was part of the ongoing Arkansas-Iowa partnership. "We did get tetanus shots before we left, though," she added with a laugh.

"We had more trouble coming and going through Jefferson City, Mo., where the interstate was washed away on one side," Lowe said. "We could really feel the prayers from back home."

Five Acteens — Vanessa Atterberry and Angela Galucki, from Cabot Second Church; Rebecca Holt from Ward First Church; Wendy Hogue from Heber Springs First Church and Tracy Sanders from Foreman First Church; and two leaders, Lowe and Jan Roberts from Temple Church in Searcy — participated in the trip. Acteen Activators must be at least 15 years of age and complete 50 hours of training.

The girls assisted the Keosauqua Southern Baptist Fellowship, which is a home Bible study church, and its pastor and his wife, Ronn and Christy McLain. The young couple is energized about what can be done in the area, which is McLain's hometown. "The people at the little home church were

impressed that we would come so far to minister in such a small area," Lowe said.

The Activators staged a Funfest for the neighborhood kids, providing backyard Bible clubs with games, songs, crafts, Bible stories and refreshments, complete with clowning routines. "We did the Funfest five times for kids in grades 1-6," Lowe said. "The first day we had seven children, but it grew to a high of 25. These are predominantly unchurched kids."

One young lady brought children in her care from a local day care. "She had no concept of church, so we left her a tape," Lowe explained. "She brought the kids to have fun, but she heard the gospel too."

In the afternoons, team members went to senior citizens' centers in Van Buren County where they conducted worship services. "We really saw an openness in the people," Lowe noted.

They also were program guests for the Iowa Acteen Encounter. The girls led conferences and shared testimonies and Activator experiences.

Activator Tracy Sanders summed it up. "I had no idea there was such a need for the gospel in Iowa," she said. "I grew spiritually and made many friends and wonderful memories."

"The girls found a real vision of home missions — struggling churches, unchurched people — they got a real grasp of it," Lowe said.

Ouachita Baptist University

Business school dean named — Philip F. Rice of Ruston, La., has been named the first dean of the Frank D. Hickingbotham School of Business at Ouachita. Prior to his acceptance of the OBU post, Rice was director of the graduate division and professor of quantitative analysis at the College of Administration and Business at Louisiana Tech University.

Rice, 53, is a native of Pine Bluff and a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Clemson University.

New associate dean of students — Dianne King of Auburn, Ala., has been employed by OBU as its new associate dean of students. King was residential education assistant for the department of housing and residence life at Auburn University. She is a graduate of Tift College of Mercer University in Forsyth, Ga., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and is a doctoral candidate at Auburn.

Composer honored — For the 28th consecutive year, W. Francis McBeth, chairman of the theory-composition department of the school of music at OBU, has been honored nationally with an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Award for his music compositions. McBeth, 60, is a longtime member of the Ouachita faculty and is Composer Laureate of Arkansas.

Venture '93 — OBU will host approximately 1,300 senior high school church youth group participants from Arkansas and surrounding states for an event titled "Venture '93" to be held Saturday, Sept. 25. The theme of this year's program is "My Heart — Christ's Home." The event's purpose is to offer a time of fellowship and spiritual growth, and features music, worship celebrations and Bible study. For more information, contact Ian Cosh at OBU, P.O. Box 3783, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; phone 245-5536.

Richardson awarded scholarship — Anna Richardson of Warren, a junior chemistry major at OBU, has been awarded a \$20,000 Rotary International Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship for 1994-95 for study in a foreign country. Richardson expects to attend Moscow State University to study Russian.

Williams Baptist College

Honor society chapter chartered — The Alpha Zeta Xi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international society in history, was recently chartered at Williams. William E. Parrish, immediate past president of Phi Alpha Theta and professor of history at Mississippi State University, directed the installation ceremony where five students and three faculty members were inducted.

'Jesus' video highlights statewide witnessing plan

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The "Jesus" film, used for more than a decade to introduce the gospel to millions of people around the world, is now available as a video witnessing tool for Arkansas Baptists and other Christian groups.

The film, based entirely on the gospel of Luke, has been seen by more than 500 million people and has been translated into 270 languages. The production has been described as the most accurate film ever made about the life of Christ.

Evangelist Billy Graham said the film "speaks to the hearts of people and points them to Jesus Christ." A promotional video about the film notes that it is "one of the most viewed movies of all time," adding that "its impact has been felt around the globe."

More than 380 mission agencies worldwide, including the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, use the film for evangelistic purposes. According to the U.S. Center for World Mission, "No single evangelistic campaign in human history has touched as many lives as the showing of this film."

Simple, successful story

A "Jesus Video Saturation Campaign" is being coordinated in Arkansas by Reg Hamman, a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department is working with Hamman to involve Arkansas Baptist churches in the witnessing campaign.

According to evangelism department director Clarence Shell, "The 'Jesus' video is a very simple and yet successful way to share the gospel." He said the saturation campaign is designed for teams of laymen to take copies of the video to families in the community, asking them to view the video and respond to it.

Hamman, an administrator for "Dad, the Family Shepherd" ministries, said similar efforts in Texas and Louisiana resulted in professions of faith in Christ by 19 percent of the people who viewed the videos.

A brochure promoting the witnessing campaign notes that "there are thousands in Arkansas who have never heard a clear gospel presentation....Bringing the message of Jesus Christ to all people is a mandate we can't ignore. With this

newly developed community saturation strategy, every Arkansan will have an opportunity to hear the gospel."

Based on the statistics from Texas and Louisiana, Hamman said a successful statewide effort in Arkansas could reap more than 80,000 decisions for Christ.

"The idea is twofold," Hamman explained. "It involves getting people in churches into their neighborhoods and then within two weeks conducting follow-up interviews and identifying decisions that are made." He said additional follow-up will include personal discipleship for several weeks, followed by involving individuals in the local church.

Shell said the campaign provides Arkansas Baptists an opportunity to "live out what we've been trying to get our people involved in. If many churches would just put 100 videos into their community, they could lead more people to faith in Christ than they are currently doing."

