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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 20

October 7, 1993

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee



Lisa Bevill and Michael Tate are among contemporary Christian musicians who have endorsed "True Love Waits," a nationwide campaign encouraging teens to remain sexually pure.



INSIDE: State Convention Preview, pages 6-15

Associational missions fair helps personalize Arkansas ministries

By Colleen Backus
Arkansas Baptist

"We wanted to present state missions in a tangible way," explained Lonnie Latham, director of missions for Bartholomew Association.

The results of that goal was an associational missions fair Sept. 11 which Latham enthusiastically declared a success. "We had nearly 200 people attend the fair, and more than that came for the missions rally that followed," he commented.

Missions was personalized by representatives from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, who set up booths in the new fellowship hall of Second Church in Monticello, which hosted the fair. The University of Arkansas Monticello Baptist Student Union, the Hermitage Migrant Center and Monticello Children's Home also set up booths. The event was designed to coincide with the 1993 Season of Prayer and Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions.

Describing one of the fair booths, Jimmy Barrentine noted, "We had cups set up to be shot with air pressure guns with foam bullets. The cups had missions questions which the participants asked and we answered." Barrentine, director of the ABCS missions department, added that "a lot of questions were asked that weren't in the cups. It really helped for the people to be able to put a face on state missions."

Glendon Grober, director of the ABCS Brotherhood department, demonstrated missions in action with dunking apples in water to demonstrate flood relief. "We also had a dart game that had a bill or coin of countries where there are missionaries

as prayer reminder prizes." Grober had conducted a similar missions fair on a smaller scale with another association. That effort helped spark the idea for the Bartholomew Association fair.

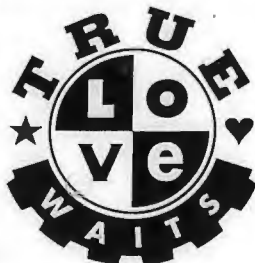
Jimmie Sheffield, ABCS associate executive director, helped Latham draw up the plans for the associational fair. "I think it's a workable plan," Sheffield said. "The association can use the fair to build fellowship as well as promote missions and state Baptist work — it's a good education tool." Sheffield also felt the missions rally was very inspirational and helped build the excitement level.

In addition to booths, the fair featured a craft display, dessert judging and entertainment by the clowning troupe from Hermitage Church. The rally that followed featured ABCS executive director Don Moore as speaker, special music by the choir of Monticello Second Church and a performance by the UAMBSU drama team.

"The worship service was wonderful," commented host church pastor Keith Brickell. "Don Moore's message was especially touching." Even though his church's fellowship hall had been completed just days before the event, Brickell felt everything went very smoothly. "We were very pleased to host this first time event — I was pleasantly surprised by the turnout," he said. "The Baptist Building people were very informative about the work going on in the state. Even I didn't realize everything that went on at the state level."

Latham has received much positive reaction from across his association. "I'm looking forward to doing it again," he affirmed.

Cover Story



'True Love Waits' 26

"True Love Waits," a sexual purity campaign for teens launched by the Baptist Sunday School Board, has gained national and international attention. Several Christian musicians recently endorsed the program and have released a "True Love Waits" recording to encourage Christian youth.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Tri-state conference affirms vision, growth

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

TEXARKANA, TX—Three years of preparation were culminated Sept. 25 when 850 Sunday School workers from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas participated in the ARK-LA-TEX Sunday School Convention at First Baptist Church of Texarkana, Texas.

Featured speaker Ken Hemphill, director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta, Ga., challenged Sunday School workers to quit using their pastors as a "hired gun" for reaching the lost. "God built His church, instructing all, not just the pastor, to 'go and make disciples,'" Hemphill declared. "Sunday School units hold the key of success to fulfilling the Great Commission."

Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School director Freddie Pike, coordinator of the three-state effort, said attendance exceeded the original goal of 800 set by leaders from the three state conventions. "We became greedy in later preparations and talked of having 1,000 in attendance, but are grateful for the 850 who did attend," he added.

Pike said conference participants offered positive responses, noting they felt the job-related conferences were helpful to both Sunday School leaders and local churches. "We are very grateful the first three-state Sunday School convention was so successful," Pike remarked.

