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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

9-10-1992

September 10, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



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Volume 91, Number 19

September 10, 1992



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State Missions Season of Prayer Sept. 20-27

IT'S TIME!

**Arkansans aid
relief effort**

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**It's a gift --
for free**

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**Kammerdiener
interim FMB chief**

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Henderson elected as ABN editor

By unanimous vote of Newsmagazine board

by Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

The board of trustees of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* unanimously elected Trennis Gene Henderson as ABN Editor Sept. 1 at a meeting held in Little Rock.

Henderson will assume his position Oct. 20, coming to Arkansas from Jefferson City, Mo., where he has worked for 10 years as a staff member of the newsjournal for Missouri Baptists, the *Word and Way*, currently serving as managing editor. He succeeds the late J. Everett Sneed who died June 26 after serving 20 years as editor.

The recommendation to name Henderson as editor came from the Newsmagazine's Personnel Committee, chaired by Greg Kirksey, pastor of Benton First Church. Other committee members were Lane Strother, an attorney from Mountain Home, and Curt Hodges, a journalist from Jonesboro. Nelson Wilhelm, ABN Board of Trustees president, served as an ex officio member.

In presenting the recommendation, Kirksey said, "Our decision to recommend Henderson as editor came after we spent many hours in prayer, seeking the Lord's will in this decision."

The primary concern in the selection of an editor was that the individual must be a Southern Baptist journalist who would be fair. The committee initially narrowed the field of prospects to eight from resumes they received from SBC state paper editors, pastors, and other interested individuals.

A comprehensive questionnaire was mailed to these individuals and then a committee meeting was convened to once again narrow the field to at least three prospective editors. Each committee member used a different grade scale for the field of eight and yet Henderson emerged as their unanimous choice. As a result of this, Henderson was invited to Little Rock for an interview with the committee and Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Director Don Moore. This interview led to the Sept. 1 board meeting.

"The board's unanimous endorsement has culminated a positive process which reflects the Lord's timing and leadership," Henderson said. "I look forward to the enriching ministry and challenges which lie ahead.

"I am committed to providing objective, balanced news coverage which contributes to the growth, encouragement and unity of Arkansas Baptists as we seek to faithfully serve the Lord together."

Henderson, a native of Portageville, Mo., was graduated *cum laude* from School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., receiving a bachelor of arts degree with a major in mass media and a minor in graphic arts. It was there he felt the Lord calling him into a full-time Christian vocation and decided to enroll in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, receiving a master of religious education degree with an emphasis on Christian journalism from there in 1983.



ABN Editor-elect Trennis Henderson, his wife Pam, and daughters Audrey and Emily.

In addition to serving with the Missouri paper, he has served as editor and co-editor of *The Towers*, Southern Seminary's campus newspaper; as staff writer and advertising representative for *Western Recorder*, the Kentucky state paper; and as a sports and general feature editor and news and feature writer for *The Covington Leader*, a weekly county newspaper in Covington, Tenn.

His honors include journalism, photography, and design awards from Baptist Public Relations Association, Associated Church Press, and Evangelical Press Association; and being named in Outstanding Young Men of America (1983); and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (1982). He served the past year as vice-chairman of the National Program Committee for Baptist Public Relations Association.

Henderson has contributed to numerous magazines and newspapers, including *The Southern Baptist Educator*, *Home Life*, *Missions Today*, and *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

He and his wife, the former Pamela Rae Bogart, met while serving as summer missionaries in Evansville, Ind. Mrs. Henderson is a graduate of Taylor University in Upland, Ind., where she majored in psychology.

They are parents of two daughters, Emily Rachelle, age six, and Audrey Janelle, age three.

The Hendersons are a local church oriented family with the parents serving as co-teachers of a young adult Sunday School class at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Mo., and the girls being involved in Mission Friends. In addition, he is an ordained deacon and supply lay preacher.

Cover

(BP) photo



It's Time!

The time to act for the State Missions Season of Prayer is now! The State Offering Mission Goal is \$620,000. Chaplaincy, social ministries, ethnic missions and church growth are all part of the state missions effort. In Arkansas the State Missions Department team consists of Director Jimmy Barrentine, Pete Petty, Carter Tucker, Tommy Goode, Elias Pantoja, Jack Ramsey, and Lehman Webb. Pray for their efforts!

LAST IN A FOUR-PART SERIES

Cure sought for Church Fight Virus

by Don Moore

ABSC Executive Director

Everyone will surely agree that the best thing that can happen is for church fights to be prevented. From the work of the Pastor Search Committee to the Deacon body, everyone needs to be committed to keeping peace in the body of Christ.

The Scriptures are so clear that the pastor cannot overlook his instructions regarding conflict. He is to be "...no striker, but patient, not a brawler." He is to not "be lifted up with pride...." He is to "follow... peace with them that call upon the name of the Lord." He is to avoid things that "gender strife." He is to be "gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient." He is not to "be self-willed, not soon angry." He is to "speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men." Instructing the pastors the apostle referred back to what life was like in our lost state. "For we ourselves also were sometime foolish... living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another." Peter in counseling pastors said that they were not to be "lords over God's heritage, but be examples to the flock." He further said that they were to "be subject to one another and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (Taken from I, II Timothy, Titus and I Peter.)

For the Lord to have given so much instruction to the pastors He must have known that they would be having to work in situations that could so easily erupt into a church fight.

Let some church members begin to feel smug and relieved that most of the problem is with the pastor, we need to quickly say that there is not a double standard for how the pastor and people are supposed to get along. The quotes above and scores more could be given that tell a church how to behave. The clearest teaching of the New Testament is that pastors are to be respected, honored and paid. "Against an elder (pastor) receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses" (I Tim. 5:19). "Let the elders (pastors) that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine" (I Tim 5:17). That statement was made in the context of providing compensation for the pastors but certainly carries with it a broader admonition to respect and honor the pastor.

What are some things that might be

done to prevent on-going church conflict. The church needs to have clear cut goals and plans for where it wants to go. People who are anchored to worthy goals tend to work together to reach those goals. Create a real desire in the fellowship for everyone to be servants to each other. Work hard at building fellowship. It is more important than buildings, budget, staff or anything else. Create trust by being open, honest, fair and tolerant. Don't let new leaders walk into a trap. Each church has practices, experiences, and traditions that are important to it. A new pastor will not automatically know these. He should not be expected to automatically know how to avoid the pitfalls that may relate to this history.

Rely heavily upon the counsel and guidance of committees. Spread leadership out as much as possible. It is never healthy for a few people to do everything. Refuse to resort to humanistic means to deal with spiritual problems. Be generous in praise and recognition for victories won and tasks done. Build a history and trend of positive progress, even though it may be small.

Those most damaged by church conflicts are the young. Both pastors' and church members' children often are so disillusioned and negatively impacted by church conflicts that they determine to never be a part of the ongoing ministry of a church. Some return in later years but most remain outside the fold and outside the family of the faithful. Those who stay are inclined to do as their parents have done and be as they have been; that is, critical, angry, defensive and

confrontational. Just as "the blessing" can be passed on to our children, so can "the curse."

It might help if we understood more clearly the course that conflict usually takes. It usually begins with agitation and irritation over some experience. That being unresolved, it progresses to aggravation and alienation. Left unaddressed it moves on to organization and confrontation. By this time only one option is left, annihilation. How long it takes to move through this course will range from a few days to perhaps a few years.

The real question is, "Could there not be something done before the problem reaches the organization, confrontation, annihilation stage?" It is true that the world has a short fuse. Riots, terrorism and random shootings seem to be a way for the angry to let off steam. Some of that seems to carry over into the church. The level of expectation from all segments of society has gone beyond reason. The church can not be perfect. The pastor cannot be perfect. At some point we all have to decide that we are going to have to live with less than a perfect church or pastor. Indeed, we ourselves are not perfect.

Things are not going to get any better until there is a manifested maturity and concern that determines things can't stay as they are. At that point, people will begin to deal with problems instead of attacking people. They will operate from a position of "know-so" instead of "hearsay." They will start asking what is good for the whole, rather than what is good for me. They will seek ways for all to win, rather than for

(Continued on p. 4)

Arkansas Baptist

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

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

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Details of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received no later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted as writing only. Rates on request.

The Arkansas Baptists (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201/Subscription rates are \$8.95 per year (Individual) \$6.36 per year (Every Academic Family Plan), \$7.00 per year (Group Plan), Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptists, P.O. 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

Volume 91 • Number 19

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

WORLD HUNGER DAY OCT. 11

'Establish justice in the gate'

One-sided religion and crushing hunger are a commonplace today as when the shepherd of Tekoa roared like a lion his message of the Lord to the Israelites. Like the people then, we would do well to hear the word from Amos.

The Old Testament prophet pointed out the rich tramped upon the poor (Am. 2:7, 5:11 and 8:4), sold the needy "for a pair of shoes" (Am. 2:6) and turned "aside the way of the afflicted" (Am. 2:7). The rich turned justice to wormwood (Am. 5:7), while bribed judges perverted justice (Am. 5:12).

Amos charged that the market place was thoroughly corrupt. The ephah, the

container for measuring grain, was smaller than normal, cheating the consumer. The shekel, the bar for the balancing scales, was made heavier than usual, taking advantage of customers. The merchants sold chaff with wheat (Am. 8:5), impoverishing the diet of the poor.

Amos condemned the lifestyle of luxury: "Woe to those who eat at ease in Zion" (Am. 6:1). The idle rich sprawled out on expensive furniture. They ate lambs, a rare time in a society which seldom ate meat. They drank wine in bowls and bathed in fine oil (Am. 6:4-6). Their lifestyle oppressed the poor and crushed the needy (Am. 4:1). It perverted justice which, Amos

said, was as dangerous as men making horses run upon rock (Am. 6:12).

The root of injustice was shallow religion, said Amos. Piety was widespread but separate from ethics. The people gave burnt cereal and peace offerings. They made sweet sounds of worship. They held holy assemblies. But Amos said the Lord hated their empty acts of worship, despised their feasts and took no delight in their special prayer meetings (Am. 5:21-23).

What the Lord desired was justice! Amos shouted "seek the Lord" (Am. 5:6) and "seek good" (Am. 5:14). Unlike many of the people, Amos knew that true religion and ethics went hand in hand. God-centered, authentic religion issued forth justice in the gate, the entrance to the



walled city where the elders ruled on cases (Am. 5:15). Amos longed for a society where justice flowed like a spring that never went dry (Am. 5:24).

But what is justice in a hungry world? Micah 6:8 tells us that justice is at the top of the list of what the Lord requires.