Hamman's goal is to enlist several churches to pilot the effort this fall, followed by a concerted statewide campaign next spring and continued distribution as needed. He currently is seeking to enlist regional representatives, city directors, local church leaders and other volunteers to help implement the campaign.

Hamman described the cost of \$7.50 per video as a bargain based on the potential evangelistic impact. "This may be the most inexpensive form of evangelism ever created," he suggested. "A church can enter the project on any level, from targeting 10 homes to 1,000."

Hamman said he is volunteering his time to coordinate the project because "the church has a need, there is a tool available and I just want to get them together because of my love of evangelism."

"Film evangelism is so simple," he emphasized. "You can let the drama sell the salvation....The barriers of church are removed. We're putting the gospel in their own television, in the comfort of their own home."

Churches or individuals interested in additional information about the "Jesus Video Saturation Campaign" may contact Reg Hamman at 1504 Northline, North Little Rock, AR 72116; phone 758-5557 or Clarence Shell at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5132.

Church medical rates remain unchanged

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

SBC Annuity Board

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board have announced there will be no increase in the rates for the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan in the first six months of 1994.

Rates in the medical plan were last raised July 1, 1992, meaning the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan will go two full years at the same rate. Better claims experience and effective use of managed care procedures are credited with precluding a rate increase. A decision concerning the rates for the last six months of 1994 will be made during the spring of the year.

"I am delighted management could make the medical plan recommendation and the trustees enthusiastically approved holding the rates," noted Annuity Board president Paul W. Powell. "Though the national trend in health care cost predicts a 20 percent increase in overall cost next year, we'll hold the line."

In other insurance matters, trustees approved a new term life plan to be introduced Jan. 1, 1994, and introduction of the Prudential Health Maintenance Organization, PruCare, in as many as 31 regions where the HMO is active.

The new term life plan will be part of an "unbundling" of coverages through which participants will have greater flexibility of

choice and should find rates more competitive.

Effective Jan. 1, 1994, all current participants in existing life plans will be guaranteed re-enrollment in the new plan for no less than current coverage amounts. Rates for most participants will decrease.

Instead of three current "schedules" of term life amounts available to churches, all participants will be able to choose a "times salary" of one to eight with a maximum of \$500,000 coverage, or flat amounts in \$10,000 increments up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Spousal coverage is being offered in \$5,000 increments to a maximum of \$100,000 so long as the amount does not exceed 50 percent of the employee coverage. Dependent children coverage of \$5,000 per child is offered for a total rate of 75 cents a month, regardless of the number of children.

The new program also will feature a built-in continuation of coverage with premium paid by the Annuity Board in event of disability, with separate coverages available for disability, accidental death and dismemberment, and person accident losses.

Each current participant will receive a letter in October detailing automatic re-enrollment coverage, new rates and options available.

In other reports, total assets of the Annuity Board rose 6.8 percent in the first six months of 1993 to \$4.18 billion.

Benefits paid to retirees continue to rise also, with six months' payments of \$66,259,989, exceeding the 1992 figure by 16.9 percent.

"Total assets have grown at a rate of \$1.4 million a day for the past year," Powell said. "This growth, which keeps us solidly in place as the second-largest church pension board in the world, moved us up one step to the 127th largest pension fund among all funds in the United States."

The Variable Fund of common stocks finished June at a new record high unit value of \$12.24, an increase of 4.87 percent, after expenses, since Dec. 31, 1992. This exactly matched the growth of S&P 500 Stock Index, the target of the Variable Fund.

The Balanced Fund of stocks and bonds credited earnings of 7.67 percent in six months, well above the targeted benchmark of 5.98 percent. The Fixed Fund credited 3.69 percent, which was above the preannounced target range. The Short Term Fund credited 1.43 percent cumulative earnings compared to 1.45 percent for 90-day Treasury Bills.

Trustees elected Leonard Bruce Sides and Thurman Bradley Thompson vice presidents. They will succeed Charles Vanderslice and Harvey J. Wright who have announced plans to retire as heads of Region 3 and Region 2, respectively, in the member services division. Sides and Thompson are currently managers in their respective regions.

Overhead costs at BSSB force more staff cuts

GLORIETA, NM (BP)—Pointing to a directional goal for the Baptist Sunday School Board of "meeting people at the point of their needs," president James T. Draper Jr. reported to BSSB trustees Aug. 16-18 on efforts to deal with corporate overhead costs and the ongoing need for stewardship of board resources.

After receiving a report and proposals on corporate overhead from an employee task force in late July, Draper said he finalized "basic decisions" just before the trustee meeting which he said will eliminate "47 or 48 employee positions."

Draper declined to identify specific jobs, reminding trustees of his promise two years ago to BSSB employees that he would tell them of any changes affecting them before public announcements are made. He told Baptist Press that he anticipates completing communication with affected employees by the end of August.

Draper told employees that efforts will be made "to place as many as possible somewhere in the organization." Career transition and outplacement assistance, along with severance pay, will be provided to any who cannot be placed within the board.

"Letting people go will be our last option," he said.

In a 45-minute dialogue session with trustees, Draper said the board currently has corporate overhead costs of 23 percent of budget, compared to about 13 percent for similar companies.

As part of the board's strategic planning process, Draper said corporate overhead was identified as one of three priority issues

that needed to be addressed, along with work processes and organization fine tuning.

The corporate overhead study initially has focused on non-revenue-producing areas of corporate services and finance and administration, which employ 346 full-time employees. Components include information systems, corporate market research, strategic planning, communications, production services, business and finance, facility management and human resources.

He said he is approving "90 percent of the recommendations" of the overhead task force report, estimating an annual savings of \$2.5 million.

The reductions are "a matter of stewardship," Draper said. "I don't think there is anything spiritual about waste."

He reiterated earlier statements that a study is in process to identify inefficiencies or duplication of effort in revenue-producing areas of the board — the church growth and trade and retail markets groups.

