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### September 22, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 19

September 22, 1994

## 1994 State Convention Preview



**A**rkansas Baptists will highlight the need to "Reach People" during the 1994 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 1-2 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. "Reach People," the convention's theme, is the final focus of the convention's five-year "Building God's Family" emphasis. See pages 6-11 for the '94 convention preview.

**Reach  
People**



1 9 9 5

Building God's Family

## Biggs announces retirement as Children's Homes director

Johnny Biggs, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries since 1971, has announced his retirement effective April 30, 1995.

Biggs, 57, said in a letter to ABCFHM trustees, "I feel it is time to retire from this ministry and enter another area of need that the Lord has placed within my heart; services to the elderly." According to the agency Annuity Board retire-ment supplement, ABCFHM employees may retire as early as age 55.

Biggs told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* his future plans "are not firm. This has been a burden of mine and a dual interest over the years, but suddenly I realized they (senior adults) are my peers.

"I said, hey, if you're going to do something with senior adult ministries, quit talking about it and do it." He said he will continue to evaluate specific ministry opportunities over the next eight months.

"We are sorely disappointed that he is leaving," remarked board chairman Jeff Cheatham. "He has done an excellent job.

"He was a dreamer and had the ability to help others bring dreams to reality," said Cheatham, director of missions for Arkansas River Valley Association. "He was a visionary who could adjust to the changing times and the changing philosophy of child care."

Biggs' retirement announcement comes during the agency's 100th anniversary. "When he started, all we had was the Monticello campus with 100 to 125 children," Cheatham recalled. "Now there

are emergency receiving homes in Sherwood, Little Rock, Westfork, Camden, Paragould and Judsonia, Promise House at El Dorado and Boys' Ranch at Harrison. In 1994, we provided care for 569 youth and children."

Biggs previously served the ABCFHM as director of the Little Rock area office, as a social worker for the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Augusta, Ga., and as a child welfare caseworker for the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare.

He is a member of the National Association of Homes for Children board of directors, the Arkansas Council of Children and Youth and the National Association of Caseworkers. He also is a former president of the Southwestern Association of Executives of Homes for Children.

He and his wife, Joyce, are members of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, where he serves as a deacon and Sunday School department director.

Cheatham said a search committee has been formed under the leadership of board personnel committee chairman George Wadley to seek Biggs' successor. Resumes may be sent to Wadley at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72205.

Reflecting on his term of service, Biggs said, "I came 26 years ago in response to what I considered God's will for my life. I am glad He called. I am happy that I came. I am leaving at this time with the same understanding."



Johnny Biggs

## Cover Story

# Reach People



1 9 9 5  
Building God's Family

## Convention preview 6-11

"Reach People" will be the theme of the 1994 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting which will be held Nov. 1-2 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

## Also inside

### Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
The President's Corner.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5

### Arkansas Baptists

State convention program.....	6
Alumni meetings planned.....	8
Convention-related meetings.....	9
Executive Board proposals.....	10-11
Arkansas All Over.....	12-13
Volunteer BSU leader named.....	16
Arkansas aid Branson ministry....	18
OBU, WBC enrollment up.....	21

### Nation

SBC leaders visit Clinton.....	14
Florida delays HMB plan.....	15
Mail SBC reservations Oct. 1.....	17

### World

Volunteers aid Rwandans.....	3
European partnership needs.....	13

Lessons.....22-23

Next issue: Oct. 6

# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# Volunteers offer help, hope to Rwandans

By Bob Carey

SBC Brotherhood Commission

GOMA, ZAIRE (BP)—Tim Malone quietly cried as he worked his way down the rough pile of rocks that make up Magunga Camp, carrying a three-month-old infant dying of cholera.

For Malone it was a difficult first day of his 16-day volunteer relief trip to the Rwandan refugee camps sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

"I really thought he was going to die in my arms," Malone said about the young infant. "I was frustrated that I couldn't have intervened sooner. He was severely malnourished and looked like a preemie, not a three-month-old. That's the frustrating part. If we had only reacted him sooner."

"I've seen many people die before but there's nothing like seeing a child die who's an innocent victim."

"The conditions here are more incredible than I could ever imagine," Malone said. "There are people everywhere. As we drove in I couldn't believe it. The television news just didn't show the expanse of the camp."

Magunga Camp is one of four in the area surrounding Goma. The United Nations estimates there are close to 800,000 refugees in the Magunga Camp and close to 2 million throughout the Goma area. The area is covered by a mix of smoke, dust and volcanic ash, making breathing difficult at times.

Malone, a physician from Fort Worth, Texas, found the call to come was one he couldn't resist. After he learned about the Southern Baptist relief teams, it was Malone's schedule and skills that placed him on the first 16-person team that would help overburdened Foreign Mission Board personnel working in the camp.

Each team has two doctors and four nurses; the balance is comprised of construction workers, maintenance workers, cooks and drivers. Six more teams are scheduled to arrive in the relief camp in the coming weeks.

"When I saw the needs I knew my skills were needed. I had to be here," Malone said. "I kept asking, 'When do we leave?' I had to get a leave of absence from the hospital (Texas Osteopathic Center in Fort Worth) but they were extremely cooperative. The other interns and residents were interested in how I got to go. Some have applied to come on a later team."

It's been an experience that volunteers and missionaries won't soon forget. In



Tim Malone (left), a physician from Fort Worth, Texas, examines Mbarushinama at a UNICEF camp for Rwandan refugee children outside Goma, Zaire. Malone and Brian Shirley (right), a respiratory therapist from Dunsmuir, Calif., were part of the first team of volunteers sent there in a project sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board.

Goma it's a normal, everyday occurrence for water and electricity to shut down, leaving relief workers in the dark. Many relief workers sleep in tents rented by the organizations set up in the yards of residents.

The roar of U.S. Air Force C-141s and other large transport planes delivering food and medical supplies for the refugees disturbs the night.

Between aircraft, gunfire can be heard from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Approximately 9,000 unaccompanied children live in relief camps, according to UNICEF. Many of these children have been separated from their parents during the exit from Rwanda and have suffered from shock.

Tulinabo is one such child. He doesn't speak and clings to the nurses and volunteers working in the camp.

"He's in such shock that his facial muscles have formed a frown. He's coming around, but he needs so much love," said Carmen O'Kelley, a nurse from Dayton, Ohio, who serves with the Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps.

"At times, it seems like I haven't done much nursing, (spending time) loving and playing with them," O'Kelley added. "But it's an important part of their recovery."

Love and a break for some play are part of a regular routine at the children's camp.

Whether it's playing patty cake, teaching the children English or just holding them, they all seem to respond just like the children they really are.

"Most of the children are doing well," Malone reported. "They need the physical activity and play times. They're coming out of shock and just need to have some fun."

As the first team of Southern Baptist volunteers prepared to return to the United States, leaving Goma was a mixture of emotions. The living conditions in Goma aren't easy, but the rewards are great. Every member of the first team answered a resounding "yes" when asked if they would do it again.

"I'd go back today if it was possible," said DeLana Talley of Dallas, who served as the cook for the volunteers. "I just wish I didn't have to go back to my real job. This was a real blessing."

For more information about the Rwanda Refugee Relief Effort, contact Southern Baptist hunger and relief at either the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-6767, or Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar, Ave., Memphis, TN 38104-2499.

A 24-hour Rwanda Project information phone line has been established at the Brotherhood Commission. Call 901-278-7839 for the latest relief information.

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABSC Executive Director

The Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering is not nearly as well known as the Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering or the Annie Armstrong Home Missions Offering. Yet, proportionately, it is as vital to mission work we do in the state as the other offerings are to their areas of support. These special offerings provide nearly 50 percent of the funds for their annual budgets.

September is the month our churches are asked to give a little time to inform the people about state missions work, to spend time in prayer for the work and to give the membership an opportunity to make a special offering to state missions work.

It is always a joy to learn that almost all of our churches promote the Foreign Missions Offering. A few less promote the Home Missions Offering. Even fewer promote the State Missions Offering. I guess it is the old inclination to believe that missions is more real, glamorous and needy the further you get from home.

Arkansas is growing more pagan by the day. Our mission efforts are being mightily blessed of God. More churches, more evangelism, more ministry are needed now. Home missions support for this work is being reduced because of a shortfall in Cooperative Program receipts and a decline in the Annie Armstrong Offering. The only hope to maintain the current level of ministry is for Arkansas people to support Arkansas missions through the Dixie Jackson Offering. It would please God if we could expand the work instead of just maintain it.

We are talking about ministries that result in well over a thousand conversions through chaplaincy ministries, migrant centers, church planting, summer missionaries, 58 language missions, 50 missions resort ministries, etc.

Without apology I want to urge you, pastors and laypeople, to see to it that your congregation is given an opportunity to support these worthy missions causes in Arkansas as faithfully as you would those anywhere else.

RONNIE ROGERS

## The President's Corner

### Gambling is...



**Morally Reprehensible** – While Scripture does not have an explicit "thou shalt not gamble," it condemns it in principle and never mentions the attitude associated with gambling in a positive light. Scripture like, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) are antithetical to the self love necessary for the gambler. Gambling is built on the premise one must lose for another to win.

Legalized gambling is not a cure for illegal gambling, but a cause. The U.S. Department of Crime Section reports, "The rate of illegal gambling in those states which have some form of gambling was three times as high as in those states where there was not legalized gambling."

**Economically Unjustifiable** – A 1987 survey asked 474 businesses in Hot Springs, "Does the race meet benefit your business financially?" Twenty-nine percent said yes and 71 percent said no.

John Kindt, Commerce and Legal Professor at the University of Illinois, reported, "Gambling is the black hole of any economy, sucking money out of the local economy."

An Economic Impact Analysis for the Arkansas Casino Gaming Study Subcommittee reported April 4 that only one of 10 casino visitors would be in

Arkansas because of casino gambling, and by the year 2005 the net job increase would be 969. The rest of the money generated by the projected casino would come from people who would have spent their money in Arkansas anyway; only now it is diverted to the casino. As for the 969 jobs over the next decade, one good company would create that many jobs without the negative consequence of gambling.

**Logically Indefensible** – The promotion of gambling is based on illusions; some of which are:

- People want more gambling. No, they want what they are promised gambling will do like create more jobs, police and money for education.

- Gambling brings more money. No, gambling does not create money. It reshuffles existing monies. According to the Economic Impact Analysis, 90 percent of the money would be diverted from legitimate businesses in the state.

- That our government officials can replace organized crime bosses in promoting gambling behavior they used to prosecute and yet maintain a society with a moral fortitude capable of self-governance. That dream will eventuate a nightmarish reality.

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

## Personal perspectives

"I've seen many people die before but there's nothing like seeing a child die who's an innocent victim."

—Tim Malone, Baptist physician serving as missions volunteer to Rwandan refugees in Zaire

"We've got to come to the place where we worry more about what will happen if we fail to take a stand than by what will happen if we do take a stand."