During the program's keynote address, Hemphill said, "The Sunday School, which used to function as an evangelistic tool, is today more of an assimilation or fellowship tool. In fact, Southern Baptists have become weekend warriors who do not want to fight the battles required to win the lost, but had rather relax in their fellowship chairs aboard the 'Love Boat'."

Noting that the task of discipleship is recorded 260 times in the New Testament, Hemphill emphasized, "Too much is at stake for us to play weekend warriors. We must recapture our vision for reaching the lost by returning our focus to evangelism."

"Currently, only one out of every four SBC Sunday School units has any outreach strategy goals and, folks, this is not biblical," Hemphill insisted. "All units must have evangelistic outreach, sharing God's love with the lost and encouraging them to enroll in Sunday School where they can be taught and matured in Christ."

"As Southern Baptists recapture their outreach vision, we will once again see such church growth increases as recorded between 1940 and 1960 when Sunday School membership grew from 3.5 million

to 7 million," Hemphill concluded.

During a small-group conference with pastors, staff and general officers, Hemphill stressed the importance of lay involvement. "As church leaders, you need to involve your laypeople," he urged. "Try taking them with you in ministry areas such as hospital visits and outreach visits."

"One of the most successful growth patterns that I know of is Sunday afternoon deacon visitation," Hemphill continued. "Visitors are immediately contacted with this type visitation."



Hemphill stressed the importance of age-level visitation, following deacon contacts. "This time can be arranged through phone contacts," he said. "The third step is to enroll them in Sunday School and place them with a care leader who serves as their personal discipler."

Hemphill said one key to a successful evangelistic Sunday School class is to enlist a teacher, associate teacher, class secretary, activity leader, evangelism outreach leader with associates and a care leader with associates. He said Sunday School classes can become successfully evangelistic "when every person is rendered as a fully functioning member of the body of Christ."

'From Parking Lot to Pew'

Jerri Herring, a growth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, pointed out that "how a visitor is met, assisted and placed are vital keys to growing a Sunday School."

Herring, organizer of a successful "From Parking Lot to Pew" program for First Baptist Church of Franklin, Tenn., where she is a member, emphasized that all Southern Baptist churches that want to grow should initiate such a program. "People out there today who are seeking new church homes are tired of getting lost or not feeling welcome," she noted.

Herring listed parking spaces designated for visitors only, parking lot greeters who provide umbrellas during inclement weather, greeters at all church entrances, especially preschool entrances, and welcome centers as effective ways to minister to visitors.

"Outside greeters and those working in welcoming centers need to be people who feel they are called to this ministry,"

Herring continued. "They need to be people with mercy and hospitality, and they need to reflect who makes up your church, representative of both male and female age-level classes."

"Car doors should be opened on the driver's side as cars arrive on the parking lot," Herring added. "If people are not warmly welcomed, they will not come back. In the welcoming centers, greeters should prepare all enrollment forms, have name tags available and a special label for children's diaper bags."

Herring also suggested providing visitors with packets that explain all church functions and greeter training so that all Sunday morning functions operate smoothly. "I know this program can be successful," she concluded. "A Sunday School membership growth from 400 to 1,600 in a very short period of time at my home church proves that this program, if instituted correctly, can bring success."

Starting new units

Age grade, class size, effective use of space and equipment, and targeting specific groups were among suggestions listed for starting new Sunday School units in a conference led by Dennis Parrott, minister of education for more than 20 years in the Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

"Reaching prospects depends upon the creation of new units designed to meet the growth potential at hand," Parrott said. "Jesus met people at the point of their needs and Sunday School units should be organized so they too can be sensitive to the needs of those in today's world."

Parrott encouraged the continuation of homebound and cradle roll classes, but listed as possible new units: coed, single adult, married again, newlyweds, double income, single sex, no children and shift workers. "New classes may be started at anytime in the church year," Parrott added. "However, adults do not like surprises and therefore they need to be made aware of changes through detailed announcements."

Pike noted that a new unit preparation emphasis will be launched in 1994 through the ABCS Sunday School department with the SBC emphasis to begin in 1995. "Our strongest push will also occur in 1995," said Pike. "We are hoping to see 200 new teaching units organized and reported to us on that Great Start Sunday, Oct. 1, 1995."