The study "is not a cutting of ministries and projects. We're very optimistic about where we are headed," Draper assured trustees. He predicted "quite a jump" in 1993-94 revenue from sales of products and services. Trustees approved a 1993-94 budget of \$233.4 million, a 15.7 percent increase in revenue over 1992-93 projected totals.

Rankin initiates FMB reorganization plans

By Robert O'Brien

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Jerry Rankin took the first step toward reorganizing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board with two initial recommendations to change the way the board administers overseas operations.

Trustees unanimously approved the new FMB president's proposals Aug. 18 to gradually phase out the board's Global Strategy Group as it currently functions and to create a post for vice president for overseas operations.

Reorganization will aim toward streamlining the board to speed up decision-making, decentralize strategy, respond flexibly "to what God is doing" around the world and "seize the opportunity when it emerges," Rankin said.

The board's structure and personnel, he added, must focus on freeing people to move quickly in the task of reaching the world for Jesus Christ and avoid diverting time and energy "to serve the structure itself."

A committee of trustees and staff will work with Rankin to shape further recommendations for restructuring. It also will serve as a search committee for the new vice president—tentatively called "executive vice president for overseas operations"—and other personnel called for in the reorganization.

Trustees also named a committee to study their own organizational structure.

Rankin said the new vice president will work alongside him and current executive vice president Don Kammerdiener but that specific roles will be defined later. Other restructuring recommendations will come as early as the trustees' October meeting and continue in the months to follow, he said.

The main effect of phasing out the top-level Global Strategy Group will be to draw mission strategy more from the overseas mission fields than from a central group in the board's home office in Richmond.

It also will phase the board's regional vice presidents out of direct administration, returning most of the responsibility for field administration and strategic development to 10 area directors on the field. They will relate to the board through the new vice president for overseas operations.

The four current regional vice presidents will concentrate on an overview of missions, rather than administration, although they will retain administrative duties through an "extended time of transition," Rankin said. Continuing administrative duties for some vice presidents will depend on the needs of a given region.

Their new duties will include advising the overseas operation on regional matters, consulting with field administrators, guiding church growth strategy surveys and studying new initiatives. Those initiatives include a "rapid deployment"

mission team, outreach among internationals in the United States and an expanded volunteer program.

Rankin said he would seek to find a balance between his concern to allow missionaries to reassume more initiative in planning and the need for a global view of strategy not rooted in a particular mission field.

"The Global Strategy Group has served us well in giving us a global vision and breaking out of the parameters of limited, residential strategies," Rankin said. "Although it has brought us a new perspective, we can't afford to continue to apply a common global strategy through a time-consuming, centralized administrative forum."

"The continuing need of such a function can, and should, be met by the collective input and consultation of the area directors meeting in Richmond twice a year, representing the fields and area strategies."

World diversity—varying cultures, history, responsiveness, opportunities and maturity of Baptist work—makes it imperative to "give local missions latitude to determine the most productive application of personnel and resources," Rankin stressed.

The Foreign Mission Board also must become a "more people-centered organization in which every missionary and staff person is valued for having a key role in fulfilling our purpose, and not be seen as a resource simply to be used in an institutional task," he said.

FMB administrators Bryant and Meador promoted

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Thurmon Bryant, a 33-year veteran of foreign missions, was elected vice president for mission personnel by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees Aug. 18.

Arkansas native Clyde Meador, a missionary and mission administrator in Asia for nearly 19 years, was elected area director for mission work in southern Asia and the Pacific.

Bryant has filled his new position, which administers the FMB's missionary appointment process, on an interim basis since April.

A former missionary to Brazil, Bryant, 63, has been associate vice president for mission personnel since 1987.

Bryant and his wife, the former Doris Morris were missionaries in Brazil for 17 years. He was founder and president of the Sao Paulo (Brazil) Baptist Theological Seminary and led several churches as pastor. He also taught Christian ethics, homiletics and Old Testament there and



Bryant



Meador

has written two religious books in Portuguese.

From 1977 to 1987 Bryant was the board's area director for eastern South America, administering the work of missionaries to Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Meador succeeds Rankin, who became the board's 10th president in June. Meador has been associate to Rankin, based in Singapore, since 1990. As area director

Meador will oversee the work of some 500 missionaries in Asia's southern region, which includes India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines and 11 other countries. It stretches about 9,000 miles and includes more than 1.5 billion people, the great majority of whom have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, Meador told trustees.

Meador worked from 1976 to 1979 as a general evangelist in Medan, Indonesia, after he and his wife, Elaine, were appointed missionaries in 1974 and completed language study in Bandung. From 1979 to 1987 he taught theology in Semarang and Purwokerto, Indonesia.

In 1987 Meador moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, to become mission administrator and two years later moved to Bangkok, Thailand, to become director of the board's southern Asia itinerant mission program. In 1990 he moved once again, this time to Singapore, where he assumed his most recent role as associate to the area director.

Naylor again faces medical license hurdle in India

BANGALORE, INDIA (BP)—Rebekah Naylor, the only Southern Baptist missionary living in India, again faces the possibility of losing the government's permission to practice medicine in the country.

Naylor has until Sept. 18 to gain renewal of her Indian medical license. She applied June 17 for the renewal but has not received word—and may not until her current permit expires.

If authorities deny renewal she will stop performing surgery and other medical work at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where she has worked 20 years.

"So far there hasn't been any word on the renewal," she said. "The license to practice medicine has generally not been given to foreigners in the last eight to 10 years. It's very difficult to get. I got it in 1991 after so many problems. And now the renewal is coming up and we have no way of knowing what (government officials) will do."

Based on past experiences in India, the chance of Naylor losing her license is high. India's tight restrictions on licenses, work permits and visas have slashed the FMB missionary force from 18 in the 1980s to one — Naylor.

In 1991 an Indian medical council said it would not grant Naylor a medical license, which forced her to stop practicing. Several months later, however, Naylor got a two-year license after an appeal that involved a U.S. senator, the Indian ambassador in Washington and Southern Baptist pastors in Kentucky.