Justice must include a tender heart for the poor. It must include a spirit that yearns to alleviate the personal, social, political and economic forces which keep children hungry, adults unemployed and the aged chronically ill. Justice is respect for fair play. It is personal righteousness.

We live in a world which produces enough grain alone for every person to have 3,600 calories every day, but where 700 million people are chronically hungry. We live in a world where a single spring in Grace provides bottled water for the prosperous around the world to drink, but where 2 billion people drink and bathe in contaminated water. We live in a world which has 157 billionaires and 2 million millionaires, but where 100 million people are homeless.

Observe World Hunger Day on Oct. 11. Pray that true faith and ethics will beat in the hearts of Southern Baptist people. Seek justice in your workplace, city and state. Seek it in the halls of Congress. Support the hunger ministries of your foreign and home mission boards.

Cure Sought for Church Fight Virus*(continued)*

some to win. They will deal with the problem with the smallest number possible being involved, rather than getting as many as possible involved. They will use reason and restraint if confrontation is necessary knowing that the "wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (Ja. 1:20) If pastor and people could simply adopt a New Testament principle of being "slow to wrath and slow to speak" (Ja. 1:19) it would work wonders.

Our studies indicate that most churches leave it up to the deacons to handle any conflicts that may arise. This is one of the reasons they are often portrayed as mean, insensitive rulers of the church. This is why the relationship between pastor and deacons is sometimes strained. The pastor may be paranoid, expecting the deacons to "take in after him at any time." The deacons may consciously or unconsciously pose as supervisors or managers over the pastor and staff. Both create strained relationships that are ultimately going to produce hostility and a crisis in fellowship. Both need to begin immediately to develop an open, friendly, team relationship. It will be hard for the church to get crossways with itself if the pastor and deacons function together as a team.

Will all of this improve without effort? Absolutely not. It will take, intentional,

determined and positive effort. Who will be the first to admit that the record of conflict in a given church must be faced? Whoever that person is, God bless them! They may be the one God uses to help the church to take positive action.

Surprisingly, few churches that have conflict ever bring in anyone to help them. In fact, only five or six percent ever ask for help. It may be pride, embarrassment or fear. The conclusion would be that if people in the church do not learn how to deal with their conflicts no one else can or will. This means that people in the local church need to prepare themselves to deal with their problems.

Many tools have been produced to help with this. Seminars, tapes, workbooks, and conferences have been developed to provide help for the local church. Most directors of missions are available to help. Training opportunities are offered by the state convention. Personal consultation may be sought from people who are trained in "Third Party Negotiations". Our churches do not have to go on living with the tragedy of turmoil. Action can be taken now. Call our Church Leadership Support Department for suggestions as to how you can help yourself.

"And grieve not the Spirit of God...let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:30-31).

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

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

You can control the future! This is partially true. But in the realm where it is true, it is most significant. You also may do more after your death than before! This may only be true if you act on the first truth.



Our legal system makes it possible for you to determine the future use of your personal assets, large or small. Our denominational system provides you, through the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, a way to multiply your contributions to Christian causes many times over, even after you are gone.

September is Baptist Foundation Month. This vital area of our work is led by Harry Trulove. Our fellow Baptists have placed in trust with the Foundation \$32,000,000. Income from this money goes to whatever cause the donor determines. For the first six months of this year these funds have produced \$1,029,681, most of which has been passed on to our churches, associations, agencies and institutions in our Arkansas Baptist Convention, with some going to mission agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Foundation does not charge for consultations and conferences. The Foundation is not allowed to sway donor toward support of one cause over another. The Foundation does not determine where income from investments go. The donor does this when the funds are placed. The Foundation does make use of the counsel of professional money managers. The Foundation's investments yield returns competitive with any other financial institution. The Foundation does return to convention causes \$12.43 for every dollar given from the Cooperative Program.

You can help yourself, your family, your church, your Christian institutions by observing Baptist Foundation Month and hosting a gifts and wills conference for your people.

A \$10,000 gift 10 years ago has provided \$1,000 in annual support of a beneficiary, and recently provided a \$17,000 endowment for the Cooperative Program. Should you not explore how to multiply your "talents"? (Mt. 25:14-30). Call Harry Trulove for assistance at 376-0732.

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

PAM KIRKSEY

Woman's Viewpoint

Teaching younger women



Two years ago, I lost my mother to cancer. Needless to say, this was a difficult time in my life. I lost someone who was not only my mother but my best friend as well.

One of the things I miss most about my mother is our shopping trips together. Ever since I can remember my mother went with me on shopping trips to tell me which clothes to buy. This tradition continued even after I was married. I would try clothes on and then come out and show her what they looked like and she would tell me which one looked the best. Since she has been gone, I have had a terrible time making decisions without her. But the Lord has blessed me with wonderful friends from my church who have helped me through some very rough times.

A prime example of these ladies' concern for me is when we attend the WMU convention. For the last two years when we attended the convention, we have gone shopping during our lunch break. They help me pick out clothes and then help me decide if they look

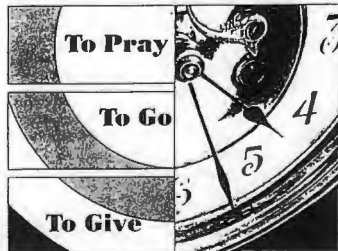
right for me once I try them on (The clerk at the department store said she had never seen so many ladies helping just one person before). I could not ask for any better friends or advice.

My mother always used to have a birthday party for me. After she was gone I thought that I probably wouldn't have any more parties. But these same wonderful friends have had a party for me every year since my mother passed away. These ladies have made me feel very special and have helped me though a great deal.

The Bible says in Titus 2:3-5 that older women should teach younger women. These ladies in my church certainly have taught me many things. I challenge each woman to do as these women have done in my life. Find a younger woman to whom you can minister. You can make a difference in someone's life.

Pam Kirksey is a homemaker and wife of Greg Kirksey, pastor of Benton First Church. They have an 11-year-old daughter, Angela.

State Missions Season of Prayer IT'S TIME! September 20-27, 1992



State Goal: \$620,000

Touching lives at Siloam

For nearly ten years every Monday evening of summer camp at the Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs has included the reading of Philipians 2:1-5a. Assembly Director Freddie Pike explained, "While Paul wrote this passage to the church at Philippi I believe that it also has a lot of meaning for an instant community created every week at camp. A group of about 1200 people have to look out for each other and consider each other more important than themselves if camp is to run smoothly and allow God the opportunity to work." Not only has the truth of this passage affected relationships with the guests but it has also impacted the philosophy of the administration of the camp and the training of the summer staff. "We try very hard to put the needs of our guests first," Pike explained. "We try to live out the truth of verse three of that passage in the way we relate to each other, our guests and our suppliers."

Based on the ideas of the Philipians passage, a staff values statement was written which reflects ten values that are held up as the model for behavior. These statements, grouped around the ideas of purpose, gifts, teams, responsibility, truth, selflessness, love,

excellence, forgiveness and vision, form a framework for the way the staff works with the guests during the camp week. This summer the theme for the program staff was Ole! The letters of Ole! stood for Outer Limits Excellence. The idea was to perform their tasks in such a way as to approach the outer limits of excellence in their service to their guests. Pike remarked, "We know that if we don't take care of our guests, someone else will. We are not the only camp available and we try to be sure our services are the very best in their niche." That goal translated itself into popcorn added to the dorm rooms! greeters at the entrance to welcome persons to the Assembly and a free cup of cold lemonade as the guests arrived as an example of trying to serve at the outer limits.

Ted Williams, the resident manager of the Assembly, put together a mission statement that gives direction for the entire operation. "The purpose of the Assembly is to provide facilities, grounds, programs, and activities which create an environment that results in professions of faith and which nurtures Christian growth in spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development. This is ac-

complished through worship, Christian training, Bible study, and fellowship with God and with one another." In two separate staff orientation training sessions, Williams was careful to point out how each person on the staff fit into the accomplishment of the mission and the role they were to play.

The results seem to indicate that this approach is headed in the right direction. The enrollment for the six weeks of the Assembly was 7315 which is the largest since it's beginning in 1905. There were 472 professions of faith which is also a record. Every week had more than 1,000 enrolled for the first time in history with an average of 1,219 per week.

"We are very careful to give God the praise and glory for the results," says Pike, "but we do feel that the way we do camp gives an increasing opportunity for God to speak to the campers and touch their lives. The real reward in this job is watching people grow and seeing the hundreds of people that have their lives touched knowing that many of them will never be the same because of what God did in them while they were at camp. With our beautiful new Worship Center and the renovations on our dormitories promising even larger numbers in the future, we hope and pray that God continues to bless our efforts the way he did this summer."



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September 25-26, 1992

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church
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SCHEDULE

Friday Evening, September 25

6:50 General Session

Speaker: Rev. Dennis Mitchell

7:45 Conferences

9:15 Adjourn

Saturday Morning, September 26

8:45 Conferences

10:00 Break

10:15 Conferences

11:30 Break

11:45 Conferences

1:00 Adjourn

CONFERENCES

GENERAL INTEREST

Working with the Mentally Handicapped in Sunday School
Sem Timbrook, Columbia, MD

Growth Spiral
Ed Hinkson, ABCS Little Rock, AR

Helps for Starting and Maintaining an Evangelistic Bus Ministry
(4 continuing sessions)
Tom Lee, BSSB, Nashville, TN

Understanding and Starting Ethnic and International Bible Study Units
Elas Pantolo, ABCS, Little Rock, AR

Training Potential
Sunday School Workers
Help! I'm a Sunday School Director
John Parker, Tulsa, OK

Building a VISION for Growth
Reaching Baby Boomers
Bruce Hesse, Montgomery, AL

How to Make a Bi-Vocational Church Hum!
Make a Commitment to Growth-Goal Setting That Works
Eddie Combs, Fort Smith, AR

Innovative Techniques in Leadership Training
Innovative Approaches to Growing a Vital Sunday School
Cliff Jenkins, Springdale, AR

GOSS Model of Church Growth
Biblical Principles for Organizing a Growing Sunday School
Steve Wierfield, BSSB, Nashville, TN

Understanding Cultural Distinctives
Enlisting and Training Workers
Dennis Mitchell, Montgomery, AL

CHURCH BUILDING

Master Planning
New Work and First Units
Location and Site Planning
Jim Cartwright, BSSB, Nashville, TN

The Committee: Survey/Planning/Building
Building Growth in Education
Building Growth in Worship
Spencer Hurston, Jefferson City, MO

Fund Raising: Together We Build
Dwayne Fischer, Stewardship Commission, Nashville, TN