—Barry King, Christian Civic Action Committee chairman, urging involvement in anti-gambling efforts

# 'Reaching People' requires Christian love

"Reach People" is the challenge Arkansas Baptists will have the opportunity to hear and heed during the 1994 Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The annual meeting, set for Nov. 1-2, will be held at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

"Reach People" is Arkansas Baptists' concluding theme in the five-year focus on "Building God's Family." We will reach people during the two-day convention and related meetings. The question is: What messages will they hear? Will we reach them with messages of hope, love and unity or will they see and hear messages of despair, anger and bickering?

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has a long history of affirming harmony and cooperation as messengers gather to conduct business. Occasionally, however, differences of opinion arise. That is when our true witness as Christian brothers and sisters comes through. Being able to disagree agreeably — in Christian love — is a vital part of our witness to the watching world.

This year's convention activities offer ample opportunities for differences of opinion — and for an effective Christian witness. The pre-convention Pastors' Conference already has stirred diverse opinions about independent Baptist televangelist Jerry Falwell serving as the conference's closing speaker.

Emotions are running so high on the subject that most of the letters received by the Newsmagazine concerning Falwell cannot be published because they cross the line into personal attacks which our policies prohibit us from printing.



## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON

One formal response that has been taken is a series of motions by Rocky Bayou Association's executive board. The motions voice objection to Falwell speaking at the Pastors' Conference; request conference president Wallace Edgar to withdraw the invitation; and declare that "we do not believe that any Cooperative Program money should go to support any program that brings independent or non-Southern Baptist personnel in for key or main speakers."

For the record, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board budget does include \$2,500 to help offset costs of the Pastors' Conference. The funds, however, are used at the discretion of the Pastors' Conference officers. Similar allocations are provided for the Ministers' Wives Conference, Religious Education Association and Youth Ministers' Fellowship.

Considering Edgar's goal for the Pastors' Conference to provide "a greater motiva-

tion to witness, win people and bring them into the Kingdom," it is unfortunate that controversy related to Falwell's coming may overshadow that goal for many people. Pray earnestly that God will be glorified and Christian love will be demonstrated throughout the conference.

On the other end of the political spectrum, the location of the state convention at President Clinton's home church is expected to attract protestors and picketers to the annual meeting.

While Baptists have taken repeated formal stands against Clinton's policies related to abortion and homosexuality, we would do well to follow Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry's advice to focus criticism on policies and not Clinton as a person. "I think as long as we can do that," Henry said, "we can make headway with each other."

Henry's comments, which came following a recent meeting with Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, also emphasized that Southern Baptists "have a biblical responsibility to pray" for the two leaders.

Despite specific concerns, the bulk of the annual meeting will focus on the great things God is doing through Arkansas Baptists and the bold goals we have for reaching people with Christ's message of salvation. When occasional differences do arise, we must follow God's admonition that "whosoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21).

How will we "Reach People" — even those with whom we disagree? The key is Christian love.

## Gambling foes challenged to combat complacency

The greatest obstacle to expanded legalized gambling in Arkansas "is not the zealotry of the proponents of gambling," declared anti-gambling advocate Barry King. "Our greatest obstacle is the apathy of the opponents of gambling."

With Arkansans facing three gambling proposals on the Nov. 8 ballot, King shared a recent report with members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, is chairman of the Christian Civic Action Committee, which is seeking to mobilize concerned citizens to defeat the gambling proposals.

"What are the obstacles we must identify and overcome if we are going to be victorious in this fight?" King asked. He said at least two sources of widespread apathy must be confronted and corrected — the "we can't lose" attitude and the "we can't win" attitude.

Insisting that the "we can't lose" crowd "sees no need to get involved" and the "we can't win" mentality "breeds apathy and complacency," he said, "That apathy and that complacency runs deep. We've got to counter it and we have to overcome it."

"We can lose," he cautioned. "In fact, if something dramatic does not happen between now and Nov. 8, we will lose." He said recent polls indicate "we are 8 points down and hemorrhaging. We can lose."

On the other hand, he affirmed, "we can win." Citing recent setbacks for gambling proponents in the neighboring states of Oklahoma, Missouri and Tennessee, he said, "We can win...if we will do all that is necessary, we will win."

Noting that CCAC officials are encouraging each congregation in the state to contribute \$2 per member to help fund anti-gambling efforts, King reported, "Over

100 churches in our state convention have done that with an average contribution of about \$500."

However, he added, "that means over 1,200 of our churches have done nothing."

"We've got to do something," King concluded. "We've got to do it in a big hurry. If not, we will deal with the ill effects of casino and lottery gambling in the state of Arkansas from now on."

Individuals interested in obtaining "No Casinos/No Lottery!" campaign material may contact the Christian Civic Action Committee, P.O. Box 193256, Little Rock, AR 72219-3256; phone 562-1304. Materials include bumper stickers ranging in price from 25 cents for a minimum order of one to 15 cents each for 250 or more, handouts for 2 cents each for a minimum order of 500, and yard signs ranging from \$1 each for a minimum order of 10 to 60 cents each for 1,000 or more.

PREVIEW OF THE 1994

# Arkansas Baptist State Convention

November 1-2

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

# Reach People



1 9 9 5

Building God's Family

## NOVEMBER 1 Tuesday Morning

8:30	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
8:35	Reaching People Testimony/Prayer.....	Doug Grubbs
8:50	Call to Order.....	Ronnie Rogers
	Welcome to City.....	Mike Huckabee
8:55	Welcome.....	Rex Horne
9:00	Appointment of Committees.....	Ronnie Rogers
	Enrollment of Messengers.....	David Uth
	Adoption of Order of Business.....	Jim Lagrone
	Tellers Committee Instructions.....	Charles Mays
	Resolutions.....	Larry Page
	Constitution Amendments.....	Phillip Smith
9:15	Announcements.....	Ronnie Rogers
9:20	Recognition of Denominational Guests.....	Ronnie Rogers
9:25	Recognition of Missionaries.....	Ronnie Rogers
9:30	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
9:35	SBC Report.....	Morris Chapman
9:55	Special Music.....	Tami Artt
10:00	MESSAGE.....	Junior Hill
10:30	European Partnership Report.....	Doyle Plummer
10:40	Iowa Partnership Report.....	Jimmy Barrentine, Wyndell Jones
10:50	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
10:55	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....	Ronnie Rogers
11:25	Benediction.....	Sam Whitlow

## NOVEMBER 1 Tuesday Afternoon

	Pre-session Music, Music Men Brass.....	Glen Ennes
1:30	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
1:35	Reaching People Testimony/Prayer.....	Jimmie Lewis
1:50	Miscellaneous Business	
2:00	Williams Baptist College Report.....	Gary Huckabay
2:15	Christian Civic Foundation Report.....	Larry Page
2:25	Nominating Committee.....	Jimmy Wallace
2:35	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT.....	Rich Kincl
2:55	Directions 2000.....	Jimmie Sheffield
3:15	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
3:20	Special Music.....	Singing Women
3:35	MESSAGE.....	Tom Elliff
4:05	Benediction.....	Ed Smith

## NOVEMBER 1 Tuesday Evening

6:15	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
6:20	Reaching People Testimony/Prayer.....	Bob Shelton
6:35	Ouachita Baptist University Choir.....	Charles Wright
6:50	Ouachita Baptist University Report.....	Ben Elrod
7:05	Cooperative Program Awards.....	Jimmie Sheffield
7:15	Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Report.....	Johnny Biggs
8:00	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
8:05	Special Music.....	Master Singers
8:20	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
8:25	MESSAGE.....	Don Moore
8:55	Benediction.....	Mike Whalen

## NOVEMBER 2 Wednesday Morning

8:15	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
8:20	Reaching People Testimony/Prayer.....	Dwayne Miller
8:35	Recognitions.....	Ronnie Rogers
	Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis	
	Baptist Medical System, Little Rock	
	Former Presidents	
	Retired Baptist Workers.....	Martha Hairston
	New Arkansans.....	Don Moore
8:50	MESSAGE.....	Jerry Rankin
9:20	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:35	Arkansas Baptist Foundation Report.....	David Moore
9:45	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:55	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Report.....	Trennis Henderson
10:05	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
10:15	Report of Seminary Studies.....	Carter Tucker
10:25	Congregational Singing.....	Buster Pray
10:30	Special Music.....	Cindy Jenkins
10:35	CONVENTION SERMON.....	Cliff Palmer
11:05	Miscellaneous Business	
11:20	Resolutions.....	Larry Page
11:50	Presentation of New Officers Benediction by New President	

Organist: Lyndon Finney, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Planists: Chris Emert, First Church, Springdale  
Richard Stipe, First Church, Springdale

# Speakers to highlight 'Reach People' theme

Arkansas Baptists will highlight the need to "Reach People" during the 1994 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 1-2 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. "Reach People," the convention's theme, is the final focus of the convention's five-year "Building God's Family" emphasis.

Featured speakers during the meeting will include Junior Hill, a vocational evangelist from Hartselle, Ala.; Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.; and Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

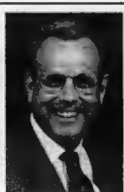
Ronnie Rogers, ABSC president, will give the president's message and ABSC executive director Don Moore will share his annual message. Cliff Palmer, president of Church Growth Concepts in Rogers, will deliver the annual convention sermon.

Hill will preach during the Tuesday morning session. He served for 11 years as pastor of churches in Alabama and Mississippi before entering full-time evangelism in 1967. A former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, he has conducted more than 1,100 revivals in the U.S. and foreign countries. Hill is the author of several books, including *The Tragedy of Not Knowing, Why Do Christians Doubt?* and *God's Cure for a Broken Heart*.

Elliff, who has been pastor of First Southern Church in Del City since 1985, will speak during the Tuesday afternoon session. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado, as well as churches in Warren and Little Rock. He also served as a foreign missionary to Zimbabwe from 1981-83. A Ouachita Baptist University graduate, Elliff has served on the SBC committee on order of business



Junior Hill



Tom Elliff



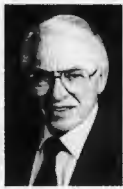
Jerry Rankin



Ronnie Rogers



Don Moore



Cliff Palmer

and as president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Rankin will preach during the Wednesday morning session. He has been FMB president since 1993. He previously served as area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific, overseeing the work of 480 missionaries in 15 nations. He also was a career missionary in Indonesia from 1970-81, associate to the area director for South and Southeast Asia from 1982-86, and was administrator for Southern Baptist mission work in India from 1986-87. He has served as pastor and associate pastor of churches in Texas and as Baptist Student Union director and Bible instructor at Grayson County Community College in Denison, Texas.

Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in

Hot Springs since 1985, will give the president's address during the Tuesday morning session. A former brakeman and conductor for Rock Island Railroad, Rogers also has served as pastor of Knowles Church in Strong and as associate pastor of Vickery Baptist Church in Dallas. Rogers has served on the board of the Christian Civic Foundation and on committees for Central and Garland County associations. He currently is serving on the board of overseers for Criswell College in Dallas, the board of trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and as vice president of Christians for Greater Hot Springs.