The 143-bed Bangalore hospital where Naylor works opened a new outpatient facility in June, following last year's opening of a 25-bed wing to treat patients in private rooms.

The hospital also has a strong evangelistic witness in Bangalore, a city of 5 million people. In July, for example, hospital staffers helped lead 10 people to profess faith in Christ. The hospital also helped start a church in a nearby village in July; 10 people were baptized.

"To me that's just an example of the effectiveness of medical missions," Naylor said. "People here are responsive and they are open. This is also a reminder of our responsibility."

Baptist World Alliance leaders pledge to fight racism, poverty

HARARE, ZIMBABWE (BP)—Baptist leaders from around the world pledged to fight racism and poverty — two of the multiple and formidable challenges faced by Africans — when the Baptist World Alliance's general council met Aug. 4-9 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

"Racism is rooted in the sinfulness of humankind," Baptist leaders declared, pledging in the "Harare Declaration" to be a "prophetic witness that exposes and challenges the sin of racism."

They also pledged "to work to bring people together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, whatever their ethnic identity."

The "Harare Declaration" is the work of the Special Commission of Baptists Against Racism (BAR) formed by the BWA a year ago in response to the race-related riots in Los Angeles and alarming race-related conflicts in almost every country of the world.

Baptist leaders promised to challenge their churches and political leaders to fight poverty and to embrace the United Nations challenge for every country to give 1 percent of its Gross National Product to fight poverty in the developing world.

Resolutions affirm compassion

Baptist leaders also spoke out on AIDS, warfare in Bosnia, the sanctity of human life and evangelism.

"Recognizing the gravity of the situation in Africa, we could not leave without speaking to the issue of AIDS," said Ruth Sampson, chairman of the BWA Human Rights Study Commission that presented the resolutions.

The Baptist leaders' AIDS resolution gave strong affirmation to "a Christian lifestyle and sexual values including the biblical concept of chastity outside marriage and fidelity within marriage as a significant means of limiting the spread of AIDS."

The resolution called on Baptists around the world to cooperate with efforts to limit the spread of AIDS; work with others to secure funds for research for a cure; obey the call of Jesus Christ to give compassionate ministry to AIDS victims; and be models of "accepting communities where full dignity" is given to AIDS victims.

The resolution on Bosnia condemned ethnic cleansing and applauded "the humanitarian efforts so far."

The resolution "regrets profoundly" the failure of the United Nations and European nations to "intervene effectively." Baptist leaders also expressed "alarm" at the

interpretation of this conflict "in interfaith terms with the assumption that Western nations are indifferent to the plight of the Moslems."

The Bosnia resolution expresses opposition "to any solution that rewards aggression, believing that such a solution establishes a dangerous precedent."

In a resolution on "The Sanctity of Human Life," Baptist leaders asked fellow Baptists "to honor the principle of the individual's freedom of conscience to interpret Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and respect one another's integrity where differences exist as together we seek to affirm the sanctity of human life."

The resolution said "human life is sacred because all life is the gift of God" and every person is created in the image of God.

"Widespread resort to abortion, capital punishment, national and international conflict" are among violations listed in the resolution as "violations of that sacredness."

On the 25th anniversary year of the death of Baptist civil rights leader and preacher Martin Luther King Jr., the council passed a resolution thanking God for King's life and witness.

Saying "his call to seek change through non-violent action still serves as an effective model to all who strive for more just societies," the council called on Baptists around the world to celebrate King's anniversary and renew their commitment "to struggle non-violently for justice and peace."

In a resolution on evangelism, the council expressed thanks for the life of missionary pioneer William Carey who went to India 200 years ago.

Sending greetings to Baptists in the subcontinent of India, the BWA praised them for "their faithfulness in mission across two centuries and assures them of its prayers in support of their future witness."

BWA general secretary Denton Lotz appealed for Baptists around the world to come together in unity.

"Baptists will win the world by the cross and not the sword," Lotz said. "What a tragedy to come to Baptist conventions and unions and see fighting and disunity."

"It is only if we point to Christ and His cross that we as Baptists have a future," Lotz said.

Baptist leaders responded by voting to ask Baptist churches to pray for unity among Baptists the first Sunday of every month "so that the world may believe."

Hope First Church celebrates 125 years of ministry

First Church of Hope, envisioned and founded in 1868, observed its 125th anniversary Aug. 1.

"The church organizer, John T. Aaron, was a man of vision," noted pastor Stan Parris, "In a vision from God, he saw a host of people pleading for help, resulting in his taking a small band of Baptist believers and organizing the Siloam Missionary Baptist Church which became Hope Church in 1876.

"If our church ever loses that vision, we are doomed," Parris added. "Perhaps the most urgent commentary on that vision and on our church today is that many of those who are 'pleading for help' are sitting on the pews beside us....People need people."

The Hope church has grown from its small band of early believers to a current membership of 1,328 under the leadership of numerous pastors. From its first meeting place three miles north of present-day Hope, the congregation moved to a one-room frame building in Hope and then to its present site in south Hope.

Since that time, the congregation has sponsored numerous building and improvement programs. Their vision has included the organization of three new congregations in the state: Calvary Church, Hope; Allen Chapel, Guernsey; and



Among participants during Hope First Church's 125th anniversary were (left to right) Gary Johnson, who collected historical information; McDowell Turner, baptized in 1937; Mary Nell Turner, church historian; Ethel Hamilton, widow of former pastor W.R. Hamilton; retired pastor Gerald Trussell; and current pastor Stan Parris.

Anthony's Mill Church.

The 125th anniversary celebration focused on the leadership of former pastors and centered around the new history book, *Men and Members with Vision from Siloam to First Baptist Church*, written by church member Mary Nell Turner.

Turner, in her historical review, said, "Two things clearly stand out when you study the expressed thoughts and recorded actions of those who have led us in the past: They were mission-minded, wanting

to share the gospel and to save souls; and they desired that their children have a good education and provided the facilities for this both in the community and at the church."