Volunteer Help: "Church in a Day"
Ronnie O'Neal, Arroyo, AR

ADULT

Care Group Leaders
Reclaiming Chronic Absentees
Making Adult Classes Evangelistic
Bruce Raley, Jonesboro, AR

Department Directors
Russell Caldwell, Conway, AR

Class Prayer and Fellowship Leaders
Teaching Single Adults
Snookie Dixon, Aradephila, AR

Teachers Who Use Convention Uniform Series
Working with Adults in the Smaller Membership Church
Tommy Echols, West Monroe, LA

Using Non-traditional Methods to Reach Adults
Stephen Hatfield, N.Little Rock, AR

Teachers Who Use Bible Book Series
How Adults Learn
Jessie McCullough, Atlantic Beach, FL

Teachers Who Use Life and Work Adult Outreach Leaders
Larry Hestle, Ponca City, OK

Bible Study Principles for Adult Teachers
Working with Senior Adults
David Strawn, Little Rock, AR

The Aging of America
Dennis Smith, Sherwood, AR

Teachers of College-Age Adults
Carolyn Teague, Oklahoma City, OK

YOUTH

Help! I'm a New Youth Sunday School Teacher
Supports to Youth Sunday School
Gwen Sherman, Jacksonville, AR

Youth Ministers Only
Chuck Gertzman, BSSB, Nashville, TN

Methods-A Must
What Makes Youth Tick?
Joan Falson, Richmond, VA

Youth Outreach
Ministering to Youth in Crises
Ronnie Brock, Benton, AR

Youth Division Directors
Who Teaches the Sunday School Lesson?
Melba Anderson, Plano, TX

The New Age Movement
Pete Petty, ABCS, Little Rock

CHILDREN

Ministering to Children and Their Families
Create a Good Learning Environment
Carolyn Beall, Houston, TX

Personal Spiritual Growth for a Children's Teacher
Bible Verses, Bible Verses, Bible Verses
Marilyn Hendricks, Farmington, MN

Teaching Children with Learning Disabilities in Sunday School
Rozan Cowling, Prescott, AR

I'm a New Teacher; What Do I Do?
Using Games to Teach Bible Stories
Karen Smith, Sherwood, AR

Dear God
Fellowships for Children
Edith Wiley, Searcy, AR

Children's Division Directors
Preparing Bible Study to Teach Children
Jackie Edwards, ABCS, Little Rock, AR

Children's Worship
What is a Bible-Story Project?
Louise Hobson, Goodlettsville, TN

PRESCHOOL

Preschool Bible Teacher C
(Experienced Workers)
Witnessing to Parents of Preschoolers
Using the Bible with Preschoolers
Selvin Cox, BSSB, Nashville, TN

Preschool Bible Teacher B
(Experienced Workers)
Using Books and Puzzles
Music
Maurita Fletcher, Nashville, TN

Preschooler Bible Teacher C
(New Workers)
Spiritual Growth of Preschool Workers
Division Directors
Jane Plummer, Fort Smith, AR

Preschool Bible Teacher A
Choosing Educational Toys
Teaching Bible Truths Through Play
Joreen Bozeman, Mesquite, TX

Bible Story Time
Discipline
Extended Session
Karl Bozeman, Mesquite, TX

Preschool Bible Teacher B
(New Workers)
Cradle Roll
Pat Ralton, ABCS, Little Rock, AR

FEATURED SPEAKER



Rev. Dennis Mitchell
Pastor, Central Baptist Church
Montgomery, AL

CHILD CARE FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Child care will be provided for preschoolers birth through three from outside the Little Rock-North Little Rock areas. Churches in Pulaski and North Pulaski Associations should provide care for their preschoolers.

A \$5.00 fee will be charged for each child, and reservations for child care should be made through the Sunday School Department office by September 14. Reservations can be made by writing or calling the Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 532, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone (501) 376-4791, ext. 5128. The name and birth date of each child should be given when reservations are made.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Explore healthy options

by Shari Shubert

Minicourt Word & Way

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Baptists like to get together for worship, prayer, study and fellowship. They also like to get together and eat.

The good news is worship, prayer, study and fellowship are sugar-free, fat-free, sodium-free and healthy for everyone. The bad news is, when church activities involve meals or refreshments, individuals on restrictive diets may be unintentionally excluded or limited in participation.

About 14 million Americans have diabetes, according to American Diabetes Association statistics. Thousands of others have been diagnosed with some form of cardiovascular disease.

For many of these individuals, a carefully controlled diet is not just a matter of attractiveness or physical fitness but a matter of life and death.

Nutritionists estimate in a typical group of people at a church dinner or other such function, one-third could eat whatever is served with no problem; another one-third could benefit by watching their intake of fat, sodium and sugar; and the remaining one-third would definitely need to be on low-fat, low-sodium and low-sugar diets.

"I don't usually let anything stop me from participating in social functions where food is served," said Cindy Rice, who is diabetic. She is director of foundation development at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. Rice said she has long since overcome any hesitancy about refusing items that are not allowable or asking for a substitute such as fresh fruit instead of a dessert high in sugar.

But not everyone feels that comfortable with dietary restrictions, according to Alice Lumbley, dietary director for the Baptist Home retirement center at Ironton, Mo. For diabetic residents, especially, she said, "this is a very hard thing for them when they go out to a beautiful church dinner with everybody's favorite dessert and see so many things they cannot have. Some feel sensitive about asking for anything different from the regular fare offered."

Selecting appropriate items from a menu of dishes prepared by others involves more than just passing up dessert. Even vegetables may be off limits for some dieters if they are cooked with butter or drenched in a salad dressing high in sugar or fat, Rice noted.

An informal survey of several churches

with Wednesday evening fellowship meals indicated most don't offer any special menu for diabetics or others on special diets. One church offers a low-calorie plate; several make a salad bar available. Some noted they have members who bring their own food and come for the fellowship.

While not recommending a ban on brownies or a resolution denouncing coconut creme pie, several dieticians did suggest churches make an effort to include healthwise foods along with the heavier fare at their food and fellowship functions. Offering menu options lower in sugar, salt and fat not only makes meal participation more accessible to people on restricted diets; it also makes good health sense for people who aren't on diets.

Reducing fat is a "common thread" in most diets, including diabetic diets, noted Cathy Bowey, outpatient dietician at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis. Tips for cutting down on fat include:

—Substitute unsaturated fats for

saturated fats in preparing recipes. For instance, use one cup of margarine or three-fourths cup of vegetable oil instead of one cup of butter or shortening; use one cup of low-fat yogurt or blended low-fat cottage cheese instead of one cup of sour cream.

—Trim visible fat from meats. Refrigerate soups, stews and gravies and skim off the fat before reheating and serving. Try broiling, boiling, roasting, grilling and stewing instead of frying. Roast meats and poultry on a rack to allow fat drippings to drain away.

—People with dentures may have trouble chewing some meats and raw fruits or vegetables. Lumbley reminded. If these not-so-tender items are on the menu, it would be helpful to provide some softer options — macaroni and cheese, meatloaf, casseroles, cooked vegetables and fruits.

Along with healthwise food options, the dieticians suggested offering a generous helping of sensitivity and courtesy. If refreshments are offered, and someone says, "No, thank you," don't push them to partake, Bowey emphasized. "They're showing lots of discipline by saying, 'No, thank you.'"



MEET LINDA

Six months ago, Linda went to her family doctor complaining of frequent crying, loss of interest in family, work, and a desire to sleep continuously. Linda described a feeling of hopelessness and did not believe that her husband, children, or friends understood. Linda felt she was not good enough for anyone, and blamed herself for all her problems. Linda's doctor recommended the **LEVI LIFE CENTER in Hot Springs.**

Linda began an intense individualized treatment program working on personal issues as well as learning ways to deal with stress and pressure. Linda began using the newly acquired skills while in the hospital. Linda's family also participated in her treatment program which allowed them to more fully understand what Linda was going through.

Today, Linda is using the concepts learned in the hospital to deal with personal and family problems. Linda comes to the **AFTERCARE** support group every Saturday. Linda's problems have not gone away, but Linda is dealing with them differently. Now, "Good" days outnumber the "bad" days.

*Linda's name has been changed for confidentiality reasons.

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Promoting total fitness

by Linda Lawson
Reporter Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Lifelong lifestyle change — not short-term quick fixes — result in losing weight and keeping the pounds off, according to two leaders of a Christian health program.

"It has taken me since 1981 to change a lot of my attitudes about food," said Carole Lewis, national director of "First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program" begun 11 years ago by First Baptist Church of Houston. Today, more than 1,000 churches in 35 states are using the program.

Lewis and Kay Smith, a First Place group leader from Roscoe, Texas, introduced the program July 4-10 during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Gloriaeta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Materials for leading First Place support groups in churches are being released this summer in a cooperative venture between First Baptist, Houston, and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Lewis described First Place as a spiritually based education program to teach participants to eat right, exercise and get enough rest. "I am convinced that in God's Word is everything we need for health," said Lewis, who enrolled in the first group conducted by the church. Her goal was to lose 20 pounds, pounds she had lost and gained numerous times in previous attempts.

"This is a plan to make people into balanced Christians. It's a wonderful way to live when Jesus Christ is in control. That's what we learn in First Place," Lewis said.

First Place participants enroll in 13-week group sessions that include weigh-ins, food facts, Scripture memorization, Bible study and prayer. Using a food exchange program, optimum weight loss is one and one-half to two pounds per week. People are encouraged to stay in the program at least one quarter after they reach their goal.

In addition to Bible study and prayer, another unique feature of First Place is

group leaders and assistants maintain close personal contact with members, including calling them when they miss meetings. Personal needs of members become prayer concerns of the group.

The First Place diet is low in fat and high in protein. Members are encouraged to eat fresh meat, fruit and vegetables rather than highly processed foods.

At present, 500 people are enrolled in 20 First Place groups conducted by First Baptist in Houston. They meet at times convenient to participants. One group of business people convenes at 6:15 a.m. Approximately 250 of the current participants are not affiliated with the church.

"This can be a tremendous outreach program because people are interested in losing weight," Lewis said. In the process, many First Place participants have become Christians.

Smith, a self-described compulsive eater who has lost 100 pounds through First Place, said the program not only revolutionizes the lives of individuals but also of families and churches.

At social events in churches with First Place groups, refreshments begin to include not only fattening desserts but also fruit, raw vegetables and desserts from the First Place cookbook.

"Every person can learn all they need to know about nutrition," Smith said. "If you're completely off sugar, fruits and vegetables will taste much better."