Moore, ABSC executive director since 1982, will give his address during the Tuesday evening session. He has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, including 12 years as pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith. He has been president of the ABSC and Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference as well as a trustee of Ouachita Baptist University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Palmer was pastor of First Church in Springdale from 1970 to 1986 prior to establishing Church Growth Concepts. Since 1986, he has conducted more than 300 church growth conferences. He has been pastor of churches in Arkansas and Oklahoma and president of the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference. Palmer currently is a member of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* board of directors. He has participated in three overseas evangelistic crusades and was a recent speaker at the International Congress on Revival in Salsburg, Austria.

## 1994 convention committees appointed

### Resolutions Committee

Larry Page, Little Rock, chairman  
Mike Petty, Hot Springs  
Mark Brooks, Springdale  
Paul Barnard, Hot Springs  
Stephen Davis, Russellville

### Credentials Committee

David Uth, El Dorado, chairman  
John McAnally, Amity  
Benny Grant, Bryant

Tim Prock, Van Buren  
Bob Martin, Hensley

### Tellers Committee

Charles Mayes, Hot Springs, chairman  
Bryan Webb, Centerton  
Bruce Holland, Gentry  
Stuart Bell, Pine Bluff  
Gene Thomas, Crossett  
M.L. Faler, Pine Bluff  
Randy Hogan, Waldron

Jim Glover, Heber Springs  
Frank Gantz, Little Rock  
Bill Harris, Royal

### Order of Business Committee

Jim Lagrone, Bryant, chairman  
D.C. McAtee, Forrest City  
Don Nall, Batesville

### Parliamentarian

Monty Murray, Texarkana



## Proper credentials required for convention messengers

Messengers to the 1994 Arkansas Baptist State Convention must follow a few specific guidelines to ensure their eligibility to vote, explained credentials committee chairman David Uth.

Uth, pastor of Immanuel Church in El Dorado, said it is important that a church maintain its credentials and that they be in order. "The purpose is not to keep someone out but to bring someone in.

"We're trying to encourage churches to be a part," he explained, "and being a part involves certain guidelines and disciplines, due to the sheer organizational complexity of our convention."

### Eligibility guidelines

He said a church's eligibility to send messengers is determined by Article III of the ABCS Articles of Incorporation which reads:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention. Each messenger who is present at the time a matter is submitted to the messengers shall be entitled to one vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and spirit of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the 1963 sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention and The Baptist Faith and Message shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers, with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers."

Article I of the ABCS bylaws, which provides guidelines for the enrollment of messengers, notes that "the Recording Secretary of the Convention shall enroll, upon arrival, messengers who present proper credentials from the churches. These messengers, together with others who may be enrolled upon presentation of proper credentials during the session, shall constitute the Convention. Any contention concerning seating messengers shall be presented to the Credentials Committee appointed by the President for

recommendation to the Convention for its action."

A 1980 appendix requires that "any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the Convention president, and the chairman of the Credentials Committee 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their finds and recommendation to the opening session of the convention."

Uth said messengers should follow a few simple guidelines to ensure their credentials are in order. "Secure from your director of missions the messenger cards. They need to be filled out appropriately. The cards are very self explanatory. Messengers need to bring them to the convention and present them at the registration booth."

Messengers who present themselves for registration without properly certified credentials will be referred to the credentials committee.

The credentials committee "needs to see messengers only if there is a problem or they forget their cards," explained Uth. He said messengers with credentials problems "just need to come to us and we will help them....We simply have information on helping them get properly registered."

Uth said cooperation by the messengers "will help ensure a much smoother and more congenial convention."

### Proposed resolutions sought

Resolutions committee chairman Larry Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation, said the resolutions committee currently is soliciting proposed resolutions for early review and consideration.

Anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee should mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Oct 18. Page requested that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful consideration.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to Larry Page at the Christian Civic Foundation, P.O. Box 193256, Little Rock, AR 72219-3256. Resolutions also may be presented on the floor of the convention during regular business sessions.

## State alumni meetings planned

Golden Gate Seminary alumni will meet at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 1 in the Pulaski Association office.

A highlight will be a video, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the seminary's founding. Steve Thomas, vice president for institutional development, will be the speaker.

Those planning to attend should contact alumni president Sid Carswell at 227-5388 or his wife, Ruth Carswell, at 374-0319.

Midwestern Seminary's alumni will have a noon luncheon Nov. 1 in Section B of the Immanuel Church fellowship hall. A seminary representative will be present for the meeting which will be chaired by alumni president Tommy Goode.

Additional information is available from Goode at 376-4791, ext. 5150.

New Orleans Seminary's noon luncheon will be held at Immanuel Church at \$5 per plate. Those planning to attend should contact alumni president Angus Emerson at 320-1815.

Southern Seminary's noon alumni luncheon will be Nov. 1 in Section A of the Immanuel Church fellowship hall with Jack Cunningham, J.M. Frost associate professor of Christian education, as the speaker.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$6, according to alumni president Bo Barnes who may be contacted at 227-2569 for reservations.

Southwestern Seminary's alumni luncheon will be held at noon on Nov. 1 at Immanuel. Bruce Corley, dean of the seminary's School of Theology, will be the speaker.

Alumni president Mark Tolbert said reservations made be made by contacting Denny Wright at Parkers Chapel First Church, phone 862-4602. Tickets are \$6.50 each.

Ouachita Baptist University alumni will have a dinner meeting at the close of the convention's afternoon session Nov. 1 in the fellowship hall of Immanuel Church.

Tickets will be available for \$6 each in the OBU display booth at the convention. Additional information is available from Phil Hardin at 245-5506.

Williams Baptist College alumni will have a dessert party at the close of the evening convention session Tuesday, Nov. 1. The event will be held in the main fellowship hall of Immanuel Church.

Additional information is available from Charla Huckabay at 886-6741.

# Meetings set for pastors, wives, educators

Three meetings scheduled for Oct. 31 will highlight the ministries of pastors, religious educators and ministers' wives. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 1-2 at Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Evangelism will be the focus of all three sessions of the Pastors' Conference, to be held at First Church, Little Rock.

Pastors' Conference president Wallace Edgar, pastor of Trinity Church in Texarkana, said the conference theme, "Reaching People with the Only Hope... Jesus," coincides with "Here's Hope," the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention evangelism emphasis.

"I hope that, without any question, our pastors can leave the conference motivated and excited about witnessing and soul winning opportunities with the simultaneous revivals in 1995," Edgar said. "The Pastors' Conference will be a springboard to get us in line with what God will do in Arkansas in 1995."

Edgar said key program speakers will feature those who "have a strong history of evangelism behind them and those whose churches are exploding right now."

The first session, beginning at 9:15 a.m., will feature Little Rock evangelist Johnny Jackson; Earl Duggins, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Kilgore, Texas; and Larry Wynn, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga.

Second session speakers will include Wynn; Junior Hill, a Hartselle, Ala., evangelist; and Sam Cathey, pastor of

Graceway Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. The second session will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Speakers in the third session, beginning at 6:15 p.m., will be Cathey; Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale; and Jerry Falwell, president of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. and pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church there.

Each session of the program also will feature music led by Chuck Guillbert, minister of music at Trinity Church, Texarkana, and the church's 75-voice choir and instruments.

Rapha Treatment Centers will host a free noon luncheon for participants at First Church, featuring Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Edgar said participants must call Rapha at 1-800-383-HOPE for reservations.

There is no cost for the conference. Deaf interpretation will be provided as well as nursery facilities for children birth through preschool. The nursery will open at 8:45 a.m. and close at 9:15 p.m. Edgar said lunch and dinner will be provided for children staying at the nursery.

## Religious educators

Arkansas Baptist religious educators will learn the basics at "Training Camp '94," held at Second Church, Little Rock. The camp is the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association.

The "game plan" for the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. with registration and a fellowship and conclude at 6:45 p.m.

following the training camp banquet.

The meeting will be led by "coaches" Will Beal, adjunct professor of religious education for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jim Corter, director of human resources for Trailmobile Corp. in Jonesboro.

Beal will lead the seminars, "Playing Smart—Prioritizing Our Work," "Knowing When to Throw the Ball—Delegating" and "Playing by the Clock—Time Management." Corter will lead the seminar, "Self and Team Evaluation."

There is no cost for the meeting sessions, but ABREA membership dues, which include the banquet cost, are \$15 per person.

Individuals interested in additional information may contact ABREA secretary/treasurer Pat Ratton, an associate in the state convention Sunday School department, at phone 376-4791, ext. 5128.

## Ministers' Wives

Barbara O'Chester, director of Great Hills Retreat Ministry in Austin, Texas, will have a "Heart to Heart" with other ministers' wives during the Ministers' Wives Conference at Immanuel Church.

Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Fellowship president Rachael Preston said the "Heart to Heart" theme will reflect a more personal approach to the annual meeting. "Barbara will be talking about the triumphs and tribulations of being a minister's wife. We will drop the masks and be real about the good things and bad things about being pastors' wives."

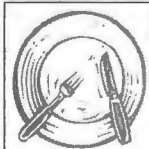
O'Chester is the wife of Harold O'Chester, pastor of Great Hills Baptist Church. She founded the retreat ministry as a ministry of the church 25 years ago. It has now grown to be the largest ladies' retreat ministry in the SBC.

The program also will include guest speaker Janet Huckabee, wife of Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee, and a worship time with the Singing Women of Arkansas.

Free child care during the conference is available at Immanuel Church for birth through school-aged children. Preston asked parents to provide a sack lunch and drink for their children.

The cost for the conference is \$8.50 per person and includes lunch. Preston suggested that "churches offer to pay the conference fee" for their minister's wife. "A scholarship really can help with a pastor's convention expenses," she commented.

Preston said registration forms will be mailed to all Arkansas Baptist churches. A registration form also is available on page 10 of this issue of the Newsmagazine.



## RAPHA LUNCHEON

At the Arkansas State Convention  
Pastors' Conference

October 31 • 11:45 - 1:15  
Little Rock's First Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP before Thursday, Oct. 27  
by calling 1-800-880-0264

"Rapha's concept comes together when the caring people in this organization have an opportunity to entwine their lives with those who are hurting, and as a result have a part in healing and helping make them whole again."

Dr. Bill Tanner, Executive Director  
Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma



Dr. Morris Chapman  
Featured Speaker

Pastors, staff,  
and their  
spouses are  
cordially invited  
to attend a  
complimentary  
luncheon.