Other program features included baptismal services as well as special music by the adult choir and Omega Ringers under the direction of James Alcock, minister of music. A family potluck dinner attended by more than 300 people concluded the celebration.

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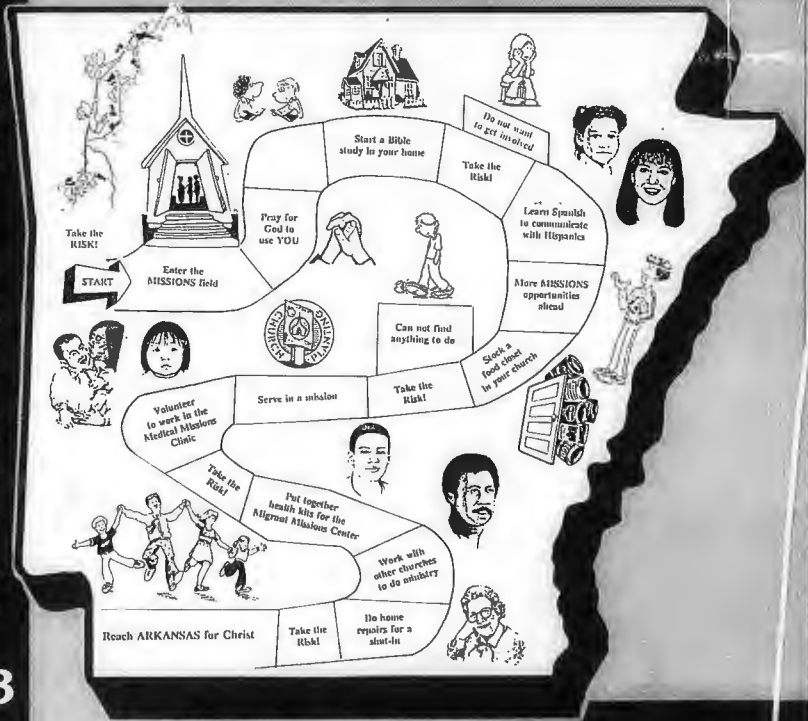
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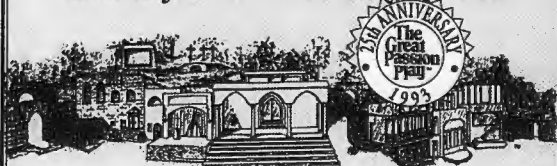


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By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

A tribute to church organist Virginia Ashley in recognition of 57 years in the music ministry and the dedication of a renovation project highlighted the 125th anniversary celebration of First Church of Marianna, Aug. 15.

Ashley, who first began playing in 1936 and has played both the piano and organ, began her service as organist at age 12, playing a pump organ that had to be pumped by friends and family members. "Mrs. Virginia has been and continues to be a vital part of the ministry of First Church," said pastor Allen Greer. "She has a sensitivity to the Spirit of God and His leading which helps lead this body in a spirit of worship and praise."

The \$80,400 renovation program, which included roof repairs, sanctuary and nursery improvements and the addition of playground equipment, was first used Aug. 1 when 225 were in attendance. The Marianna congregation, organized June 25, 1848, with 16 members, today has a Sunday School enrollment of 286 with an average attendance of 170.

Organized as the Lone Pine Church, some three miles southeast of Marianna, the membership became scattered during the Civil War. The church was reorganized in Marianna in 1868, moving into its current brick facilities on Church Street in 1910.

"You have built a great past, but now you must look forward," charged Roy Buckelew, guest speaker. Preaching from Ephesians 2:19-22, Buckelew, a professor at Ouachita Baptist University and interim pastor of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, encouraged members to strengthen the church's future by making Christ the chief cornerstone, God's Word the foundation, people of commitment

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Organist Virginia Ashley receives a plaque from pastor Allen Greer in honor of her 57 years of service to the music ministry at Marianna First Church.

the building itself, the Holy Spirit the guiding light and holiness as the purp ose.

"When Jesus Christ is first and forever sent in a church and the church is built upon His Word then God will take unbelievably different people and fit and frame them together in such a way that a church will be united in commitment to Him," Buckelew said.

At the close of an afternoon musical program, Greer challenged the congregation to "move forward under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and become a lighthouse to our community."

Other anniversary features included musical praise services under the direction of Gary Glover, minister of music, and Leslie Willis, a former Marianna resident and currently minister of music at Life Line Church, Little Rock. Events also included testimonial sessions featuring former members and staff members and a noon fellowship meal.

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Witnessing key: Focus on faith rather than fear

GLORIA, NM (BP)—Christians afraid of witnessing should trust the same faith they used to receive salvation, a seminar speaker said during Home Missions Week.

"It takes the same faith to witness that it does to receive Jesus as Savior," said Stan Clark, a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's personal evangelism department.

Fear is natural but God intends for Christians to overcome it and share their faith with others, Clark said.

"Fear is Satan's secret agent, the anchor that holds us back from sharing our faith. If we don't overcome the fear, Satan will silence us."

Fear can actually be beneficial, Clark said, because it humbles the witness to rely on God and points the person being witnessed to toward the power of God, not the power of the witness.

Clark recalled one person who became a Christian after listening to an elderly lady present the gospel by nervously reading a tract. The listener wasn't initially interested, he said, but was impressed that she would take the trouble to witness despite being obviously uncomfortable.

Clark defined five ways to help overcome the fear of witnessing:

■ **Have a plan.** "It helps to overcome fear to know you have a planned approach."

■ **Know the purpose.** Realize that witnessing is the fulfillment of God's plan for Christians, he said.

■ **Pray.** Be in communion with God to seek His direction and intervention in the life of the person being witnessed to.