"We will have a series of Sunday emphases that month which will conclude with Great Day in the Morning, Oct. 29," Pike concluded. "Arkansas Baptists will be informed as plans are formulated."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABS Executive Director

There was once a church which was declared to have a membership where their "faith growth exceedingly," and "the love of everyone... toward each other aboundeth." The preachers everywhere talked about "their patience and faith" demonstrated in hard times.

I can already hear some of you saying, "I once belonged to a church like that." Or some might say, "I'd drive halfway across the county to be a part of such a church." "Oh, if I could just one time be a part of a church like that, I would feel like I had died and gone to heaven."

Such a church is described in II Thessalonians 1:3-5. But we may never see another church like it. Their church started out suffering for their beliefs. The first preachers were shipped out of town in the night. A local man was arrested for letting them stay at his house. As at Jerusalem, they "rejoiced to be counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41). There will not likely be any more churches like the one described until there are bands of believers who, out of their deep commitment to Jesus, are willing to love, grow and suffer together for the King and His Kingdom.

Society is becoming more and more hostile toward those who are solidly committed to Christ and His Word. While Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and all minorities are protected by law, Christians are not. It is open season. We are viewed as ignorant, bigoted, intolerant and dangerous. Society in general believes with all of their heart that we should believe nothing with all of our heart. To put the Bible above the constitution is unpardonable to the world. And they can't believe that we really believe that folk who reject Jesus spend eternity in Hell. Attacked by entertainers, politicians, media and the courts, we must be prepared to "suffer shame for His name."

Societal acceptance spells compromise, weakness and impotence. If your beliefs and behavior are acceptable to a degenerate society, they are not to Jesus. He said the "world will hate you" (John 15:18).

PHYLLIS BYRUM

Woman's Viewpoint

Welcoming others through Sunday School



Some people are very good at making everyone feel at ease, whatever the situation. Regardless of how good at it one becomes, some polishing of those skills is always in order.

Draw the circle of friendship wide enough to include everyone in the class, with room especially for visitors and new members. It is comforting to have a best friend with whom we can share everything. But even something as good as a best pal friendship can be detrimental to the fellowship in a group if it results in the exclusion of others.

Accept every change to lift up all of the others by acknowledging their presence with a smile and a greeting. Make an effort to include everyone, even in the small talk.

We've all been in situations where the new members were excluded because the only topics of conversation were of people and events completely unknown to them. Be the one to steer the conversation to a subject of general interest to all present.

New members aren't the only ones who need to be welcomed and encouraged. We may never be aware

from outward appearance that someone in our group is hiding. They may be very skilled at hiding broken hearts, abused bodies and bruised self-esteems. Choose kind words over light and flippant remarks may help to influence in a positive manner their Bible study time.

Once I thanked a friend for her kind and gentle words used in conversation. She replied, "At the beginning of each day, I ask God to help me say kind words to everyone to whom I speak." What a great, but simple, way to welcome and encourage.

When promotion day in Sunday School brings a new mix to our classes, we need to open wide the circle of friendship. Would Jesus have excluded someone because they were older or younger?

Even before we can go, teach and baptize, we must love, encourage and welcome.

Phyllis Bartlett Byrum, a freelance landscape designer, is an active member of First Church in Benton. Her husband, Don, is a pharmacist. They are the parents of two grown children.

Personal perspectives

"Southern Baptists have become weekend warriors who do not want to fight the battles required to win the lost.... We must recapture our vision for reaching the lost by returning our focus to evangelism."

—Ken Hemphill, director, Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth

"Most of our church folk don't know a hungry person.... The missions department tries to put a face on hunger, because missions is best when it is borne out of compassion."

—Tommy Goode, church and community ministries director, ABS missions department

"We have got to understand that the sex game is no game. It's life and death.... If we don't get serious about (this issue), then who will?"

—John Schlitt, Petra lead singer, endorsing "True Love Waits" campaign

Convention offers ministry challenge

Arkansas Baptist messengers will gather Nov. 9-10 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock for the 1993 Arkansas Baptist State Convention. In addition to the business, inspiration and fellowship that are part of any annual meeting, the most challenging aspect of this year's gathering may be effectively responding to the 1993 convention theme, "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name."