The average American consumes 140 pounds of sugar per year, Smith said. For example, a non-diet soft drink will have 12-14 teaspoons of sugar, one piece of chocolate cake will have at least 12 teaspoons of sugar and one piece of angel food cake has more than seven.

While First Place began primarily as a weight-loss program, many current participants do not need to lose weight but to maintain a healthy diet due to diabetes, hypoglycemia or high cholesterol.

To lead a First Place group, Lewis recommends laypersons who have suffered weight problems themselves.

Leaders must love people and be maintaining or losing weight, she said.

At least one assistant is needed for each class. Assistants weigh in group members, listen to their memory verses, check their fact sheets and help with telephone calls.

The new First Place materials, part of the new LifeWay line of support group resources, include four 13-week Bible studies — Giving God First Place, Life That Wins, Life Under Control and Everyday Victory for Everyday People.

A leader's guide, member's notebook, cookbook and a videotape also are available from the board.

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ABN photo / Millie Gill



ABSC Executive Director Don Moore (left) accepts a walnut bowl made from Siloam Assembly timbers. Siloam Assembly Director Freddie Pike (right) made the presentation.

Executive Board meets

by Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention convened Aug. 25 at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock with Jim McDaniel, president, presiding.

Board action included the naming of a church planter strategist and the adoption of proposed recommendations.

Mike Fowler, currently pastor of West Acres Church in West Helena, will begin his work Oct. 1 as church planter strategist with offices in Russellville. In this position, he will work with Jack Ramsey, ABSC church extension director, assisting in starting new missions or churches.

Among recommendations approved were the 1993 ABSC Building God's Family Goals and Projects, including proposed revisions of the 1991-1995 objectives and goals.

Eddie McCord, chairman of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Study Committee, presented recommendations concerning the feasibility of placing the Newsmagazine back under the Executive Board. He reported that following four meetings which included research, information from other state conventions, interviews, and correspondence with former ABN board presidents, a former editor, and a member of the board of trustees, and open discussions, the committee was recommending the following.

"That the Arkansas Baptist

Newsmagazine remain as a separate agency with a separate Board of Trustees. That the editor continue to serve as the chief executive officer of the Newsmagazine. And that he, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees be responsible for the employment, supervision, and maintaining of the staff in a way that insures the financial and denominational integrity of the Newsmagazine.

"That the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine be enlarged from nine members to a total of 15. At least one member should be selected from each of the eight districts. The other seven would be selected at large. The make-up of the Board should include at least two pastors with a minimum of eight laypeople, which shall include one journalist, one attorney, two women, one business man, and one certified public accountant.

"We request that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee bring a recommendation to the convention in annual session to effect the change in Recommendation No. 2 of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention charter."

Further suggestions are: "That the operations manager of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine supply the Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention a monthly financial report until such time in the future when their audit indicates financial stability.

"That we reaffirm the editor's right to call to our attention, editorially, to those matters he deems important to Arkansas Baptists. While providing that freedom, it should be acknowledged that the editor speaks only for himself, unless the convention has spoken officially on the subject addressed.

"The purposes of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, as generally outlined in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, should include the following:

Reporting news of interest to Arkansas Baptists.

Promoting programs of interest to Arkansas Baptists.

Providing education on Baptist issues.

Encouraging Christian lifestyles.

Encouraging Christian morality.

Serving a public relations function.

Inspiration.

"That the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board be encouraged to consider enlistment of a task force that would assist them in formulating a plan to increase circulation and support of the Newsmagazine.

"That the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board be encouraged to reevaluate their policy of publication of "Letters to the Editor," considering their impact upon the Newsmagazine, individual writers, and the welfare of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"That we, as a Convention, pledge our prayerful support of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, its editor, staff, and Board as they seek to fulfill their commitment to God and to Arkansas Baptists."

(Approved March 17, 1992 - ABN Study Committee: Eddie McCord, chairman; Barbara Hassell, Bruce Tipton, Stan Ballard, Dillard Miller, Ken Lilly, and Don Phillips.)

Tim Reddin, Historical Commission chairman, presented a recommendation which proposes the establishment of a select committee to plan the celebration events of the 150th year of service of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention that will climax with the State Convention in November of 1998. He stated that Kenneth Startup of Williams Baptist College, Ray Granade of Ouachita Baptist University and C. Fred Williams of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock were writing a history book for the celebration.

Board members also adopted the Proposed 1993 ABSC budget of \$15,200,000 as presented by Jim Edwards, Finance Committee chairman. This proposed budget that reflects a 4 percent increase over the 1992 budget will be included in recommendations presented to messengers at the 1992 state convention.

Mark Robinson, Baptist Student Union

director for Henderson State University who was recently employed by polling the Executive Board, shared a personal testimony at the opening of the board meeting.

Other activities included reports on the Guatemala Partnership given by Glendon Grober, ABSC Brotherhood director, and the Iowa Partnership given by Jimmy Barrentine, ABSC Missions Department director. Grober stated that the Guatemala partnership had resulted in the establishment of 38 churches, eight crusades, 18 human needs and evangelism efforts, the strengthening of churches and the Guatemala National Convention, the involvement of 1,334 Arkansas volunteers, the participation of 443 Arkansas churches and 41 Arkansas associations, and a prayer ministry, involving 20,000 Arkansans.

Barrentine reported that 24 of 35 possible projects had been completed in Iowa.

ABSC Executive Director Don Moore reported on the Task Force on Conflict and Termination of Pastors, stating that articles had been published in the ABN, packets of material had been distributed, 22 had been trained to serve in third party negotiation, classes had been offered at Siloam Springs, and seminars were planned. He also gave reports on Arkansas youth events, sharing that 10,438 had been involved in summer camps, resulting in 585 professions of faith, 936

rededications, and 41 decisions for church vocations.

In reporting on the Cooperative Program, Moore stated ABSC CP gifts were 4.6 percent over budget for the year and 7.7 percent over 1991. He concluded his reports by sharing information on the 1992 state convention to be held Nov. 10-11 at Pine Bluff Convention Center.

Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate director, reported on ministerial scholarships, sharing that scholarships had been increased from \$350 to \$700 per semester.

In other business, Harry Trulove, Arkansas Baptist Foundation president, reported on the revised charter recommendation to be presented to 1992 ABSC messengers from the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Reports also were heard from agencies and institutions.

A highlight of the board meeting was the recognition given to ABSC Executive Director Moore for his role in the Arkansas Baptist Assembly "A Trusted Friend Needs You" fundraising campaign. ABSC Sunday School Director Freddie Pike, as he presented a much surprised Moore with an appreciation plaque and a bowl carved from assembly ground timbers said, "It was only because of your visionary leadership that we received the more than \$2.5 million needed to build a new worship center and to do other assembly ground improvements."

ABN photo / Melle Gil



Mike Fowler (right), currently pastor of West Acres Church in West Helena, will begin work in October as church planter strategist with offices in Russellville. He will work with ABSC Church Extension Director Jack Ramsey (left).

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MILLIE GILL

People

Ron Williamson, pastor of Spradling Church of Fort Smith, will observe 10 years of service Sept. 13 when an anniversary celebration is given in his honor. Don Moore, ABSC Executive Director, will preach in the morning worship service that will be followed by a reception. LeRoy French, pastor of First Church of Hackett, will preach in the 6:30 p.m. service. Plans have been made to present Williamson with a money tree. Williamson, licensed and ordained at Grand Avenue Church of Fort Smith under the ministry of Dr. Moore, has pastored Moffett Mission in Oklahoma, organized by the Grand Avenue congregation, First Church of Branch and First Church of Norphlet.

Les Stanley recently retired as vice president of institutional advancement for Luther Rice Seminary, Atlanta, Ga. He is returning to Hot Springs to headquarter a new ministry, Staff Development Systems. Stanley has served several churches in Arkansas including Central and Walnut Street Churches, Jonesboro, and Second Church, Hot Springs. He may be contacted at 127 Park Ridge Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901; telephone 501-624-1448.

Marvin James retired Sept. 6 as pastor of Second Church of Clarksville. He and his wife, Adella, will reside at 1626 Thornton Ferry Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913.

Burnett King recently observed 12 years of service as pastor of Union Grove Church, Clarksville, when the congregation presented him with a plaque and gave a reception in his honor.

John Volk has resigned as pastor of Rudy Church.

James Rice was ordained to the gospel ministry July 12 by the Concord Church, Van Buren. Participating in the service were James Kirkpatrick, Norton Rainwater, George Damerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Bobby Wilson, Kenny McGee, Bob Shelton, Jerry Fears, Dave Jackson, Neal Prock, and Frank Jones. Jones is pastor of Concord Chapel.

Harold O'Bryan has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church of Ward.

William "Todd" Duvall has joined the staff of Pleasant Hill Church, Cabot, as



Williamson



Stanley

minister of music and youth.

David Ray has resigned as pastor of North Side Church, Monticello.

Lewis Gentry began serving Aug. 16 as pastor of Central Church of Mineral Springs, coming there from Emmanuel Church of Liberal, Kans. He also has pastored Arkansas churches, including Liberty Church of Lawson and East Church of Wynne. Lewis and his wife, Nina, have two sons, Phillip, and Danny.

Hilton Lane will begin serving Oct. 1 as director of missions for North Central Association with offices in Clinton. The association is composed of 21 churches and one mission. He currently is serving as pastor of Fairfield Bay Church.

Lester Nixon retired Sept. 1 as director of missions for North Central Association.

Larry Loggins recently observed five years of service as pastor of Friendship Church in Clinton. The congregation presented him with a love offering and honored him with a reception.

Mason Bondurant has completed his service as interim pastor of Highland Heights Church in Benton.

Haydon Hendrix was licensed to the gospel ministry Aug. 23 by Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock. A student at Ouachita Baptist University, he is serving as part-time youth minister at the church.

Erby Burgess will begin serving Sept. 13 as pastor of Cord Church, going there from First Church of Batesville where he has been serving as associate pastor of youth and senior adults.

Jason McCord has joined the staff of Redfield Church as part-time youth minister. He is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University.

Jerry Ross has joined the staff of Elmdale Church in Springdale as minister of education and administration. He and his wife, Tammy, have moved there from Dallas, Texas, where he served on the staff of Highland Park Church. Ross is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Dallas Theological Seminary.

Stephen Hatfield, pastor of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, will return Sept. 11 from Burkina Faso, West Africa where he was with Music Missionaries David and Julie Brown. While there, Hatfield led a pastor's conference, preached in churches, and taught in the seminary.

James Newman retired Aug. 31 as pastor of Walnut Valley Church, Hot Springs. Newman, who has served in the pastorate for 39 years, will reside in the Pleasant Hill community.