Seating is limited

# 1994 Executive Board recommendations

## Recommendation No. 1

### 1995 Budget

#### I. State Causes

1. Administration	\$282,546
2. Accounting Services	189,111
3. Business Services	119,819
4. Annuity	22,315
5. Computer Services	93,168
6. Baptist Student Union	724,304
7. Brotherhood	149,433
8. Church Music	183,580
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	138,146
10. Discipleship Training	202,456
11. Evangelism	272,654
12. Ministry of Crisis Support	111,043
13. Missions	531,794
14. Church Leadership Support	159,227
15. Stewardship	97,145
16. Sunday School	327,737
17. Woman's Missionary Union	317,586
18. Media Services	68,073
19. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	211,319

20. Camp Paron - Operating	59,328
21. Camp Paron - Improvement Fund	15,504
22. Expanded Church Annuity Plan	377,298
23. Baptist Student Union - Building	128,900
24. Convention	129,226
25. Historical Commission	8,722
26. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes	464,184
27. Printing Services	36,163
28. Salary Increase Reserve	101,966
<b>TOTAL EXECUTIVE BOARD PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$5,482,744</b>

29. Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries	444,214
30. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	260,648
31. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	223,193
32. Ouachita Baptist University	2,402,202
33. Williams Baptist College	723,510
34. Ministerial Scholarship Fund	129,668
<b>TOTAL STATE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$9,666,180</b>

<b>II. Southern Baptist Convention</b>	<b>\$6,933,820</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$16,600,000</b>

## Recommendation No. 2

### 1995 Arkansas Baptist State Convention Building God's Family Goals and Projects and Department Goals and Projects

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1995 Building God's Family Goals and Projects and Department Goals and Projects.

In 1995 the Building God's Family priority emphasis is "Reach People." The Here's Hope projects have been developed to support the 1995 Reach People emphasis. The following are the priority projects.

- Great Commission Breakthrough
- State Sponsored Associational Sunday School Conventions
- Start-A-Class Emphasis
- Here's Hope Revivals in Europe
- Here's Hope - Start-A-Church
- Here's Hope Revivals in Iowa
- Conserving the Results of Evangelism
- Here's Hope Media
- Here's Hope College Emphasis
- Baptismless and Smaller Membership
- Church Revival Assistance
  - Christian Club Training
  - Discipleship Training Growth/Enrichment

Each department has goals and projects that relate to Building God's Family and to the department's assigned programming responsibility. The departments have written goals with supporting projects to reach these goals.

## Recommendation No. 3

### 1996-2000 Executive Board Programs, Concerns, Opportunities, Goals and Mission Statement

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1996-2000 Executive Board Programs, Concerns, Opportunities, Goals and Mission Statement. The theme is

"Arkansas Awakening." The mission statement is "The purpose of the Executive Board Programs of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is to encourage and assist churches and associations accomplish their biblical mission." The five-year annual goals are as follows:

#### ■ Worship

Goal: Encourage and assist 750 churches in understanding, planning and practicing individual, family and corporate worship.

## Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference & Luncheon ♥ October 31 Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock



**Theme: "Heart to Heart" ♥**

Keynote Address: *Barbara O'Chester, director, Great Hills Ministry*  
Also Featuring: *Janet Huckabee, wife of Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee,*  
*and the Singing Women of Arkansas*

Registration - 9:15 - 9:50 a.m. Conference adjourns at 2:30 p.m.  
**Pre-register by Oct. 22 (Enclose \$8.50)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare/Names/Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare for Ministers' Wives conference will be provided for preschool and elementary school-age children. Please provide lunch and drink for each child. Note: Ministers' wives childcare only.

**Make checks payable to: Arkansas Baptist State Convention**

**Mail to: Betty Williamson, 3010 Riverbend Dr., Ft. Smith, AR 72903**

■ **Leadership Training**  
 Goal: Involve all associations and 1,050 churches in leadership training through consultations and events.

■ **Social and Ethical Issues**  
 Goal: Assist 750 churches to equip their members to apply Biblical principles in every area of life and address contemporary social, moral and ethical issues.

■ **Family Issues**  
 Goal: Assist 650 churches to enhance their ministries to families.

■ **Cultural and Racial Issues**  
 Goal: Assist 600 churches to understand and foster Christian relationships with all racial and cultural groups.

■ **Evangelism**  
 Goal: Assist 1,180 churches to intensify and expand their mission to reach people for Christ.

■ **Conflict and Unity Issues**  
 Goal: Provide resources and services that assist 655 churches in prevention, intervention and redemptive conflict management.

■ **Strategy Planning/Vision Issues**  
 Goal: Assist 500 churches and 21 associations in their efforts to develop a vision and plan to accomplish their mission.

■ **Ministry**  
 Goal: Assist 650 churches to identify and respond to people in need.

■ **Mission Support/Participation/Education**

Goal: Involve 900 churches in convention-sponsored missions projects and assist all churches in missions education and support.

■ **Discipleship**  
 Goal: Provide resources and services to assist churches in discipling and equipping their members for personal commitment and ministry. The goal will be measured by the following criteria:

1) assist 250 churches in training new members in the basics of Christian discipleship

2) assist 750 churches to provide effective discipleship ministries

3) provide discipleship resources to all churches.

■ **More Churches**  
 Goal: Assist in attaining a minimum of 1,500 Arkansas Baptist churches and missions.

■ **Spiritual Awakening**  
 Goal: Assist every church and association in spiritual awakening.

■ **Financial Stewardship Issues**  
 Goal: Assist 625 churches in the areas of personal and corporate stewardship.

THEME: Arkansas Awakening  
 ANNUAL EMPHASES:  
 1996 Arkansas Awakening: Live the Word

1997 Arkansas Awakening: Strengthen the Family

1998 Arkansas Awakening: Build the Church

1999 Arkansas Awakening: Touch the Community

2000 Arkansas Awakening: Reach the World

UNDERGIRDING NEED: Spiritual Awakening

## Recommendation No. 4 World Hunger Committee

The Executive Board recommends that the work of the World Hunger Committee be continued by a World Hunger Work Group rather than the committee. The Work Group would continue to be directed by the Church and Community Ministries Associate of the Missions Department. The Director will continue his function as liaison with the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in educating Southern Baptists about their ethical responsibility toward world hunger.

The responsibility of the Work Group will be to reaffirm and strengthen our concern and commitment to World Hunger Relief; to inform Arkansas Baptists about hunger needs; to encourage giving to world hunger relief through the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission Boards, and to encourage local involvement in meeting hunger needs in the spirit of Christ who said, "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat..." Matt. 25:35.

The Work Group will be selected by the Church and Community Associate in consultation with the Director of the Missions Department and Executive Director. The departments which promote hunger projects will be represented. They are Brotherhood, WMU, BSU and Missions. As many additional people will be added from clergy and lay leaders as are needed to carry out their assignment. The expenses for the work group will be covered out of the World Hunger Account of the Missions Department Budget.

### BACKGROUND

In 1978 the Convention voted to establish the World Hunger Committee. Neither the committee nor the staffing later to them have felt that their work has been very effective. It has been difficult to find people who would serve on the committee and attend the meetings. The recommendation, if accepted, will remove the committee from being one which requires rotation of people on and off the committee with no inter-departmental involvement to being one which will allow all of the programs that relate to hunger to be involved along with pastors and lay people in the state who have an ongoing concern for world hunger. Those with a passion for this ministry will be able to continue their ministry through the work group.

## PREREGISTER FOR Preschool Child Care

### at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting Nov. 1-2. Preregistration for babies through five year olds is necessary. No child care will be provided for school-age children at any session. Please fill out the registration form below and mail immediately.

Note: Children will need to be picked up during the breaks for meals. Child care will only be provided during the sessions listed below and child care for the Ministers' Wives Conference is to be reserved separately.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle sessions needed:**

- Tuesday, Nov. 1  
 Morning, 8:30-11:30  
 Afternoon, 1:30-4:00  
 Evening, 6:15-9:00

- Wednesday, Nov. 2  
 Morning, 8:15-11:45

**Mail to:**

Susan McClanahan  
 Immanuel Baptist Church  
 1000 Bishop  
 Little Rock, AR 72202  
 Phone: 376-3071

## Ordinations

**Immanuel Church** in Little Rock held an ordination service Aug. 28 to ordain Eric Guthrie, Jeff Moore, Jerry Markham and Brian Willhoite to the deacon ministry.

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

**Hardin Church** at Pine Bluff ordained Stephen Moore to the deacon ministry Sept. 11.

## Church news

**London First Church** recently launched a weekday student union ministry that has an average attendance of 11, according to pastor Daniel Green. He also reported the church had a record Sunday School attendance of 126 Aug. 14. In addition, the church's Vacation Bible School, with a record enrollment of 168 and an average attendance of 145, resulted in 20 professions of faith.

**Harrison First Church** single adults conducted a Labor Day outreach ministry at a visitor's center on Highway 65 North, providing travelers with coffee, lemonade and cookies along with personal witnessing efforts.

**Van Buren First Church** recently honored pastor Bryan E. Smith with an anniversary reception, recognizing five years of ministry. He was presented with cards and gifts by the congregation.

**Zion Hill Church** in North Pulaski Association will celebrate its 135th anniversary during the month of October, beginning with a homecoming observance Oct. 2 to which friends and former members are invited. Former pastor Tom Davis will preach the 10:55 a.m. service that will be followed with a dinner-on-the-grounds and a special time of musical praise featuring the Nelson Family from Alread.

**Calvary Church** in Monticello recently honored pastor Charles "Buddy" Carter and his wife, Kate, with a trip to the Holy Land, recognizing his pastoral leadership since the church's constitution on Sept. 27, 1985. A ninth anniversary celebration will be held Sunday evening, Sept. 25.

**North Pulaski Association** hosted its third annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Sept. 17. The event, held at First Church in Gravel Ridge, recognized those who have assisted with its Caring Center, a ministry which distributes food and clothing provided by churches in the



## ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

association to people in crisis situations. Jimmy Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's missions department, was the guest speaker. Dennis Coop, minister of education and outreach at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, provided musical entertainment. Darlene Savell is center coordinator.

## Obituaries

**L.W. "Wade" Roberts** of Monticello died Aug. 27. His funeral services were held Aug. 30 at Calvary Church in Monticello where he was a member. Roberts, who was an ordained minister and retired truck driver, had served as pastor of Shiloh Church in Lake Village. His survivors are two sons, Jerry Roberts of Pittsburgh, Mo., and Bill Roberts of Benton; a daughter, Sally Moore of Monticello; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## Staff changes

**Kevin Murray** became pastor of Emmanuel Church in Piggott Aug. 21, coming there from First Church in Walnut Ridge where he served as associate pastor. Murray and his wife, Johnna, are both graduates of Williams Baptist College. They have one child, Tanner.

**J. Elton Pennington** will retire Oct. 30 as pastor of Temple Church in Fort Smith, following 22 years of service. A native of Mansfield, he is a graduate of West Ark Community College in Fort Smith and Ouachita Baptist University. Pennington has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, serving as its vice president for one year. In addition, he has served as moderator of both Buckner Association and Concord Association, as well as treasurer of Concord Association. Other churches he has been pastor of include Pilot View Church, Tate Church and Glendale Church, all in Booneville; Denton Church and Winfield Church, both in Waldron; Day Church in Mansfield and Northside Church in Charleston. He is married to the former Retha E. Williams. They have two children, Brenda D. Carbonia of Charleston and Carlton Britt Pennington of Fort Smith.

