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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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abundant life

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April 4, 1985

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



Blooming dogwood trees—taken by many as a symbol of the sacrifice of Christ—serve as an annual reminder for us to thank God at Easter for the new life he provides.

New faculty chairs filled at Ouachita

ARKADELPHIA—Two newly-created academic chairs at Ouachita Baptist University have been filled, according to Thomas Turner, OBU vice-president for academic affairs.

Marion G. "Bud" Fray, a longtime Southern Baptist missionary to Africa, has been appointed to the new W.O. Vaught Chair of Bible. John Thomas Greer, assistant professor of philosophy, has been named to the new Clarence and Bennie Sue Anthony Chair of Bible and the Humanities.

Fray and his wife, Jane, are currently serving as missionaries-in-residence at Ouachita while on furlough from their duties in South Africa. Fray also is interim pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, which recently completed the endowment of the Vaught chair in honor of their pastor emeritus.

OBU President Daniel R. Grant said Fray will become chairman of the department of religion, succeeding Vester W. Wolber, who has served in that position for 27 years. Grant said Fray also will direct and "help in determining the structure and function" of a new Center for Christian Ministries at Ouachita.

Greer, a coordinator of OBU's humanities program who joined the faculty in 1977, will fill a chair endowed by a recent \$300,000 gift. Greer also is interim pastor of Pulaski



Fray



Greer

Heights Church, Little Rock.

The benefactors of the Anthony chair are residents of Murfreesboro. Mrs. Anthony is a current member of Ouachita's Board of Trustees, and her husband is a current member of OBU's Development Council.

Fray is a graduate of Ouachita and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, the former Jane Dawley of Arkadelphia, have been missionaries in southern Africa since 1957.

Greer is a graduate of Louisiana College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Evansville (Ky.). He is married to the former Angie Boyt of Winslow, Ariz.

In this issue

4 the only way

Southern Baptists will never evangelize the United States unless a dramatic new commitment is made to starting new churches, a home missions expert has said.

7 lift up your eyes

Participants in Arkansas' 96th annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union were challenged to broaden their vision of the world and step out to reach a lost world.

Foreign missions giving record set in Arkansas

For the first time ever, Arkansas gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions has surpassed its goal, according to Julia Ketner, Arkansas state director of Woman's Missionary Union.

As of March 29, the 1984-85 offering totaled \$2,071,179.84, more than \$46,000 over the goal.

Emergency medical volunteers needed

Two emergency situations requiring the services of general surgeons have arisen on the foreign mission field, according to the Medical Services Department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

A missionary physician in Yemen is ill and unable to function. Immediate relief is needed from general surgeons willing to fill in between now and June, when a furloughing missionary will return to the field.

Another general surgeon is needed in Ghana, where a missionary physician has had to return to the United States because of illness. Volunteers are needed until a new missionary completes orientation.

Prospective volunteers may contact Joyce DeRidder, Medical Services Department, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. A list of other short- and long-term volunteer needs also is available.

Logue said recuperating well after heart attack

Tom Logue, director of student ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is at home and recuperating well after suffering a heart attack March 1, according to George Sims, Logue's associate.

Although Logue is able to pursue a limited schedule and plans to return to work in a

few weeks, phone calls and visits are being limited to speed his recovery. Persons desiring to express concern for Logue are invited to do so through cards and letters, Sims said.

It was also reported Logue's mother, Mrs. T. J. Logue of Waco, Texas, died March 22 at age 101.

Conference to examine church-state relations

NASHVILLE—The Baptist contribution to church-state relations will be examined during a two-day conference scheduled April 23-24 at the new Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville. The program will feature a variety of presentations under the theme, "Baptists and the History of Church-State Relationships."

Featured program personalities include G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history

at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; William R. Estep, distinguished professor of church history, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Stan Hastey, information services director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Registration information for the conference may be obtained from the SBC Historical Commission, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203.

The power of the resurrection

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The cross and the resurrection are the heart of the gospel. The cross shows the greatness of God's love for sinful, rebellious man. The resurrection demonstrates God's power over sin and death. Without the resurrection, mankind would have no hope beyond this present life.

Skeptics, across the years, have recognized the historical importance of the resurrection: They have labored hard to discredit the fact that Christ conquered death. No fact in history, however, is better attested to than the validity of the resurrection of our Lord. The resurrection should enable God's people to live by hope when they are caught up in the crises of life.

Why was it impossible for the bonds of death to hold Christ? First, Christ had in himself inherent power to die and to live again. This separates Christ from every other individual who has been born into the world. No mere man has ever been the absolute master of his own life. Jesus was the only individual ever to enter the portals of a tomb who had within himself the power to rise again.

Jesus' power over death declares the completion of his redeeming work. Christ was hostage for our sin debt but, when the debt was paid, it was time for the resurrection to occur. The apostle Paul said, "Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him" (Rom. 6:9).

Finally, Christ's power over death declares the perpetuity of his office as priest. Everyone who was of the order of the Aaronic priest died, but Christ was "a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 5:6). Melchizedek was the king of Salem who met Abraham and blessed him. The scripture gives no record of Melchizedek's beginning or ending. Christ is our High Priest who intercedes for us.

The fact that Christ can not be held by the bonds of death means that he will be victorious over all adversaries. False teachings will never stop the spread of Christianity. What fools some people must have thought the few fishermen were, when they set out to spread the gospel after Christ's resurrection! The heathen religions were well established. They were beautiful and lavish and appealed to the moral nature of man. Any unbeliever who lived in that day would have said to the fisherman, "Go home! Do you think that you are going to overthrow the religious system of our day? We are going to reverence the gods and goddesses of the Greeks and Romans." But today these heathen religions are no more and Christianity has grown to worldwide proportions.

Jesus' victory over the bonds of death also declare his victory

over the wisdom of this world. When one examines the wisdom of him who is Wisdom incarnate, the wisdom of this world becomes the grossest of ignorance. There is no philosophy or intellect that can stand beside the incarnate wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Finally, Christ's victory over the bonds of death declare that the Christian, too, will have this same victory. John, the beloved disciple said, "Now we are the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

The scripture further teaches us that Jesus will be the same in eternity that he was after the resurrection. Therefore, an examination of the resurrected Christ will reveal the manner of the Christians' heavenly existence.

It is of interest to note, that after the resurrection, Christ possessed a body of flesh and bone. Jesus offered Thomas the opportunity of feeling his hand and his side (John 20:27). Much stress is placed on the physical body of Christ both before and after the resurrection. This was essential since the gnostics, a pseudo Christian cult, denied the bodily existence of Christ.

The resurrected Christ, also, was easily recognized by his followers. The only exception to his quick identification was when he walked with the two men on the road to Emmaus. In this instance their eyes were "holden that they should not know him" (Luke 24:16). Paul emphasized that Christians will know each other just as they did prior to the resurrection by saying "... then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:12).

Perhaps the greatest blessing of our bodily existence in heaven will be the termination of earthly problems. The writer of Revelation tells us, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

The resurrected Christian will, also, have the privilege of fellowship with Christ and the greatest saints from all the ages, as well as personal friends and loved ones. The resurrection day for the redeemed will have many blessings.