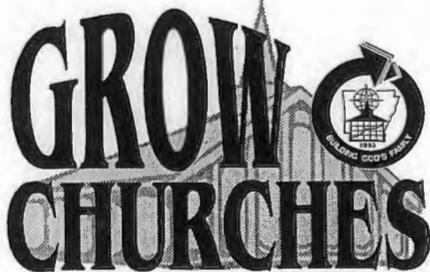
■ **Presume all people are lost and receptive.** "Most people really want to know how they can be properly related with the Lord."

■ **Practice.** Begin to feel more comfortable hearing yourself present the gospel, he said.

"One thing you can be sure of is you have everything you need to be the witness God wants you to be," Clark said. "If you want to defeat Satan, then be obedient when you have the opportunity to witness."

Clark said Christians should be more concerned about being faithful to opportunities than the response of the person to whom they are witnessing.

"Not everybody will respond, but everybody ought to have the opportunity to respond," he said. "The only way that's going to happen is for every Christian to be obedient."



The Arkansas Baptist State Convention is highlighting church growth as a primary emphasis for 1993. Part of the emphasis includes conducting associational church growth conferences. The 26 Arkansas Baptist associations which have planned conferences for 1993-94 are:

ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE DATE

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Arkansas River Valley | In 1994 (Date not selected) |
| Arkansas Valley | September 14, 1993 |
| Ashley | September 13, 1993 |
| Bartholomew | February 3, 1994 |
| Black River | In 1994 (Date not selected) |
| Buckner | September 16, 1993 |
| Caddo River | (Date not selected) |
| Calvary | Fall 1993 (Date not selected) |
| Carey | In 1994 (Date not selected) |
| Caroline | September 7, 1993 |
| Central | March 24, 1994 |
| Concord | March 17, 1994 |
| Greene County | September 13, 1994 |
| Independence | August 16, 1993 |
| Liberty | (Date not selected) |
| Little River | In 1994 (Date not selected) |
| Mississippi County | January 28-February 2, 1994 |
| North Arkansas | August 22, 1994 |
| North Central | September 20, 1993 |
| North Pulaski | September 13, 1993 |
| Red River | September 20, 1993 |
| Rocky Bayou | (Date not selected) |
| Southwest Arkansas | (Date not selected) |
| Tri-County | October 9, 1993 |
| Trinity | April 7, 1994 |
| White River | September 23, 1993 |

Midwestern v.p. resigns following misuse of funds

KANSAS CITY, MO (BP)—Sam T. Switzer, vice president for business affairs at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, resigned effective Aug. 15 following disclosure of financial mismanagement involving the use of seminary credit cards.

The inappropriate financial transactions were discovered through the seminary's own internal accounting procedures. A special audit by the an outside auditing firm was requested by president Milton Ferguson.

The audit revealed the amount in question was less than \$15,000 over a two-year period. The full amount has been repaid and no further action is anticipated by the seminary.

Switzer has acknowledged the financial mismanagement and has started rehabilitative therapy.

Switzer joined Midwestern's staff as director of financial services in July 1981. He was elected vice president for business affairs in April 1986.

According to Ferguson, "This is a very painful situation for Midwestern Seminary as well as for Sam Switzer. We shall continue to pray for Sam and his family. We also will encourage and support him as he works toward full recovery."

Mississippi College alleges former president embezzled \$3 million

By Tim Nicholas
Mississippi Baptist Convention

CLINTON, MS (BP)—The resignation of Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles over financial disagreements with trustees has escalated into allegations that Nobles embezzled as much as \$3 million from the college.

Nobles, 67, resigned Aug. 3, nine months before retirement from 25 years as president of the 4,200-student college, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. On Aug. 7, Nobles petitioned for a temporary restraining order to obtain from his office personal possessions, personal records and financial records, including \$27,844 in cash.

After college officials refused to allow Nobles to obtain the documents, they were granted a modified order allowing Nobles to retain possession of the cash but keeping the records in the hands of the college's accounting firm. The court also froze all of Nobles' assets, including bank accounts, securities, brokerage accounts and real estate.

On Aug. 10, the court gave college officials approval to inspect mail arriving at Nobles' two post office boxes.

The college, in a suit in Hinds County's Chancery Court in Jackson, alleges "Nobles secretly intercepted contributions from

various donors to Mississippi College. Those contributions were deposited by Nobles into various accounts maintained by Nobles for Nobles' personal use and benefit. The books of Mississippi College do not reflect the receipt of these contributions."

The college alleges Nobles, over a period of 15 years, used forged bank statements and checks to cover his dealings.

Although the accounting is continuing, college officials estimate the amount of contributions intercepted by Nobles known to date is approximately \$3 million.

"In order to conceal his fraud and embezzlement, Nobles maintained a labyrinth of bank and securities accounts under various names with numerous banks and brokerage firms in Jackson and throughout the United States," said the college in the court document.

Ed Peters, the local district attorney, said Nobles "is suspected of criminal violations, both state and federal," adding that, "Much of the information that would be needed has already been obtained."

Peters said the investigation also will seek to recover funds the college claims are missing.

Nobles, contacted by the *Mississippi Baptist Record*, said: "What has been put forth thus far is only allegations, and only one side of the controversy has been presented. In our jurisprudence system, a man is innocent until proven guilty.

"I'm not trying to be antagonistic, but just to be patient until the full story is out." Nobles maintained to the trustees that the monies were spent for proper college purposes.

College officials began detecting possible problems in the college's finances when contacting potential donors who reported they had already given to Nobles.

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Convention Uniform

The God we worship

By Dennis Coop, minister of education, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Genesis 1:1-25

Focal passage: Genesis 1:1-25

Central truth: Our God is a transcendent, eternal God who intentionally created our world.

The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. It is called by the rabbis, *Bereshith*, the first word of the Hebrew Bible. It is a word meaning "in beginning." This book of beginnings reveals God as the creator of our world. It begins with an avowal that God has always been there. There is no attempt to explain the beginning of God. Here in the very beginning is man's introduction to the nature of God.

Genesis is not a textbook on the history of mankind. It is a book revealing God and man in relationship. He is the transcendent one who deliberately chose to create this world. Later studies will reveal that He created it for Himself and His people.

