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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

9-8-1994

September 8, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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DOM Marvin Peters named PACT consultant of the year

Marvin Peters, director of missions for North Pulaski Association, was named PACT consultant of the year during a recent home missions conference at Gloria (N.M.) Conference Center.

"The award recognized Peters for his work as a PACT consultant in 1993, in which he helped three congregations find a new vision," said Everett Anthony, director of metropolitan missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

PACT is an acronym for Project Assistance for Church in Transition, a Home Mission Board-sponsored program.

"PACT consultants look at a congregation and its community to see who is there, their needs and resources," Anthony said. "The consultant then helps the church develop a plan of evangelism and ministry" for the church.

Tommy Goode, church and community ministries associate for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said the Home Mission Board has had a two-year emphasis on training directors of missions as PACT consultants.

"Marvin was an ideal candidate because of that emphasis," Goode said.

Peters, who has served as director of missions for North Pulaski Association since 1987, said he was "surprised" by the honor and could only attribute winning the award to "a different approach."

"Most consultants travel to churches upon request," he explained. "I'm using PACT primarily in my association as a tool for church growth."

Goode said Peters, one of three consultants in Arkansas, brings several areas of expertise to his consultations. "He's trained

and certified under an instructor. Marvin also is a student of church growth. In addition to certification as a PACT consultant, his doctor of ministry degree is in church growth.

"He knows the church has to analyze internal and external factors and make strategic decisions — whether to change, stay the same or disband," Goode said.

Peters said a consultation "is designed to cause churches to look at the needs in the community and to meet those needs."

He said the effort is typically a three-month process in which he helps a church write a vision statement, study their past ministries and present community needs, and write objectives, goals and action plans to fulfill their needs.

Dick Avey, pastor of Zion Hill Church in Cabot, said Peters conducted a PACT consultation there in 1991, helping the congregation "catch a new vision of why it is in its community."

The climax of the consultation, he said, was a retreat in which Peters helped members "lay out their hopes and plans and come up with objectives and goals."

Avey said the church has achieved about half of its goals written during the consultation. "Because Marvin was our DOM and grew up in our community, the people had confidence in his leadership," Avey said. "They've made changes, but sometimes it takes someone else to come in and focus them."

Affirming the impact of the PACT approach, Peters added, "Churches that stay with it and follow it up experience a change of attitude, growth, attendance and conflict resolution."

Cover Story



State missions 12-13

Arkansas Baptists are being encouraged to "Act Now!" in response to the 1994 Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions and Sept. 18-25 Season of Prayer.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

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The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1046-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist News-Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.85 per year (individual) \$6.36 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$7.08 per year (Group Plan), Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 93 • Number 18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Greg Kirksey, Benton, president; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Lucie C. Higgins, Fordyce; Cliff Palmer, Rogers; Brenda Bruce, Newark; Mark Baber, Marion; David McCormick, Dardanelle; James Preston, Stamps; and Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

Proposed '95 CP budget set at \$16.6 million

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

A proposed 1995 Cooperative Program budget of \$16.6 million, ministry goals through the year 2000 and an amended Church Annuity Plan were among major business items during last week's Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board meeting in Little Rock.

The proposed CP budget goal, unanimously approved by board members, will be presented for consideration during the ABCS annual meeting Nov. 1-2.

Prior to the budget discussion, state convention executive director Don Moore reported that 1994 CP recipients are running approximately 1 percent above last year but remain about 1.6 percent below the budget goal.

ABCS associate executive director Jimmie Sheffield said the 1995 budget goal is a 4 percent increase over the 1994 CP goal of \$15.96 million. Coupled with the projected shortfall in this year's CP gifts, he said actual growth next year must be nearly 6 percent to reach the proposed goal.

Noting that the average budget growth over the past 5 years has been about 3.7 percent annually, Sheffield said the 1995 proposal "is within our reach but it does represent quite a challenge.... We want to rise to that challenge."

The 1995 budget proposal includes 58.23 percent for total state programs and 41.77 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes. Moore said the national CP portion is an increase of 0.02 percent, which reflects the percentage of growth in CP gifts from local churches.

The 58.23 percent of the budget remaining in the state includes 29.98 percent for Executive Board programs, 14.47 percent for Ouachita Baptist University, 4.36 percent for Williams Baptist College, 2.68 percent for Children's Homes and Family Ministries, 2.27 percent for church annuity dues, 1.57 percent for the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, 1.34 percent for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, 0.78 percent for the ministerial scholarship fund and 0.78 percent for convention expenses.

The proposed "1996-2000 Executive Board Programs Concerns, Opportunities and Goals" are church-based, Sheffield said, adding that "the overarching goal is spiritual awakening." Acknowledging there is "a limit to what we can do in five years," he said, "We boiled it down to what we considered to be the priorities for our convention for the next five years."

The result is a list of 14 goals in such

'Arkansas Awakening'
1996-2000 state convention theme

1996	Arkansas Awakening: Live the Word
1997	Arkansas Awakening: Strengthen the Family
1998	Arkansas Awakening: Build the Church
1999	Arkansas Awakening: Touch the Community
2000	Arkansas Awakening: Reach the World

areas as worship, leadership training, social and ethical issues, family issues, cultural and racial issues, evangelism, mission support, discipleship and stewardship. The five-year theme is "Arkansas Awakening," with annual themes focusing on Live the Word, Strengthen the Family, Build the Church, Touch the Community and Reach the World.

In addition to the long-range goals, board members approved goals and projects for the state convention's 1995 "Reach People" emphasis, the final focus of the five-year "Building God's Family" theme.

1995 priority projects

Sheffield said priority projects for the coming year highlight "Here's Hope," the conventionwide simultaneous revival emphasis for 1995. Specific projects will focus on Here's Hope revivals in Iowa and Europe where Arkansas Baptists currently have missions partnerships as well as a Here's Hope college emphasis, media campaign and church-starting effort.

Priority projects related to Sunday School will include Great Commission Breakthrough to assist churches in Sunday School growth, ABCS-sponsored associational Sunday School conventions designed to train up to 5,000 workers and an effort to start 200 new Sunday School teaching units on "Great Start Sunday," Oct. 1, 1995.

Other priority projects for 1995 include church revival assistance for baptismless and smaller membership churches, Christian club training for students and pastors and Discipleship Training growth and enrichment.

The amended Southern Baptist Protection Program of the Church Annuity Plan approved by board members is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 1995. The proposal, presented to state conventions by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, will include the Annuity Board assuming the cost for survivors insurance and disability benefits for annuity participants

over the next five years. The estimated five-year savings to the ABCS would be \$1.25 million.

The plan also would expand protection coverage to include qualified church support staff, make Plan A benefits available to members as early as age 55 and allow participants to borrow against their retirement accounts. Additional information about the changes is available from ABCS stewardship and annuity department director James Walker.

Discussing the proposal earlier this year, Annuity Board executive vice president Gordon Hobgood said the changes will simplify and clarify the Church Annuity Plan while bringing it into conformity with standard provisions of other plans.

In other actions, board members received reports that the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* will present bylaw amendments in November to expand its board from nine to 15 members as voted earlier by ABCS messengers and the Arkansas Baptist Foundation will present restated articles of incorporation and bylaws reflecting the Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993.

Board members also approved a request that the World Hunger Committee, a standing committee of the state convention, be changed to a World Hunger Work Group. Moore explained that the change would allow all of the state convention programs that relate to hunger issues to be involved along with pastors and laypeople in the state who have an ongoing concern for world hunger.

Other reports included updates on the European Baptist partnership by Interim stateside coordinator Doyme Plummer, the Iowa partnership by missions department director Jimmy Barrentine, the recent Baptist Sunday School Board restructuring by BSSB corporate services vice president Michael Arrington and the ongoing anti-gambling effort by Christian Civic Action Committee steering committee chairman Barry King.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

You can make promotion, multiplying classes and changing rooms almost painless. I promise! It is that time of year when it looks like the pastor, minister of education and Sunday School director may all have to leave. It appears that they have all conspired to make as many people as miserable as they can. They are wanting to "divide our class," move us to another room, and they expect us to leave a teacher that we love and enjoy so much. "We don't like that," I hear somebody say. "We were here before they came and we'll be here after they're gone," someone else adds. "We've made it fine just like we are for the past 30 years, why do we have to change?"

Probably half of all who are reading this are thinking that someone from their church has been talking to me about their church. That is not the case. It is just that by nature we like sameness and predictability. We feel that there is safety and security in sameness and danger and threats in change. Such thinking has robbed more churches of their potential, discouraged more pastors and staff people in their calling and turned back more blessings from God than all social evils combined.

A new definition of insanity has been given: "Doing the same thing we have always done and expecting a different result." With the majority of our churches stagnant, plateaued or declining, it appears that conscientious church members ought to be looking to make some kind of change to see if the trends can be reversed.

The type changes mentioned are the things churches have to do to get into a growth mode. It just may be that we have put our tastes, comforts and preferences before everything else. You can make all of these changes painless if you will do it for Jesus' sake and for the sake of reaching the lost and unchurched.

By the way, the best shot-in-the-arm you can get as you start the new church year is to bring all of your workers to the State Sunday School Convention. We have a good one planned for you. I am praying that we can have the greatest year of ingathering in our history.

VICKI WICKLIFFE

Woman's Viewpoint

A remedy for stress



"I will hear what God the Lord will speak; for He will speak peace to His people" (Psalm 85:8).

Our busy, hurried lives in our society cause so much stress and anxiety. We search for peace. What works? A 15-minute exercise program claims that is what we need. Hundreds of books claim the answer for the '90s stress. Vitamins, meditation, more money, more leisure time, surely a different job would work.

If something claimed to work miracles to relieve stress and give us peace we would rush to purchase it. It would be on the shopping network and in every store. The world's cures will not work. We need the peace only God can offer.

We think we already should have that peace if we are Christians. You can be in church every Sunday and be fully time committed to the church, but it may only seem like another stress or time commitment to load us down.

God's peace only comes when we are willing to spend time with Him on a daily basis. It is like any relationship, it requires quality time alone with Him.

He will not force us or interrupt the television or knock us down, although He can. It takes a small amount of time compared to our other time commitments. We keep job or doctor appointments, yet it is so easy not to keep our quiet time appointments. We can usually watch a favorite show for 30 minutes but would feel that would be too much time to give God.

God will work miracles in our lives if we will spend time with Him and allow Him to speak to us. A few minutes a day can change our lives dramatically. The results will be the peace beyond what the world can offer or even understand. If you have had that peace before and have neglected your daily walk with God, it only takes a prayer to get it back. Don't allow guilt to stand in the way of a newly committed quiet time and miss that peace we all need so much.

Vicki Wickliffe is the wife of Verne Wickliffe, pastor of Malvern First Church. They have two children, Kara, 10, and Troy, 7. She is director of the Children's Center at the church.

Personal perspectives

"Our missions base is only as strong as our home base. If we don't have a strong base here in our state, we won't have a strong base elsewhere."

—Julia Ketrner, executive director,
Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union

"What the Lottie Moon Offering is to a foreign missionary, the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering is to a director of missions."

—Jeff Cheatham, director of missions,
Arkansas River Valley Association

"Stress runs deep and tensions high but opportunities for ministry abound... We pray God's Spirit will move among the military as He has been moving among the migrants."

—Joe Capper, Baptist military chaplain,
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Great needs, great opportunities

Would you be willing to donate the cost of one soft drink to reach a person with the gospel of Christ? How about a week of focused personal prayer to help seek spiritual awakening throughout Arkansas?