The power of the resurrection is the greatest power in the universe. Because Jesus triumphed over sin, Satan has been defeated. As we contemplate the resurrection, we should shout with the song writer, "He arose! He arose! Hallelujah Christ arose!" And we should renew our fervor in carrying the message of God's redeeming love.

Arkansas Baptist

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meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Foreign missions begins at home

Of all the new faculty appointments I have made in my years at Ouachita, none has received more enthusiastic response than the appointment of Marion G. (Bud) Fray. He has accepted the call to the chairman of Ouachita's Department of Religion, director of the new Center for Christian Ministries and holder of the W.O. Vaught Endowed Chair of Bible.

I've been trying to decide why all this support has been expressed so abundantly. I considered the possibility that it was simply a reflection of the overwhelming confidence people have in the brilliant presidential wisdom in such matters. After strong advice from my wife Betty Jo and from selected staff members (all of them in fact), I reluctantly rejected that explanation. On further reflection, I decided there are at least three explanations for this great outpouring of appreciation:

(1) Because Dr. Bud Fray meets the impressively high standards that were set for the position. Early on—more than a year ago—I told various audiences I was searching for someone who is an excellent Bible scholar

and teacher who leads people to study and follow God's word; a person who would relate well to the Ouachita faculty and staff; an outstanding preacher who would be on demand in the churches of Arkansas and beyond; a good administrator who would help to inspire and coordinate a variety of Christian ministries that would reach out from our students, faculty and staff, to all parts of the state and the world; and finally (and some thought impossibly) a spiritual leader who would inspire almost immediate confidence in Baptist leaders from the right, middle and left sectors of our theological spectrum.

My more cynical friends, and some not so cynical, accused me of setting standards that could only be met by the Apostle Paul and even suggested that Paul would have difficulty! I am convinced that Bud Fray is one of that small number of persons who has these unique qualifications, and it was only the clear call of God that sought him out from the masses. I might add that Bud Fray's wife, Jane, has even stronger qualifications than he does, and it was only through God's

call to Jane, as well as Bud, that this appointment became possible.

(2) Because the appointment was slow in coming. Even my closest friends and colleagues were growing impatient with me in the search process and, frankly, I must confess to my own impatience with God's sense of timing. Yet all of us learned once more to wait for the fullness of God's time. Now the rejoicing is even more wonderful as we look back on it.

(3) Because Bud Fray will help give Ouachita's Centennial Year (1985-86) and Second Century Planning an even stronger emphasis on Christian outreach to the entire world. Although the Frays are returning to Arkansas and Ouachita after 28 years of mission service in Africa, I am so bold as to predict that their impact for foreign missions will grow more powerful. The starting point for foreign missions is right here at home in our churches and in schools like Ouachita Baptist University.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Church extension called key to increasing baptisms

DENVER (BP)—Starting churches is the only way Southern Baptists will evangelize America, a national church extension conference has been told.

F. Jack Redford, director of church extension for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, warned state Baptist church extension leaders without additional churches, Southern Baptists would fail to increase the number of baptisms (conversions).

"We will not drastically change our baptismal picture until we have more places to tell who Jesus is," charged Redford. "If we're going to get the baptismal record up to one million people, it will only happen when we have 15,000-20,000 more churches."

Southern Baptists have not kept pace with the growth of the nation, said Redford, and the lag represents a "crisis" for the 14.3-million member denomination.

In 1889, there was one Southern Baptist church for every 4,000 people, explained Redford. Now Southern Baptists have one church for every 6,400 people and need another 14,000 "just to stay even," he said.

While the "climate for church starting has improved" during the past 15 years among Southern Baptists, church starting remains bound by traditional approaches to church extension, said Redford. In addition to sponsoring traditional church programs which may not fit the context of a community, many new churches stress the need for owning traditional church facilities, he added.

Until Baptists are convinced churches which meet in homes "are viable, we'll never evangelize America like we should," he said.

James L. Hill, associate director of the board's church starting department, echoed Redford's statements and called for Baptists to adopt new models, including house churches, for starting new congregations.

"As the unchurched population of our nation grows, the number of persons who have little or no understanding of religious, let alone Christian, faith will multiply," said Hill. "Any strategy for reaching these people which does not take the gospel out of church buildings and into homes will not be significantly successful."

Hill presented results of a survey of house church models which ranged from fellowship groups functioning as an outreach arm of a local church to constituted churches which meet in homes. The survey noted the models had been used with great success in Southern Baptist circles for discipleship, fellowship, outreach and beginning new points for Bible study, worship, indigenous church-type missions, self-supporting missions or churches and house churches.

Hill noted the first-century church grew because "early Christians took their faith into their daily lives. They did not regiment their Christian lives and witness to the limits of Sunday morning traditions and rituals."

He called on Southern Baptists to mobilize lay leaders to take the gospel into their homes and communities. "If Southern Baptists are to reach our nation for Christ, we must move our witness out of church buildings to places where it can be heard by the growing millions of people who will never come to our services," he said.

New lesson writer begins

James Walker, the pastor of Archview Church, Little Rock, begins writing commentaries this week for the Bible Book series Sunday school lessons in "Lessons for living."

A native of Arkansas, Walker is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of churches in Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Walker is married to the former Mary Lea Vanzant of Reyno. They have two grown children.



Walker

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Arkansas Baptists impact the civic scene through the Christian Civic Foundation! To attack problems of a moral and

civic nature in our society, it is apparent that more people need to be involved than our Baptist people. It is because of this that we join with other concerned Christian groups in trying to make a difference in our society through the Christian Civic Foundation (CCF). When I read the list of officers, board members and the financial report, I am reminded how crucial Arkansas Baptists are to the cause of righteousness in this state.

Working only in the areas of alcohol and drug abuse, gambling and pornography, CCF is Arkansas' only agency working with these problems educationally, legislatively and rehabilitatively. How significant is this fact! How thankful we should be for this organization and for those who work in it!

Aid in defeating the Casino Gambling Amendment, closing several adult book stores and theaters, intervening in the petition drive to get a state-owned lottery and assisting two counties and two precincts in local option elections are some of the accomplishments of CCF in 1984-85. Petition drives are still in process opposing the advertising of alcohol on radio and TV. A decency seminar and rally was held with some local groups organizing to oppose obscenity and violence on TV.

One of the most significant events of 1984 was the employment of Jeanne Richards as John Finn's associate. A licensed attorney who has been in private practice and on a prosecuting attorney's staff, Jeanne acts as legal counsel but gives most of her time to the Freeway drug education program. Already, she has been in 20 public school systems and numerous churches. Various church camps will use her and those she has trained in drug education programs this summer. Over 6,000 students have already been involved in this program in public schools. Others are calling for this help.

An expanded ministry requires increased financial support. More finances must be given regularly. Civic righteousness is too crucial and difficult to address any other way. We need more individuals churches and associations to give toward this cause.

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

April 4, 1985

The blessing of planned growth in giving

by James Shults

The Lord has been so good to me in my lifetime. As I look back some 50 years as I walked to Sunday School and church with my neighbor, Ann Wollerman (now a retired missionary from Brazil), my tithe was five cents. My mother taught me to tithe at least 10 percent of my very first income which was 50 cents. This is one of the greatest teachings I have received during my lifetime.