The Hebrew word *bara* means to "bring into existence." It is used only of God's creative activity. Man may fashion, form, design and make things of God's created resources, but only God creates.

Genesis does not reveal the specifics of God's creative activity. It does, however, show an orderly progression. The text speaks of God's first step. He created the raw material. It was formless and empty, but it was the beginning of His work. Then step-by-step, God created an orderly universe. Verses 3 through 25 outline those steps.

Genesis 1 is first and foremost about the God we serve and worship. He is revealed to us as a God of purpose and order. His work is portrayed as a key to who He is. It sometimes becomes difficult to separate Him from His work. There are some important distinctions. First, we worship Him, not His creation. Second, we seek to serve Him using His creation. We do not serve the creation. He has entrusted the creation to us for our use and stewardship.

This lesson should lead us to focus our worship and service. We will be reminded of our relationship to the God of creation. We will, like the psalmist, consider God's handiwork and rejoice in Him. We will then be motivated for service to Him.

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Life and Work

Ministering for the Master

By Clyde Spurgin, pastor, First Church, Piggott

Basic passage: Matthew 25:34-41a;

Deuteronomy 15:11; Psalms 82:3-4;

1 John 3:17

Focal passage: Matthew 25:40

Central truth: We serve the Lord as we serve others.

Jesus said, "If you love me keep my commandments." The greatest is, "As I have loved you...love one another." Ministering to the needs of others is love in action. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Ministering to others is ministering for the Master!

There are needy people in our world, and Christians have always tried to help them when possible. "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land" (Deut. 15:15). Ministering to the needs of the less fortunate is obeying and pleasing God.

Some poor and oppressed have no protection against their adversaries. Because of the Christian influence of past generations, Americans have the right to a public defender. Psalms 82:3 reminds us to "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless, (and) maintain the rights of the poor."

God has blessed some with material possessions. Others, although industrious, sometimes find themselves in dire financial circumstances and need help. Christian love should motivate the financially able to help those in need.

Government programs meet financial needs of many who face hardships. They should. Government demands paying taxes. Churches encourage members to contribute. The motivation for paying taxes may be fear, but the motivation for contributing to the church should be love.

We love Him because He first loved us. Generosity in ministering to others should be reinforced as we remember how Jesus gave His all to meet our greatest need—salvation! We prove our love for Christ by contributing to the lives of others, materially or spiritually.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can he love the love of God be in him?"

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Bible Book

How to stop being afraid

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

Basic passage: 1 John 4:7-21

Focal passage: 1 John 4:17-19

Central truth: Fear can be appropriate when it protects; fear which is inappropriate paralyzes and leads to worry and anxiety.

God places within every person an instinctive fear of things which could be harmful. Examples of fear-producing items might be a threatening storm, a dangerous drop-off or a poisonous snake. Inappropriate fear, though, does not come from God and can keep believers from being all God means for them to be for His glory.

John mentions three things of which people have an inappropriate fear. First, the author speaks of a fear of the threatening future (v. 17a). No person knows the future well although some can make educated guesses. A lack of knowledge, coupled with an inability to adjust the future can cause fear.

John reminds his readers that the biggest event of the future is the sure judgment of God. Now, here's his answer to the fear of the future: Believe, if God through His abiding love has made the future secure, then of what else ought you to be afraid?

The second inappropriate fear listed is that of the upsetting present (vv. 17b-18b). Things happen to people, even good and godly people, which are bad. Again, God's abiding love means fear can be overcome. Notice that John invokes three foundations available to the believer to conquer the upsetting present: the believer's position in Christ (v. 17b); the believer's power in Christ (v. 18a); and the believer's peace through Christ (v. 18b).

The final inappropriate fear John examines is the haunting past (v. 19). More than a few Christians are tormented by the memories of things and people who caused pain in their past, sometimes in the innocence of childhood.

Freedom from a haunting past is found in the abiding love of God which was real, powerful and personal before there even was a past. God loved the believer first—as a plan and as a priority.

Inappropriate fear can masquerade behind that which is right and normal. Christians must be cautious to understand the difference between what is God-given for protection and what is inspired by self or Satan which brings paralysis.

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Convention Uniform

Made in God's image

By Dennis Coop, minister of education, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-9, 15-25

Focal passage: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-9, 15-25

Central truth: God intentionally created man and woman with unique needs, capacities and responsibilities.

God crowned His intentional creation with the making of persons. Genesis doesn't give a chemical formula for man's makeup. It gives a more important insight. Man was made in God's image.

Man can't rise above his humanness and become divine. However, God created man with capacities and potential that are "God-like." There is the ability to think, for one. Another is man's "personhood," something no other creature possesses. Still another is man's spirit. Man, in God's image, has the capacity to make choices. That capacity carries with it responsibility. This responsibility is to make moral choices. This responsibility demands a close walk with the Creator. Another capacity unique to man is the ability to make commitments. These are all part of man's "image of God" nature.

God gave to man the responsibility of work. It is often said that work resulted from sin. Certainly, man's toil was intensified in the aftermath of sin. But man was created for responsible work.

The work of God's first man was stewardship. Stewardship is the responsible management of God's created resources. God's man of today bears that same responsibility for stewardship of the earth.

God created in man the capacity and need for companionship. We need each other. It is our nature. God said it was not good that man should always be alone.

The first man needed companionship, so God created woman. The first love song ever recorded was sung by Adam as he expressed his joy. He had received God's gift of a wife. Similar joy is experienced each time a man and woman find that God has prepared them for each other.

The lesson text concludes with a wonderful pattern for God's man. It is quoted today as an element in many wedding ceremonies. This quality relationship is possible because man is created in God's image. It then is a part of man's responsibility for living "in the image of God."

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Life and Work

Victory over death

By Clyde Spurgin, pastor, First Church, Piggott

Basic passage: Psalms 23:4; John 11:24-26; I Thessalonians 4:13-18;

Revelation 21:4

Focal passage: John 11:25

Central truth: Faith erases fear.