While performing ministry in the name of Jesus Christ should be a constant commitment for every Christian and every congregation, the challenge is to dream bold dreams, discover God's specific will and enthusiastically pursue those goals for the benefit of God's Kingdom.

The convention theme also offers a reminder that there are far too many ministry needs in our state, nation and world for any single church or individual to address them alone. As hundreds of Arkansas Baptists gather from throughout the state, however, the annual state convention also offers a reminder that by working together, we can more effectively plan, produce and provide needed ministries at home and around the world.

Business sessions during the annual meeting will present messengers with a variety of opportunities to "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name." At the top of the list is the proposed 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$15.96 million. Approval of this budget will enable Arkansas Baptists to have a part in funding ministries throughout the state related to missions, evangelism, Sunday School, Discipleship Training and a host of other vital ministry programs. CP funds also will

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

be channeled to such ministries as the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Arkansas Baptist Foundation, *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College.

And the ministry opportunities don't stop there. In addition to the \$9.3 million proposed for Arkansas Baptist efforts, more than \$6.6 million will help fund such Southern Baptist Convention ministries as home and foreign missions and the work of our six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Messengers also will be asked to approve 1994 priority programs related to the state convention's five-year "Building God's Family" emphasis. Priority projects which will emphasize ministry in Jesus' name include Hope for Hurting Humanity, Developing a Caring Sunday School, Mississippi River Ministry, TTEOTE (To The Ends Of The Earth), Evangelism in Ministry and Equipping for Ministry.

Arkansas Baptists also will celebrate past ministry and plan for future ministry

as committees are established to coordinate the state convention's 150th anniversary celebration for 1998 and to set long-range convention goals through the year 2000.

One of the most far-reaching opportunities to minister in the name of Christ is the proposed partnership with the European Baptist Convention. The proposed three-year partnership calls for Arkansas Baptists to be involved in intercessory prayer, church planting, leadership training, simultaneous revivals and other projects related to the EBC's long-range ministry goals.

One additional ministry opportunity for messengers to consider is a proposed 1997 Foreign Mission Board appointment service in Arkansas. ABSB executive director Don Moore has called the 1989 FMB appointment service in Little Rock one of the greatest highlights in his years of ministry among Arkansas Baptists.

"We continue to be blessed from the influence of that, both in the people who are surrendering for missionary service and in the record Arkansas Baptists have of mission support through the Cooperative Program," he pointed out.

Along with the various ministry-related business items, messengers also will be encouraged by speakers, musicians and other program personnel to "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name." With the annual meeting just one month away, begin praying now that God will guide our deliberations and that the convention program will effectively challenge all Arkansas Baptists to greater ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Executive Committee observations

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee members handled a full agenda at their recent meeting in Nashville, Tenn., approving 37 business items during the two-day gathering. While most agenda items were routine, a pair of actions related to the Cooperative Program and local church autonomy merit special attention.

The Cooperative Program was a primary topic of discussion in Nashville. While convention leaders emphasized the need for greater CP support throughout the SBC, the Executive Committee rejected a proposal which would have required committee members to come from churches which channel at least 10 percent of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program.

Members are correct that "individuals and not churches are eligible for election."

However, it remains a legitimate concern that Executive Committee members' churches give an average of 7.23 percent of undesignated gifts through CP — 2 percent less than the SBC average. It is one thing to talk about the importance of the Cooperative Program; it is quite another to back up those words with sacrificial financial support. With or without financial requirements for membership, Executive Committee members and other SBC leaders should take the lead in encouraging their congregations to demonstrate local church commitment to the Cooperative Program.

Local church autonomy was addressed in the committee's unanimous decision against excluding from SBC membership those churches which have ordained women. Pointing out that most Executive Committee members oppose women's

ordination, committee chairman Fred Wolfe added that the issue remains a "local church matter."

Although the committee's action may be misunderstood and criticized in some circles, they made the right decision. Regardless of one's view of women's ordination, it remains a matter of biblical interpretation which should be addressed on the local church level.

The SBC Constitution states that the SBC "will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations or convention." Executive Committee members are to be commended for reaffirming Southern Baptists' historic commitment to local church autonomy — even in the face of a politically and theologically sensitive issue.