Those are some of the challenges before Arkansas Baptists as we enter the 1994 Season of Prayer for State Missions and give to the annual Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions.

How does it work? The 1994 offering goal is \$650,000. With an estimated 1 million unchurched people throughout the state, reaching the offering goal means Arkansas Baptists will have 65 cents available per unreached prospect to help meet their spiritual needs. Obviously, 65 cents per person isn't going to succeed in reaching every person in the state with the gospel, but \$650,000 channeled into carefully planned ministry opportunities can and will make a significant spiritual impact.

Of course, the opposite also is true. Falling short of the offering goal means vital ministry needs will go unmet. That is what happened last year when 500,000 Arkansas Baptists failed to reach the 1993 goal of \$650,000.

A mere \$1.30 per church member is all that is needed to achieve the goal. \$2 per

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



person would push offering receipts to \$1 million. Although history indicates thousands of Arkansas Baptists won't get around to contributing anything to the annual missions emphasis, there are thousands more who are capable of giving far more than \$2 for the cause of Christian ministry throughout the state.

And remember, the annual offering is not primarily about money; it is about people. The funds provided by Arkansas Baptists are used for starting new churches, chaplaincy programs, language missions, migrant and literacy missions, summer missions projects, leadership development programs and theological education.

That's where the Week of Prayer focus comes in. Even more important than the

amount of money given is the spiritual preparation for effective ministry throughout the state. The annual Week of Prayer emphasis provides local churches the opportunity to educate and equip their members to become prayer warriors for the cause of state missions.

It has been suggested that three keys to successful state missions are: pray, pay and play. Praying for specific ministry needs around the state, providing financial resources to help meet those needs and becoming personally involved as a team player in such ministries as resort missions, interfaith witnessing, literacy training or volunteer chaplaincy will ensure ongoing opportunities for life-changing ministry encounters.

"Mission Arkansas '94: ACT NOW!" is the theme of this year's state missions emphasis. As Arkansas Baptists become aware of the numerous ministry priorities included in the annual effort, acting now is a natural response.

One of the Scripture challenges highlighted in this year's state missions planning guide is 1 John 3:18, "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." The needs are great, almost overwhelming at times, but the ministry opportunities are equally great.

The time to act is now.

State missions: a success story

By James H. Hudson, MD
Member, Calvary Church, Osceola

Despite having practiced medicine for 15 years, I occasionally come across a case that stops me in my tracks. This occurred several weeks ago at our migrant health clinic. A family of Spanish-speaking farm laborers brought their 12-year-old son to the clinic with painful swelling over his collar bone. I was sick as I examined this child, realizing that the swelling was very possibly a cancer. Arrangements were made through Carl Schmidt, our associational Hispanic missionary, to have the child seen by Dr. Max Haynes, a local pediatrician.

Dr. Haynes, one of several Christian doctors who volunteer their time to the migrant health clinics, saw the child and sent him to St. Jude's Hospital for further testing. Because God answers prayer, the boy's mass was found to be a benign infection. Through this experience, Schmidt was able to lead the entire family to salvation.

This is only one of the wonderful

miracles that God has performed in the last five years through the Hispanic mission work in Mississippi County. The work started as a summer mission project under the leadership of associational director of missions Marvin Reynolds. As the project grew, it was obvious that God wanted full-time work among the Hispanic community in Mississippi County as he prepared Carl Schmidt for the task.

Schmidt was born in Colombia, South America, and educated in an English-speaking school there. Following his conversion, he felt led to full-time Christian service and enrolled in Mid-America Seminary in Memphis. Schmidt was initially involved in the summer mission work in Mississippi County that has evolved into a full-time ministry.

However, Schmidt is not the only vessel God has used to further His mission work in Mississippi County. In the spring of 1993, Schmidt was asked to speak in our pastor's absence one Wednesday night at Calvary Church in Osceola. He told us of his work and the love God has for the migrant community in Mississippi County.

God was involved in that service and touched our people's hearts. Through the leadership of our pastor, Eddie Clemons, our church started coordinating a special mission project now known as the Migrant Health Clinic.

All organizations of the church became involved. Lay volunteers (teachers, secretaries and pianists) started training as nurse's assistants. The Brotherhood led the church in fund raising while the Womens' Missionary Union made health packets containing personal grooming needs and tracts that spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in Spanish. The work was greatly helped by thousands of dollars of medicine donated by several drug manufacturers.

The clinic has expanded this year by involving more local churches and volunteers. Through the work of Carl Schmidt and two summer missionaries, Elizabeth Mendoza and Monica Villarreal, many more souls have been reached. Over 120 professions of faith have been made thus far this year and we pray that we will continue to help serve God in this work.

Conference changes sites to allow Falwell to preach

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The on and off invitation for Jerry Falwell to preach during next month's Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference is on again, according to pastors' conference president Wallace Edgar.

Falwell will be the closing speaker for the Oct. 31 conference at First Church, Little Rock. The state convention annual meeting, which begins the following day, will be at Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Much of the uncertainty about Falwell's participation has centered around the original location of the conference at Immanuel Church—President Bill Clinton's home church—and Falwell's promotion of an anti-Clinton videotape on his "Old Time Gospel Hour" television program.

Edgar, pastor of Trinity Church in Texarkana, extended the invitation for Falwell to speak at the conference, noting that "several people said it would be a boost in evangelism, soul-winning and witnessing to invite Dr. Falwell."

Following a meeting this summer with Immanuel pastor Rex Horne, state convention executive director Don Moore and convention president Ronnie Rogers, however, Edgar sent a letter to Arkansas Baptist pastors announcing that he had "been asked by some of our state leadership that (Falwell) not be permitted to come." He added that Falwell "said he understood and would honor their request."

Horne, who said he would personally "accept any blame" for asking that Falwell not speak at Immanuel, insisted that Edgar,



Independent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell will be the closing speaker for the 1994 Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Moore and Rogers "had nothing to do with the decision."

Although he initially was willing for Falwell to speak during the conference at Immanuel, Horne said a closer examination of what Falwell was promoting on his television program led him to determine "that I was not comfortable having Falwell in our pulpit."

Noting that Immanuel is "first a church and not a convention center," he said, "I

feel a responsibility to our people for what I preach and practice and what we believe together. I feel certain things are appropriate and other things are not."

"I respect the pastors' conference leadership and their right to invite whoever they want and meet wherever they want," Horne said. He reiterated, however, that the move to withdraw Falwell's invitation "was something I requested. The decision was mine alone."

Following the statewide mailout to pastors, Edgar said he was "flooded with letters," most of which favored Falwell speaking at the conference. In response, Edgar contacted Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, about moving the pastors' conference to Elliff's church.

"It wasn't going to work out for Dr. Falwell to come if it was at Immanuel," Edgar acknowledged. "Having it at First Baptist will take the attention away from the controversial issue of having it at Immanuel."

Elliff, who said he is not a big fan of either Falwell or Clinton, explained, "It's not a big deal. Our decision was not so much pro-Falwell as the right of the pastors' conference to have who they want to have. We felt like if this is what the elected officers wanted to do and it's within reason, we ought to accommodate that. I don't have so much against Falwell that I would negate his coming."

Despite the controversy surrounding Falwell's presence, Edgar said, "We're looking forward to a great conference. We're expecting God to do some great things."

Focusing on the theme, "Reaching People with the Only Hope... Jesus," Edgar added, "I hope pastors can come away with a greater motivation to witness, win people and bring them into the Kingdom."

Protests prompt station to drop Falwell's show

Jerry Falwell, a prominent independent Baptist pastor and evangelist, is no stranger to controversy. A Jacksonville, Fla., television station recently cancelled his program in response to protests about the show's political content.

The protestors picketed WTLV-TV in opposition to what they described as sexually explicit language used by Falwell to describe allegations that President Bill Clinton made unwanted romantic advances toward a state employee when he was governor of Arkansas in 1991.

Falwell's "Old Time Gospel Hour" carried excerpts from a videotape which accused Clinton of arranging for the murder of an Arkansas investigator, among other claims. Falwell offered the tapes to viewers for \$43 each.

Falwell's representatives asked to air the video on Southern Baptists' ACTS cable network, but the Radio and Television Commission declined, said Deborah Key, RTVC vice president for network operations.

"We basically have an unwritten policy that we try to keep the networks out of the political arena," Key explained. "The Falwell

piece was not only very politically charged but was making some very strong allegations that we didn't feel were appropriate for the networks."

Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference president Wallace Edgar, who invited Falwell to speak at the statewide meeting next month, said he has heard of the video but he has not seen it.

Matthew Watson, pastor of Trinity Church in Mabelvale, is among Arkansas Baptists who have seen Falwell's promotion of the video. As a result, he said, "I will attend the pastors' conference but not the part when Jerry Falwell's there."

Describing himself as "a conservative, fundamental Baptist preacher," Watson said, "I'm not against Falwell for his doctrine or theology. I'm saying we don't need his political baggage in Arkansas." He said he has spoken with several pastors throughout the state who feel the same way.

Noting that Falwell "did a tremendous job preaching at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Orlando" earlier this year, Edgar added, "By and large, our pastors are saying if we want to come we will; if not they don't have to."

Student missionaries make lasting impact

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Hi, my name is Shaun Simmons. I come to Rachel Sims to learn about Jesus. I like Ms. Trevia the most of all because she teaches me fine. Thank you for this building, games and teachers," the letter read. "Ms. Trevia" is Arkansas college student Trevia Mansell from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

The letter was among many that arrived on the desk of Julie Peacock, an associate in the student department of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Peacock supervises all college students who participate in student summer missions in the state, including activities held at Rachel Sims, one of three Baptist inner-city ministry sites in New Orleans. Peacock noted that Arkansas Baptists have a standing relationship with Louisiana to send a team, comprised this year of 12 members, to help with the New Orleans ministries. "A couple of the students were second and third timers," Peacock explained. "They develop special relationships with the kids that come to the mission centers and with members of the community."

One student, Jaimie Harmon, decided to stay as a semester missionary at Rachel Sims. "Seeing how bad things have gotten in New Orleans has made me really realize the urgency of ministry," Harmon reported. Peacock is "counting big" on the dedication of Harmon and others like him to continue ministry in the summers to come.

"One hundred and seven Arkansas college students participated in some form of summer missions around the world this year," explained Diane Parker, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist student ministries department. "Eighty-four of those students are directly sponsored by Arkansas BSU and 23 have been sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Thirty-three have been overseas assignments and 74 have served in the U.S."

The students served both on ten-week assignments and on short-term projects, Parker noted. "Five summer missionaries have made a commitment to career missions or ministry," she said. The student missions force saw more than 230 professions of faith over the summer. Baptist Student Unions on campuses throughout the state raised nearly \$55,000 to help support the ministry.



Teresa Stephens (on ladder) and Krissie Wood paint an inner-city church as part of a student mission project.

Extensive planning goes into deciding what ministry requests will be granted, budget allocations and student assignments. Lynn Loyd, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, is a member of the planning committee. "We get requests from everywhere — more than we can fill," he said. "We take the budget and start working from there.... It costs on the average \$1,200 per student to send out a summer missionary. But it will be the greatest experience they'll have in their lives — and it's a great return for our money in terms of evangelism."

One of the students in Loyd's BSU group also decided to stay as a semester missionary at his assignment — in Australia. Brad Kinsey, a junior assigned to Annerley Baptist Church in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, felt his youth work was not at a point where he could leave. "It's been tough here, but I just didn't feel like I was finished," Kinsey reported. Even though Kinsey initially had doubts about staying, he noted that "God was reassuring — I was about to lead an eight-grader to the Lord that week."