Following retirement, Pennington will be available to do supply work or revivals, as well as other areas of ministry. He may be contacted at 8505 Harvard Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

**James Nowlin** began serving Sept. 20 as pastor of Reyno Church, coming there from Michigan. He and his wife, Carolyn, have four children, Monica, Meredith, Michael and Matthew.

**Todd Cochran** has joined the staff of First Church in London as minister of youth, coming there from First Church of Atkins. He also has served on the staff of New Hope Church in Greenwood and Bluff Avenue Church in Fort Smith. Cochran is a senior at Arkansas Tech University and plans to continue his studies through the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension program.

**Kirk Taylor** resigned Aug. 12 as minister of music and youth at First Church in Alma, following more than four years of service.

**Jay Ham** began serving Aug. 21 as part-time minister of youth for Grace Church in Camden. He is a 1994 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Ham and his wife, Kristen, both teach in the Camden public schools.

**James Lindsey** will retire Sept. 30 as pastor of Highland Hills Church in Texarkana, following 21 years of service. He also has been pastor of Immanuel Church in Magnolia, White City Church in Camden, First Church in Reader, Snow Hill Church in Smackover and Hilltop Mission in Camden. Lindsey also has been moderator of Southwest Association and a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. He currently is treasurer for Canfield Baptist Assembly. He and his wife, Clara Lee, will remain in Texarkana at 16 Marguerite Drive.

**Sam Caery** resigned Aug. 17 as minister of youth at Mount Carmel Church in Cabot to continue his education at Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife, Lora, and their daughter, Beth Anne, are residing in Memphis where he is serving a church in Germantown as a part-time staff member.

**Rodney Reeves** began serving Sept. 4 as interim pastor of Calvary Church in Batesville. He is a professor at Williams Baptist College.

**Jeff Fisher** is serving as minister to children and youth at First Church in Black Rock. He and his wife, Cindy, are students at Williams Baptist College. They have two children, Paul and Donna.

**Clay Doss** has joined the staff of Oak Grove Church in Van Buren as full-time minister of music and youth, coming there

from more than three years of ministry at First Church in Horseshoe Bend. In addition, Doss has served churches in Arkadelphia, Hot Springs and Sparkman. He and his wife, Paula, have a foster daughter, Frances Young.

Joe Yates is bivocational pastor of New Hope Church at Dardanelle. The owner of Yates and Son Hauling, he attended Boyce Bible School and has completed work through the seminary extension program of Arkansas River Valley Association. Yates and his wife, Ethel, are parents of two sons, James and Jason, and a daughter, Jennifer.

Amy Fisher recently completed her second summer as youth minister for Zion Hill Church in North Pulaski Association. Summer activities included a mission trip to Romeo, Mich., where the youth assisted the newly organized Celebration Church in conducting Backyard Bible Clubs.

Gary Allen joined the staff of South Side Church in Fort Smith Sept. 12 as minister of music, coming there from Grace Temple Church in Dallas, Texas, where he was associate minister of music and administrative assistant. He also has served other Texas churches, as well as First Church of Warren. Allen is married to the former Laura Larsen, a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. They have two children, Megan Elise and Garrett Thomas.

## People

Patty Huston, organist at Rosedale Church in Little Rock, was recently presented certificates for two years of perfect attendance in Sunday School and 16 years of perfect attendance in morning worship services.

Tom and Kay Cox of Mountainburg recently returned from their third annual Russian evangelistic tour, an approved project of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They led 29 team members from Baptist churches in Arkansas and nine other states in crusade efforts that resulted in 967 professions of faith.

Bratton Rhoades, a member of Sherwood First Church, recently led a team of 16 mission volunteers from central Arkansas churches to Manaus, Brazil, where they were involved in preaching, door-to-door witnessing and building projects. The team included three generations from one family: Billy Joe Moore; his son, Randy; and his grandson, Kevin. Rhoades reported there were 24 professions of faith during the trip.

## Plummer highlights urgent European partnership needs

While Doyno Plummer is "excited" about the missions work that is being conducted in Arkansas Baptists' partnership with the European Baptist Convention, he said three major needs remain unmet.

"It's been exciting to see some of the pastors and churches in Arkansas come forward and inquire how they might be part of the ministry of the partnership," said Plummer, interim partnership coordinator for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "But we have three outstanding needs still in the works."

The first, he said, is the need for a couple to start an English-speaking Baptist work in Warsaw, Poland. "The Foreign Mission Board and the EBC have been trying for two years to start this work. Every time they have found someone ready, to go, something has happened" to prevent their going, he said.

Plummer said the volunteers to Warsaw need to work through the FMB's International Service Corps or be "someone who can supply their own needs." He added that potential volunteers "would need to feel a calling to this work and it would be good if he had some pastoral experience."

He remarked that the volunteers, who will work with Southern Baptist missionaries already in Poland, "can be a young couple or retired, as long as their energy level is high."

### Churches seeks pastors

Plummer said a second priority for the partnership is "the continuous need for interim pastors and permanent pastors among the 60 churches in 20 European countries."

He said the Baptist church in Kitzingen, Germany, is representative of the type of need. "Kitzingen needs an interim pastor to begin as early as Oct. 1," he said. "They also would be interested in someone from Arkansas to serve as permanent pastor."

Plummer said EBC pastors "are usually called for two to three years. About 25 percent need or are about to need a pastor. There are always four to five churches without a pastor and five or six churches who they are about to need a pastor."

Underscoring the need for interim

pastors, he said no Arkansas Baptist has yet served an EBC church as interim pastor.

A third need, Plummer said, is for ABCS churches and associations to help strengthen the EBC through direct partnerships. "Thirteen partnerships have been met and seven more are being considered by Arkansas Baptist churches and associations, but there are still 17 churches that no one has shown an interest in partnering with," he explained.

### Church partner guidelines

He said becoming an EBC church partner involves a minimum of "regular communication with the EBC church, an exchange of newsletters and a visit." After the initial contact, he said, "if the EBC church feels led to request assistance, the Arkansas partner can respond."

Plummer said seven Arkansas Baptist churches have partnered with EBC churches in the past month, including: Immanuel, Park Hill and West Rock in Little Rock; First, Sylvan Hills; First, Jacksonville; Second, Conway; First Southern, Bryant; First, Maumelle; and Open Door in Rogers. Previously established partnerships include First, Cabot; Arkansas River Valley Association; Pulaski Association and First, El Dorado.

The 17 existing partnership needs in Germany include Bad Kreuznach, Baumholder, Bitburg, Darmstadt, Grafenwoehr, Hanau, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Munich, Nurnberg, Walldorf and Wuppertal. Partners also are needed in Italy in Aviano, Naples, Rome and Sigonella as well as one in Vienna, Austria.

Plummer asked interested churches to call him immediately at the ABCS Brotherhood department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5158.

Plummer, a member of First, Cabot, recently served a six-month tour along with his wife, Betty, as ABCS representatives for the three-year missions partnership with the EBC. Because of the July death of ABCS Brotherhood department director Glendon Grober, Plummer will continue to serve as interim coordinator until a new Brotherhood department director is named.

# SBC leaders pay Clinton 'pastoral' visit

Frustrated by the strident tones he senses in the nation, President Bill Clinton challenged about 60 religious leaders Sept. 8 to encourage dialogue among people who disagree on issues.

"Why can't people who disagree sit down together and say, 'What does the Bible say about this reality?'" Clinton reportedly asked. "Why can't we find some areas of agreement?"

Clinton's appeal to the religious leaders came during a White House breakfast. Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were among those attending.

Seated at the head table with Clinton was SBC president Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla. Other Southern Baptists present included Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Clinton's home church, and Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board.

After the breakfast gathering, Clinton and Vice President Al Gore met with Henry, Horne and Blackaby in what Horne described as an "open" meeting "where we could speak our heart."

Horne, who initiated the meeting, said no agenda had been established prior to the meeting and was "pastoral" in nature.

"We had prayer together and there was some encouragement to him (Clinton) on some issues that are important to us. By and large, though, it was encouragement in his spiritual walk, to find God's will and stick with it."

Henry described Clinton as "very knowledgeable" about Southern Baptists. "He not only knows about who we are but keeps up with who we are," he noted.

Henry said he and the others who met privately with Clinton and Gore sought to assure them of their prayers, despite public differences between the administration

and Southern Baptist leaders on such issues as abortion and homosexual rights.

Clinton and Gore are "part of our family and we wanted them to know that we cared and that Southern Baptists believe we have a biblical responsibility to pray

*"I went away much encouraged....It made me much more compassionate in my own prayer life for the president."*

— Jim Henry  
SBC president



for them," Henry pointed out. "I assured them that they would be at the heart of our prayers."

Blackaby said the purpose of the meeting was not to discuss national or convention politics, but rather "to encourage the president to be a spiritual statesman and to urge him to openly call for the nation to pray for him."

"We wanted to let him know that during these times of bewilderment and change, people are looking for someone who rises above the mess and sees things as God sees them," Blackaby explained. "We wanted to pray with him and affirm that God's people are praying for him. It was a very, very productive meeting."

Horne said the five talked about other issues, such as the prevalence of hatred in the world and in the country, especially directed at the president.

"We are at a time where we are voicing the soul of our country. Things can be said as fact that are not fact," Horne said. "The way we speak about each other says more about us than our commitment to the issues."

At the breakfast, Clinton called on religious leaders to help him overcome the gridlock and intransigence that blocks progress on substantive issues.

"Pray for me," he urged the religious leaders. "We mustn't let the culture war divide us."

Clinton said he is deeply disappointed that in two years he has made no headway in changing the partisan, pessimistic political climate in Washington, participants noted. While significant progress could be made on consensus issues, he added, Washington focuses on "minor" issues.

"We must find concrete areas of agreement and then do them," Clinton reportedly told participants.

Clinton said Americans are locked in "a screaming match" over such controversial issues as homosexuality and abortion, participants added.

The vast majority of Americans want fewer abortions, Clinton reportedly said, but they are not certain the best way to accomplish that is to criminalize abortion. Clinton urged relaxation of adoption laws and streamlining of the adoption process as a partial response to abortion, the religious leaders noted.

Horne credited the president for being "open to hearing from those who are opposed to him," adding that he knew of no other administration that met more frequently with opponents of its policies.

The private meeting with Southern Baptist leaders concluded with a time of prayer. "The four of us, joined by two presidential aides, all stood and joined hands in a very sweet time of prayer," Blackaby said. "I was on one side of the president and Jim Henry was on the other. I feel this could be the beginning of a very important relationship."

During a meeting with Florida Baptist leaders a few days later, Henry shared reflections about his visit with Clinton.

"I went away much encouraged," the SBC president noted. "I felt like I saw a little bit more of the man. Certainly it made me much more compassionate in my own prayer life for the president."

Henry said he came away believing that critics of Clinton's policies should avoid being too strident and be careful to focus their criticism on policies and not Clinton as a person.