**PERFORM
MINISTRY**
in Jesus' name

PREVIEW OF THE 1993

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

November 9-10

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Tuesday morning, Nov. 9

8:30	Congregational Singing.....	Richard Rose
8:35	Perform Ministry Testimony/Prayer.....	Mitch Tapson
8:45	Call to order.....	William H. Sutton
8:50	Welcome.....	Cary Heard
8:55	Appointment of Committees.....	William H. Sutton
	Enrollment of Messengers.....	David Uth
	Adoption of Order of Business.....	Rich Browning
	Tellers Committee Instructions.....	Bryan Smith
	Resolutions.....	Rick Hyde
	Constitution Amendments.....	Betty Harp
9:15	Announcements.....	William H. Sutton
9:20	Congregational Singing.....	Richard Rose
9:25	Special Music.....	Cherie Ross
9:35	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....	William H. Sutton
10:05	TTEOTE Report (To The Ends Of The Earth)	
10:15	"True Love Waits".....	Doug Porter
10:25	Congregational Singing.....	Richard Rose
10:30	MESSAGE.....	Henry Blackaby
11:30	Benediction.....	Mike Love

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 9

1:25	Master Singers Instrumental Ensemble.....	Glen Ennes
1:30	Congregational Singing.....	Rob Hewell
1:35	Perform Ministry Testimony/Prayer.....	Rick Grant
1:45	Recognition of Missionaries.....	William H. Sutton
1:50	Miscellaneous Business	
2:00	MESSAGE.....	Ronnie Rogers
2:30	Christian Civic Foundation.....	Larry Page
2:40	Nominating Committee.....	Jimmy Wallace
2:50	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT.....	Rich Kincl
3:10	Congregational Singing.....	Larry Grayson
3:15	Special Music.....	Master Singers
3:30	MESSAGE.....	Jim Henry
4:00	Benediction.....	Glen Power

Tuesday evening, Nov. 9

6:15	Congregational Singing.....	Joe Fitzpatrick
6:20	Perform Ministry Testimony/Prayer.....	Doris Nash
6:30	Williams Baptist College Choir.....	Bob Magee, director
6:40	Williams Baptist College Report.....	Gary Huckabay

6:55	Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Report.....	Johnny Biggs
7:05	Recognition of Denominational Guests.....	W.H. Sutton
7:10	Cooperative Program Awards.....	Jimmie Sheffield
7:20	Congregational Singing.....	Joe Fitzpatrick
7:25	Special Music.....	Singing Women
7:35	"Until You Touch".....	Park Hill Church Drama Team
7:55	Special Music.....	Singing Women
8:00	MESSAGE.....	Don Moore
8:30	Benediction.....	John Marshall

Wednesday morning, Nov. 10

8:15	Congregational Singing.....	Jerry Wilson
8:20	Perform Ministry Testimony/Prayer.....	Carl Schmidt
8:30	Recognitions.....	William H. Sutton
	Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis Baptist Medical System, Little Rock Former Presidents	
	Retired Baptist Workers.....	John Ashcraft
	New Arkansans.....	Don Moore
8:45	Ouachita Baptist University Report.....	Ben Elrod
9:00	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:15	Arkansas Baptist Foundation Report.....	Harry Trulove
9:25	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:35	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Report.....	Trennis Henderson
9:45	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:55	Iowa Partnership Report.....	O. Wyndell Jones
10:05	Report of Seminars.....	David Dockery
10:15	Congregational Singing.....	Jerry Wilson
10:20	Special Music.....	Powell Brothers
10:30	CONVENTION SERMON.....	Dale Thompson
11:00	Miscellaneous Business	
11:15	Resolutions.....	Rick Hyde
11:45	Presentation of New Officers Benediction by New President	

Organists: Mary Winters, Cedar Heights, North Little Rock
Patty Tanner, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Plantists: Dawne Carroll, Park Hill, North Little Rock
Jeff Bennett, Calvary Church, Little Rock

Speakers highlight 'Perform Ministry' theme

"Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name," part of Arkansas Baptists' five-year emphasis on "Building God's Family," will be the theme for the 1993 Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The annual meeting will be held Nov. 9-10 at Park Hill Church, 201 East C St., North Little Rock.