When David wrote the 23rd Psalm he could not possibly have known the comfort and encouragement it would convey to countless generations. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." (v. 4). Not everyone in his generation could claim such confidence.

David's confidence in God and lack of the fear of death were the result of his relationship with God. Jesus made this clear to Martha in John 11:25 when He told her, "I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

Those who believe in Him can face life and death as did the Psalmist—with confidence. We know that whether we live or die, we are children of the King. Our relationship is the result of our birth, our spiritual birth which Jesus explained in the third chapter of John.

The apostle Paul clarified a mystery concerning Christians who have died, those who will die and those living when our Lord returns. He did not want us to be ignorant about those who fall asleep (die), or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. He assures us "God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.... We (Christians) who are still alive and are left will be caught up with the Lord forever."

The saved have no need to fear death because death is "swallowed up in victory." Jesus took the sting out of death. Death is only the threshold into glory!

In John 14, Jesus told His disciples of His departure to prepare a place for them and of His return for them. That place is called heaven!

The glory of this place is explained in Revelation 21:4. "He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed."

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Bible Book

Test of real salvation

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

Basic passage: I John 5:1-21

Focal passage: I John 5:1; 11-12

Central truth: If you died today and God asked you why you should be admitted to heaven, what would you say? John provides the answer.

What, really, is salvation? With so many religious opinions available, how can a person be absolutely sure about the correct response to life's greatest issue?

The test has no shortage of wrong answers. Witness a few heard recently: (1) I am sincere; (2) I do good works; (3) I have a good and religious family; (4) I just hope that God will overlook my mistakes.

John demands that any understanding of God's salvation steer clear of personal opinions and focus on a Scriptural authority. He lists four central themes toward an understanding of real salvation.

First, John contends that salvation is doctrinal (v. 1). Truth must be narrow if it is indeed truth. God's truth in action is Jesus, the Son. Transformation is necessary from a doctrinal vantage point as a work of God in the life of a trusting person who trusts the right thing.

Second, salvation is delivered (v. 11a). No person could ever do enough or be good enough to merit salvation. Therefore, God has given salvation as the only means where man could obtain it.

Salvation, in the third place, is also dependent (v. 11b). Notice that John is certain that Jesus is God's only provision for salvation. There is no other way or person.

John's fourth and final word about salvation is that it is definite (v. 12). John's equation is simple: Have Jesus, have life; Have not Jesus, have not life. Heaven depends on Christ (which, by the way, is good news — Jesus saves; Jesus keeps).

This lesson is underscored by John's use of the definite article in the Greek, carried well in most English translations: It is the Son and the life, signifying a particular Son and a particular life.

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NEWS DIGEST

Evangelism efforts net 9,000 responses in Kenya, Tanzania

NAIROBI, KENYA (BP)—Summertime is spiritual harvest time this year in Tanzania and Kenya.

A nine-day crusade in the southern Tanzania city of Mbeya resulted in 2,425 people professing faith in Christ, while an eight-day effort in the old Kenyan port of Mombasa saw 6,588 professions of faith. Both crusades ended in July.

The two events hundreds of miles apart both used the combined resources of local Christians, Southern Baptist missionaries and short-term volunteers from the United States.

Baptists provide flood victims more than 700,000 meals

ST. LOUIS (BP)—As many as 50 percent of the homes underwater in the flood-ravaged Midwest may be condemned, according to emergency management officials. As the muddy Mississippi and Missouri river floodwater recedes, water damage to homes is more extensive than originally estimated.

The first phase of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood response was mass feeding. The American Red Cross estimates more than 1.3 million meals have been served, of which Southern Baptists have prepared more than 700,000. Jim Furgerson, national disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission, estimates the total Southern Baptist meal count will eventually exceed 1 million meals. He said Southern Baptist volunteers already have contributed more than 6,000 work days in the Midwest.

Gifts to churches expected to rise under budget package

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Gifts to churches and other charitable organizations are expected to rise under the deficit-reduction package signed Aug. 10 by President Clinton.

The increase in tax rates for single taxpayers earning more than \$140,000 and couples earning more than \$180,000 is expected to boost charitable gifts, according to Independent Sector, a national organization of non-profit groups. That's because charitable contributions, like all other deductions, become more valuable to those Americans in higher tax brackets.

An Independent Sector study predicts the tax rate hikes will increase charitable giving by \$1.6 billion annually.

Donors also will be able to deduct the full market value of appreciated property given to non-profit organizations. This change is expected to have a favorable impact on gifts to colleges, universities and other institutions dependent upon large gifts.

South Carolina hospital breaks trustee tie to convention

COLUMBIA, SC (ABP)—Trustees of South Carolina Baptist Hospital voted Aug. 9 to empower themselves to elect their own successors. They voted 18-6 to amend the hospital's charter, removing control of the board from the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Until that vote, trustees were elected annually by the convention.

"Their action is not legal and represents a betrayal of trust placed in each of them by South Carolina Baptists when they were elected as trustees of this asset," said Carlisle Driggers, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist convention.

Driggers said the hospital does not have the right to amend its charter without convention approval. But hospital president Charles Beaman Jr. said trustees concluded they do have that authority. Trustees said the change was necessary to keep up with coming changes in the health-care system.

CLeAr-TV lifts boycott against Johnson wax company

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLeAr-TV) has announced it is lifting a nationwide boycott of S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., a Racine, Wis.-based corporation that markets a variety of waxes, polishes, household and personal products.

The decision to lift the boycott was made following a meeting with officials of the S.C. Johnson Company June 18, which resulted in a revision of the company's advertising policy and the addition of specific steps to bring more direct supervision to TV program screening procedures.

The boycott began March 15, 1993, after the company failed to respond to the concerns of CLeAr-TV regarding the company's sponsorship of TV programs the coalition found to contain excessive and gratuitous sex, violence and profanity during its 1992 fall monitoring period.