As I grew older, I became aware of the fact that Christ did not need my money but I needed the blessing of giving. My wife and I began to grow in the spirit of giving. We felt that the Lord was leading us into giving a larger percentage of our earnings. To be sure, we wanted to know what this would be. That year, God led us to give 15 percent. We felt very good about this and felt that we were in God's will. The next year we were still happy in our gifts, when God interrupted this complacency and said he wanted us to increase our tithe again. Since he had so richly supplied all our needs, we gladly raised our tithe to 20 percent.

The following year, when it came time to make our goals for the year, we felt confi-



Shults

dent that God was happy with our 20 percent. We thanked him for the blessings of the past year and tentatively asked him what to do about our giving for the new year. We felt very distinctly that he wanted 35 percent. We couldn't believe it! That was almost double the year before.

I had a little talk with the Lord, giving him reasons why it was impossible. The Lord said, "Didn't I bless you last year when you didn't think you could give 20 percent? Is this not true?" Of course, I had to agree, it was indeed true, but there was no way I could give 35 percent and keep a business afloat. He then asked me how much would you like to make next year? Well, being like a lot of other people who enjoy making money, I set it pretty high. God then impressed me with this message. Tithe on what you would like to make instead of the 35 percent. God blessed in a glorious manner and our tithe was much more than the 35 percent.

Today our gifts to the Lord's work are 50 percent of our taxable earnings.

What about tomorrow in Planned Growth in Giving? We'll pray for you and you pray for us that we will be found in God's will doing that with which he has entrusted us. This one thing we do know: you cannot outgive God.

James Shults, a Pine Bluff businessman, is the ABCS Operating Committee chairman.

Letter to the editor

Trouble starts at home

There's a big to-do about liberal seminary professors these days, and maybe we should take notice. But believe it or not, the trouble did not start down at the seminary; it started at the local Baptist church.

We've been doing some ungodly teaching and preaching, and the kids have been listening. We've been preaching that the last verses of Mark chapter 16 (vv. 15-20) might not ought to be in the Bible. We've been teaching that many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit were done away with in the first century, a teaching contrary to what the Bible says in Acts chapter 1, verse 39, and many other places. We've been teaching that our God of Miracles is not operating today because we have the Bible.

This diabolical preaching that God's power is not available today and is not needed is close kin to the "God is dead" theory. Both came from the very throne of Satan himself. If God ever used a man to perform his miracles, he can do it again.

Some are preaching God is making people sick, causing accidents and the doctor is making you well. God is the villain, and the doctor is the hero. Stop! Stop! Stop!

You're attributing the works of Satan to God. Is it any wonder that both kids and professors are mixed up these days?

We need to hear preaching that God is a God of miracles, all powerful and all good. We need preaching that Satan is a defeated foe and is the source of all evil. Never, never get the works of God mixed up with the works of Satan. You're not ready to preach or teach in any church unless you know the works of Satan are ignorance, sickness, poverty, hate and death. You're not ready to preach unless you know the works of God and the Holy Spirit are wisdom, health, prosperity, love and eternal life. These are elementary things, and for you to attribute the works of God and the Holy Spirit to Satan and the works of Satan to God is blasphemy. — James O. Young, Warren

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed by one person, though the name may be withheld on request. Mailing address and phone number of the writer should be included. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. Letters must be marked "for publication." Only original letters will be considered.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Pirtle

George E. Pirtle will begin serving April 7 as pastor of Dermott Church, coming there from David's Fork Church in Lexington, Ky. A native of El Dorado, he is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama and Arkansas. In these states, he has served in associational and state convention leadership positions. Pirtle is married to the former Billie Talmadge Layman of Pineville, W. Va. They have a daughter, Sarah Leah, who serves as a resident pediatric physician in Akron, Ohio.

Bobby Wayne Crabb was licensed to the ministry March 17 at Martindale Church, Little Rock, where his father, Bob Crabb, serves as pastor.

Don Nall observed 30 years in the ministry March 24. Nall, now serving as pastor of Batesville First Church, has served as pastor of seven other churches.

Mickey Reynolds has joined the staff of Conway Emmanuel Church as music director.

Clay Hughes was ordained to the ministry March 17 at Naylor Church at Vilonia where he serves as pastor.

Boyd O. Baker died March 19 at age 87. He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now Ouachita Baptist University) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He had served as pastor of Arkansas churches, including those at Hazen, DeValls Bluff, Lake Village, DeQueen, Wynne and Booneville. He was serving as chaplain of the Booneville Tuberculosis Sanatorium when he retired at age 65. His memorial service was held March 23 at North East Church in Texarkana. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Riley Parker of Santa Fe, N. M.; a sister, Mrs. Van McKinney of Rison; two brothers, R. D. Baker of Fort Worth, Texas, and J. D. Baker of Searcy; and one grandson.

J. B. Huffmaster is serving as interim pastor of the Bradley Church.

Lindsay Crain will begin serving April 7 as pastor of the Forrest Park Church in Pine Bluff, going there from the Claud Road Church. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree. He and his wife, Andress, have two children, Caleb, age three, and Micah, age one.

Mike Donahou was ordained to the ministry March 31 at Dover First Church where he has been serving as youth director.

Tom Fortner is serving as interim pastor of Mary's Chapel near Blytheville.

Johnny Long is serving as interim pastor of Osceola Friendship Church.

Glenn Nicholson is serving as pastor of the Smithville Church.

briefly

Faulkner Association churches will convene at Conway Second Church April 18 for a rally that will launch an associational wide evangelistic crusade April 21. Paul Jackson will be speaker.

England First Church closed a revival March 29 led by Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and David Pierce, music director at Benton First Church.

Shiloh Church at Lake Village ordained Tom Williams to the ministry Feb. 24. Williams is serving as pastor of the Richland Church at Tillar. Pastor Morris Jones preached the ordination message and Thomas Darter, director of missions for Delta Association, led prayer. Deacons from the Richland and Shiloh Churches also participated in the service.

El Paso First Church ordained Ricky Stone as a deacon March 31. Jim Wiley preached the ordination message.

Little Rock Second Church chorale will present a Good Friday program in the church sanctuary, April 5. The 7 p. m. performance will include period music ranging from Bach to Brittain. Also appearing with the chorale will be Cathy Cooper at the organ. Tom Wideman is minister of music.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly

New officers elected

The Board of Directors of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., elected officers for 1985 recently. Pictured, from left to right, are (back row) John Finn, executive director; W. A. Blount, first vice-president; Don Hook, treasurer; (front row) Beverly Williams, secretary; Harold Walls, president; Jeanne Richards, associate director; and Nadine Bjorkman, bookkeeper. Not pictured are J. Everett Sneed, second vice-president; and Karen Keller, third vice-president. Hook delivered the message at the annual meeting of the CCF Board.



Broaden vision of lost and dying world, WMUers told

text and photos by Millie Gill

The failure of Southern Baptists to minister and witness to a dying and starving world was stressed by all speakers at the 96th annual meeting of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union March 19-20. They urged the 700 attending to broaden their missions vision to include "all of the world."

Jonesboro First Church was host for the meeting, sponsored by Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary to Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ABSC Executive Director Don Moore, the keynote speaker for a Tuesday evening candlelight commitment service, expressed a deep concern for state, home and foreign mission needs. "Why after all of these years of missions teaching and preaching are we losing our vision?" he asked.