Dennis Betts was ordained to the gospel ministry July 26 by Buie Church of Prattville and First Church of Hot Springs.

Mac Gates is serving as interim pastor of Congo Road Church near Benton.

Stephen Butler is serving as pastor of Highland Heights Church in Benton, coming there from Lufkin, Texas. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children, Lori, and Brian.

Don R.P. Edmondson, of Greenbrier First Church, recently returned from an eight-day evangelism trip to the Ukraine. The 87-member group was divided into 22 teams that distributed 30,000 Bibles while in the former Soviet Republic; 8,160 professions of faith were recorded. Taylor Henley of Texas, led the group, which was coordinated through the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Dave White has resigned as minister of education and music at First Church of Paragould to serve as a bi-vocational minister, holding revivals, conducting Bible studies, and serving as an interim pastor.

David O'Neill DeArmond of Benton died Aug. 28 at age 35. DeArmond, assistant professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University, received his doctorate of musical arts from the University of Colorado. Dr. DeArmond was a member of American Choral Directors Association, U.S. Handgling Association and Central Arkansas Radio Emergency Network. His funeral services were held Aug. 31 at Geyer

Springs First Church in Little Rock where he was a member. Survivors include his wife, Linda Stalnaker DeArmond of Benton; his mother, Gladys DeArmond of Little Rock; and two sisters, Linda Brucks of Little Rock, and Mary Winters of North Little Rock. Memorials may be made to Geyer Springs First Church or Ouachita Baptist University, David O. DeArmond Memorial Fund.

Briefly

Indianhead Lake Church of North Little Rock will observe 20 years of ministry with a five week Harvest Homecoming Celebration beginning Sept. 13 and concluding Oct. 11. Services will feature Former Interim Pastors Don Hook and Mason Bondurant, and Former Pastors Jack Kwok and Herb Prince. Don Miller is pastor. Indianhead Lake Church was founded Sept. 10 as a mission of Amboy Church of North Little Rock with Pastor Arnold Teel delivering the first message. He also will preach the harvest celebration opening message.

Oseola East Side Church held a vacation Bible school Aug. 10-14 that resulted in an enrollment of 117, an average attendance of 86, and seven professions of faith.

Lonoke Church youth recently returned from a mission trip to Myrtle Beach, S. C., where they conducted backyard Bible clubs in two travel trailer parks and presented three concerts in a travel park and two malls. The Bible clubs had an enrollment of 130. Jimmy Wallace is pastor. Gary Ellis is minister of youth.

Hardy First Church adult and youth drama teams will present "Heaven's Glory and Hell's Agony" in the Arkansas Traveller Amphitheater in Hardy Sept. 10.

Skyland Mission, sponsored by First Church of Leslie, was constituted into a church Aug. 23. Doug Stewart is pastor.

Salem Church near Benton 30-member mission team recently worked with Northwest Church in El Dorado, conducting a bi-revival and vacation Bible school with an enrollment of 96.

Lonoke Church will sponsor a "You and Your Family" seminar, conducted by Tim LaHaye Sept. 27-28. LaHaye is head of Family Life Ministries, headquartered in Washington D.C. Jimmy Wallace is pastor. For more information, call 676-5136.

Bold Mission Prayer Thrust

Thank God for answered prayer:

Maybe we did not pray until the cows came home, but God's people did pray until a church made its home in Las Vacas (The Cows) Guatemala. A much needed piece of property has been purchased and plans for future growth are on schedule.

The final official MasterLife Group was begun at Cummins Prison in July, led by Philip Gasco of Pine Bluff. Chaplains Pat Allen and John Belken report an excellent response from the participants. This is an answer to prayer and several months of planning.

God did not close His ears when His people prayed for the children and youth who attended Siloam Springs this summer. There were 7,315 in attendance, 472 professions of faith, 678 rededications, 37 commitments to church-related vocations.

Evans celebrates 20 years

Carroll Evans observed 20 years of service Aug. 23 as pastor of First Church in Hughes when the congregation presented him with a bronze plaque and a love offering, as well as honoring him with a reception.

Other activities of the day included the morning worship service and an evening service that included a musical concert by *Evans* Euel Belcher and Lee Ann Spradling. Mike Spradling, the church's former associate pastor, brought the evening message. Pastor Evans, in the morning service, preached a sermon entitled "20/20: A look back at the past 20 years and a look forward into the next 20 years."

The Hughes church, under the leadership of Evans, has experienced growth through 168 additions by baptism and 412 other additions which is an average of 20.6 additions per year. The total membership of the church has remained stable, in spite of declining economic conditions of Hughes and the surrounding areas. Current resident membership is 397 with Sunday School weekly attendance averaging 105. Vacation Bible schools, over an 11 year period, have shown an average attendance of 127.

The church's 20-year financial record shows outstanding giving. Receipts in 1972-73 were \$85,918 with 1991 records showing total contributions of \$134,421.

In addition to serving the Hughes church as pastor, Evans is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, serving as a member of the Finance Committee.



Evans

Photo / Jimmie Garner

Anderson Tully Church near Trumann celebrated 50 years of service Aug. 16 with worship services, a noon meal, and musical program. Bobby Crabb (right), the church's first member called to the preaching ministry, spoke at the morning worship service. Also pictured are (left to right) Former Pastors Marvin Emmons and Thomas Ray, and Pastor William Whitlock.



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STATE MISSIONS

The greatest 31 minutes

by Tommy Goode

ABC Missions Department

Pete Ogle, pastor of Tupelo First Church, was among 13 volunteers from Woodruff County Baptist churches who participated in a Community Needs Assessment. Brenda Gossett, Calvary Association WMU director, coordinated the two-day event which discovered 56 opportunities for church-based ministries and volunteer services.

The assessment participants conducted interviews with administrators of community agencies, service providers and public officials to determine the type and extent of human needs which exist in Woodruff County. Persons interviewed were asked to identify things churches could do to respond to these needs.

Upon his return from conducting several interviews, Ogle said, "That was the most exciting 31 minutes I've spent in a long time!" He was referring to his interview with an agency administrator

and the things he discovered about ministry opportunities for the church. He said that his church was already involved in helping people when they were in need, such as during a death, fire or accident, etc. What was so exciting for him was to learn of the openness of area agencies to church involvement and his discovery of many more kinds of ministry opportunities which exist that he didn't know about.

He left the assessment experience renewed in his commitment to minister to the needs of unchurched persons. Armed with information on what needs really exist and how the church can respond, he went back to his church to share his enthusiasm and information with his congregation.

Brenda Gossett is following up the assessment experience by sharing the summary report with all of the Woodruff County Baptist churches and by scheduling meetings for church and association leaders and ministry volunteers to pray for

God's guidance and to share what they are doing in response to the opportunities for ministry.

Association leaders are encouraged to conduct an assessment in their areas to discover what needs exist and to find out what the churches can do to help. Interested associations can schedule a Community Needs Assessment or Hunger Needs Assessment by contacting Tommy Goode in the State Missions Department at 376-4791, ext. 5249.



(BP) photo

State Missions Season of Prayer is Sept. 20-27. It's Time! The state offering goal is \$620,000.

**PRAYER RETREAT****Henry Blackaby**

Author of "Experiencing God"

First Baptist Church, Little Rock**November 6 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.****November 7 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Sponsored by the Brotherhood Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Two new BSU directors chosen

Two new Baptist Student Union directors recently began serving at their respective campuses.



Taylor

Paul

Kristi E. Taylor began serving as BSU director at Arkansas College in Batesville Sept. 1. She is a 1992 graduate of Williams Baptist College with a BSE in Elementary Education and a former BSU student missionary. Taylor previously has been a daycare teacher at Jonesboro First Church and at Williams daycare.

Jeff L. Paul began serving as BSU director of Mississippi County Community College in Blytheville Aug. 1. He is pastor and youth director of Blytheville Emmanuel Church. He formerly has served churches in Tennessee and Missouri, and has been a science teacher. Paul is a graduate of Central Missouri State and currently is pursuing a master of divinity degree from Mid-America Theological Seminary in Memphis.

Park Place celebrates 90th anniversary

Park Place Church of Hot Springs observed 90 years of service Aug. 9 by dedicating its redecorated sanctuary. Pastor Mike Petty also used the occasion to call the congregation to a new commitment of sharing the gospel throughout the area.

The day-long celebration focused on the church's past with testimonies from former members and former pastors, including Jesse Reed of Little Rock and O. Damon Shook of Houston, Texas.

Organized in August of 1902 as Central Park Church, it two years later was named Park Avenue Church and became known as Park Place Church on April 4, 1911. There were 15 charter members that launched the

new work. Today the congregation has an average attendance of 230 and a Sunday School attendance of 200.

Throughout its history, the congregation has been used to changes and improvements with the first building program beginning in the winter of 1917-18. Two years later construction began on a three-story annex to house the Sunday School. Another educational improvement program was approved in 1965. In 1937, a fund was established to build the present structure with members assigned specific jobs in helping to build the church, which was finished in 1955. Auditorium redecoration occurred in both 1975 and 1991 with 1992 improvements including the installation of a sound system and a stained glass baptistry panel.

HMB appoints Arkansas natives to serve in Indiana

Arkansas natives Darin and Stacy Garton were recently appointed to mission service by the SBC Home Mission Board.

The Gartons will serve in Granger, Ind., where he will be a church planter and she will work in family and church service.

A former associate pastor, Garton is a graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Fayetteville, Garton served as interim pastor of Ro-Lynn Hill Church in Rogers during 1989.

Mrs. Garton is also a graduate of the University of Arkansas. A social worker, she has done volunteer work as a Sunday school teacher and a Disciple Now leader. She will leave a position at Renaissance Park Multi-Care Center in Fort Worth to move to Indiana.



The Gartons

Correction

The Aug. 27 edition of the ABN, in "Arkansas All Over" reported that Hurlon Ray was pastor of Owensville Church. Ray is a layman; the church is currently involved in a pastor search. The ABN regrets the error.

Classifieds

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College Digest

Williams Baptist College

New Faculty—Williams recently employed two additional assistant professors for the 1992-93 academic year. Dr. Jo Culbertson Davis of Memphis, Tenn., will be assistant professor of English. She is a graduate of Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Miss., Mississippi College in Clinton, Memphis State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Davis has held various English teaching positions at the secondary school and college levels.

Dr. Duane Bolin of Providence, Ky., has joined the WBC faculty as assistant professor of history. He is a graduate of Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Bolin was assistant professor of history at Madisonville Community College in Kentucky before coming to WBC.