Another student serving internationally had his world view broadened by serving at a Baptist camp in Israel. Jason Cunningham, from Ouachita Baptist University, was part of a team that conducted camps for English-speaking children and youth.

Cunningham found the most rewarding experiences came one on one. A high school youth, Sari Ateck, whose father is an Anglican priest in Jerusalem, seemed particularly interested when Cunningham shared his testimony one evening. "We walked and talked about what it meant to be a Christian," Cunningham said. "We even decided that if you picked on someone, in good humor, you should pray for him in case he took it wrong!"

The young man, who served as a junior counselor, "had a loving heart when helping with the younger kids," noted Cunningham. "He told me that he had received Christ the night I gave my testimony."

Other trips, although not as exotic, can also be intensely meaningful to the students participating. Teresa Stephens, BSU director at SAU Tech, led one of three short-term summer missions groups. It was the first time a student team from Arkansas had been involved in the Mississippi River Ministry. Stephens also serves on the state planning committee, and had the Delta on her heart for a couple of years. "I thought it was a good idea to let 'home folks' know that we love them deeply," she said.

Stephens and nine students went to Brinkley Heights Baptist Church in Memphis to help pastor Tim Cox prepare his inner-city church for an extensive summer program. "Seventeen other churches sent teams to do Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs — four each day for the entire summer," Stephens explained. "What they needed was a prep team."

Stephens' team cleaned up — they painted the outside of the church building, cleaned the inside from pews to bathrooms and organized two storage rooms. The students also led local Bible studies and manned the church's food and clothing distributions ministries.

During the week, Stephens emphasized the power of prayer. "I wanted the kids to realize it was more than slapping some paint on a wall — it was a mission," she explained. "Everything we did, we did in prayer."

One student, Natalia Mayfield from Williams Baptist College, reflected the group's emphasis during prayer time one evening. "Lord, as I was picking up rusty nails today, I thought of you," she said.

Arkansas Baptist singing groups to hold annual retreat Oct. 20-21

Arkansas ministers and church music leaders will meet for fellowship and "practice, practice, practice" during the Master/Singers/Singing Women Retreat, said Rob Hewell.

The retreat, set for Oct. 20-21 at Ouachita Baptist University, is open to all current members and potential members of the Master/Singers men's singing group and Singing Women of Arkansas.

"Our Master/Singers target group includes full-time, bivocational or volunteer ministers of music or church staff members," explained Hewell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department. "For Singing Women, we are looking for interested choir members, accompanists and women in music leadership in churches."

Hewell noted that the retreat will feature a "straightforward" program: "Practice, fellowship, practice, eat, practice, sleep."

Group members will practice a new slate of music for their 1995 engagements. "We tried to pick music that will challenge the musicians in the group and music that they will go back and use in their churches," Hewell said.

The two groups plan to give musical presentations at the 1995 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference and "Festivals of Music" at Hope and Marked Tree. "They are more than a concert," Hewell pointed

out. "They are worship services."

He said the two groups offer members an opportunity "to build and maintain relationships with their peers, lead others to experience worship and to provide quality musical experience through a variety of styles."

Larry Grayson, minister of music for Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, said the "best thing" about being a Master/Singer "is the fellowship with peers."

"It is an opportunity to be what you lead at home: a choir member," said Grayson, who also serves as president of the group. "For most of us, too, it is not every day we can be in a group that produces that kind of sound."

Barbara Hulsey, volunteer music director for Owensville Church in Lonksdale, said being a member of Singing Women is "spiritually refreshing. It is like a retreat. It is a time where we do not have to be the director and that takes the pressure off."

Membership dues for Master/Singers is \$15 per person and \$5 per person for Singing Women members. Membership must be renewed annually prior to the retreat. There is no cost for the retreat. Hewell urged those interested in joining one of the groups to contact the ABCS church music ministries office for more information at 376-4791, ext. 5121.

SUMMIT '94: 'Making a Difference'

The program of SUMMIT '94 will lead Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women into "Making a World of Difference," explained Monica Keathley. She said the first-time conference, to be held Oct. 21-22 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, "will give participants the tools and encouragement to make a difference at home and the world at large."

Keathley, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union department, said the conference is designed to replace retreats held at Camp Paron. "This is a new approach," she noted. "We can accommodate more women at Park Hill and it will be more of a conference setting than a retreat setting."

Although it is designed for Baptist Women and BYW, Keathley said the conference "is for any woman who would enjoy a weekend of inspiration, challenge and spiritual growth."

The program will include keynote speaker Jennifer Kennedy Dean, a well-

known author and speaker; worship leader Babbie Mason, a five-time Dove Award nominee; dramatic theme interpreter Deborah Brunt; Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the national WMU; and Steve and Kathy Dewbre, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to Transkei.

In addition to the general sessions, the program will include 14 special-interest seminars. Featured seminar topics will include community ministry, time management, missions lifestyle, relationships, money management, priority management and more.

SUMMIT '94 will begin with a general session Friday at 7 p.m. and conclude Saturday at 3 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and includes Saturday lunch, a totebag and a concert by Babbie Mason Friday night. Participants are responsible for their own lodging and meals.

For more information or a registration brochure, contact the state WMU department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5137.

Sunday School training targets ministers, directors

Sunday School general officers "will be equipped with the latest information related to teaching and learning at each session of the State Sunday School Convention," said Milton Redeker, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department.

The convention will be held Sept. 23-24 at Geyer Springs First Church. The theme for the convention is "BREAKTHROUGH: Witness to Win."

Redeker encouraged pastors, ministers of education and general Sunday School directors to attend the convention, noting that the curriculum is especially applicable to them.

"The Friday evening program for general officers will begin a five-hour timeframe which will build session by session," Redeker explained. He said the Learning Lifestyles and Prayer conference "is especially appropriate because of the variety of family lifestyles of today."

Additional conferences will include topics for ministers of education in smaller churches and large churches, pastors as ministers of education and "The Minister of Education and Sunday School in the 21st Century."

The general officers' program will feature conference leaders: Ron Pratt, consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board; Ray Zacharias, national BSSB sales director; Truett King, regional consultant for the BSSB Church Growth Group; Tommy Gilmore of Cornerstone Ministries in Atlanta; Alga Hitchcock, intercessory prayer director for First Baptist Church, Altus, Okla.; Dennis Coop, minister of education for Park Hill Church, North Little Rock; and Gearl Spicer, minister of education for Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

The general conference will feature Bill Taylor, executive pastor/minister of education and administration for North Phoenix Baptist Church.

The convention will begin on Friday at 6:30 p.m. Saturday conferences will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:45 p.m.

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

Two Arkansas ACTS affiliates earn honors

Two Arkansas ACTS (American Christian Television System) affiliates earned honors at the recent "Night of Honors" awards ceremony in Fort Worth, Texas. ACTS of Fort Smith was named "Affiliate of the Year" and Acts of Little Rock was honored with the program series award for "Window on Little Rock" with Jane Krutz.

The awards are presented each year by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. The Night of Honors recognizes outstanding achievements by local ACTS affiliates throughout the nation for local production, promotion, community service and channel management.

Cindy Grebe, production director for ACTS of Fort Smith (Channel 21) and the station's only full-time employee, said the honor "means a lot. It shows that we are doing a lot of programming, involving a lot of faith groups and including a wide variety of topics. We're basically a busy bunch."

The affiliate is a ministry of First Church of Fort Smith, which provides studio and office space for production. The station is its ninth year of broadcasting and reaches 28,000 homes in the Fort Smith area.

Grebe said one of the station's "strong points" is the talk show "Fort Smith Alive," which won first runner-up in the Night of Honors Best Human Interest Series category. The show, which has run weekly for eight years, won the award last year.

Grebe said local interest and volunteers make Fort Smith Alive a success. "We may do the Fort Smith stock show one week and the Fort Smith chorale the next week," she said. "We are hitting a lot of important areas and getting our message across because the programming is relevant to needs in the community."

"Our programs cover different community topics from the Christian perspective using professionals from the community who volunteer their time," Grebe noted. "We are run with one full-time employee and have lots of volunteers. Our hosts on Fort Smith Alive are Joe Riggins, who works for Arkansas Best Freight Company, and Cheri Edwards, a local housewife. They have been with us since ACTS came on the air."

Channel 21, which broadcasts 24 hours a day, also uses worship services and programming from other local churches. "For local church programming, they provide the camera operators and volunteers and I work the control room," Grebe explained.

Grebe said that she is surprised by Arkansas affiliates' continual honors at ACTS events. "Arkansas really made a good showing considering the number of

Just Kids' receives \$7,500 award

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Linda Bennett said she was overcome with emotion when she received a check for \$7,500 from "Covenant" to help produce the television series "Just Kids."

"Just Kids" is simulcast every Saturday on ACTS and FamilyNet at 10 a.m. ACTS is the cable television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission that reaches more than 20 million homes. FamilyNet, the RTVC's broadcast television service, reaches into more than 50 million homes.

"Covenant" is a voluntary fellowship that attempts to offset pornography and violence in media by acquiring and producing positive Christian values programs for ACTS and FamilyNet.

"This is the best thing that has happened to us," said Bennett, executive director of ACTS of Little Rock. "The support and encouragement for what we're doing...I'm just overwhelmed."

RTVC president Jack Johnson said Bennett represents all that is good in "real Christian" television. "If we're going to turn things around in this country, save our children and grandchildren from the satanic clutches of

pornography and violence that dominate much of the media, we need a lot of Linda Bennetts," he said.

When Bennett was employed by ACTS of Little Rock (Channel 27) in 1986, she was put in charge of program development and promotion.

"Because I was concerned about the lack of children's programming with biblical values, 'Just Kids' was the first thing I suggested. I was told to put the program together and format it."

"This was the first program produced by ACTS of Little Rock," Bennett said, "and our purpose in doing it was — and still is — to bring scriptural messages to life for children."

The program premiered Oct. 4, 1986, in Little Rock. It began airing nationwide in May 1991.

To date, Bennett has produced 64 "Just Kids" programs. The infusion of financial support from "Covenant" will help her produce 13 new programs.

"We're revamping, updating...making the new programs livelier," she said. "But the primary emphasis isn't going to change. Jesus Christ will still be at the center of each program."

affiliates around the country," she said. "Other affiliates have nicer facilities and better equipment."

Linda Bennett, executive director of ACTS of Little Rock (Channel 27), agreed. "Actually, any time we are given an award for something we have done we are humbled. We have so little in equipment and staff, it amazes me how God blesses."

"He can take something and make it even bigger and better than we imagined," Bennett said. "It's nice to receive an award and know your peers like your work and respect it."

Like the Fort Smith affiliate, one of Channel 27's premier programs is a community-based show, "Window on Little Rock" with Jane Krutz, which won this year's program series award.

"Window on Little Rock is the first locally-produced, community-oriented program we've done," said Bennett. "We formatted the program to appeal to all areas of the community, no matter what denominational beliefs you have."

"The purpose of Window is to bring information to people on the community, churches and things that are of interest to people," she explained. "It also seeks to

draw viewers into Christian television through programming and to draw them into Christ in a subtle way—through a devotional thought Jane does during the end of the program."

Bennett said the show's format includes two local-interest interviews by Krutz, a local businesswoman and community leader, "Window on Your Money" and "Window on Your Health."