"To me, the answer to this question is that even though God, in his Word, gave me a vision that encompassed all nations and has instructed us to have that same vision, we are not being obedient to his command," Moore said.

In his closing remarks, Moore challenged the women to develop a commitment between pastor and WMU to a broadened missions vision by: (1) dying to self; (2) refusing to be "sucked in" by materialism; (3) being obedient to God's prompting; (4) believing his Word is, for obedience, not discussion and (5) being informed.

Marion Fray, furloughing missionary to Africa who is soon to join the staff of Ouachita Baptist University, climaxed the meeting with a message on "A World in Need." He shared that our growing, young world—with 50 percent of its population under 25 years of age—was also a hungry world, an urban world and a changing world.

"To have a world vision, we must get out of our church meetings, our deeper life groups and our annual conventions and permeate our lost and dying world."

Fray continued, "As we share his Word, we must remember not to let controversy sidetrack us with those to whom we are witnessing. Christ, in his final words, did not demand we all agree on our wording of inspiration of the scripture, but he did demand we take the gospel to every nation. This expectation of our Lord is not a challenge to achieve, but a command we must obey."

SBC WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford shared how, in 1888, 32 women with a world vision brought WMU into existence for the purpose of educating women and girls to share their financial resources, time and talents to the ends of the earth.

"Let us respond to this heritage and continue a visual missions education," she challenged. "As we train and equip others we will see a broadened vision in our Cooperative Program gifts and in personal commitments to share the gospel to the ends of the earth."

Mission field experiences were shared by Sylvia Fletcher, Peru; Jane Fray, Africa; and Carolyn McClendon, New Orleans, with each sharing concerns for phenomenal world needs in light of limited funds. They urged WMU members to share their talents and skills, to give generously and to share their spiritual inheritance.

They reminded women, that though sometimes it is difficult, painful and risky business to share God's love, they should not become so comfortable within the four, "pretty" walls of their local church that they forget the hurting world.

Response to speakers' challenges became visible as women adopted a state missions offering goal of \$395,000 and voted to participate in the Arkansas-Brazil linkup by providing kitchen utensils, serving pieces and linens for Brazil summer youth camps. They also voted to assist with furnishings for a South America Room at the new WMU-SBC headquarters in Birmingham.

Re-elected to direct the work of Arkansas WMU for 1985-86 were Mrs. John McAlister, El Dorado, president; Mrs. George Polos, North Little Rock, vice-president; and Mrs. Ken Hughes, Benton, recording secretary.

Millie Gill is a staff writer and photographer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



(Top center) Participants in the 96th annual meeting gave \$1,839, their largest offering ever, to assist in providing magazines for missionaries. (Above) Commitments were made Tuesday evening in a candlelight service to a broader missions vision. (Left) In keeping with the meeting theme, "As You Go... Be a Friend..." a time for greeting friends was included in the opening session. Mrs. Roy Jolly (right), WMU director of the host church, was among those participating.



Home Mission Board acts on ordination, farm crisis

by Jim Newton and Michael Tutterow

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the SBC Home Mission Board have reaffirmed their guidelines on ordination, urged prayer for the nation's farm crisis and acted on a proposal to establish crisis pregnancy centers.

During their annual spring board meeting, directors also elected new officers, approved a reorganization of the board's missions ministries division and set up new guidelines for state conventions to qualify for Home Mission Board assistance.

For the second year in a row, the board reaffirmed that ordination is a matter for local churches to determine and is not a requirement for missionary appointment or approval by the board.

The motion, which passed 39-32, came after an hour's discussion concerning action by the 24-member Home Mission Board executive committee last December granting Church Pastoral Assistance (C.P.A.) to Debra Griffis-Woodberry, pastor of Broadneck Mission, Annapolis, Md. She was the first ordained woman ever approved for such board aid.

In giving the background on the December action, Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner pointed out the executive committee had not violated board policies, guidelines or process in any way. He reminded the board ordination never has been a qualification for missionary appointment or approval, and the board meeting in March 1984 had reaffirmed this policy.

Tanner also pointed out there was no desire to disregard or be insensitive to a resolution adopted by the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention opposing ordination of women. "We have never purposely aligned ourselves in a position opposing the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Although Tanner encouraged open discussion by the board, he cautioned against polarization on the issue. He pointed out the controversy could hurt contributions to the current Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and drastically affect efforts in "reaching our nation for Christ."

A motion asking for appointment of a seven-member board committee to study the issue for a year was replaced by a substitute motion to keep the agency's current guide-

lines in place without change.

Later in the meeting, the chairman of the board's personnel committee, Eddie Rickenbaker of Belton, S. C., said any personnel matters of a sensitive nature in the future would be discussed by the full personnel committee, rather than during the smaller Executive Committee meetings.

Board members also acted on a motion to develop crisis pregnancy centers which was referred to the board by messengers at the 1984 Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The motion, brought to the convention floor by Calvin Kelly, an Alabama pastor, called for a study of "the need and feasibility of the Home Mission Board's sponsoring additional crisis pregnancy centers in strategically located U.S. cities."

The board's Christian social ministries department reported state convention child care agencies "indicated they are working in this area and feel very positive about what they are doing regarding problem pregnancies and do not see the need for the board to get involved in establishing centers."

However, board members did approve recommendations to sponsor four regional seminars or workshops in 1986-87 "to train or re-train pastors and others in counseling resources related to women with problem pregnancies and how to assist families of young women with problem pregnancies."

The board voted to provide materials explaining alternatives to abortion for use by associations and churches, to develop a directory of local resources offering abortion alternatives for pregnant women, and to establish an ad hoc committee to "discuss alternatives to abortion."

The recommendations from the board will be submitted to the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas, June 11-13.

Board members also adopted a statement calling on Southern Baptists "to hold up for prayer our farm related families."

The statement, brought to board members by the rural-urban missions department, called for support for the "five million Southern Baptists" who are members of 22,000 congregations which will be directly affected by the current crisis facing family farms. Accord-

ding to news reports, 93,000 U.S. farms are on the verge of going broke.

The livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and others in farm-related industries and businesses are threatened by the current farm crisis, the statement noted. "We call for prayer for the thousands of rural and village congregations whose very existence is threatened if these families lose their farms and homes and must move away in search of employment," the statement added.

The statement also called for prayer as legislators and administration officials work to form policy related to the issue.

In election of new officers, the board selected Travis Wigington, pastor of Bethel Church, Norman, Okla., as the new chairman, succeeding Jerry Gilmore of Dallas.

Elected first vice-chairman was Marvin Prude, retired president of Sunnyside Refining Co., Birmingham, Ala., and named second vice-chairman was D.F. Norman, director of pastoral ministries for the Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta.

In other actions, the board approved a reorganization of the agency's missions ministries division, adding a new position of associate division director, dissolving the present Christian social ministries department, and creating two new departments to deal with Christian social ministries.

The new church and community ministries department will relate to missionaries who serve with associations and churches. It also will include the work of the national consultant for the blind and handicapped and the work of literacy missions.

A newly created Christian social ministries centers department will relate to missionaries serving institutions and Baptist centers.

The board also updated minimum requirements for new state conventions to qualify for HMB assistance.