Begins psychology practicum—Williams Baptist College, in conjunction with the Human Development Center in Jonesboro, will offer outstanding junior and senior psychology students an opportunity to integrate their academic education into a practical setting, with two students participating this fall. After a two-week training course, students will work approximately 10 hours a week for the Human Development Center. For information, contact Paul Rhoads at 886-6741, ext. 163.

Ouachita Baptist University

New faculty—Eight new full-time teachers have joined the OBU faculty for the 1992-93 academic year.

Dr. John Hays, assistant professor of religion, is a graduate of New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mary Jane Hutchins, instructor in mathematics and computer science, is a graduate of Ouachita.

Jeanne Myers, instructor in library science, is a graduate of Michigan State University and Texas Woman's University in Denton.

Dr. Barry McVinney, instructor in music, is a graduate of the State University in New York, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and the University of Texas at Austin.

Eric Phillips, instructor in theatre arts, is a graduate of Henrix College in Conway and the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

Dr. David Rankin, visiting professor of business administration and economics and university consultant to the Frank D. Hickingbotham School of Business, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, and the University of Mississippi at Oxford. He is a chartered financial analyst.

Dr. Doug Sonheim, instructor in English, is a graduate of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois; Baylor University in Waco, Texas; and is a candidate for the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Dr. Edwina Thedford, assistant professor of music, is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La.; Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

OBU also has retained five new part-time instructors for the 1992-93 academic year. They are: Janet Benson, general education instructor in American civilization; Brian Camp in speech, Terri King in accounting; Rhea Ruggles in speech; and Bill Halbrook in music.

Venture '92—OBU will host approximately 1,000 senior high church youth group participants from Arkansas and surrounding state for an event titled "Venture '92" to be held Saturday, Sept. 26. Venture will feature a concert by Truth, an appearance by the OBU Praise Singers, and a presentation by Hot Spring native Mark Baber, who has spent the last four years in student work in the Republic of South Africa. Registration deadline is Sept. 14; for more information contact Ian Cosh at 246-4531, ext. 536.



Jesus affirmed to those who go according to Matthew 28:19-20 to be with them to the ends for the earth — TTEOTE.

Firmly rooted in this promise, Arkansas Baptists will be involved from 1993-96 in partnership mission TTEOTE. During 1992 evangelistic preaching missions are planned for: England, April 28-May 12; Australia, July 28—Aug. 9; India, Nov. 1—15. India will include the 200th anniversary celebration of William Carey's beginning of modern missions.

If you are interested, please contact the Brotherhood Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5158.



ABSC Music Dept photo

Music Arkansas—Shelley Smith, from First Church in Longview, Texas, and Luke Hollingsworth from Jonesboro Central Church, receive trophies and scholarships from Lester McCullough, ABSC Church Music department director. They were selected as star campers by the faculty at the Music Arkansas youth camp held recently on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University.

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HURRICANE ANDREW DISASTER RELIEF

Arkansans aid relief effort

by Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

While much of the nation was glued to the television set watching the horrifying devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew in Florida, a group of Arkansans were doing anything but watching. They were already on the move, anticipating Andrew's ravage of Louisiana. On Aug. 24, the Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief Unit was already on its way to Clinton, Miss., the staging ground for relief efforts if the hurricane were to hit New Orleans. When came ashore at Morgan City, La., ABCS Brotherhood director Glendon Grober and the 10-man Arkansas Baptist relief team were there ahead of the Red Cross.

"We went to the hardest hit area and used a school as a base," said Ed Lauderdale, a layman from Heber Springs First Church and a relief worker since 1983. He shut down his fiberglass business to honor his commitment to disaster relief. "We cooked until we ran out of food," he explained. The team prepared the food stockpiled in the school in anticipation of the school year. The first full day the team was there

they served meals to 1,700 people. The team stayed in the area until some power began being restored and residents could start feeding for themselves. In total, Arkansas units served 9,411 meals.

Other Baptist volunteers manned the child care unit, the tree removal and clean up crews, and coordinated food and clothing distribution efforts. Rick Bunch, from Batesville West Baptist Church, spearheaded a radio campaign which resulted in a community-wide effort that sent seven over-size vehicle with loads to relief supplies to Louisiana. Churches in the Jonesboro area sent an 18-wheeler full of food.

Relief workers included: Peyton Dempsey, Glendon Grober, Ed Lauderdale, Boyd Margason, John Ragsdale, Carl Robinson, Roger Skipper, H.B. Slaughter, Gene Sutton, Royce Sweetman, James Willey, Bill Wilson, Cliff Springer, Buddy Clark, Ralph Morrison, Harrison Wise, and Hilton Lane.

Childcare workers included: Bonnie Harris, Linda Holbert, Kathryn Hunsucker, Joann Phillips and Glenda Stinson and

Marilyn Warford.

Clean-up crew members were: Conway Sawyers, Shelby Bittle, Ronnie O'Neal, Lloyd Waits, Rob Herndon, and Earl Nolan. ABCS Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober currently is coordinating a trip to Florida and plans a return trip to Louisiana to help with long-term relief.

Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission volunteers from all over the nation responded to Hurricane Andrew's strike on south Florida and Louisiana. In the first two weeks, the organization's volunteers had served more than 800,000 hot meals to victims.

In Florida, 13 mass feeding units from 10 states have served between 50,000 and 70,000 meals a day. Meanwhile in Louisiana, nine units from six states prepared by to 10,000 meals a day.

Photo / Paul Obregon



A Southern Baptist volunteer feeds disaster victims in Homestead, Fla., one of the areas hardest hit by the hurricane.

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'It's a gift -- for free'

by Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

If sacking tons of dry goods for six to seven hours a day doesn't sound like much fun, you should talk to Carter Tucker. He seems to think it was.

Tucker, ABSC Chaplaincy director, went to Moscow, Russia, as a part of the Project Brotherhood hungry relief program to distribute food donated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most of the donated food went to the Russian Orthodox Church which is headquartered in Moscow, but an agreement was reached that 10 percent could be distributed through the Russian Baptist Union. Even the 10 percent, Carter said, was thousands of tons.

The SBC Brotherhood Commission worked out the distribution challenge by sending five-man teams for two weeks, always with a week overlap with a previous team. Carter served as leader for a team which consisted of Paul Gean, a Fort Smith attorney; Jerry Neel, a restaurateur, also from Fort Smith; Gale Stubbs, a bivocational pastor from St. James, Mo.; and Richard Wingard, an agricultural specialist from Alabama. Each team member was responsible for his own expenses. They were in Russia from July 18 to Aug. 1.

Upon arriving at the huge Moscow warehouse where the food was stored, the men began repackaging 110 pound bags of flour, rice, and beans into usable family-size commodities. A "family pack" consisted of a four-pound bag of flour, a four-pound bag of rice, a two-pound bag of beans, and a Russian scripture and tracts telling where the food had come from and outlining the plan of salvation.

"The churches around Moscow would identify pockets where the needs were -- not just church members, but anybody in the community," Tucker said. "They would notify us at the warehouse, put in an order (an average of 500 family packs), and then we would ask if they had transportation," he explained. Sometimes, the church had a vehicle, but if transportation was not available, the team would load the order onto the Project Brotherhood bus and deliver. Then, Tucker says, the "fun part" would begin.

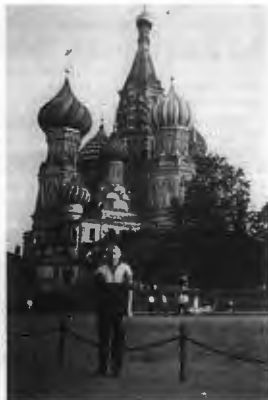
"One time we loaded all this food (about 200 packs) and our driver took us about 30 miles north of Moscow to a little country church. They put it in the church storeroom to distribute to anyone in the community who was in need," he recalled. "One lady I personally talked to with my few words of Russian was so grateful that

when we got ready to go, tears were streaming down her face and she grabbed me and kissed me on the cheek. She was so appreciative."

Contact with the Russian Christians and seeing how they loved the Lord was obviously the high point of the trip for Tucker. "I was surprised," he observed. "After all, we've been kind of the bad guys all these years to them. They shared a little bit about that, but said they knew other Christians could not be as mean as Americans had been portrayed. Their acceptance of us was phenomenal to me."

On one occasion, Tucker had the opportunity to participate in a service that included the Lord's Supper, baptism and an opportunity to preach. "We went to the church around 11 a.m., and the candidates for baptism were given instructions. Then we marched about half a mile to a public lake, singing all the way," he said. The candidates were mostly adults, some appearing to be in their 70s, and a few young people, reflecting a Russian tradition of youth not being in the church until they are 18. The entire group that came from the church numbered more than 200 people.

"When we got to the lake, people were swimming and boating. We started the service, and they were really cordial. They stopped their activities, many of them coming onto the bank to listen -- I guess there were about 500 of them gathered there. The baptism was over about 1 p.m.,



Carter Tucker in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square.

and the group marched back to the church. Those that could sit down in a little courtyard and the rest stood; and we started a worship service," Tucker continued. He was apprehensive about preaching because no one had eaten and he felt they might want to go home, but his translator encouraged him to deliver his message. He spoke, and then participated in a common cup Lord's Supper; it was nearly 3 p.m. when the service ended. Many had



"Through prayer we can reach into countries where the gospel has never been preached. We can go where Bibles and worship services are forbidden."

Judy Edwards



BOLD MISSION PRAYER THRUST

stood, marched and stood some more, but no one complained, Tucker said. "They were just rejoicing."

The graciousness of people who have nothing was overwhelming to Tucker. He took souvenirs — hygiene items, ball caps, blue jeans, t-shirts, Arkansas maps (a big hit), and postcards, as well as Scripture and tracts — to give away to those with whom he came in contact. No matter what he handed out, the appreciative Russian person wanted to give him something back. Tucker was astounded at this gracious attitude where an average middle-class household with two wage-earners may be lucky to bring home the U.S. equivalent of \$72 a month. "We appear to be very wealthy," he commented. He took two of the Russian volunteers to the famous Moscow McDonald's for a meal, where it cost him less than \$3 to feed three men. He asked them if they came to McDonald's very often. "No," they replied, "it is too expensive."

To Tucker, who as a military chaplain had experienced going through Checkpoint Charlie in East Berlin while the Cold War raged, it was also incredible to walk in Red Square every night, and give Bibles out right in front of Lenin's Tomb. "Two years ago," he commented, "you could have been thrown in jail for that." Even soldiers were overwhelmed with the gift of a New Testament, so much so that they would want to give the team members their military hats — a highly prized tourist item. "No," Tucker would tell them, "It's a gift, for free."