Channel 27 is a ministry of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. "The main commitment of Geyer Springs has allowed us to become what we are," said Bennett, a member of Markham Street Church in Little Rock. "We feel very fortunate in their allowing us to continue."

She said the "best part" of the station, which reaches 80,000 households, "is being able to know we are one of the best-kept secrets in Little Rock."

Noting that "the future of the industry will be 500 networks," Bennett warned that "pornographers will be jumping at those open channels." She said that fact, along with other pressing needs in today's society, demonstrates that Little Rock needs quality Christian programming more than ever.

Church news

North Side Church at Monticello will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 18, beginning with a morning worship service for which Lonnie Latham, director of missions for Bartholomew Association, will be the speaker. A noon potluck meal will be followed by a 2 p.m. celebration service that will feature special music and greetings from former pastors. The dedication of an anniversary plaque, the release of Scripture balloons and the placement of a time capsule will conclude activities, according to pastor Steve Harrelson.

West Pulaski Church in Little Rock will dedicate recent building improvements Sept. 25 that were completed debt-free. The building program included sanctuary expansion and the addition of two restrooms, a nursery and office space as well as exterior improvements and the addition of a parking lot. Pastor Larry Devorak will preach the dedication sermon during the dedication service. Pulaski Association director of missions Glenn Hickey will give the charge to the church.

Life Line Church of Little Rock and **Mount Carmel Church** of Cabot combined choirs will present "God With Us" Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Cabot High School Fine Arts building and Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Life Line Church sanctuary. Jerry Miller, minister of music for Mount Carmel Church, will be the worship leader and Leslie Willis, minister of music for Life Line Church, will direct performances.

Immanuel Church in Little Rock will host a "Count It All Joy" fall women's conference Oct. 7-8 that will feature author and speaker Barbara Joiner of Birmingham, Ala. Conference highlights will include a 6 p.m. dinner Oct. 7 and a 9:30 a.m. coffee Oct. 8. Additional information is available by contacting the church at 376-3071.

Old Union Church near Monticello held revival services Aug. 15-19 that resulted in six professions of faith and one commitment to full-time Christian vocation. Walter Gilbreath of Longview, Texas, was the evangelist. Musicians were pianist Ken Wincaver of Monticello and vocalist Jamie McElroy of Crossett. Ernest McElroy is interim pastor.

Lake Ouachita Church at Mount Ida will observe 19 years of ministry Sept. 11 with homecoming activities including a morning worship, noon covered dish luncheon and an afternoon old-fashioned sing-a-long led by Lynn Thew. Former pastor Ross Williams will be the worship speaker. Eddie McCord is interim pastor.



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Bella Vista Church honored community leaders Aug. 19 with an ice cream social. Workers honored included the police, firemen and ambulance workers. George O'Neal is pastor.

Little Rock First Church recently recognized Ken Shephard for 15 years of service as assistant director of the church's Christian Family Life Center. Pastor Bill Elliff presented Shephard with a monetary gift from the church.

First Church of Russellville will host Bible Study Workshops Oct. 6-8 led by Precept Ministries of Chattanooga, Tenn. Additional information is available from Becky Wiley at 641-7346.

Ordinations

Nimmons First Church ordained pastor Robert Cox to the ministry Aug. 28.

Rector First Church ordained Johnny Fowler and Mark Thomas to the deacon ministry Aug. 14.

Kearney Church at Redfield ordained Joe Frisby and Dewey House to the deacon ministry Aug. 14.

Hartman First Church recently ordained Bob Roffahr as a deacon.

Lee Creek Church at Van Buren recently ordained Wilbur Crawford, Kenneth McGee and Kenny Trent to the deacon ministry.

Obituaries

Loyal Prior, a former Arkansas pastor, died Aug. 13 in Yorktown, Va., at the age of 80. Prior had been pastor of Woodlawn Church in Little Rock, First Church in Dardanelle and First Church in Norphlet, as well as Hilton Church in Newport News, Va. He was a graduate of Ouachita College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition, he had received an honorary doctorate from the Atlanta Law School. He had served on the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and Southwestern Seminary. Survivors are his wife, the former Frankie Jo Roberts of Little Rock; two children, Deborah Pridgen of Richmond

and David L. Prior of Alexandria, Va.; two brothers; two sisters; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Herbert Stinson Spaulter, a retired Southern Baptist minister, died Aug. 3 in Fayetteville where he was a member of First Church. Arkansas churches he had been pastor of were Turrell Church, Lee Chapel at Percy, Wattansaw Church and White River Church at Oil Trough. Survivors are his wife, Dorothy Waite Spaulter; three sons, Joel S. Spaulter and Daniel R. Spaulter, both of Seattle, Wash., and Stephen L. Spaulter of San Francisco, Calif.; and a sister.

John H. Baw of North Little Rock died Aug. 25 at age 72. His funeral services were held Aug. 27 at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock where he was a member. Baw, who was a supervisor for 20 years with the State of Arkansas Department of Human Services, had served as a minister of music in several central Arkansas churches. His survivors are his wife, Doris Light Baw; three sons, Dan Baw of North Little Rock, former Arkansas pastor Dennis Baw of Hurst, Texas, and Marty Baw of Memphis; a daughter, Susan Baw of Conway; a brother; two sisters; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Staff changes

Tommy Blackmon is serving as pastor of Northside Church in Eudora. This is his first full-time pastorate, having previously served as a summer youth worker and as an interim pastor. A native of Louisiana, he is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Joel Olive has joined the staff of First Church in Mountain View as minister of music and youth. Olive, who moved to Mountain View from Earle Church, has served as a staff member of other Arkansas churches since 1977. He is a graduate of Williams Baptist College, Ouachita Baptist University and Arkansas State University. He and his wife, Belinda, have a daughter, Rachel.

Ron Sanders began serving Aug. 28 as pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock, coming there from three years of service as vice president for development at Williams Baptist College. He previously was pastor of Southern Baptist churches in five states. He and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of two sons, Mark, who resides in Jonesboro, and David, a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University.

Roger Littleton joined the staff of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock Aug. 21 as associate pastor of students and outreach. He previously has served churches in Missouri, Oklahoma and Mississippi. Littleton is a graduate of the University of Tulsa and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jayme, have three children, Jonathan, Alyssa and Karl.

Mark Harris is pastor of Columbia Jarrett Church at Maynard. He is a sophomore at Williams Baptist College. He and his wife, Joan, have two children, Jennifer and Ashley.

Edgar Joe "Jody" Gannaway began serving Aug. 21 as pastor of Temple Church in Dermott, having previously been pastor there from 1962-1970. In addition he has been pastor of St. Charles Church, Magnolia Church in Crossett and First Church in Glenwood, as well as Northside Church in Bernie, Mo. An Arkansas native, he attended Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Gannaway has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive board and Baptist Student Union advisory committee. He is married to the former Meverine Duncan Long of Dermott. They have five children, Rhonda Smiley, Karen Tyson, Tonda Franklin, Keith Long Gannaway and Jonathan Gannaway, and 10 grandchildren.

Brad Banks became the new pastor of Emmanuel Church in Forrest City July 24, coming there from five years of service as pastor of Straight Bayou Church in Anguilla,

Miss. He is a graduate of Criswell College and Mid-America Seminary. Banks and his wife, Libby, have three children, Bethany, Daniel and Paul.

Cary Jones of Jay, Okla., began serving Aug. 7 as pastor of Shady Grove Church at Van Buren. He previously was pastor of Immanuel Church in Maysville. Jones and his wife, Brenda, have three daughters, Heather, Amber and Hannah.

Don and Vivian Tallison recently retired as Southern Baptist home missionaries, following 23 years of service in Alaska. The last seven years were spent in Nome where he served as a chaplain to both the Nome prison and hospital. Tallison, who previously was pastor of Arkansas churches in Prattsville and Arkadelphia, is now available to be either an interim or supply pastor or to do mission studies. He may be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 85, Prattsville, AR 72129; phone 699-5001.

Allan McKinley joined the staff of Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff Aug. 21 as minister of youth, coming there from 14 years of service as a staff member of East Side Church in Pine Bluff. He and his wife, Rose Lynn, have a son, James Micah.

Charles Hampton is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Glenwood, going there from South Fork Church. Hampton, who retired in 1988 as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to South Africa, has been pastor of Hazen Church and churches in Texas.

Eddie McCord is serving as interim pastor of Lake Ouachita Church at Mount Ida.

McCord, who has been pastor of Arkansas churches and currently is chairman of the 150th anniversary committee for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, recently retired as director of missions for Independence Association.

Carl Choate has resigned as pastor of First Church of Royal, following a year of service.

Shane McNary has resigned as associate pastor of Trinity Church in Benton to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

J. Roland Spears has resigned as pastor of First Church in Gravette to move to Texas.

Steve Williams has resigned as minister of music and youth at Open Door Church in Rogers to move to New Mexico.

Lynwood Henderson is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Fordyce. Henderson, who retired from 35 years in the pastoral ministry in 1986 after seven years as pastor of Calvary Church in West Memphis, has been pastor of churches in Arkansas and other states. He also served for more than two years as part-time director of missions for Centennial Association.

Roy McLeod is serving as interim pastor of Bluffton Church. He previously has been pastor of churches in both Arkansas and Missouri.

John A. "Jack" Albritton is the new pastor of Lake Village Church. He came there from Brandon, Miss., where he was interim minister of evangelism. He previously has served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Albritton is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jane, are parents of three children, Amy Marie, Anne Elizabeth and Andy Morris.

Marvin D. Merrill is serving in his first field of service as bivocational pastor of First Church in Hector where he was ordained to the ministry Aug. 28. Merrill, who is general manager of Russellville Nursing Centers, was a member of First Church there. He is enrolled in an external studies program of Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Jo, have two sons, Grant and Ryan.

Clinton Smith joined the staff of Pleasant Hill Church in Cherry Valley Sept. 4 as minister to youth, going there from the staff of First Church in Helena. Smith, who is a student at Mid-America Seminary, previously served as minister to youth at Antioch Church in Brookland. He is married to the former Beth Gryner of Keiser.



Immanuel Church in Fort Smith recently broke ground for a new activities building that will be constructed debt-free. Those participating in the service were Gary Foster, James Woody, Jay Sorrels, Ron Watson, pastor Richard Maness and David Armbruster.

Dixie Jackson gifts fund



"State missions has supported us through the Mississippi River Ministry, sending volunteers to repair homes, Bibles, conducting Vacation Bible School, and medical missions. State missions also helped us purchase land and a portable chapel. Searcy County Church and state missions have been involved in starting or reviving five missions. If it were not for state missions, we would not have been able to reach out to so many needs."

—*Rena Treat,*
member, Searcy County
Church Marshall



"What has the Dixie Jackson Offering done for me? I can be a full-time state chaplain and pastor

where I serve. Because of your offerings to Dixie Jackson, this year we will pass 1,000 souls saved and baptized at the Job Corps, where I have served Jesus these past 10 years. Because Jesus has led in the offering. He has led you all and you've led in helping it all be possible here with me."

—*Ron Clark*
chaplain,
CCC Job Corps, Cass

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas Baptists must "Act Now!" to support state missions efforts through the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions, urged Jimmy Barrentine.

Barrentine, director of missions for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, said the need is urgent because "it is the largest single source of funding for state missions" and that Arkansas Baptists failed to reach last year's goal of \$650,000.

"We reached about \$630,000 last year," he said. "We were short mainly because of the response to Iowa missions connected with flood relief."

He predicted that this year's goal, again \$650,000, can be reached. "I'm very optimistic about reaching the goal. Arkansas Baptist churches have demonstrated their belief in state missions."