Guidelines, initially adopted in 1953, were revised to raise the minimum number of churches and church membership needed for a state convention to receive HMB assistance. Old guidelines required a state convention to have 70 churches and 10,000 members or 50 churches and 12,500 members one year before the organizational meeting of the convention.

Board members raised the number to 80 churches and 12,000 members, 70 churches and 13,500 members, or 60 churches and 15,000 members.

The board also approved "a five-year continuous relationship of the churches in a regional fellowship organization sponsored by the conventions with which they are affiliated" rather than the previous two-year requirement.

Jim Newton and Michael Tutterow are editor and associate editor, respectively, of news services for the Home Mission Board.

New study describes American hunger 'epidemic'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A study indicating hunger in America has reached "epidemic proportions" should remind Southern Baptists "we must look across town as well as overseas" in responding to human need, Robert Parham feels.

Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, feels the recently-released findings of the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America "present clear and convincing evidence millions of Americans are going hungry in the midst of abundance."

Despite the nation's much-celebrated economic recovery, the task force found that up to 20 million Americans "may be hungry at least some period of time each month." The report also concluded "the recent and swift return of hunger to America can be traced in substantial measure to clear and conscious policies of the federal government" which have cut \$12.2 billion from food stamp and child nutrition programs since 1982. Further cuts in food programs would be "absolutely devastating," the task force stressed.

Attempt to fire professor fails at Southwestern Seminary

by Toby Druin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Amid charges of political implications and allegations a "profane" man was being returned to the classroom, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees March 20 rejected a recommendation from the administration and their own academic affairs committee to fire a professor.

The vote by secret ballot was 19-12 to fire Farrar Patterson, associate professor of communication and preaching since 1969, but it fell two votes short of the two-thirds majority required by the seminary bylaws.

It was believed to be the first time a motion to fire a professor has been brought to the Southwestern trustees since the institution was founded in 1908, although President Russell H. Dilday Jr. said some have resigned before their cases came to the board.

The Southern Baptist Convention political controversy was prominent in the debate on the recommendation to fire Patterson with several trustees charging Dilday's involvement in the controversy prompted the recommendation. Dilday, in turn, contended at least some of the 12 against the proposal were politically motivated. Farrar Patterson is not related to Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, who has been a leader of one group in the SBC controversy.

The balloting followed several hours of hearings by the academic affairs committee, which voted 8-1 for Patterson's dismissal, and discussion by the full board on the recommendation that Patterson, who recently was suspended from his duties, be dismissed.

Dilday and the academic affairs committee, chaired by Drew Gunnells, pastor of Spring Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., brought a six-point charge, questioning:

- 1) Lifestyle and behavior, including profanity and vulgar language, including cursing the dean of theology, critical and negative confrontations;
- 2) Poor example of churchmanship, including no record of active churchmanship, and marginal stewardship;
- 3) Poor quality of work, including poor student evaluations and appraisals over the years and no "scholarly approach;
- 4) Insubordination, including interference in Dilday's accession to the presidency and interference in the hiring of others in the administration;
- 5) Intentional distortion of the truth, including reports of classes taken at North Texas State University in 1976; and a report given to an Arkansas pastor about the faculty meeting in November 1984 in which Dilday's right to speak out on the SBC controversy was affirmed by the faculty;
- 6) Lack of response to significant warnings and attempts to redeem. Dilday said he had attempted to discuss the charges with Patterson, who had refused.

Dilday explained salary increases had

been denied to Patterson four times in the last few years because of what was considered an inadequate performance and that he twice had been given leaves without pay—once by former SWBTS President Robert E. Naylor—to get his affairs in order.

Dean of Theology William Tolar, while acknowledging the general student evaluation of Patterson had been good, said Patterson's performance was rated by the students at 50 percent of that of other faculty members, and that he had discussed with Patterson the charges that he often came to class "totally unprepared" and had used "abusive, vulgar language."

The vote by secret ballot asked the trustees to vote "Yes" or "No" to the recommendation for dismissal. Twenty-one votes would have been required of the 31 present to sustain the recommendation. Cooper at first cast a ballot and then withdrew it when he was told he could vote only in case of a tie. Currently, there are 34 trustees. One recently has moved and is no longer eligible to serve and another was ill and unable to attend.

Later, the trustees by consensus asked the academic affairs committee to review the whole evaluation procedure and Patterson's future performance.

Dilday said Patterson would be returned to the classroom but the seminary would maintain the "highest expectations of Christian behavior, quality churchmanship, quality academic and scholarship work, a quality spirit of relationships and cooperation—the kind that now exists, the harmony and unity the faculty now has."

While acknowledging some doubtlessly had come to their decision to oppose the dismissal recommendation out of sincere conviction, Dilday blamed political considerations for others.

He said he could not believe the vote not to sustain the committee recommendation was an endorsement of Patterson's record, and added, "I don't think anyone of you would want to be... responsible for answering to Southern Baptists why you would endorse someone in this kind of key position in this seminary to the detriment of all the other faculty who stand so firm."

Though he said he would not suggest there

had been any coordinated effort by the 12 who voted against the recommendation, "I think behind your votes and decisions made here are the other complications of the political involvement of our convention, my own position in it, and in spite of several denials to the contrary, that is my only way of understanding or rationalizing how any one of the 12 could possibly have voted (the way you did)."

Ralph Pulley, an attorney and member of First Church, Dallas, noted he had sent a memo to trustees following last October's meeting regarding Dilday's political involvement. He asked them to review that memo and encouraged them to write to Dilday.

Dilday said following the meeting he would review his political involvement.

The president told the *Baptist Standard*, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, that in spite of the vote he did not consider it an indication of lack of confidence in his presidency and he had given absolutely no consideration to resigning.

Dilday said March 22 he had Vice-President John Newport and Tolar had met the previous day with Patterson about a "re-engagement plan" to return him to the classroom. They sat down responses and conditions, Dilday said, under which the professor will return to his duties.

The vote of the trustees was not to fire Patterson, Dilday said, but it is the duty of the administration to follow through on his return to teaching.

After the vote rejecting his dismissal, Patterson told the *Standard* he was pleased with the action. He declined to say whether he plans legal action. Late Friday, after the meeting with Dilday, Newport and Tolar, Patterson issued a brief statement: "I deeply regret all this came up. Now I want to get back to work and do the best job I can with the students. I am grateful for those who supported me."

Druin, associate editor of the Baptist Standard, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, provided news coverage of the trustees meeting at the request of Baptist Press.

Seminary trustees approve near \$17 million budget

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, unanimously approved a record budget of almost \$17 million at their spring meeting March 18-20.

The budget—\$16,977,499 for the 1985-86 academic year—represents a 4.3 percent increase over the approximately \$16.3 million spending blueprint approved last year.

The board also okayed the creation of a Huber L. Drumwright Professorship of New Testament. Drumwright, who died in

November 1981, was a professor of New Testament at Southwestern and was dean of the school of theology, 1973-80. At his death he was executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention. Virtus E. Gideon, professor of New Testament, will fill the professorship.

Trustees also elected Professor David Garland to the newly-created Laneville-Hooten Professorship of Old Testament and added seven courses to the curriculum of the school of theology.

Your state convention at work

Family Ministry

Christian Home Week

"Parents: Building a Christian Home" is the theme for Christian Home Week May 5-12, 1985. The week is designed to deepen the commitment of parents to build a Christian home and to grow in parenting skills.