Featured speakers during the annual meeting will include Henry Blackaby, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's office of prayer and spiritual awakening, and Jim Henry, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Arkansas Baptist pastors scheduled to speak are Dale Thompson, pastor of First Church of Fort Smith, who will deliver the convention sermon, and Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs. ABCS president William H. "Buddy" Sutton will deliver the annual president's message and ABCS executive director Don Moore will present his annual message.

Blackaby, who will preach during the opening Tuesday morning session, is well known among Southern Baptists as the author of the "Experiencing God" study materials. He has been president of Canadian Baptist Theological College and served several years as a Southern Baptist home missionary and pastor in Canada before joining the HMB staff in 1988.

Henry will preach during the Tuesday



Blackaby

Henry

Thompson

Rogers

Sutton

Moore

afternoon session. He was pastor of churches in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee before becoming senior pastor of First Church, Orlando, in 1977. Henry has been president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board and a member of the SBC Peace Committee.

Thompson will deliver the convention sermon during the Wednesday morning session. Prior to becoming pastor of First

Church, Fort Smith, he was pastor of Immanuel Church, Rogers, and First Church, Gravette. He currently is a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs since 1985, will preach on Tuesday afternoon. He formerly was pastor of Knowles Church in Strong and associate pastor of Vikery Baptist Church in Dallas. He is a trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sutton, serving his second year as state convention president, will speak on Tuesday morning. He is an attorney and a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock. Sutton has served as president of the Arkansas Baptist Medical System board of directors and chairman of the Ouachita Baptist University board of trustees. He also chaired the

1989 Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade and the 1990 Citizens Against Legalized Lottery.

Moore, who has been ABCS executive director since 1982, will speak on Tuesday evening. He has been pastor of several Arkansas Baptist churches including 12 years as pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith. He has been president of the ABCS and the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference as well as a trustee of Ouachita and of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Alumni meetings planned during convention

Alumni of Arkansas Baptist colleges and Southern Baptist seminaries have planned luncheons and dinners in conjunction with the Nov. 9-10 Arkansas Baptist State Convention in North Little Rock.

Midwestern Seminary's alumni will hold a 12:15 p.m. dutch treat luncheon Nov. 9 at the Olive Garden Restaurant, 2943 Lakewood Drive, North Little Rock. A seminary representative will be featured speaker.

Reservations may be made by contacting Angela Lowe, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5137.

Southern Seminary's alumni luncheon will be held Nov. 9 in the Gold Room of Park Hill Church with reservations to be made by contacting alumni president Bo Barnes at 227-2569.

David Dockery, dean of the seminary's

school of theology, will be the guest speaker.

Southwestern Seminary's noon luncheon is planned for Nov. 9 at Baring Cross Church, 13th and Franklin, North Little Rock. Justice Anderson, George W. Bottoms professor of missions and director of the seminary's World Missions Center, will be the speaker.

Alumni president David Uth said reservations should be made by contacting Scott Duvall at Ouachita Baptist University; phone 245-5000.

New Orleans Seminary's alumni are invited to a 12:30 p.m. luncheon Nov. 9 at the Ramada Inn, 120 West Pershing, North Little Rock.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Jerry Mixson at 624-3345.

Golden Gate Seminary's alumni will meet at noon Nov. 9 at Shoney's Restaurant,

3939 McCain Boulevard, North Little Rock.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Ed Smith at 628-3122.

Ouachita Baptist University will host a dinner for alumni, former students and friends of the university Nov. 9 at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Central Church, 5200 North Fairway, North Little Rock, according to Phil Hardin, director of alumni affairs and assistant to president Ben Elrod.

For more information concerning the dinner, persons may contact Hardin at OBU, P.O. Box 3753, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; phone 245-5400.

Williams Baptist College's alumni luncheon will be held at noon on Nov. 9 at Western Sizzlin Steak House, 5306 JFK Boulevard, North Little Rock.

The cost will be \$5 per person, according to Ron Sanders, director of development and public relations.

Proper credentials required for convention messengers

Membership and messengers to the 1993 Arkansas Baptist State Convention are determined according to ABCS Constitution Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"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.