Arkansas Baptists will observe an emphasis Sept. 18-25 featuring a "Season of Prayer" for the offering. The offering is named in memory of Dixie Jackson, who served as the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union corresponding secretary from 1914-29.

Allocations detailed

This year's theme is "Mission Arkansas 94: Act Now!" Arkansans already are acting now through ministries supported by the Dixie Jackson Offering. Among those efforts are:

■ Church extension: The largest percentage (26 percent) of this year's offering, \$169,000, is designated for church extension.

"Think of it as new church starts in Anglo and black communities," Barrentine noted. He said funding of new church starts, money for purchasing strategic properties and small church loans are included in the allocation.

Jack Ramsey, an associate in the missions department, highlighted the need for church extension funds. "According to the latest census information, approximately 45 percent of our population is unchurched. Because our population is growing, the total number of unchurched people is getting larger each year. There are approximately 60,000 more unchurched people in our state than a year ago."

Ramsey reported that in the last year, "Ten missions have constituted into churches and five have bought property for new churches. We presently have 43 Anglo missions and eight black missions, and 65 percent of missions are showing attendance growth."

■ Chaplaincy ministries: \$154,000 of this year's offering (24 percent) will be used to fund works that Barrentine says have resulted

in more than 500 professions of faith this year at prisons, services centers, the Job Corps Center at Cass and the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center.

"It receives a lot of funding," Barrentine said, "but gives a lot of returns."

Missions department associate Carter Tucker said the five full-time, five part-time and numerous volunteer chaplains "have been there to present the gospel and disciple those who accept Jesus as Savior."

Highlighting the results of a few of the ministries, Tucker noted, "About 150 a year come to a saving knowledge of Christ in Pulaski County jail. Cass Job Corps continues to be an evangelistic highlight. Among those young men, age 17-22, chaplain Ron Clark has baptized more than 100 since this time last year. Roy Remont, chaplain of Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, has brought the love of God to many with serious injuries and handicaps."

■ Church and community ministries: Fifteen percent of Dixie Jackson receipts (\$97,000) will help fund church and community ministries in the state, including migrant ministries, Mississippi River Ministry and literacy missions.

Tommy Goode, a missions department associate, said migrant ministries have led to more than 200 professions of faith and that "over 10,000 migrants have been ministered to in a variety of ways ranging from Bible studies to health kits."

"Mississippi River Ministry projects also report people coming to the Lord and communities being changed as people are clothed, fed, taught to read and write and helped to understand God's love," Barrentine said.

■ Language missions: \$84,500 of offering receipts (13 percent) will be used for language missions to reach Hispanic, American Indian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean and other international groups.

Barrentine said department associate Jim Hausler has placed a strong emphasis on deaf ministries since coming to his post in May. "Jim has felt a burden for deaf missions in the state," he explained.

Hausler said there are about 18,000 deaf and more than 200,000 hearing-impaired people in Arkansas. "They are of every race, age and socio-economic background," he pointed out.

■ Leadership development: \$71,000 (11 percent) of the offering goal will be used for state and associational leadership development, Barrentine said.

He said the funds provide training of leadership in associational administration, student ministries, missions promotion and state missions special workers.

variety of state ministries

■ Missions ministries: \$52,000 (8 percent) of the goal will be allocated for a diverse group of special missions ministries, including student summer missions, resort ministries, clothing and interfaith witness.

Missions department associate Pete Petty reported that 19 student summer missionaries served through the missions department this summer, recording more than 150 professions of faith.

He also said four students from Florida "along with Maria Scott, a resort US-2 missionary, served with Ozark Mountain Ministry in Eureka Springs. They did ministry at Basin Park, worship services in campgrounds, street ministry and worked with local youth."

The ministry also attracted 275 people to the "Whatevertakes" workshop in March. "Reports have come to us all year on how people were trained during the conference to use creative arts in mission work. Mission trips have been taken to such places as Iowa, Mexico, Washington DC, Eureka Springs and Oklahoma," Petty said.

■ Continuing education: \$19,500 (3 percent) of the goal will be used for theological education at Boyce Bible School in Little Rock, seminary studies and other education outlets in Arkansas.

"Theological education touches many who cannot attend college or seminary," Tucker said. "They are touched by Boyce Bible School, Seminary Extension, Seminary Studies and the Individual Study Institute."

Ketner: Pastors key to promoting offering

The pastor is the key to promoting the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering, said Julia Ketner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. And she said there are several resources to help them do that during the 1994 Season of Prayer for State Missions, Sept. 18-25.

"We hope the pastor will lead from the pulpit in promoting state missions. Why not give a state missions sermon on the Sunday before the Season of Prayer?" she suggested.

Ketner believes information is essential for churches in missions promotion. "If our people are more informed here and learn to do missions where they are, then our other missions endeavors will be strong."

"I'm one that believes our missions base is only as strong as our home base" she added. "If we don't have a strong base here in our state, we won't have a strong base elsewhere."

She said a churchwide service guide and age-level studies mailed to all ministers in the state are "a good place to start" in promoting the Dixie Jackson Offering.

"The churchwide service is good for a

"Arkansas Baptists, through the Dixie Jackson Offering, provide assistance to many through scholarships," he added. "Prison inmates, who have no funds at all, receive scholarship assistance through the generosity of Arkansas Baptists."

Urgency noted

Barrentine said the urgency of reaching the offering goal increased when the Home Mission Board earlier this year cut about 6 percent of funds it sends to Arkansas for missions work. "We receive 16 to 18 percent of our budget from the Home Mission Board. If we don't reach our goal, we start out in the hole and lose the ability to do the amount of missions work we have done in the state," he said.

"Even if we are \$200 short, that's a month's supplement for a mission church; for every \$500 we don't have, we lose the ability to start a new work," he explained.

On the positive side, he added, "If we exceed our goal, that means we can move from the past pattern of starting 30 new churches a year. That's minimal. With changing populations and demographics in Arkansas, especially in the urban areas, we need to start 50 a year."

He said exceeding the goal also will mean additional ministries supported by Arkansans. "In particular, we can direct more to those who live in poverty, those without adequate health care and those who cannot read. That's what surpassing the goal will mean."

Wednesday evening or Sunday evening service," she said. "There is a suggested order of service, content is there, and prayer concerns are there."

"They may also go churchwide with an adult study presented on a Wednesday or Sunday night. It's written in a different format, of course, than the sermons." She said the studies also are available for older preschoolers, children and youth. "So a church has the option of doing it by age group or churchwide."

"Pastors also were sent planning guides and promotional posters to help with planning and promotion, as well as a new video," she said. "Use the video as a Wednesday night option. We used children with it, and it is delightful as well as informative."

She warned that not promoting the offering or failing to be involved in the Season of Prayer may mean again falling short of the statewide goal of \$650,000.

"If we don't meet our goal this year, we're going to have a cut in meeting the needs," she said. "That's no way to reach the one million people that are unreached in our state."



"Every time others come to help us, the support is linked directly to dollars given to the

Cooperative

Program and the Dixie Jackson Offering. Since 1991, close to 300 people have come to know the Lord. Every person and every church who gave had a part in this ministry."

-Carl Schmidt

Hispanic missionary,
Mississippi County
Association

"This summer, the offering helped

support Ozark Mountain Ministries around Eureka Springs.

Working with summer missionaries, a US-2 missionary and youth groups, Arkansas dollars helped hundreds of people hear the gospel. That's money well spent."

-Don Carter

pastor, First Church,
Eureka Springs



"As a result of the offering, aid has been given to our churches, three mobile chapels have been provided for

missions and funding was available for strategy planning, a mission probe and training. What the Lottie Moon Offering is to a foreign missionary, the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering is to a director of missions."

-Jeff Cheatham

director of missions,
Arkansas River
Valley Association



Administrative effort leads Southern professor to resign

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Molly T. Marshall, the first woman to teach theology at a Southern Baptist seminary, has resigned her teaching position at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary effective Dec. 31.

Marshall's resignation had been sought by the administration at the Louisville, Ky., seminary, according to seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. He said the administration had received complaints that Marshall's teaching fell outside the parameters of the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's statement of faith.

Marshall, an associate professor of Christian theology, has drawn fire from conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention throughout her decade of teaching.

She would have faced a formal dismissal process had she not resigned, Mohler said. That would have included a hearing before a panel of eight trustees and five faculty members. The panel's findings would have then been turned over to the full board of trustees for consideration.

Marshall, a tenured professor, and her supporters, however, contend that her teaching was within the seminary's doctrinal guidelines.

In an interview with Baptist Press Aug. 22, Marshall said, "I was given an ultimatum by the vice president, David Dockery, in June—but I must be very candid, David Dockery speaking on behalf of the president and the trustees—that I could either resign or be fired in October.

"There have been no specific charges," she said. After the verbal ultimatum, she said she asked for "written charges, and I've received none."

"There is a process for dismissal at our institution," Marshall noted. "I became convinced that... following that process to its conclusion would be a charade, given the intent of the administration and trustees. In other words, I believe the decision to terminate my employment here was made prior to any sustained inquiry into my theological views."

Mohler, in a statement to Baptist Press, maintained, "I'm fully convinced that Professor Marshall could and would have received a fair hearing, and I believe history will record that in this case the seminary took the right action in the right manner."

Mohler said his decision to seek Marshall's resignation was "based upon a very thorough investigation which included a careful and intensive reading of her published works and transcripts of oral presentations. In order to honor our process, I conducted a thorough conversation with both Professor Marshall and Dean Dockery concerning a large range of issues of concern. Thereafter, I assigned



Molly Marshall

subsequent conversations to the Dean of the School of Theology, which is the proper course of action, given our structure and process."

Mohler stated Marshall's gender was not a factor in his decision to ask for her resignation. While Mohler said he believes the New Testament forbids women from serving as pastors of churches, he said he does not believe that prohibition applies to seminary teaching.

Early in Marshall's career, her critics charged she espoused universalism, a belief that God would grant eternal life to everybody. Trustees cleared her of the charge and in 1988 she was given tenure by trustees.

In an Aug. 16 letter to Mohler, Marshall cited each of the 20 principles in the Abstract of Principles and outlined her beliefs as consistent with each.

On salvation, for example, she wrote, "Do I believe that persons can be saved apart from the 'only Mediator'? I do not.... Christ is God's sole mediator for our salvation. Hence, I clearly refute the notion of universalism."

As a popular professor, Marshall's theology classes were frequently filled to capacity. In 1993, she won the seminary's Findley B. and Louvenia Edge Award for Teaching Excellence.

In her final semester at Southern, Marshall will teach no master's level courses, but she will lead one doctoral level seminar. She will also continue to supervise her current doctoral students until they complete their studies. She reportedly will continue to receive her salary, benefits and office space until July 1996.

Faculty, trustees differ on views of resignation

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP/ABP)—Faculty and student groups at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have reacted strongly to the Aug. 22 resignation of theology professor Molly Marshall while trustees have voiced support for the administration.

Faculty members have adopted resolutions affirming Marshall and encouraging changes in the seminary's disciplinary procedures relating to faculty.

The resolution affirming Marshall noted, "In our opinion, her theology is in accordance with and not contrary to the Abstract of Principles." The resolution was adopted by a vote of 44 yes, 8 no and 6 abstentions.

In an earlier resolution, an independent association of faculty members said they are "outraged" over the "forced resignation" of Marshall, describing it as "unjustified" and "untimely."