The week's schedule focuses on special family emphases in the regular Sunday and Wednesday activities. Resources for planning Christian Home Week include the *Family Ministry Plan Book 1984-85* and *Strengthen Families Plan Book* (each available from the C. T. Dept.) and the *Parent's Commitment Day Leader's Kit* (unadated church literature order form).

A Christian home is the result of dedicated work by family members. It involves personal, family and corporate worship; growing family members enriching relationships; and development of Christian values within the family unit.

The 1984-85 Christian Home Week is the third in a series related to the 1982-85 Bold Mission Thrust emphasis by Southern Baptists. The past two years emphasized "Opening the Word Together" and "Christian Marriage: Growing in Oneness". The three emphases provide churches an excellent opportunity to strengthen family life of church and community families.

Contact Gerald Jackson, C. T. Dept., P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, for additional information about Christian Home Week. — **Gerald Jackson, associate**

Woman's Missionary Union

History in the making

History is made every day of our lives. Sometimes we are too close to it to realize the contribution that we ourselves are making. On May 4, 1985, history will be made as National and Southern Baptist women gather at Second Church, Little Rock, for a meeting to build fellowship, understanding and mutual support between three Baptist conventions.

The women's organizations of the Regular Missionary Baptist State Convention, Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention are jointly sponsoring this meeting. It

will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m.

"Knowing, Growing, Sharing" is the theme for the meeting. Drs. O.C. Jones and Don Moore will bring doctrinal messages focusing on basic Baptist beliefs. Laura Fry Allen will help women learn to share their faith by conducting a witnessing workshop. Leading the singing will be Malvie Giles.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Those attending are asked to bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. No child care will be provided.

Come and be a part of an historic meeting. For more information, contact Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 — **Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director.**

Christian Life Council

Influence for whom?

Heinrich Boll grew up in Germany during Adolph Hitler's rise to power. In his book, *What's to Become of the Boy or Something to Do With Books*, he tells of a theory, almost officially sanctioned by the church, that one should join the Nazi organizations in order to "Christianize" them from within.

The Lord wants his followers to be "salt and lights" of influence (Matt. 5:13-14) but surely there are limits to such involvements. Who would join the Klu Klux Klan, for instance? There are some people and groups Christians should have absolutely nothing to do with. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Ps. 1:1-2). We should pray for them.

Who are these with whom we should not associate? The Lord will provide direct answers in our daily prayers. He also helps indirectly through counsel with such as pastors, teachers and friends.

The old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together" is not found in the Bible but there is a lot of truth in it. Satan has many ways of influencing. — **Bob Parker, director**

Family and Child Care

Care and share

The theme for our Mother's Day Offering this year is "Sharing...For A Brighter Tomorrow". God tells us to share in Christian love and provide for those who cannot provide for themselves. Certainly this would involve the family, the poor and the needy. Without

a doubt, he included children who are dependent upon someone else for the necessities of life.

May 12 is Mother's Day and many churches will recognize all mothers on that day. Mother's Day comes at the close of Christian Home Week, a week of emphasis on the valuable contribution made by homes and families which honor Christ.

Unfortunately, some children in our care really don't know their mother. Because of abuse, neglect, death and abandonment, they do not have the caring love of a mother. We at Family and Child Care are providing substitute parents through our Children's Home in Monticello, Group Home for Boys in Jonesboro, three Emergency Receiving Homes and foster care homes.

You can have a significant part in ministering to many hurting children in our care. You can join others as they share in the 1985 Mother's Day Offering. Although most churches have chosen Thanksgiving as the time to take an offering, several have chosen to receive a Mother's Day Offering.

Your church will receive materials to remind you of the offering. I encourage each church to distribute envelopes and utilize bulletin inserts.

I cannot think of a more appropriate tribute to mothers than to give in their name to provide Christian care to homeless and neglected children. — **John A. Ross, director of development**

Missions

The right question

Sometimes the question has been asked with the attitude of "Where do we have to start a mission?" The responsibility to sponsor

new work is recognized, but from a spirit of obligation.

Can we turn that question around to be "Where is the opportunity for us to start a new congregation that will enable us to reach more people?" The field may be a new community where there is no Baptist church. Or it may be a field where we already have two churches. But by starting another church more people can be reached for Christ.

Our goal is not to start a certain number of churches. The real purpose for starting new churches is to reach people. Starting a new church is a tool or method of carrying out the Great Commission.

My prayer is that we will be able to seek with joy places and groups where new churches or missions can be a means of making disciples. — **Floyd Tidworth Jr., church extension director**



Jackson



Parker



Tidworth



Porterfield

Sunday School

Preschool conferences

Does your church have multi-age groups of either one group of preschoolers (babies through five-year-olds) or two groups of preschoolers (babies through two-year-olds and three- through five-year-olds)?

Does your church have limited space or limited resources and equipment?

Do your preschool teachers prefer a step-by-step, less involved teaching plan?

If the answer to any or all of the questions is "yes," you need to know about Bible Story Time at Church material and the upcoming conferences planned to introduce this material to pastors, Sunday School directors and preschool teachers.

Two Small Church Preschool Conferences are planned: April 23 in Dayton Church, Dayton and April 25 in First Church, Alpena. The conferences are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and close at 8:30. A time of fellowship will precede the conferences.

The Bible Story Time material and Bible teaching through activities will be interpreted.

Plan to attend the conference nearest you. — **Pat Ratton, preschool consultant**

of a service but what we contribute to, and the preparation we make for our contribution is the beginning of worship for us.

A young person once observed, "Worship is like a rehearsal for a performance that never comes off." Worship does begin in the "rehearsal," or preparation, but whether or not it "comes off" is an individual matter, as each person interacts with the gods which control his life or with the God who alone is worthy of our worship and adoration. — **Ervin Keathley, state secretary**

Church Administration

Pastor-deacon retreat

Pastors, deacons and their wives will find opportunities for fellowship, worship and training at the annual Pastor-Deacon



White

Retreat at Camp Paron on Friday night and Saturday, May 3-4. Jim White, editor of *Deacon* magazine, will lead sessions on deacon ministry with an emphasis on the role of pastors and deacons as partners in ministry. Jerre Hassell, pastor, First Church, Stuttgart,

will lead in Bible study and worship on Friday night and Saturday morning. A growing number of churches are involved in deacon ministry. Many are seeking to implement the Deacon Family Ministry Plan. Frequently deacons encounter problems and needs for which they feel somewhat inadequate. The sessions at this retreat will offer practical helps for meeting these needs and strengthening deacon ministry in the church.

The basic resource for the retreat will be a new guide for equipping deacons in ministry skills. This resource and other deacon ministry materials will be available at the retreat.

The retreat will begin with supper at 6 p.m. Friday and conclude with lunch on Saturday. For reservations or additional information, write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**

Evangelism

God's provision

In our CWT process, we seek to show the lost man that God is holy and just and must punish sin. Yet he loves us and has provided forgiveness for our sin. Jesus stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).



Shell

In order that provision might be made, Jesus, who was God, became man. John 1:1 states, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Verse 14 states, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." The only reality great enough to bring Jesus from the heights of deity down to the depths of humanity was your individual personal salvation.