"I think as long as we can do that we can make headway with each other," Henry said. "Without compromise, with conviction, with compassion and caring and listening to each other, I think we can move forward together in a lot of venues."

## Clinton speaks to National Baptist gathering

NEW ORLEANS (BP/ABP)—President Bill Clinton addressed a Baptist national meeting, but it was not Southern Baptist.

Calls to the SBC Executive Committee office in Nashville and many state convention offices indicated some confusion about which Baptist group President Clinton was going to address.

Adding to the confusion were remarks by conservative radio/TV commentator Rush Limbaugh Sept. 9 which indicated Clinton would speak to Southern Baptists in New Orleans.

Clinton, a Southern Baptist, spoke Sept. 9 to the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. during its annual meeting in New Orleans. The NBC, USA, the nation's largest black denomination, has about 8 million members in 33,000 churches. Clinton urged Americans to combat social ills through strong families which value children and instill in them a sense of hope for the future.

The Southern Baptist Convention will hold its annual meeting in New Orleans — but not until 1996.

## Samford trustees vote to become self-perpetuating

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—In a swift and unexpected move, Samford University's board of trustees has voted to become a self-perpetuating board, saying the move was necessary to keep political factions of the convention from stacking the board.

At its regular fall meeting Sept. 13, the board voted to change its charter and re-incorporate in order to change its method of selecting trustees.

Since 1845, the state convention has elected the members of the Samford board, usually following the recommendation of the state's committee on boards. Historically, the committee has consulted with Samford's president, as it has with the other state boards and agencies. The Sept. 13 vote means the board will elect its own members without convention approval. However, the Samford board retained the requirement trustees live in Alabama and be members of Alabama Baptist churches.

The change, effective immediately, will force the state convention to decide at its annual meeting Nov. 15 whether to respond by challenging the legality of the move in court, by escrowing or even withdrawing some of its funding for the school or by accepting Samford's insistence its close ties with Alabama Baptists will remain intact.

"This university does not want to change its mission or its relationship with Alabama Baptists," said president Thomas Cortis. "We did not take this action out of hostility, retribution or in response to any particular event. This is a result of quiet, reflective thinking about the future and destiny of this institution."

Troy Morrison, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, who did not attend the meeting, responded, "I am very disappointed that the trustees of Samford University felt it was necessary to take this action at this time." He noted, "This is not a time to panic.... The Alabama Baptist State Convention has faced other problems in the past and has dealt with them. I am sure we will deal with this matter as we have the others. We must not let this action hinder us from our efforts to reach our world for Jesus Christ."

## Florida board delays HMB plan

LAKE YALE, FL (BP/ABP)—The Florida state board of missions has voted to delay consideration until January of a proposal which would alter the relationship between Florida Baptists and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The Florida board agreed Sept. 9 to postpone action on the plan at the request of Mark Brister, who chairs a seven-member committee studying the structure and programs of the SBC.

The Florida board authorized executive director John Sullivan to accept invitations to meet both with the Brister committee Oct. 28 and with HMB administrators as soon as possible. Sullivan will report on those meetings to the State Board of Missions no later than January 1995.

Sullivan said questions of who is responsible for mission work in Florida and how it will be financed "must be addressed." However, rather than push the proposal forward to be "tested as a paradigm shift in mission giving and cooperative relationships," he added, "it is my heart to cooperate" with requests for the meetings with national leaders.

"This is neither compromise nor capitulation, but a desire to cooperate with brothers and sisters in seeking solutions to sensitive problems and to ensure the aggressive ongoing mission of winning this diverse and dynamic state to Christ," Sullivan said.

The Florida proposal called for the state convention to retain, beginning in 1996, those funds (presently about \$1.3 million) which would have been channeled to the HMB through the Cooperative Program. The Florida budget committee approved the proposal last month and was to present it to the board of missions Sept. 9.

Sullivan and members of the budget and allocations committee expressed surprise at negative reactions to the proposal. Sullivan said it has been described as "defunding" home missions work. He said the change would not reduce the amount of dollars spent for home missions but would allow people in Jacksonville, rather than Atlanta, to determine how money collected and used in Florida is spent.

HMB president Larry Lewis said he had "a very good meeting" with Sullivan and other Florida Baptist leaders earlier in the week.

"I am trusting that our disagreements can be resolved, the Cooperative Program can be strengthened and together we can go forward toward the Bold Mission Thrust goal of reaching our nation for Christ," Lewis added.

Brister said his committee wants to learn more about the "background, reasons and objectives that prompted" the proposal, because it "considers relating in a new way to one of our agencies and represents a paradigm shift in missions giving."

## 11 HMB directors sign dissent statement

WICHITA FALLS, TX (BP)—Eleven directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, including two Arkansas Baptist trustees have signed a "statement of dissent" intended to disassociate themselves from a controversial document dealing with Catholics and evangelicals.

According to group spokesman William G. Streich of Wichita Falls, Texas, the statement is in response to a motion passed Aug. 10 by HMB directors which affirmed both a resolution on Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics adopted by the SBC meeting in Orlando and a Resolution of Intent adopted by the HMB executive committee in June. G. Wyndham Cook Jr., of Magnolia and Ed Harrison Jr., of Pine Bluff were among signers of the dissent.

While the statement expressed support for the moral concerns addressed in the document, it said "sound doctrine must be protected and guarded beyond all else." Among criticisms leveled at the document are that it contains "heretical statements" and "claims Roman Catholicism as a legitimate form of disciplining."

HMB board chairman Bob Curtis told Baptist Press as far as he is concerned the

issue is closed. "The board has expressed itself. Those who disagree have now expressed themselves. It's time for us to move on and work together to reach our nation for Christ."

Larry Lewis, HMB president, disagrees with charges in the statement but agrees both sides have had ample opportunity to speak to the issues.

In contrast to the concerns expressed by the 11 HMB trustees, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees unanimously affirmed CLC executive director Richard Land's signing of the "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" document and "the desirability of (the CLC staff) pursuing efforts with like-minded groups" outside the denomination.

In other action, CLC trustees voted not to accept Cooperative Baptist Fellowship funds retroactive to June 15, when the SBC in Orlando adopted a motion directing SBC agencies and institutions to decline funds channeled through the CBF.

They also voted to present the CLC's Distinguished Service Award to U.S. Congressman Tony Hall, D-Ohio, for his world hunger and pro-life issues work.



## Volunteer BSU director appointed

Robert Stewart began serving Sept. 1 as volunteer Baptist Student Union director for Ozarka Technical College in Melbourne. He is the first of several volunteers to be recruited by the Arkansas Baptist student ministry department.



Robert Stewart

"Volunteers served on several campuses as BSU directors in the '50s and '60s," explained George Sims, associate state BSU director. "In order to organize BSU outreach to the 14 new technical college campuses created by the Arkansas legislature, it has again come to be necessary to call on volunteers to lead the ministries.

"The fact that we are using volunteers to direct these ministries does not indicate any reduced level of commitment to the thousands of students enrolled in these

schools," Sims explained. "Bob Stewart and other volunteers who will lead the ministries are highly motivated and committed to reaching students for Jesus Christ. Limited financial resources have made it necessary that these new staff positions be filled by volunteers."

Stewart formerly was pastor of Peel Church in Arkansas and Naquaq Baptist Church in Rutland, Mass. He also served as director of nursing home ministry and volunteer nursing home chaplain in Bradenton, Fla.

"I am thrilled at the cooperation of the college and the interest of students," Stewart said. "I already have a room assignment and about a dozen students interested in Bible study — this was really needed."

Individuals interested in additional information about extending the ministry of BSU to technical colleges may contact Sims at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Student Ministry department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5140.

## Retreat ministers to international students

International students from colleges and high schools in the state will gather for fellowship and "the truth" at the International Student Retreat Nov. 4-6 at Camp Paron. The retreat is co-sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions, student ministry and Woman's Missionary Union departments.

Diane Parker, an associate in the ABSC student ministry department, said the retreat theme, "Truth in a Changing World," will explore two dynamics of today's culture. "Students realize the world is changing. Also, one of the desires of every culture is to know the truth. We brought these together."

Parker said she hopes the retreat will attract an attendance similar to last year's 150 students from 33 countries. The program will feature keynote speaker Isaac Mwase, a professor at Ouachita Baptist

University and Zimbabwe native. "We think Dr. Mwase will bring an understanding of international students' needs. He has been one," Parker remarked.

The cost for the retreat is \$20 per person. Participants must bring their own linens, Bible and personal items.

For more information or to register, contact your local Baptist Student Union director or Parker at the student ministry department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5142.

## Seminars to 'alert' church tax preparers

Four tax seminars in November will inform ministers, church treasurers and those who prepare taxes for ministers of their responsibilities in following Internal Revenue Service guidelines, said James Walker.

Walker, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention stewardship and annuity department, said seminars will be held Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. at Ouachita Baptist University; Nov. 29 at 9 a.m. at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock and at 7 p.m. at Second Church, Russellville; and Nov. 30 at 9:30 a.m. at Williams Baptist College.

"The seminars will inform ministers of their responsibility and alert them to some of the advantages available to them," Walker said. "We scheduled them at the end of the year to give ministers time to make a few adjustments during the tax year."

He said knowing IRS regulations is crucial. "One of the big needs is for churches to be aware of IRS regulations. We have lots of churches not giving pastors any type of form."

The seminars, which are free of cost to participants, will last about two hours, said Walker. Participants will receive *The Minister's Tax Guide*, published by the Annuity Board.

For more information, contact Walker; phone 376-4791, ext. 5114.

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## Mail hotel reservations for '95 SBC on Oct. 1

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Requests for hotel reservations for the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta should be mailed Oct. 1, according to convention manager Jack Wilkerson.

The June 20-22 meeting is at the new Georgia Dome/World Congress Center.

The SBC Housing Guide and Request Form is in the September issue of *SBC Life*, published by the SBC Executive

Committee. Arkansas Baptists also can obtain copies of the form from executive director Don Moore's office by calling 376-4791, ext. 5101.

Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance for the Executive Committee, said the housing forms provide complete instructions for filing. They also list hotels in the 6,800-room Southern Baptist block and their rates.

Reservations must be postmarked on or after Oct. 1 and will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis through the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau's computerized housing system.

Individual registrants may not submit more than one request per person. Multiple registrants may submit no more than 10 requests in the same envelope.

The Hyatt Regency downtown is the convention hotel.

Information about group housing for 50 or more people or special needs housing can be obtained by contacting the SBC Housing Information Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203; phone 615-244-2355.

Transportation in Atlanta is being planned using the MARTA System. MARTA offers multiple day, unlimited travel passes that are very reasonably priced, Wilkerson said. Proximity to MARTA was a consideration in the hotel selection process.

"The need to drive personal vehicles to the Georgia Dome is virtually eliminated with a MARTA station located adjacent to the Dome," Wilkerson said.