"We have confidence in her as a teacher, scholar and minister who, for more than a decade, has taught in accordance with and not contrary to the Abstract of Principles," the resolution added.

Five student organizations issued a joint statement Aug. 24 calling "for a full and public investigation of the circumstances of her dismissal."

The groups—the Whitsitt Society for Baptist Freedom, Women

in Ministry, Christian Ethics Luncheon, Seminary Partners and Graduate Club—said Marshall's "coerced resignation has shocked and grieved us. Consequently we have grave concerns for the future and integrity of our institution."

Among trustees affirming the administration's call for Marshall's resignation, Arkansas trustee David Miller told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, "I am in total agreement with the administration's course in dealing with Molly Marshall."

Miller, a trustee vice president at Southern, is director of missions for Little Red River Association. "It is obvious that Molly Marshall was outside the parameters of the confessional document, the Abstract of Principles, and this is the reason she was asked to resign," he said.

Miller, who is in his sixth year as a seminary trustee, added that Marshall "has been a concern of mine from day one of my tenure on the board."

Jerry Johnson of Colorado, a trustee who serves on the board's academic personnel committee, said he is "in complete agreement" with seminary president AJ Mohler's handling of the situation with Marshall. "I am certain the entire committee would support him in it," he added.

Florida proposal seeks to reduce ties to HMB

JACKSONVILLE, FL (BP/ABP)—A Florida Baptist Convention committee has recommended a change in Florida's relationship with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board — effectively giving Florida Baptists sole control over mission work in the state in 1996 by retaining \$1.3 million in funds that formerly would have been channeled to the HMB.

The Florida convention would be the first in the SBC to abandon the traditional method of undesignated giving through the SBC Cooperative Program.

HMB president Larry Lewis said the plan could strike "a death blow to the very heart of what the Cooperative Program is about."

John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, cited two events that prompted the action — the decision of the HMB to cut funding of state conventions by 6 percent next year and the recent decision of the HMB trustees to study the agency's relationship to state conventions that handle contributions from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"They have no right to investigate us, just as we have no right to investigate them," Sullivan remarked.

Members of the convention's budget and allocations committee, which unanimously approved the proposal, said the HMB funding cut poses a threat to missions work in the state and violates the "Cooperative Agreement," the document that defines how the HMB and Florida convention will relate.

That agreement, which governs Southern Baptist missions work in all states, prohibits "unilateral actions in areas of cooperation" by either the HMB or the state convention, according to an official interpretation written by HMB vice president Ernest Kelley. The agreement also encourages state conventions "to assume administrative and financial responsibility for direct mission work now conducted by the HMB as rapidly as possible," Kelley wrote.

Lewis said he is "appalled and aghast that a budget planning committee would recommend that the state convention Cooperative Program allocation exclude the Home Mission Board or any major agency of the SBC."

He insisted the HMB did not act unilaterally in cutting funds to state conventions but negotiated the cuts in good faith with each state. "I can assure you that at no point and in no way does this violate the 'Cooperative Agreement,'" he added.

The Florida proposal came from a special budget study committee, which considered several ways to recoup the anticipated 6 percent cut in HMB funds. Since Florida receives less money than it sends to the HMB, the difference — about \$600,000 — would be sent through the SBC as a designation to the HMB to support missions work in other states.

All other Cooperative Program gifts from Florida churches — about \$8.3 million a year — will be sent through the SBC as

designated funds for distribution to all other agencies according to standard percentages.

The recommendation will be considered this week by the state board of missions and, if approved, placed on the Florida Baptist State Convention's Nov. 14-16 agenda in Daytona Beach.

Another proposal from the budget committee asks the state convention to endorse the concept of two annual special offerings instead of the current four. One spring offering would fund the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and state missions. A fall offering would support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and world hunger.

The Florida proposal is the latest in a series of state-level actions that are redefining the relationships between the SBC and state conventions.

Texas Baptists will vote this fall on a plan that would allow churches to designate all their Cooperative Program gifts for use in Texas, rather than sending a required portion to the SBC, and count contributions to virtually any Baptist cause, including CBF, as Cooperative Program.

In Virginia and North Carolina, churches are allowed to support alternative budgets that steer money away from SBC agencies and toward moderate alternatives.

"We're living with the reality that state conventions are radically redefining what the Cooperative Program is," acknowledged Lewis. "The very future of the Cooperative Program is being threatened."

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PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

New missionaries include six with Arkansas ties

Lewis and Nina Gentry, James "Jimbo" and Marci Miller and Barry and Tammy Walker are among Southern Baptists' newest foreign missionaries. The three Arkansas Baptist couples were among 35 people commissioned Aug. 1 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Gentrys will live in the Dominican Republic where he will work in theological education and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Gentry has served since 1992 as pastor of Central Church in Mineral Springs.

Born in Nashville, Ark., Gentry is the son of Irene Gentry of Stamps and the late Robert Gentry. He considers Stamps his hometown and First Church there his home church.

Gentry is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Mid-America Seminary. He also attended Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. He formerly was pastor of Liberty Church in Lawson as well as a church in Kansas.

Mrs. Gentry was born in Rison. She is the daughter of Ruthie Coats of Pine Bluff and the late Alvie Coats. She considers Pine Bluff her hometown and Matthews Memorial Church there her home church.

Mrs. Gentry is a graduate of the El Dorado branch of Southern Arkansas University. She also attended Arkansas State University and Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kan. She formerly was secretary to the academic dean at Southern



Lewis and
Nina Gentry



James and
Marcy Miller



Barry and
Tammy Walker

Lamar Lifer of Winter Haven, where her father is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. While growing up, she also lived in Little Rock, citing Olivet Church as influential in her Christian growth.

Mrs. Miller is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Arkansas State University. She has served as a church secretary, elementary teacher, preschool teacher and payroll clerk.

The Walkers will live in Japan where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in outreach ministries.

Walker is the son of Maureen Walker of Jonesboro and the late Ernest L. Walker Jr., a Southern Baptist minister. Walker considers Jonesboro his hometown and Nettleton Church there his home church. The Walkers cite Central Church in Jonesboro as influential in their Christian growth.

Walker is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Mid-America Seminary. He has served since 1991 as pastor of Riverdale Baptist Church in Tampa, Fla.

Mrs. Walker is the daughter of Jerry and Ellen Showalter of Riverside, Calif. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, she has served as a teacher's aide with Jonesboro Public Schools.

The couples will go to Rockville, Va., for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their respective mission fields.

Arkansas University in El Dorado.

The Gentrys have two children, Philip Wayne, who is grown, and James Daniel.

The Millers will live in Ecuador where he will start and develop churches and promote religious education. They also will be involved in outreach ministries.

Miller is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Miller of Bryant. He considers Bryant his hometown, citing Indian Springs Church there as influential in his Christian growth. He is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Mid-America Seminary.

Miller has been associate pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn., since 1992. He previously was associate pastor and youth minister at Richland Church in West Memphis. He also was youth minister at Newark Southern Church and First Church of Turrell.

Mrs. Miller was born in Forrest City. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. C.

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Missionary notes

John and Claudia Brown, missionaries to Malawi, are in the States (address: 1304 Graceland Dr., Newport, AR 72112). He was born in Pine Bluff and considers Star City his hometown. She is a Mississippi native.

Jim and Janet Dillard, missionaries to Kenya, are in the States (address: 1521 Maple Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301). He is a Tyrone native and she is from Kentucky.

Curtis and Betty Dixon, Baptist representatives to Angola, are in the States (address: 601 S. Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72205). They are natives of Oklahoma.

Lloyd and Betty Farmer, missionaries to Malawi, are in the States (address: 3802 Senator, Texarkana, AR 7552). He is a Crossett native. She considers Texarkana her hometown.

Thomas and Sharon Nowlin, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 1379 Walnut Hall Ct., Memphis, TN 38119). He was born in Brinkley and considers Marion his hometown. She was born in Stuttgart and considers West Memphis her hometown.

Thomas and Margaret Smith, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: Majia Sub-division, 6541 Ormoc City, Leyte, Philippines). Both are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Little Rock and considers Lonoke his hometown. She was born in Hazen and considers Hickory Plains her hometown.

Stephen and Tommie Smith, missionaries to Portugal, are on the field (address: Praceta Alves Redol, Lote 9 & 10, 2 Esq. Carnaxide, 2795 Linda-a-Velha, Portugal). He is a native of Camden. She considers North Little Rock her hometown.

Lon Vining has completed his two-year term of service in Tanzania (address: 1052 N. Phelps Circle, Arkadelphia, AR 71923). He is a native of Arkadelphia and a former minister of music and youth at First Church, Clarendon.

MK birthdays

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in September:

■ Sept. 5: Andrea Loucks, 504 Arkansas Union, Fayetteville, AR 72701; senior at the University of Arkansas from Equatorial Brazil.

■ Sept. 12: Elizabeth Weathers, OBU Box 3227, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; senior from Lebanon.

■ Sept. 19: Bryan Collins, 1906 Mt. Vernon, Jonesboro, AR 72401; sophomore at Arkansas State University from Mexico.

■ Sept. 25: Eric Stanton, OBU Box 3162, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; senior from Argentina.

■ Sept. 26: Eddie Weathers, OBU Box 4130, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; senior from Lebanon.

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Temple, Crossett, reaches out to black community with VBS

For pastor Dennis Davis, a recent Vacation Bible School held at Temple Church in Crossett proved white churches can reach out and involve black communities. The VBS, held Aug. 1-5, enrolled 90 children, one-third of them black.

Recognizing that many white membership congregations feel they cannot reach blacks in their community, he said, "Please don't tell these folks it can't be done."

"This is the first ministry which has met a goal of this church; that its ministries look like its community," Davis said. He explained that the neighborhood around the church "is close to 50 percent black."

"The church has long felt a desire to be used by God to help bring about better racial relations," he said. Emphasizing that reaching out to the black community "is not just my own vision for the church," he added, "There were at least two black ladies worshipping with Temple when the church called me as their pastor two years ago."

Davis said promotion played a big part in the successful VBS attendance. "We rented a sno-cone machine and went to houses in the neighborhoods where the kids were last year. We didn't have to do nearly the promotion because the kids knew they were welcome from last year."

He said another of the church's ministries also helps familiarize neighborhood children with the church. The church has begun providing school supplies "to dozens of school children whose family cannot afford to buy them. Three of four children who request them are black," he noted. "We bring the supplies to them along with a marked New Testament and an invitation to Temple, of course."

By being involved in community ministries, said Davis, "We're trying to communicate to the black community that a white church cares about them. It takes years for people who have been walked around for the past 30 to 40 years to realize that we are interested in them."

He said church members were excited about the recent VBS results. "The folks at Temple are just praising the Lord because only He could have brought this special group of young people together," he said.

"For one week they sat beside each other and heard 30 dedicated workers teach and model God's love for them."

Temple also has reached out to the black Christian community in Crossett, most notably through a joint revival held last year. "We have three National Baptist Convention churches in the area and we had all three at the revival," he said. In turn, "Temple was invited to participate in revival services this year at one of those National Baptist churches."

While good relations with National Baptists is desirable, Davis noted, he does not believe that is enough. "Southern Baptists can only shed our image as racists by reaching sizable numbers of blacks who become Southern Baptists."

"We are still trying to figure out the best way to evangelize and congregationalize blacks," he said. "We don't want to cause any more negative feeling with National Baptists. We had a little bit of that after last year's VBS."

Jack Kwok, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention cooperative ministries department, said "the significant thing about what Dennis has done is that it has been on his own initiative."