The death of Jesus on the cross is the reality of what it cost God to make provision for us. This great truth is stated in I Peter 3:18, "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." Many years before Christ came, Isaiah reminded mankind, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Is. 53:6).

The provision of God was finalized when Jesus burst forth from the bonds of death. Romans 4:25 states, "Who was delivered for our offences; and was raised again for our justification." — **Clarence Shell, director**

Music

When worship begins

When does worship begin? Most people would respond to this question by saying that worship begins when the worship service begins. For most folks, that would probably be when the first hymn is sung.

The organist or pianist, however, would wish people begin to worship even as the prelude is being played. Others might say that when they enter God's house they are drawn to worship by the beauty of the building, the stained glass windows or the ornamental cross in the baptistry.

I would like to suggest that worship begins much earlier than any of these. God inhabits people, not buildings and other trappings which surround worship. I believe our worship begins as we begin to prepare to meet our fellow Christians at the worship center, when we begin to make preparation for what we will contribute to the service. Worship is not so much what we get out

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Sanctuary study set by Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (BP)—The religious liberty implications of the Sanctuary Movement will be studied by a special task force of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The study was approved during the annual meeting of the 44-member governing board of the BJCPA, a First Amendment organization composed of nine Baptist denominations in North America.

Prior to authorizing the Sanctuary study, members of the committee heard a report by Charles Z. Smith, professor emeritus and former dean at the University of Washington Law School. Smith, an American Baptist, explained the Sanctuary Movement is an effort to harbor refugees from Central America who have been declared illegal aliens by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Smith, who has been a special prosecutor for the United States, said many persons involved in the movement believe the refugees

are fleeing for their lives from political oppression. The government, he said, has declared the Central Americans "economic refugees" not entitled to refugee status.

He explained the complicated situation by noting if a person from Cuba and a person from Haiti arrived in the United States on the same boat, the Cuban would be entitled to stay as a political refugee, but the Haitian would be deported as an economic refugee.

First Amendment questions involved, according to Smith, may revolve around whether the government may determine the nature and mission of the church and whether government agents have the right

to carry tape recorders into church services to gather evidence against possible "conspirators" who would shelter refugees.

Currently, he said, "there is limited participation among Baptists. I know of (only) seven American Baptist Churches who have declared sanctuary. There are about 150 to 200 churches in the United States across denominational lines who have publicly declared sanctuary."

William R. Estep, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, noted the religious liberty questions "are worth investigating. We are not taking a position for or against Sanctuary."

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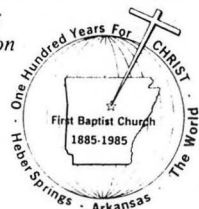
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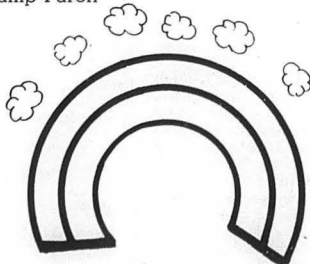
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Expelled family sues Louisiana Baptist church for \$2.5 million

SUNSET, La. (BP)—A \$2.5 million lawsuit has been filed against First Church of Sunset, La., by a family which was expelled from the congregation. The suit was filed Feb. 22 in district court in Opelousas, La.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Lloyd Benjamin Ruth, Taye Carter Ruth and their 16-year-old daughter. Defendants are First Church of Sunset and Pastor William M. Hill Jr.

The suit contends that in a meeting of the congregation on Wednesday evening, Jan. 9, Hill made accusations concerning the girl's character and sexual activities. It also maintains the pastor made the remarks while knowing they were false.

The suit also claims the girl's privacy was invaded by the accusations and claims publicizing such charges is "not of legitimate

concern" to the congregation or the public.

A petition presents only the plaintiffs' positions in a legal case; the defendants have not stated their position formally yet by filing an answer to the plaintiffs' petitions.

Contacted by the Louisiana Baptist Message (the newjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention), Hill denied both accusations of defamation and invasion of privacy. The suit is a "threat to Baptist polity" (or method of self-government), he contended, noting it questions "the right of a congregational church to discipline members."

Also in contention is the temporary seizure and copying, under court order, of church records, minutes dating back to last fall and other church papers.

150th anniversary celebration First Baptist Church, Nashville, Ark.

April 7-14

April 7	10:45 a.m.	Dr. Frank Patterson
	7:00 p.m.	Adult choir presents "Jesus of Nazareth"
8	7:00 p.m.	Dr. Jon Stubblefield
9	7:00 p.m.	Dr. Randall O'Brien & Ouachita Singers
10	7:00 p.m.	Dr. H.H. Hobbs
11	7:00 p.m.	Rev. Walter Grindstaff
12	7:00 p.m.	Pottluck meal and old fashion singing
14	10:45 a.m.	Dr. Robert Naylor
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Chaplaincy Awareness Conference

May 6-7

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Presenting a conference on coping with your anger.

Dr. Lester is Professor of Psychology of Religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Judith is a Marriage and Family Therapist at the Personal Counseling Center in Clarksville, Ind., an instructor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has a private practice in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Contact Chaplaincy Dept. by April 25, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 or phone 376-4791.

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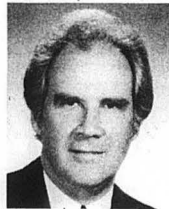
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Who Cares?



Hilton Lane Cares

As one of 3,723 Southern Baptist home missionaries, Hilton Lane, church planter and Fairfield Bay pastor, ministers to the needs of people in a resort and retirement community.

"I'm privileged to be able to start a church and then stay and enjoy its fruitfulness. Now, I hope to lead our church in establishing a mission across the lake. It will be a great challenge for our church, a former mission, to start another mission," says Lane.

His work is made possible by your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Who Cares? Your home missionaries do. Show you care by giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.



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International

Raised from the dead

by Jerry Wilcox Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 20:1-9, 11-16, 18

Focal passage: John 20:1-9

Central truth: God revealed his power through raising Jesus from the grave.

Emptiness is not a desirable condition in our Western thought. To the Eastern mind, emptiness has a special meaning. In that part of the world, empty circles, empty gardens and empty rooms symbolize the meaning of transcendence (outside the material universe). In Christianity, the empty grave has a special meaning to Christians. An empty grave expresses the symbol of hope and new life.

The historicity of the bodily resurrection of Christ is attested by Scripture. Just as Christ died for our sins, he arose for our eternal life.

The grave clothes were the evidence of Christ's resurrection. Verses six, seven and eight tell the significant story. In the Greek, we learn that the position of the grave clothes were in the prone position. His body was not stolen, for the grave clothes would not be removed for that purpose. The language is clear. Jesus dematerialized and assumed his spiritual body.

Peter went straightaway into the tomb. In verses eight and nine, we have a wonderful testimony. The position of the grave clothes reveals truth to Peter, "he saw and believed..." even though "they knew not the scripture..."

As Isaac Watts testifies in his great hymn, "Blessed Morning,"

*Wraipt in the silence of the tomb
The great Redeemer lay;
Till the revolving skies had brought
The third, the appointed day.*

*Hell and the grave combined their force
To hold our Lord, in vain.
Sudden the Conqueror arose,
And burst their feeble chain.*

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Life and Work

Death and resurrection

by Glenn E. Hickey, D.O.M.,
Pulaski Association

Basic passage: John 19:1-20 to 20:10

Focal passage: John 19:16-19, 28-30; 20:3-9

Central truth: The death of Jesus is the only adequate sacrifice for sin; the resurrection of Jesus is the only adequate ground of hope for the future.