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# Arkansas Baptists assist Branson ministry

The Sunday morning Praise Gathering at the Jim Stafford Theater in Branson, Mo., is reminiscent of an old fashioned camp meeting. Exuding an atmosphere of warmth, smiling folks welcome guests as upbeat gospel music is played and Christian musicians share what Christ has done in their lives.

The Sunday Praise Gathering, a ministry of Day Star Church in Branson, is a cooperative effort of the Missouri Baptist and Arkansas Baptist conventions. Ervin Benz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Crane, Mo., the sponsoring congregation, was Tri-Country Association director of missions when Glenn Art approached him about the venture. With the help of a missions link-up group comprised of Benz, Missouri state missions associate Clyde Leonard, Arkansas missions department associate Jack Ramsey and Bill Melton, pastor of Dove Circle Church in Holiday Island, Art began the innovative work of Day Star Church.

Surveys taken of the rapidly growing entertainment capital had revealed that 90 percent of those living in apartment complexes had never attended a church in the area. Additionally, with almost six million people visiting each year, there was a need for an informal, non-traditional setting where folks could "come as they are" and worship.

Because he had been pastor of traditional Southern Baptist churches for more than 23 years, Art knew that others would have to catch the vision and be part of the

ministry in order to accomplish the task. After much prayer and preparation, Art resigned as pastor of First Church of Green Forest, moved to the Branson area and gathered 12 people who held their first service in a home on July 11, 1993.

The church was called Day Star, taken from II Peter 1:19, "As unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day Star arise in your hearts," referring to the light of Jesus Christ.

For several months the small group of believers fellowshiped together in the home, but when they outgrew the house in October, Day Star Church moved into a convention center at one of the area motels. Always in Art's heart was the vision for a Sunday Praise Gathering in a theater. In November 1993, Jim and Ann Stafford agreed to open their theater for just such a meeting each week.

## Ministry reaches thousands

The first Praise Gathering was held in the theater on December 19, with 250 in attendance. Since that time, as many as 900 have been in a service, reaching a total of more than 10,000 people. Art said several hundred have indicated that they have made commitments for salvation during the services.

"We have a vision statement and a purpose, which directs everything we do at Day Star," Art explained. "When we have an opportunity to be involved with any area of work, we examine it against the vision and purpose of our church:

'Turning many to righteousness and making them fully developed followers of Jesus Christ.'

"A major part of our vision includes our discipleship ministry, which we conduct during the week in other locations. On Sunday night the group meets for ministry evaluation and then small group study times. The heart of the church is to 'fully develop' believers. Membership classes teach salvation, strategy and structure of the church. Then, other classes strengthen members in their spiritual maturity, ministry and the mission of the church. So, our folks see the Sunday Praise Gathering as an extension of our ministry, not the whole of our work."

On Tuesday evenings Day Star has a "believer's service," with songs of worship and an intensive Bible study conducted by Art. One Sunday evening each month is set aside to baptize new believers in Lake Taneycomo and observe the Lord's Supper.

"The Proverb is true, 'Without a vision, the people perish,'" Art emphasized. "God gave me a vision of what He could do through the lives of people committed to His purpose, that of loving God with all their hearts and loving others as themselves. That is what drives us to do what we do.

"In the first year, the people of Day Star Church have truly 'caught the vision,'" he added. "We look forward to seeing what God will do, knowing that He has promised to do exceeding, abundantly, above all we ask or think."

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## Children's Homes parties climax centennial events

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries will continue its 100th birthday celebration with four events in October, November and December. The celebrations are the last of 13 statewide celebrations held by the agency in honor of its centennial.

The celebrations will include an Oct. 9 "Birthday Party" at the Boys' Ranch in Harrison, an Oct. 15 Community Centennial Celebration at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, a birthday celebration at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 12 and a Birthday Party Dec. 11 at Promise House in El Dorado.

Johnny Biggs, ABCHEM executive director, said the Harrison birthday party will highlight "the dedication of the ranch facilities and the newly finished Harvey and Bernice Jones Chapel." The birthday party program will begin at 2 p.m.

Larry Toller, business manager for the Monticello Home, said the Monticello Community Centennial Celebration will highlight the theme, "Baptist-Home: Past, Present and Future."

"The program," said Toller, "will include a proclamation by the mayor of Monticello and from the United States Congress by congressman Jay Dickey. We also will hear speeches by David Hyatt, great nephew of Home founder Hannah Hyatt Gardiner and Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee."

Toller said refreshments will be served after the program, which begins at 1 p.m.

The ABCHEM centennial celebration will culminate during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting. The program will include a 100-voice children's choir, a multi-media presentation, special music and messages from Biggs and Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

The year's final birthday party will take place at the Promise House in El Dorado with a party, facilities tour and a program. The celebration begins at 2 p.m.

**Associate pastor** — First Baptist Church in Nashville, Ark., is seeking resumes for a full-time associate pastor in charge of ministry to children, youth and college-age people. Please send resumes to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 339, Nashville, AR 71852.

**Part-time youth director** — Some children's ministry responsibilities. Send resume to Search Committee, East Main Baptist Church, 1823 East Main, El Dorado, AR 71730.

**Youth minister** — Full-time position. Send resume to Jonathan Mast, Calvary Baptist Church, 1901 North Pierce St., Little Rock, AR 72207.

**Office receptionist/secretary** — to minister of music. Will also handle Sunday School and prospect/outreach records. Computer experience helpful. 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday, \$7.00/hr. Send resume to Ross Burton, Calvary Baptist Church, 1901 North Pierce St., Little Rock, AR 72207.

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### Missionary notes

**Paul and Cynthia Howard**, missionaries to Swaziland, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 4480, Manzini, Swaziland). She was born in Texarkana.

**Benjamin and Charlotte Kirby**, missionaries to Bolivia, are on the field (address: Casilla 2516, Santa Cruz, Bolivia). He is from Little Rock. She was born in Little Rock and grew up in Star City.

**Harold and Rene Mitchell**, missionaries to Indian Ocean Islands, are on the field and receive mail at B/P. 589 Moroni, Grand Comore, R.F.I. des Comores via Paris, France. They are Pine Bluff natives.

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# Ouachita, Williams post enrollment gains

Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College each posted enrollment gains for the 1994 fall semester.

Ouachita officials projected a 5 percent increase in enrollment to about 1,450 students, up from 1,371 in 1993 and 1,296 in 1992. Enrollment at Williams reached 606, a slight increase from 604 a year ago.

A total of 21 Arkansas Governor's Scholars, an increase of six over last year, are part of Ouachita's incoming freshmen class. "We are pleased by both the quantity and quality of our new students," noted OBU president Ben Elrod. "The fact that so many top high school students are choosing Ouachita is an indication that our academic reputation is continuing to grow."

With the number of students in OBU residence halls up by 8 percent, a new men's residence hall has been constructed. Anthony Hall, named in honor of Clarence and Bennie Sue Anthony of Murfreesboro, was completed in August. A new residence

hall for women is set for an October construction start.

"The increased enrollment is based on a plan for Ouachita's development, but it has come even faster than anticipated," Elrod said. "We have responded by hiring new faculty to keep our student-teacher ratio low and by emphasizing the familial nature of our campus. Ouachita will continue to be a small, close-knit community of students and teachers."

Williams residence halls are filled to near capacity for the semester. Off-campus sites at Bradford, Paragould and Senatobia, also helped boost fall enrollment.

"These numbers are particularly gratifying this fall," said Scott Wright, WBC director of admissions. "We have made a concentrated effort over the past year to focus on prospective students with solid academic credentials, such as good entrance exam scores and grade point averages. Even with those tougher

standards, our enrollment remained stable and even rose by a couple of students."

The new admissions standards resulted in increased average ACT scores for incoming WBC students. The average scores increased a full point, to over 20, for incoming freshmen.

## MK birthdays

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in October:

■ Oct. 1: Angie Cartwright, OBU Box 3316, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; sophomore from the Philippines.

■ Oct. 3: Stacy Bolls, OBU Box 3826, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; sophomore from the Ivory Coast.

■ Oct. 4: Thomas Stickney, UA Box 414, Pomfret Hall, Fayetteville, AR 72701; sophomore from Kenya.

■ Oct. 16: Caroline Blount, OBU Box 3154, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; junior from Thailand.

■ Oct. 19: Jared Hodges, OBU Box 4505, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; sophomore from Senegal.

■ Oct. 24: Karen Chatman, WBC Box 3465, College City, AR 72476; sophomore from Uruguay.

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## Convention Uniform

### *A responsive God*

By Roy Bucklew, professor,  
Ouachita Baptist University  
Basic passage: Judges 2:6-3:6  
Focal passage: Judges 2:6-22  
Central truth: When God's people rebel against Him, He responds in different ways.

Every generation seems determined to have to learn for itself the same lessons the last generation learned. And it seems each generation has to learn those lessons the same way the last one learned them: the hard way. It was true for the nation of Israel, for our nation today and for each of us. A lesson which every generation has to learn the hard way is that when people rebel against God, He will respond.

■ *People rebel against God.* Even God's chosen people rebelled against Him. They turned against the God who had protected and provided for them. They were faithful to follow and honor God as long as they had strong leaders such as Moses and Joshua (vv. 2:6-9, 18). When they did not have godly leaders, they became godless.

This is a dramatic example of the importance of leaders, whether long ago or in churches today. They fell away from God when a new generation emerged. They did evil, served idols and forsook God (vv. 2:11-12). They also would not listen to God or His spokesmen (vv. 2:17, 20).

A generation didn't keep the covenant to God made by the previous generation (v. 2:20). The new generation didn't know God or what He had done for them (v. 2:10). Don't miss the metaphor used to describe their rebellion — prostitution (v. 2:17). They prostituted themselves with any evil or idol which came along. It also means they were sinful sexually. When you compare them with us, people really have not changed.

■ *God responds when people rebel against Him, especially when His own people rebel.* God responds in different ways. For example, in verses 2:12-15, He became angry at the people of Israel and allowed godless nations to plunder them and sell them as slaves. In verse 2:21, God withdrew His power to possess the land of Canaan. In 2:22, we see that God decided to test Israel to see whether they were willing to follow Him. We also see in verses 2:16-17 that God tried to save them. He sent "judges" whom He empowered to lead them, but a new generation who knew not God, would not listen. This certainly has application today.

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## Life and Work

### *Creation from chaos*

By Rick Hyde, pastor,  
Malvern Third Church  
Basic passage: Genesis 1:1-2:3  
Focal passage: Genesis 1:1-2, 26, 31  
Central truth: God created and continues to create.

God created the heavens and the earth from chaos. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (vv. 1-2, NKJV). Earth without God's guidance always has been and always will be chaos. The "Big Bang" theory of creation is compatible with Scripture if God is the One who caused the bang to begin! Peace is much more than the absence of war, it is the presence of God. The presence of the angels and the Christ-child ensured "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14). The presence of God at Creation brought order from disorder.