"I've arranged meetings and introduced him to National Baptist leaders, but he took it from there," Kwok said. "His church followed his leadership and they have done remarkable things built on ministry. The result is better race relations."

"What they do is not for show," Kwok emphasized. "They do it for all the right reasons."

Davis said Temple must consider whether to involve blacks in the congregation or sponsor a black Southern Baptist congregation. "From the atmosphere in the South, it would be easier to sponsor a black Southern Baptist church."

Insisting it is "irrelevant" whether future ministry is done "by integrating churches or by starting black Southern Baptist churches," he added, "Each church must determine which method will work best in their community. We are all under the biblical mandate to take the gospel to all nations. How we do that is not significant; that we do that is essential."

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Annuity Board ends Short-Term Fund, announces International Fund

DALLAS (BP)—The Short-Term Fund, one of four investment funds offered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, will close in December and a new International Equity Fund will be added to choices in 1995, said president Paul W. Powell.

"Most participants have determined that other funds are more appropriate for the long-term accumulation of money to

provide for retirement needs," said Powell. "Total assets in the Short-Term Fund have steadily declined and we have seen an increasing need to offer the opportunity to directly access non-U.S. equities."

The board will send notices to those with accumulations in the Short-Term Fund, offering an opportunity to transfer accumulations to one or more of the

remaining funds. Participants will have until Sept. 30 to make a decision. After that, undirected accumulations will be placed in the Fixed Fund.

John Jones, senior vice president for fiduciary services, said he did not want to characterize the new fund as a "replacement" for the Short-Term Fund since the characteristics of the two are very different. "The Short-Term Fund is a very low-risk fund with typically low earnings," said Jones, "while the new fund will carry significantly higher risk and significantly higher earnings potential of international stocks."

1994 Annual Associational Meetings

ASSOCIATION	DATE	PLACE
Arkansas River Valley	Oct. 11	Crow Mountain
Arkansas Valley	Oct. 17	First, Marianna
Ashley	Oct. 17-18	Magnolia, Crossen; First, North Crossen
Bartholomew	Oct. 17-18	Children's Home, Monticello; Immanuel, Warren
Big Creek	Oct. 20-21	Viola; Spring River
Black River	Oct. 17-18	Tuckerman; White Oak
Buckner	Oct. 11, 13	First, Waldron; James Fork, Mansfield
Buckville	Sept. 24-25	Rock Springs
Caddo River	Oct. 17-18	Liberty, Norman; Lake Ouachita
Calvary	Oct. 18	First, Judsonia
Carey	Oct. 17	First, Fordyce
Caroline	Oct. 11	Baugh Chapel, Austin
Centennial	Oct. 17-18	First, DeWitt; First, Stuttgart
Central	Oct. 13	First, Malvern
Clear Creek	Oct. 11	Second, Clarksville
Concord	Oct. 18	First, Fort Smith
Conway-Perry	Oct. 18, 20	St. Matthew/Third, Blackwell; Pleasant Grove, Perryville
Current-Gaines	Oct. 17-18	First Rectory, Reyno
Delta	Oct. 17-18	Portland; Arkansas City
Faulkner	Oct. 17	Friendship, Conway
Garland	Oct. 10-11	Leonard Street, Hot Springs; Antioch, Royal
Greene	Oct. 17-18	First, Paragould
Harmony	Oct. 17	First, White Hall; South Side, Pine Bluff
Independence	Oct. 17-18	West, Batesville; Foothills, Mt. View
Liberty	Oct. 17	Ebenezer, El Dorado
Little Red River	Oct. 17-18	Tumbling Shoals; First, Concord
Little River	Oct. 10-11	First, Loceola; First, Nashville
Mississippi	Oct. 17	First, Osceola
Mt. Zion	Oct. 17-18	New Hope, Jonesboro; Nettleton
North Arkansas	Oct. 18	Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch, Harrison
North Central	Oct. 10-11	Lexington, Clinton; First, Marshall
North Pulaski	Oct. 17	Lavy
Northwest	Oct. 24	First, Rogers
Ouachita	Oct. 10-11	First, Hatfield; First, DeQueen
Pulaski	Oct. 17-18	Natural Steps, Roland; Barnett Memorial, Little Rock
Red River	Oct. 17-18	Bethel; Anchor
Rocky Bayou	Oct. 13-14	Sidney; First, Melbourne
Southwest	Oct. 20	Beech Street, Texarkana
Tri-County	Oct. 17	Wynne
Trinity	Oct. 17-18	First, Marked Tree; Pleasant Grove, Harrisburg
Washington-Madison	Oct. 17-18	Sonora
White River	Oct. 17-18	First, Yellville; First, Norfork

Classifieds

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Pastor search — Temple Baptist Church has elected a Pastor Search Committee. Send resumes to: Mr. Joe Hunt, Temple Baptist Church, 5100 So. 31 Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Nursery worker needed — Part-time, Otter Creek First Baptist Church. Call 455-3571, Monday - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention — has openings for AS/400 Senior Programmer Analysts. Requirements include 2 years AS/400 programming, 6 years development, COBOL and RPG III. Please send your resume and a cover letter stating salary history and Southern Baptist church membership to: Annuity Board of the SBC, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221.

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Chaplain in Guantanamo Bay: 'Ministry opportunity abounds'

By Sarah Zimmerman

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—"Stress runs deep and tensions high" at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but "opportunities for ministry abound," a Southern Baptist chaplain reported.

Seven Southern Baptists are among the 39 military chaplains serving in the corner of Cuba where thousands of Haitians and Cuban refugees are detained.

Chaplains and their assistants are working 10 to 12 hours a day, seven days a week, Chaplain Joe Cappar wrote in an Aug. 22 letter to the Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division.

When Cappar wrote, 14,616 Haitians were living in Guantanamo Bay, and Cubans were beginning to be assigned there.

Among their many tasks, chaplains lead Bible studies, prayer and worship services. More than 200 Haitian adults have been baptized at Guantanamo Bay, Cappar reported.

"This past Lord's day, we had over 300 (attending services) in one camp alone, gathered under a cargo parachute for shade

from the hot Cuban sun—sitting on cots or picnic tables or standing — for over two hours of singing, praying, preaching and communion," Cappar wrote.

"Tears filled my eyes as I listened to a Haitian choir sing 'Amazing Grace' while a 4-year-old hugged my leg and fixed his longing eyes upon mine. He hugged even harder as I gently stroked his wiry hair and bony, soft-skinned back.

"Imagine it—a crusty U.S. Navy Captain and a migrant Haitian 4-year-old sharing the love of Jesus Christ under a parachute in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba."

In addition to meeting spiritual needs, chaplains help facilitate communication between military agents and the refugees, assist in processing procedures, work in educational programs, help distribute food and personal items, accompany the sick to medical services and assist with the family reunification process, Cappar said.

Chaplains also minister to the military personnel providing security and helping with daily humanitarian operations.

"We pray God's Spirit will move among the military as he has been moving among the migrants," Cappar wrote.

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Retreat to highlight black student issues

Arkansas Baptists' 1994 Black Student Retreat is a first-ever event that Dawson Williams believes will "generate ministry concepts to meet the needs of African-American students in the state."

Set for Oct. 7-9 at Camp Faron, it is open to college students and sponsors. The theme is "We Can Make a Difference." It is sponsored jointly by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and three National Baptist conventions in the state.

Williams, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, explained that the retreat is an effort "to reach African-American students. There is no focus or target on them yet."

Describing the retreat as "significant," David James, director of the ABSC student ministries department, added, "Hopefully, it will say Arkansas Southern Baptists are very serious about reaching African-American students on our campuses. I am thankful for the vision of Dawson and Jack Kwok in working with the committee."

Kwok, director of the ABSC cooperative ministries department, said effects of the event could be far-reaching. "Dawson is targeting student leaders," he explained. "The goal of the student retreat is to bring black students from college campuses and

equip them with leadership skills they will use back at their schools.

"It is a long-term impact, reaching more students and developing Christian leaders," Kwok said. "It will contribute to future leaders in churches wherever they go, fulfilling our mission of discipling."

Williams credits Kwok with "setting the stage" for the retreat through fellowship meetings and dialogue with National Baptists. Williams also said the timing for the retreat is good.

"If you look at Southern Baptist work, it is more and more a rainbow in its demographics and its leadership," he remarked. "It is taking on more of a cultural imagery. One of the reasons the SBC is getting involved (in black ministry) is that the SBC ministry plan is big enough and is good for everybody. We just have to figure out how to make it on campus."

One of the ways to do that, said Williams, will be through a Saturday morning panel discussion involving "convention leadership, black and white" and led by ABSC executive director Don Moore.

Warning about the impact of failing to support African-American involvement in BSUs, Williams pointed out, "There is a strong Islamic movement among African-

American students right now. If we do not act, we leave these students as prime candidates for other ministry groups like that."

In addition to the panel discussion, the program will feature worship sessions led by three National Baptist leaders, a student-led worship, a mass choir and seminars. Seminar topics will include dating and marriage, drugs and alcohol, a Christian social life and prayer life, evangelism and Greek social clubs.

The program will begin Friday at 7 p.m. with worship and a bonfire and end Sunday at 10 a.m. after morning worship.

Williams said the event also will feature "fun. You get there and there are college students from across the state and it's a chance to make friends," he noted. "There also will be recreation and plenty of time to have a chance to kick around."

The cost is \$40 per person and includes lodging and four meals. Participants must bring their own bedding, Bible and personal items. Dress is casual.

For more information, contact Williams at the Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; phone 535-8545. He also urged high school seniors planning to attend college to contact him about attending.

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Convention Uniform

Keeping your word

By Roy Buckelew, professor,
Ouachita Baptist University
Basic passage: Joshua 6
Focal passage: Joshua 6:2-16, 20-27
Central truth: Like God keeps His word to us, we should keep our word to one another.

The drama continues as the people of Israel move from being nomads to being a nation. This passage is scene three. In this scene, the people bring down the walls surrounding Jericho and take control of the city.

It is an example of doing what seems foolish from a human point of view but is wise in God's sight. It is an example of both God's power and compassion. It is also an example of God keeping His word and His people keeping their word.

■ *God kept His word to His people* (6:2-16). Notice how radical God's instructions were — conquer an impregnable, walled city by blowing horns and hollering. But God told them that if they would do what He said, the walls would come down. They had gotten radical orders from God before and He came through.

Also, notice how readily the people took His word. There is no indication they hesitated, felt foolish or doubted for a moment. They did what God said and were not surprised when God did what He promised.

■ *God's people kept their word to Rahab* (6:22-25). It is remarkable that, in the midst of such conquest and chaos, Joshua remembered a promise to a prostitute. It is remarkable that, under the load of responsibilities he carried, Joshua would remember such a small matter.

But was it a small matter? No! Keeping a promise, keeping your word is never a small matter any more than God keeping His promises. His word to us is a small matter.

When you compare Joshua 2:1, 8-13 with 6:22-25, you will notice that Joshua kept his word completely. In fact, he did more than he had promised. Also, he kept his word with compassion, not with a cold heart. And he kept his word without condescension. Because Rahab was a prostitute, he could have broken his word, and who would have known or cared?

God has kept His word to us, and from Him we should learn the importance of keeping our word to one another.

Life and Work

Who are you to judge?

By Art Horne, minister of education,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: Romans 2:3-11;
14:9-12; 1 Corinthians 10:22-24
Focal passage: Romans 14:9-12
Central truth: There is a judge...
Jesus Christ. We are not to judge.