For his commentary on the Gospel of John, Ray Summers wisely chose the title, *Behold the Lamb*. In the opening chapter, Jesus' appearance is announced by John the Baptist: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Little did John or any of the Twelve realize at the time how costly it would be for Jesus to accomplish this redemptive mission as "God's lamb."

In John 19, the announcement becomes reality. According to John's chronology, the hour of Jesus' crucifixion was at the very time when the sacrificial lambs were being slain in the temple for the Passover feast. There may be some problem in reconciling John's chronology with the other gospels, but there should be no problem with his theology at this point: Jesus died as our once-for-all Passover sacrifice for sin.

Jesus' last cry from the cross, "It is finished," encompasses all the scope of God's redemptive plan of the ages from "before the foundation of the world." All that was symbolized in the sacrificial system of the Temple was finished. All that was promised through the prophets of ancient Israel was finished. All that was latent in God's call of Abraham was finished. Nothing need be added to what Christ completed.

John's theological insight into the resurrection is of tremendous importance to believers today who cannot go back to the first century and visit the tomb and see for themselves. The point of the story about Peter and John visiting the empty tomb is the fact of the resurrection was perceived by faith before by sight. Several people saw the tomb and the grave clothes before Jesus appeared to them.

Dr. Summers states, "There was plenty of seeing, but except for the beloved disciple, there was no believing until the appearances began." John alone believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead without having seen the risen Lord. He left the tomb believing that Jesus was victor over death.

So it is in our resurrection faith today. We walk by faith and not by sight. And one day we too "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

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Bible Book

Jesus' Resurrection

by James C. Walker, Archivist
Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Luke 24:1-35

Focal passage: Luke 24:1-9, 13-15, 27-31

Central truth: Because Jesus has risen from the dead, we can have hope.

To stand at some significant turning point in the history of a people or an institution is always a memorable and moving experience. Two such events stand out in my own memory. The first was the dedication of a beautiful new place of worship for a growing church. The second was participating in the convention of 1976 when Southern Baptists accepted the challenge of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the end of this century.

Such events are important. The dedication of a new building may affect the life of a church for a decade or more. The implementation of a program such as Bold Mission Thrust will surely determine the direction of our convention far into the next century.

The resurrection of Jesus was such an event on the grandest scale. Not only were the lives of his followers to be radically affected, but the entire world was changed, never to be the same again.

The women came to the tomb to do what they could to demonstrate their love by caring for the dead. They found themselves in the presence of life. They came with grief. They departed with the beginning of the world's greatest joy. They came in defeat. They were presented with evidence of history's greatest victory. They were involved in the greatest turning point of time and eternity.

We stand in awe and wonder at the privilege given to these early disciples to participate in the events of that resurrection morning. And yet we all can share the glory of his resurrection as we walk in fellowship with him. All that is necessary is to obey his commandments, fulfill his commission and be perceptive enough to be aware of his presence.

It is interesting to note that the disciples of Emmaus were in the Lord's presence before they were aware of the blessing that was theirs. Like the man who lived and died a pauper with out ever knowing that he was heir to a vast estate, we often stagger through life with the bare essentials when all the while spiritual riches beyond our wildest dream are ours for the receiving.

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Judge dismisses suit against Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A \$5 million damage suit against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has been dismissed "without prejudice" by U.S. District Court Judge D. Dortch Warriner.

The plaintiff, Nasser Lotfi of Austin, Texas, a former foreign mission volunteer, requested the dismissal.

Lotfi had sought \$5 million in damages and

\$60,000 in disability and medical benefits stemming from an alleged beating in 1982. The suit claimed Turkish immigrants beat Lotfi into unconsciousness March 27, 1982, in Augsburg, West Germany, where he was working to develop a congregation of Baptist believers. The suit said Lotfi suffered permanent disabling injuries to his back and spine.

Day of Prayer backed by Executive Committee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists, "and Christians everywhere" have been urged to make "every day" a day of prayer, with special emphasis on May 2.

President Ronald Reagan, following a tradition begun in the revolutionary war and re-established in 1952, has declared May 2 the National Day of Prayer.

The Executive Committee of the Southern

Baptist Convention, at its February meeting, voted unanimously to "concur in the action" and encouraged "all churches and agencies aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention to give special emphasis to the importance of prayer in our relationship with Almighty God."

The resolution was presented by Ed Drake, a layman from Dallas.

Baptist hospital re-opens in Indonesia

WAY HALIM, Indonesia (BP)—A Baptist hospital forced to move from its location in Bukittinggi, Indonesia, has re-opened in Lampung Province on the island of Sumatra.

The clinic of Immanuel Baptist Hospital received 30 out-patients during its first day of operation Feb. 21. In-patient admissions were expected to begin in mid-March.

The original Immanuel Baptist Hospital at Bukittinggi opened in 1975 but was sold to the Indonesian government six years later because of Muslim opposition. Terms of the agreement called for Baptists to systematically turn over control of the hospital. Two Baptist congregations begun in the Bukittinggi area still meet.

Water returns to city as Baptists install pump

LIRA, Uganda (BP)—Water runs again in the pipes of Lira, Uganda, where officials feared an outbreak of disease before Southern Baptists offered a new pump.

Southern Baptist missionaries worked almost a week installing a new pump after the town's old pump was judged beyond

repair. Citizens had been drawing water with hand pumps from two boreholes which had become the primary water source for the town of 35,000. District officials began to fear an outbreak of disease when local springs dried up and people became desperate for water.

Students urged to cross borders through missions

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Describing world evangelism as "not a program but a passion," a Texas pastor challenged students to consider a life of mission service during Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual student missions conference.

More than 850 conferees crossed state lines from all directions to learn about "Missions Across Borders" at the 36th annual event March 1-3 in Fort Worth, Texas. At least 40 decisions were recorded, including many commitments to mission service.

Home and foreign missionaries, journey-men and seminary professors were on hand to discuss the geographical, language, cultural and religious borders Southern Baptists are crossing through missions.

A lifestyle of evangelism was encouraged by the morning keynote speaker, Laura Fry Allen, the Home Mission Board's national evangelism consultant with women. "We're witnesses wherever God has placed us," Fry reminded the students. "We should have an urgency to share our faith wherever we are."

Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Church, Midland, Texas, implored the Saturday night conferees in his keynote address to remember "Baptists started out as humble people."

"We as Southern Baptists are now an affluent and established church," Vestal said, "and one of the dangers is that we forget the people from which we came." Vestal exhorted the audience to share the Gospel with others. "Missions is not a program but a passion," he said.

During the final session Sunday, Pablo Deiros, Southwestern's guest professor of missions from Argentina, challenged participants to become personally involved in missions. "Lift up your eyes to see a world in crisis," he urged. "Lift up your eyes to see a world without Christ. Jesus is the only hope for the world."

"The only way this world will be redeemed is to leave our selfish, small worlds and go across the borders with the message of Jesus Christ," he said.

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