God created man and woman to have dominion over His creation. "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'" (v. 26). Creation exists for the benefit of all mankind. Whether you choose to enjoy only "veggies" or "meat and potatoes," we are to enjoy the bounty of the earth with wisdom and responsibility. Think about how you treat God's creation. Christians are called to be responsible environmentalists.

Today, God wants to create new life within people who subject themselves to His dominion. "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day" (v. 31). All that God makes is good...everything including the new creation that is the Christ-like nature within those who are born again. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

Just as God's physical creation had a definite beginning, His spiritual creation in you has a definite beginning when you give your life to Him. Allow Him to greet any chaos in your life with "peace that passes all understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

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## Bible Book

### *Grace for every age*

By W. David Moore, president,  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation  
Basic passage: Ephesians 1:1-2:3  
Focal passage: Ephesians 1:3-14  
Central truth: The central work of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is the redemption of the church.

The letter to Ephesians has been found in early manuscripts without the designation "in Ephesus" (v. 1). For this reason, many commentators believe the epistle to be a circular letter meant for all the churches in Asia Minor. The implication is that the letter is written to more than just the Ephesian church. It is written to your church and mine. For that reason, Ephesians may be understood as the greatest expression of the doctrine of the church in our New Testament.

The church, as Paul would describe it, is the "called-out assembly" of God's elect. In our passage, Paul describes the work of the Triune God in redeeming the elect.

The focal passage comprises just one sentence in the original language. As Paul describes the Tri-unity, he can hardly take a breath. The Father blesses, chooses and predestines us (vv. 3-5). As such, He deserves our praise and adoration. The Son redeems, forgives, gives and reveals (vv. 6-13a). Christ is praised as the active redeemer who blesses us with forgiveness, wisdom and understanding, and conformity to the purpose of His will.

The Holy Spirit confirms, seals and guarantees our salvation. He is given to us as a down payment, an earnest payment, or a guarantee that God will complete what He has begun.

We often hear the phrase, "signed, sealed and delivered." Perhaps Paul is saying that God has "signed, delivered and sealed." He wrote (or "signed") our names in the Book of Life from before the foundation of the world. Jesus came to deliver us and the Holy Spirit sealed us unto the day of redemption!

Our text is one of the greatest passages of the work of the Triune God in all of Scripture. Paul began his masterpiece on the theology of the church by reminding all of us that it is God who signed, delivered and sealed the church.

Have you stopped lately to remember what God has done for you? Take a moment to pray one sentence which would exalt God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

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## Convention Uniform

### Seasons of spirituality

By Roy Buckelew, professor,  
Ouachita Baptist University  
Basic passage: Judges 6:1-8:21  
Focal passage: Judges 6:1-12, 25-27;  
7:7-9, 17-24; 8:22-23, 28, 33-35  
Central truth: In our spirituality, we go through cycles or seasons similar to the seasons of the year.

In Judges, the people of Israel went through stages or cycles in their relationship with God. They fell into predictable patterns which they repeated. These cycles can be compared to the seasons of the year. It is the same with us today.

First, the people of Israel went through a season of sinning which can be compared to winter. In verse 6:1, notice that Israel did evil. Notice in verses 6:1-6 the coldness between them and God which their sinning brought on them. God gave them up to their enemies, especially the Midianites. Like those who live where winters are hard, Israel went through hard times.

Second, they went through a season of sorrow which might be compared to spring. Notice in verse 6:6 how they cried out to God. Maybe they were only sorry because of their suffering, but maybe they were sorry for their sins. Their crying out to God was repentance over their sins and a desire to return to God. Like spring is a time of new beginning, their repentance was a new beginning for them.

Third, they went through a season of salvation from God which can be compared to summer. God responded to their repentance by sending a judge or prophet with a message (vv. 6:7-10). God sent Gideon (vv. 6:11-24), who tore down his father's altar to Baal and built an altar to God in its place (vv. 6:25-32). Gideon assembled an army from the people and used them to defeat the Midianites and other enemies (vv. 7:9-8:21). Like summer is a time of growth, this was a time of growth in spirit of the people of Israel. They asked Gideon to be their ruler, and he led them to let God be their ruler (vv. 8:22-23). While Gideon led them to follow God, they were at peace (vv. 8:28-32).

Fourth, the people of Israel went through a season of stagnation which might be compared to fall. In verses 8:33-35, notice that their spirituality cooled as soon as Gideon died. Again they went back to prostituting themselves with evil and idols. The cycle began again.

Today, we see the same cycles or seasons in persons, churches and nations.

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## Life and Work

### Two together

By Rick Hyde, pastor,  
Malvern Third Church  
Basic passage: Genesis 2:4-25  
Focal passage: Genesis 2:18, 23-24  
Central truth: God's ideal is one man, one woman, one family.

God's plan for the family was included in Creation. "And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him'" (Gen. 2:18, NKJV). Famed evangelist Vance Haver once said, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!" The monogamous heterosexual relationship was ordained by God from the very beginning. The Bible does not condone homophobia (hatred for homosexuals) or homosexuality (the choice to practice homosexual behavior). The old adage of "Hate the sin, love the sinner" applies.

God's plan for the family includes companionship. "And Adam said: 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man'" (Gen. 2:23). Man and woman were made for each other, both figuratively and literally! The joy of marriage is life in its fullest.

God's plan for the family includes cooperation. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). "One flesh" means that both sacrifice for the good of the two. Couples can be as opposite as day and night, but marriages can work when both partners realize and practice mutual submission. "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph. 5:22, 25). Yes, the husband is the scriptural leader in the family, but his leadership is not a dictatorship. "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Remember, God's plan is the ideal plan. If you have failed in the marriage relationship, He offers forgiveness. Divorce, as tragic and painful as it is, is not the unpardonable sin.

Husbands, commit yourself to the good of your partner. Wives, do the same. Parents, encourage your children to date Christian peers. Young people, begin to pray now that God will strengthen your resolve to keep for that future spouse the precious gift of personal purity. True love waits. And, in marriage, true love is to endure.

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## Bible Book

### The process of salvation

By W. David Moore, president,  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation  
Basic passage: Ephesians 2:1-22  
Focal passage: Ephesians 2:1-10  
Central truth: Salvation is a process whereby God moves a person from death into life by grace through faith.

When individuals testify that they have always known and loved the Lord, their confession greatly concerns me. The text reminds us that everyone was at one time dead in sin. Everyone was (or still is) dead to God.

A dead person does not respond to stimulus. You can hug, prick, command or otherwise stimulate a corpse; but the dead person does not respond. In the same way, a spiritually dead person does not respond to the love, mercy, grace or lovingkindness of our God.

A spiritually dead person follows the course of this world and the prince of this world. In other words, the world says "jump" and the spiritually dead person jumps. The world says that gambling is not such a bad thing—let people decide in our state if they want to gamble! Dead men jump at such logic.

What does a dead man need? A new suit? A sharp haircut? A body rub? No! A dead man needs life! God came in Jesus to give life to dead men and women. His mercy and love (v. 4) demanded his action of life-giving power.

How then does one receive this life? Verse 8 makes it clear—by grace through faith. Grace is God's action of giving us what we do not deserve. Faith is our response to the activity of God.

Let no one say that faith is too hard. Some dead men try to say that they have a hard time believing God. Not true! They have a hard time giving up sin.

They trust people who manage their water supply, and the people who drive other automobiles and the people who bottle soft drinks. If they can trust these people, it is easy for them to trust the eternal God—If they will turn from sin.

Such a process as salvation involves moving them from death to life by God's grace through our faith. And there is a purpose in salvation given in verse 10. God saves us in order to produce in us good works. He wants to make a masterpiece out of each Christian. Has He accomplished His salvation in you?

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### Southern Baptists plan quick aid for post-invasion Haiti

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—While the world awaits a U.S. invasion of Haiti, Southern Baptists are planning relief projects to ease the pain of suffering Haitians.

The projects — a joint effort of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board — likely will send at least 150 U.S. volunteers to Haiti. First they'll distribute food to hungry Haitians. Additional teams may work in medical care, water well repair, water purification and construction.

Initially, a team of Southern Baptists will travel to Haiti to assess needs. The group will include missionaries who left Haiti just before a ban on U.S. commercial flights there took effect June 25, including career missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge.

Qualified Southern Baptists who want to volunteer for relief projects in Haiti should call the Brotherhood Commission at 800-280-1891 or 901-722-3787.

### Clinton orders Justice officials to drop tithing dispute

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Acting on orders from President Clinton, the Justice Department has withdrawn its argument that a Minnesota church must turn over tithes given by a couple headed for bankruptcy.

The department had argued in a federal appeals court brief that under bankruptcy laws, the \$13,450 donated by Bruce and Nancy Young to Crystal Evangelical Free Church actually belongs to their creditors and should be recovered from the church.

Particularly troubling to religious groups was the Justice Department's insistence that recovering the funds from the church would not violate a new religious freedom law designed to enhance protections for religious practice.

Senior administration officials said Clinton's "exceptional interest" in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act prompted the rare action of ordering the Justice Department to abandon its position in the case. The department withdrew from the case the day before it was scheduled for argument in the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

### Hemphill's presidential address emphasizes spirituality

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—In his first presidential address to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's student body and faculty, Ken Hemphill urged them to view their educational and ministerial experiences in a spiritual light.

"If God Almighty, the sovereign God of the universe, pounded an old Roman cross deep into the muck and mud of our sin-sick world, and He consecrated this foundation with the blood of His only Son, what must we be building on that foundation?" Hemphill asked during the first chapel service of Southwestern's 87th year.

Ministers cannot afford to build the church with anything less than the "gold, silver and precious stone" of their lives, Hemphill declared. "Everything we build at this seminary and everything you build in your churches and your lives must be based on the perfect Word of God."

### Missionary resigns, citing concerns over SBC politics

OWENSBORO, KY (ABP) — A Southern Baptist missionary has resigned from her post in Togo in western Africa, citing concerns over denominational politics. "I'm saying I resigned because of ethical and integrity reasons, and also the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention," Paula Settle said.

Settle was upset by a decision by the convention in June not to allow denominational agencies, such as the Foreign Mission Board that employs Settle, to accept donations from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. "For me, that was the final blow," she said. "To me, you can't tell Baptists you are not going to take their money."

Betty Kay Yamaoka, the FMB's associate area director for West Africa, said, "If she feels the Lord is leading her to resign, I can't help but wish her well as she follows the Lord's leading."

### Thousands of students expected to attend 'Mission 95'

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Final plans are being made for a global missions conference designed to "open the eyes of college students to what God is doing in the world and invite them to be a part of it," student ministry worker Jeff Lewis said.

Registration opened this month for "Mission 95," a Southern Baptist conference expected to bring together more than 5,000 college students and 100 home and foreign missionaries at the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Ky., Dec. 27-31.

"Mission 95" is the sixth national student ministry conference sponsored by Southern Baptists, Lewis said, adding similar meetings are held once every five years. Additional information about the conference is available from the National Student Ministry office in Nashville at 615-251-2777.