Are you trying to be God? Do you think that God is lacking in His ability to enforce justice? What do you think? There are many times that we find ourselves slipping over to "playing God" in our daily life experiences. We need to understand our jobs as Christians to keep from trying to do work that can only be done by God.

In looking at verse 14:9, we ask, "Why did Christ die and rise from the dead?" To be Lord of the living and the dead. There are reasons that we are not to act as judge of our fellow Christians.

■ *Because we didn't pay the price to earn the position as judge.* Christ earned His position by His life and death and resurrection. There is not a human who has paid such a price.

■ *We don't have all the facts, even in the best of situations.* We can only judge behaviors, actions. God is not fooled by outward actions. He sees and knows the deepest thoughts and "secrets" of every person. In court decisions daily, we see a terrible trend. People aren't being held accountable and responsible for their actions. By these judgments we are stepping over into realms that can only belong to God. We are responsible for our own actions.

■ *Man is sinful. God is holy.* We, who judge others, are guilty of sin. God knows our sinful thoughts and He is just. He treats us according to His mercy and not by what we all deserve. So what are Christians to do in the area of judging others?

We can act toward others as Christ commanded us to do. Love one another. Forgive one another. The power of God is always available to help us when we are seeking to love people or reconcile.

What about judgment? My brother explained to me judgment may not occur in this lifetime, but every person will be judged. Don't you think that just keeping your own account right with God will give you enough to do without interfering in the accounts of others? Act as Jesus has commanded. Love. Forgive. Prove that you are a Christian by the way you talk and act.

Bible Book

The quest for good

By Jack J. Bledsoe, retired DOM,
Carey Association
Basic passage: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12:14
Focal passage: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
Central truth: The ultimate good is God.

Last week in chapters 1-5 we looked on as Solomon recounted his quest for the ultimate good through observation and personal pleasure. He decided that man ought to accept what God has providentially provided for him and enjoy it. Today he expands his search into the realm of practical immorality and draws his final conclusion, that we are to trust God and obey Him, for He will judge us eventually.

■ *Expedience.* Solomon reasons that there must be a middle ground of undertaking between the providence of God and the behavior of man in a society saturated with the desire to succeed and to satisfy itself. An expedient course of behavior seems to offer a solution to the problem, but he is soon caught up in the facts that suffering, failure and death come to the righteous as well as to the unrighteous. Job comes to mind here, also Proverbs, reminding us that trust in God is the only solution to man's dilemma.

■ *Conclusion:* Solomon concluded that man is in the hands of a gracious, loving God, who at all times has man's best interests at heart. He knows, He cares and He will vindicate our trust in Him. God will ultimately bring all men into judgment and the life that is lived for and as an end in itself is vanity and will fall. This brings him to his final conclusion, which is that our quest after the ultimate good is to be conducted through a profound, unreserved faith in God, and to live our lives according to His statutes. Life is short, death is certain and judgment is sure. Only that which is deposited in Him will survive. Jesus zeroed in on this truth when He encouraged us to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," referring to spiritual preparation for eternity.

God is the ultimate good. We are to seek Him and His righteousness and all of these other things will come to us as gifts of His overflowing grace. Trust in the Lord. Keep the faith.

Convention Uniform

Staying faithful to God

By Roy Buckelew, professor,
Ouachita Baptist University
Basic passage: Joshua 24
Focal passage: Joshua 24:13-24, 31
Central truth: We have to decide
whether to be faithful to other gods
or to God.

During the period from Joshua 6, the people of Israel continued their conquest of Canaan, divided it among the 12 tribes, and established communities. In this passage, Joshua continued to lead, but was nearing death. Before his death, Joshua called the Israelites to come together to hear the last words God would give them through him. He called them to be faithful to God rather than other gods they found in Egypt and now in Canaan. From what Joshua said, we can see two things:

First, it is easy to be unfaithful to God (vv. 24:14-15). Joshua acknowledged that "serving the Lord" could be "undesirable" to some. When I think of how desirable other gods could be, I can see how easily the Israelites could be attracted to them. Because they were idols, the people could see them. They no doubt appealed to their instinct for what is physical and material. Think of all the things today which appeal to our physical and material instincts—nice houses, clothes and cars, sex, sports, cigarettes and alcoholic drinks made more appetizing by the media. The people could not see God but only what He did. And how could they be sure it was God who did those things? Maybe it was their own ability or luck. You can see how easy it would be not to follow God.

Second, it is an effort to be faithful to God (vv. 24:16-24,31). Serving the Lord with faithfulness meant Israel had to make an effort to "throw away" other gods (v. 24:14). Serving the Lord faithfully was "undesirable" (v. 24:15) and doing something they didn't want to would take effort. Serving the Lord faithfully would be impossible in and of themselves because God is "holy" (v. 24:19), and it would be difficult to measure up. Serving the Lord faithfully might be hard because it meant obeying God (v. 24:24) and obeying is always hard.

They could only stay faithful to God if they made a definite decision to do it. Joshua himself made such a decision (24:15) and was calling on them to be as definite about it as he was. It was in their best interest to be faithful because of what God could do to them if they didn't.

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Life and Work

God is faithful

By Art Horne, minister of education,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: Deuteronomy 32:3-4;
1 Kings 8:17-20; 1 Corinthians
10:22-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24;
1 John 1:8-10
Focal passage: Deuteronomy 32:3-4;
1 John 1:8-10
Central truth: God's faithfulness is a
threat to the disobedient.

Do you remember earlier days when, if you got in trouble and were punished at school, you also were punished at home? This is one example of a promise that I would have rather been forgotten. The promise of punishment is threatening to the wrongdoer. One of the traits that our Lord has is that He is faithful. That's great for the promises of salvation, peace and joy, but what about the other promises of hell, judgment and eternal punishment for those who reject Christ? What He promises will come to pass.

"Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He (Deut. 32:3-4). Look carefully at the italicized words to learn about the faithfulness of God in making good His promises.

■ "publish" *qara* - to call out to (i.e. address by name, but used in a wide variety of applications). The writer is so sure of this statement that he is willing to "go public" with it!

■ "Rock" - a cliff (or sharp rock, as compressed); a rock or boulder; figuratively a refuge; also an edge (as precipitous). This word is interesting, isn't it? It shows that God can be a strong refuge, but added is that He is also a precipitous edge. We fear cliffs. We are careful as we walk near them. What meaning there is as we consider how we "walk" near God!

■ "Judgment" *mtshpat* - a verdict pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree, including the act, the place, the suit, the crime and the penalty. What a warning to the disobedient! God's ways are judgment, whether favorable or unfavorable.

Look to 1 John 1:8-10. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God is faithful to forgive or to judge and punish if we have a stubborn heart.

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Bible Book

Marital love

By Jack J. Bledsoe, retired DOM,
Carey Association
Basic passage: Song of Solomon 1:1-8:14
Focal passage: Song of Solomon 1:1-8:14
Central truth: God has a plan for marital love.

At the risk of being accused of "improper spiritualization of scripture," I want to emphasize that the Song of Solomon has two broad applications, each of which complements the other. Countless books and articles have been written about these eight chapters and each writer is marked by his own bias in his interpretation.

We must not allow ourselves to be caught up in the modern concepts of married love, revealed by a study of contemporary, secular morality. We must recognize that God performed the first marriage ceremony in the Garden of Eden, and that He blessed conjugal love in the context of scriptural marriage. Marriage is the first institution organized of God among man. The fact that modern man has reduced the marital relationship from God's ideal to sinful sensuality is our problem, not God's.

■ Marital love is ordained of God. Properly understood and pursued, it meets His approval and is devoid of unbridled lust, which characterizes the approach of a sensual world. Solomon's account of his meeting, courtship, marriage and mutual enjoyment of his bride from Lebanon, Shulamith, is a beautiful picture of God's ideal, revealed against the backdrop of ancient Israel. It needs to be read in conjunction with the 45th Psalm, a royal marriage hymn for the king.

■ It is, ultimately, a reference to Jesus Christ, the heavenly bridegroom and His bride, the church, which He sought and bought with His own blood on Calvary. He is now perfecting her for the perpetual bliss and joys of that union throughout the endless ages of eternity.

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NEWS DIGEST

Congress votes to remove religion from EEOC guidelines

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Congress has voted to forbid the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from enforcing its proposed guidelines on religious harassment in the workplace.

The Senate voted 88-10 and the House of Representatives 322-98 to approve a conference report appropriating funds for the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary departments and related agencies. The measure includes an amendment requiring the EEOC to remove religion as a category in the guidelines on harassment.

The Congressional measure mandates that any new EEOC regulations must clearly not restrict the portraying of religious symbols or expressions of religious belief. The measure also requires the EEOC to hold public hearings on any new guidelines related to religious harassment and to receive additional comment before issuing any new regulations. The measure awaits presidential action.

BSSB-FMB venture to involve 750 students in missions

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Up to 750 Southern Baptist college students from across the country will be involved in short-term mission projects overseas next year as part of a new initiative sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry.

"Global Student Involvement" (GSI) will send teams of students and student leaders for two-week mission projects in Central Asia, Indochina, Southeast Asia, North Africa, Eastern Europe and several other locations around the world, according to National Student Ministry consultant Brad Gray, who is coordinating the project in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board.

"We already have 524 positions ready to fill and we're expecting to have as many as 750," he said, adding most of the projects will take place in "World A countries" — locations the FMB has identified as being closed to a traditional missionary witness.

While GSI is open to both student groups from churches and campuses, Gray said the new initiative was specifically designed to be "user-friendly for churches." More information about GSI is available by calling Gray at 615-251-2777.

Florida editor resigns, citing editorial freedom concerns

ORLANDO, FL (ABP)—Jack Brymer, editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness* for the past 10 years, resigned abruptly Aug. 26, citing "continued harassment" from the newspaper's governing board. His resignation came at the end of a two-day meeting of the nine-member Witness commission in Orlando, Fla.

For more than a year, the commission, while affirming Brymer's performance, has repeatedly debated the editorial practice of the *Witness*, particularly its role in reporting the ongoing controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention. For more than an hour Aug. 26, commissioners discussed Brymer's use of stories from Associated Baptist Press, an autonomous news service that critics say is slanted in favor of moderate Baptists.

A motion asking Brymer to avoid using ABP failed on a deadlocked 3-3 vote. But Brymer resigned anyway, saying commissioners can't put the issue to rest.

The issue is not ABP, Brymer said, but his professional integrity and editorial freedom. "I'm in it for the integrity of the paper and my own conscience, which says if you are going to be a newsjournal you've got to keep the people informed, even when it's not popular and when some power people don't like it," Brymer explained.

No slot machines in Texas, state attorney general rules

AUSTIN, TX (ABP) — Texas Attorney General Dan Morales announced on Aug. 23 his ruling that slot-machine gambling could not be legalized in the state without a constitutional amendment — a decision praised by gambling opponents.

"We are not surprised that Attorney General Morales acted with integrity on this issue," said Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. "The attorney general's role is to interpret constitutional language. He did it like a good lawyer and refused to play politics with it."

Dan Martin, executive director of Texans Against Gambling, said he was "extremely gratified" by the attorney general's decision, saying any change in the constitution, which now prohibits games of chance, should not be done "easily or frivolously."

While the ruling dealt specifically with slot machines, the attorney general said he believes legalization of other forms of casino-style betting such as dice and card games also would require constitutional amendment.

Requiring 100 affirmative votes in the House and 21 in the Senate "took the wind out of the sails" of the casino industry's efforts to win approval in Texas, Strickland said.