The vividness of Tucker's narrative — baptismal candidates in their white gowns and women in their headkerchiefs to the beauty of Red Square in the late evening — brings to life the everyday life of the Russian people through his eyes. It belies the fact that the team spent the majority of the working day in a warehouse sacking food alongside Russian volunteers, and seems to negate the language barrier. The soul of Russian Christians has etched itself on the Arkansas chaplain, and the gifts that Project Brotherhood brought may well be more permanent and eternal than mere sacks of food.

Project Brotherhood

After five months of massive food repackaging and distribution, the volunteer phase of Project Brotherhood ended in mid-August. Eighty-four volunteers from 15 states repackaged an estimated 360 metric tons of USDA bulk food into about 35,000 family packs. The Brotherhood Commission will continue to ship food boxes, medical and dental equipment, and pharmaceuticals through next spring.

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FREEMASONRY

Leazer will still direct study

by David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Gary Leazer will continue to lead the Home Mission Board's study of Freemasonry despite a call for his replacement, said HMB President Larry Lewis.

Lewis said messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis were clear: "We have no choice as to who will do the study. The convention directed the interfaith witness department to do the study.

"As director of the interfaith witness department, he (Leazer) is responsible for leading that study and assuming that it is done in a fair and thorough manner," said Lewis.

Leazer, director of the department since 1987, was criticized recently by Larry Holly, the Beaumont, Texas, physician who originally called for a study to compare Freemasonry with Christianity.

Holly, in a nine-page letter to Lewis,

called for Leazer to be removed as director of the study, claiming Leazer is too prejudiced towards those opposed to Freemasonry to produce a report critical of Freemasonry.

"I am alarmed at the potential for a compromising report being produced by the Home Mission Board," the letter states.

Lewis, however, said he does not share Holly's belief that a report directed by Leazer would be compromised.

Lewis clarified the status of the report, saying that Leazer is researching the study with the aid of the interfaith witness department staff, not preparing the report alone.

"At every step of the process, the entire staff will be assisting him," he said.

Lewis said he recognizes Holly wants a thorough report.

"Dr. Holly is very concerned about the issue and has been for many years," he said. "I can assure Dr. Holly and I can assure all Southern Baptists that it will be

a thorough and honest study of Freemasonry."

During the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis this year, Holly introduced a motion calling for an ad hoc committee to determine whether Masonic teachings, or Freemasonry, are compatible with Christian doctrine. The convention, however, voted to instruct the HMB interfaith witness department to study the matter and report its findings next year to the annual meeting in Houston, June 15-17.

Lewis added that the report will be reviewed by others before it goes to the convention, he said.

"I will also be involved in the study and the final draft will be brought to the Home Mission Board directors for their approval," Lewis said.

CP receipts down in August

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program funds received by the Executive Committee dropped nearly 8 percent compared to the same month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, the committee's president-treasurer.

The August 1992 figure, \$11,210,624, is 7.85 percent below the same month in 1991, \$12,165,114.

"This decline of \$954,489 is deeply regretted," Bennett said. "That means the Foreign Mission Board received \$477,000 less from the CP in August than it would have received. Also the Home Mission Board's income was reduced by \$186,600 and our six seminaries by almost \$194,000.

With just one month to go in the SBC fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts for the year-to-date are 1.2 percent behind the previous year.

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Convention Uniform*Strong and courageous*

by Harry Black, Natural Steps Church, Roland

Basic passage: Joshua 1:1-18

Focal passage: Joshua 1:1-2, 6-9

Central truth: God calls each of us to be strong and courageous in the Christian life.

Strong and courageous—this was Joshua's motto. God selected and applied it uniquely to him. In combination, the words are used only 11 times in Scripture: once to Moses, twice to Solomon, one time by Joshua to the people of Israel, but six times in regard to Joshua himself. Not only did God identify Joshua with this motto, but so did Moses (Dt. 31:7) and the people he led (Jn. 1:18).

In the Hebrew, "strong" literally means "to fasten upon" to "to bind fast." The implication of this word is to seize with determination, to prevail, and to withstand. The word for "courageous" means to be alert and to act with great spirit and undaunted courage. Used together, the resultant phrase indicated a resolute mind and a fearless spirit. This is what God required of Joshua in three areas.

God required Joshua to be strong and courageous in leading the people (1:6). There would be times that the people would doubt and disobey, times when God's plans would seem impossible and illogical, times when the enemy would seem invincible. But if Joshua would lead the people with strength and courage, they would ultimately inherit the land in victory.

God also required Joshua to be strong and courageous in obeying the law (1:7-8). Keeping the law was Israel's condition in their covenant with God: they would obey the law and God would give them provision, success, and salvation. As their leader, Joshua was to know, speak, and meditate upon the law constantly, that he might be both a political and spiritual leader.

Finally, God expected Joshua to be strong and courageous in his personal relationship with God. The question in verse 9 could be associated with verses 7 and 8 regarding the law. But I choose to relate it to the affirmation of verse 9: it is God who has called and commanded, it is the same God who will accompany and encourage. Therefore Joshua may be confident in his leadership. He may be strong and courageous. And so may we.

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Life and Work*The necessity of the Spirit*

by Robert A. Parker, Mount Vernon Church, Benton

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 2

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 7-13

Central truth: The Holy Spirit's power, revelation and guidance are absolutely necessary for truly effective witnessing.

Too many of us today as Baptists don't give emphasis to the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, as we should. There is a need for more prayerful consideration and study of the Holy Spirit and his ministry of witnessing to the lost. The Holy Spirit wants us as born again believers in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord to be his instruments in witnessing.

Sadly, many groups such as the Latter Day Saints and Jehovah's Witnesses are extremely active in their door-to-door "witnessing." Certainly, our faith and belief do not agree with their misguided efforts, but we must give them credit for doing what they believe to be right.

Having had the Holy Spirit of God to convict us of sin, to give us regeneration by grace through faith and to sanctify us, we must through his power do as the Apostle Paul in being faithful unto our time of physical death by the sharing of our faith.

Engines of all types must have fuel in order to have power for operation. Various types of fuel are used, such as gasoline, diesel fuel and even atomic fuel. If we as Christians are to be "operating" for the Lord Jesus as we ought, the only effective "fuel" for such is the power supplied by the Holy Spirit.

There have been times when water accidentally got into the fuel line, causing serious problems. As Christians we must prayerfully seek always to do or say nothing that would prevent the Holy Spirit from empowering effectively our gospel witness at home and abroad.

We as individuals, families, local congregations, and as a denomination must constantly pray that all that we say and do will assist in letting the Holy Spirit empower our witness.

The first thing we should do at the beginning of each day is to ask for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our own personal lives. God will then surely bless our witness! Encourage others to do likewise!

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Bible Book*Agents of hope*

by Bruce A. Swihart, East Side Church, Paragould

Basic passage: Micah 4:1-7; 5:2-4

Focal passage: Micah 4:1-5

Central truth: During dark days of judgment, God always offers hope to those who will listen and obey his Word.

Justice must be served. God's judgment on sin and sinful people must come. Micah has laid out a timeless truth concerning how God works. God's righteousness demands judgment. But, God is still the God of hope. When God promises judgment he also offers hope. We who are Christians are to be God's agents of hope during difficult times and in trying situations.

(1) Hope that God will also act for good. The misuse and abuse of corrupt religious leaders had made Jerusalem a terrible place to be. God promised to punish the people and destroy the holy city. However, Jerusalem is still to be God's holy place, the place of his justice where he demonstrates the righteousness of his name. Micah relates that God promises "In the last days the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains" (4:1). God's purpose is to establish a united place of worship for Christians of all races and it will ultimately be accomplished. He also promised to enrich the lives of his people, "He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths" (4:2). God is still in the process of bringing the good news of salvation to all people. God has acted with hope in Jesus Christ and continues to send out his Word through faithful witnesses.

(2) Hope that God's victory will bring true freedom. Micah enumerates the freedoms that will finally belong to his true children. The first will be freedom from the ignorance of God's law and will. God will settle all disputes. Second, there will be freedom from war. It will come not because of mankind's efforts, but through the Prince of Peace. The basis for a true peace is knowledge of the law of God and obedience to that law and gospel. The gospel changes the hearts of people so they desire and pursue peace. Third, there will be freedom from want because the resources that go into war will be turned to productive ends. Last, there will be freedom from fear because people will know and love God through Jesus Christ.

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Convention Uniform

An unlikely leader?

by Harry Black, Natural Steps Church, Roland

Basic passage: Judges 4:1-5:31

Focal passage: Judges 4:4-16

Central truth: God's leaders are not always chosen by our criteria.

It was a time of surprising leadership; a time when God called nobodies, braggarts, and yes, even women. A woman as a national or spiritual leader is not surprising in twentieth century America, but we must understand that the context of Deborah's ministry was over 3,000 years ago in the Middle East. For God to choose a female leader for his people was very unlikely. And yet, we shall see it is not so surprising in light of her credentials.

She was a "prophetess." Many times we associate prophetic utterances with foretelling. We find this to be true of Deborah in 4:14 as she foretold Barak's victory. A prophet also proclaimed God's message as it related to current situations. Chapter 4:6-7 demonstrates her fulfillment of this prophetic function. Another less recognized meaning of the title prophetess is "one who sings in prophetic ecstasy."

Deborah was also a wife. We know very little about her personal life. She was married to a man named Lappidoth. We may suspect that she fulfilled her domestic responsibilities as well as her national duties, but all we actually know is that on one time she was married.

As a judge, 4:5 says, "She held court . . . and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided" (NIV). The people trusted her wisdom and insight and were willing to accept her judgments. Due to the tumultuous times in Israel, her court was held under a tree known as "the Palm of Deborah" rather than at the city gates.

Deborah was an administrator as well. She called for Barak and outlined the Lord's plan of battle. She was careful with every detail of preparation and implementation. It is indicative of this ability that Barak and the people responded unquestioningly to her strategy.

Finally, she was a woman of faith. When she instructed Barak to lead the people into battle he refused. He needed her physical presence to encourage and reassure him. Not so with Deborah. Where God led, she would go swiftly and faithfully. hindsight proves that Deborah was not such an unlikely choice after all.

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Life and Work

Sharing your personal faith

by Robert A. Parker, Mount Vernon Church, Benton

Basic passage: Acts 26:1-29

Focal passage: Acts 26:4-5, 9, 12-16, 19-20

Central truth: The ability to share our personal faith in Christ with the lost is of utmost importance.

Several years ago, a layman gave his personal testimony in the church of which he was a member. He mentioned in closing that he shared it every chance he had. After the service a fellow member and personal friend told that he wished he could do that also. He was asked by his friend to tell of his conversion, which he did. Where upon he was told, "That's wonderful, now go tell others what you told me!"

Anyone who reads prayerfully and studies the New Testament can not but help to note that the former Saul of Tarsus often shared, as he did in today's scriptural passage, how he met his Master on the Road to Damascus, and was later known as Paul the apostle born out of due season!

Full-time Christian workers are not the only ones obligated to share the gospel. The Great Commission was given to the church of which all members are a vital, important part. All are expected to share their personal testimony.

Paul, in addressing King Agrippa, stated that he was not disobedient regarding the heavenly vision (Ac. 26:19). We must, as born again, personal believers in Christ as Savior and Master, not be disobedient in not sharing our "vision" or personal experience of salvation.

Isn't it wonderful to know also that as Southern Baptists, by the sharing of our tithes and offerings, we can help spread the gospel all over the world, beginning at home as did Paul and others.

As you and others share the verbal witness of the transformation that comes in our relationship with Jesus Christ, seek also to witness by manifesting the fruits of the Holy Spirit, "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control" (Ac. 20:22-23).

As soldiers of the cross, we are in constant combat with satanic powers and principalities. Refusal to share verbally or otherwise share our witness gives comfort to the enemy.

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Bible Book

What pleases God?

by Bruce A. Swihart, East Side Church, Paragould

Basic passage: Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; 7:5-7, 18-20

Focal passage: Micah 6:6-8

Central truth: A healthy, productive life must be built in God's standards rather than on human ambition.

Many people are willing to do all kinds of religious activities, but are not willing to do what God requires. The ungodly, but religious people in Micah's day asked God a series of questions. This must be seen as their defense against God's criticism of them because of their inattentiveness to his work and will. God is faulting them. What do they come back with? They were willing to do whatever God required—if only he let them know what he wanted. Does God want "burnt offerings . . . calves a year old?" That can be arranged. Does he want "thousands of rams," possibly "ten thousand rivers of oil?" They can supply those. Is it possible that God would desire the "firstborn" children as a sin offering? The implication is that they might be willing to offer their children. They suggest, "God, tell us what we haven't done. We are more ready to serve you than you are to tell us what you require."

God calmly answers that he is not requiring any new ordinances or further regulations. All he asks is what he has always required. It is not found in form, routine, or ritual. It is found in reality. To do what God requires is "to act justly . . . to love mercy . . . and to walk humbly" with him.

To act justly means to do what is the right, just, and godly thing in every aspect of your life. To love mercy means that we are to cultivate an attitude of consistent longsuffering. We are to love mercy in others. We are to love it as God develops that quality in us. To walk humbly with God means to get self out of the way and to fellowship with God in the beauty of his holiness.

Church attendance, being an usher or deacon, serving on a committee, or teaching a class do not of themselves please God. God desires to have a daily personal relationship with his children. Spiritual change and moral transformation mark the lives of those who are truly God's people. What is it about you and what you do that is pleasing to God?

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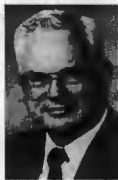
SBC FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

Kammerdiener named interim president

By Robert O'Brien

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted unanimously Aug. 19 for Don Kammerdiener to serve as the board's interim president after President R. Keith Parks retires Oct. 30.



Kammerdiener, 56, a 30-year veteran of Southern Baptist foreign missions, also will continue to serve as executive vice president, a post he has held since Jan. 1, 1990.

In other action, trustees heard a report from the committee searching for a successor to Parks, voted to support an effort by trustee chairman John Jackson to dialogue with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, approved 36 missionary candidates and elected Michael Stroop, 40, of Dallas, area director for Cooperative Services International. He will direct field personnel and administration for the Southern Baptist aid organization from a base in London, where he has worked since 1990 as its western region coordinator.

Trustees and staff also confronted difficulties and differing opinions on how to move more quickly to implement ministries both in Eastern Europe and through the board's ambitious "Green Alert" program in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

They also heard Bill Gothard, head of the Institute of Basic Life Principles, and Jack Johnson, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, tell about efforts they have begun in the former Soviet Union.

Trustees voted unanimously to ask staff, who already had met with Radio and Television Commission staff members, to discuss ways to team up in evangelistic efforts in the former Soviet Union.

A 15-person committee searching for a successor to Parks may present a candidate for trustee approval in three to six months, according to Joel Gregory of Dallas, chairman of the search committee.

In a separate action, trustees decided unanimously they must elect the new president by at least a 75 percent majority.

Gregory said the committee, which has held five meetings and a telephone

conference, has winnowed names of more than 60 candidates into three levels or tiers — with six names in the top tier for primary consideration and four names in the second tier for secondary consideration.

"That doesn't mean we will limit future consideration only to those names," Gregory said. "Nominations may still be submitted for consideration at future meetings." The next two committee sessions are set for Aug. 28-29 and Sept. 25-26.

Gregory, seeking to dispel rumors the committee entered the process with a preconceived opinion about Parks' successor, said the committee has deliberated with an open mind, taken each candidate seriously, relied extensively on prayer and Scripture and approached the task without "any inclination other than to find the mind of the Lord."

The Foreign Mission Board dialogue with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, tentatively set for Oct. 15, grew out of a July 27 dialogue between leaders of the FMB and the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

At that time, FMB trustee chairman Jackson agreed to initiate a dialogue with the Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist churches formed in protest to the Southern Baptist Convention's current leadership and direction.

WMO leaders asked Jackson to explain to CBF the FMB's position on appointing people as missionaries who have been involved with the Fellowship. Jackson said the dialogue with CBF would seek "to alleviate misconceptions on the appointment process" and discuss other matters of concern.

The trustee chairman also announced he and other board representatives will take part in another dialogue Sept. 11-12 in Hamburg, Germany, with leaders of the European Baptist Federation.

In other action, Mike Stroop, 40, was named area director for Cooperative Services International, the entity which operates the FMB's non-residential missionary program. A native of Texas, Stroop will be based in London where he has worked since 1990 as CSI's western region coordinator.

No presidential nominee in sight

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is not likely to have a new president before the end of the year, the chairman of the board's presidential search committee said Aug. 19.

Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, told FMB trustees following a meeting of the 15-member search committee that the panel is actively considering about 10 persons to succeed Keith Parks, who retires Oct. 30 as board president.

But interviews with candidates have not been conducted and the committee needs a "three-to-six-month corridor" of time to narrow the list and select a nominee, Gregory said. That probably rules out an announcement at the board's Oct. 12-14 meeting, although one could be made at the Dec. 7-9 meeting, he said.

He added he hoped a called meeting of trustees could be avoided because "it's so expensive."

The more than 60 nominations received by the committee have been organized into three "tiers," Gregory

said. The first tier includes names for which the committee is actively seeking information and references. Nominees in the second tier are undergoing "less consideration," but are still considered viable. Third tier nominees are not being actively considered.

Gregory said about six names are included in the first tier and four in the second. He added additional nominations are welcomed and would be considered.

Gregory vigorously disputed rumors that the search committee has already settled on its choice.

"All reports that a decision has been made a priori...are absolutely false.... This committee did not have any predilection other than seeking the mind of the Lord," he said. There is no "favored candidate," he insisted.

Trustees later adopted a motion that the new president must be elected by a 75 percent margin of trustees voting. The FMB policy manual does not specify the percentage necessary for election, said Bob Clements of Austin, Texas, who made the motion.

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WORLD

Coming to terms with tragedy

Gilberts visit the land their daughter loved

by Lounette Templeton & Avah Shelby

Beypets Press

HONG KONG (BP)—Clayton and Scottie Gilbert made a trip to China this summer to close the curtain on a tragedy they didn't author.

The Alexander City, Ala., couple retraced their daughter Mary Anna's six-week experience as a Southern Baptist teacher in China. They began in Meixian where she taught and ended in Guangzhou where she died in a 1990 plane crash after an attempted hijacking.

The Gilberts began saving for a trip almost from the time their 23-year-old daughter left for China earlier that year. When she called to say how happy she was with her English-teaching assignment at Jia Ying University, they knew they had to visit to see firsthand what made her so happy.

As they read Mary Anna's letters, the Gilberts made mental notes of people and places they wanted to visit on the trip: Mary Anna's students and new friend Yang Ningyu; the foreign affairs officer at the university; her classroom and the college hangout she called "the verandah"; and the Meixian church she attended.

Mary Anna's violent death Oct. 2, 1990, changed all that. As they coped with their grief, Mrs. Gilbert also had to face hip surgery. Her husband helped nurse her and carried on his part-time pastorate at Pine Grove Baptist Church near Alexander City and volunteer work at a halfway house for recovering drug addicts.

But the trip to China crept back into their lives one day. Gilbert was preparing a message for the Woman's Missionary Union meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1991. As he worked, he felt God wanted them to go to China—but not as tourists.

Their health would not permit a long-term commitment but the Gilberts volunteered for a summer teaching assignment. They contacted Cooperative Services International (CSI), the Southern Baptist aid organization that arranged their daughter's assignment.

"We wanted to experience some of what Mary Anna had experienced," Gilbert said.

The same day they filled out their CSI application, a letter inviting the Gilberts to teach arrived from Jia Ying University. Later, a letter came from Mary Anna's friend on the university staff, Yang Ningyu. "She told us if we would come, she

would treat us as her parents," Mrs. Gilbert said.

The Gilberts arrived in Meixian June 26. Waiting at the airport were Erin Thomas, the Southern Baptist teacher who survived the crash that took Mary Anna's life. Also waiting were two professors who had known Mary Anna—and their daughter's dear friend, Yang.

The young foreign affairs officer cried, "Mother! Mother!" as she embraced Mrs. Gilbert. True to her word, Yang—and other university officials—treated the Gilberts with all the filial respect Chinese reserve for their own parents.

"They treated us royally. In four days, we had seven banquets," Gilbert said with a laugh. "They couldn't do enough for us."

Gilbert's most meaningful experience came when he followed Mary Anna's path to a small store near the university. "In her letters, she told of sitting out on 'the verandah' sipping a Pepsi, looking at a pretty rice field while she meditated," he recalled. He bought a cold drink and sat for a while on the small porch overlooking the rice field.

The Gilberts admit they can't always control their emotions. "Every so often, it's difficult to hold back the tears and not wonder why," he said. "I don't question God. Our children are God's from the beginning. At least we had her for 23 years."

(BP) photo / Warren Johnson



Clayton and Scottie Gilbert look out over the Chinese City of Guangzhou.