"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 session 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.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No members of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "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 thirty (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 findings and recommendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization similar to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers

being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

David Uth, Credentials Committee chairman, noted that cooperation by the messengers in these matters will help ensure a much smoother and more congenial convention.

Registration

Messengers elected by Arkansas Baptist churches who are planning to participate in the annual meeting Nov. 9-10 must bring messenger registration cards approved by their church and signed by their moderators or church clerks.

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

Balloting

In accordance with the ABCS Constitution, and in keeping with previous policies and procedures, the following guidelines have been established for voting at the annual meeting.

All duly-elected messengers who register at the convention will be given an official book of numbered ballots. Bryan Smith, Tellers Committee chairman, noted that messengers are encouraged to print their names on the front of the ballot book as soon as they register.

A ballot is considered the property of the person to whom it is issued. Therefore, a ballot can be used only by that individual. Ballots are not to be exchanged or used by any other messenger or non-messengers, even with the owner's consent. When ballots are used, instructions will be given designating which ballot is to be cast. Ballots which do not bear the appropriate number for a specific vote will be considered invalid. Ballots which are not legible or which are submitted blank will be considered invalid.

Messengers who lose or find ballot books should notify the registration desk. An owner may claim a lost ballot book only if the book bears his or her name.

Resolutions

Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Buddy Sutton has appointed a five-member Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the

committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by October 22. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolution in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to Resolutions Committee chairman Rick Hyde, 817 West Young St., Malvern, AR 72104.

Hyde expressed appreciation in advance for messengers' cooperation in this process.

Convention committees

Resolutions Committee

Rick Hyde, Malvern, chairman
Morgan Cox, Augusta
Jim Lagrone, Bryant
Greg Greenway, Almyra
Marck Gibson, Jacksonville

Credentials Committee

David Uth, El Dorado, chairman
Eugene Ray, Wynne
Jimmy Wallace, Lonoke
Garland Brackett, Pine Bluff
Danny Brown, Clinton

Tellers Committee

Bryan Smith, Van Buren, chairman
Bob Martin, Hensley
Denny Wright, El Dorado
Elvis Smith, Keo
Tim Cypert, Yellville
Fred Gay, Little Rock
Don Crosley, Hot Springs
Frank Gantz, Little Rock
Gerald Kausler, Leachville
Ray Taffar, Henderson

Order of Business Committee

Rich Browning, Forrest City, chairman
D.C. McAtee, Forrest City
Don Nall, Batesville

Parliamentarian

Hal Bass, Arkadelphia

Convention-related meetings planned

Auxiliary groups hold seminars, luncheons in North Little Rock

A number of Arkansas Baptist-related organizations will hold meetings in conjunction with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, set for Nov. 9-10 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Among the meetings scheduled prior to and during the annual meeting are:

Pastors' Conference

Pastors from across the state will hold a three-session Pastors' Conference Nov. 8 at Park Hill Church beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Conference president Dale Thompson, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, will preside during the 1993 conference.

Speakers for the opening session will include evangelist William Blackburn of Fort Smith, church growth specialist Cliff Jenkins of Springdale and Rapha specialist Robert McGee of Houston, Texas.

The afternoon session will begin at 1:30 p.m. with messages by evangelist Bill Stafford of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.; and evangelist Mickey Bonner of Houston, Texas. New Pastors' Conference officers will be elected at 2:15 p.m.

Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, will bring the conference's closing message during the evening session. Other speakers during the session, which will begin at 6:30 p.m., will be Hunt and Stafford.

Religious Educators

The Arkansas Baptist Religious Educators Association will convene Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m. in rooms 302, 304 and 306 of Park Hill Church's adult education building.

The conference theme, "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name," will be interpreted by guest speakers Bob Woolley, retired music department director for the Missouri Baptist Convention, and Larry Heslip, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Ponca City, Okla.

The conference will conclude with a 6 p.m. banquet in the church's Gold Room.

Jerry Gay, minister of education and music at First Church of Stuttgart, will moderate the meeting. Banquet reservations may be made with Pat Rotton by calling 376-4791, ext. 5128.

Ministers' Wives

Minette Drumwright, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy, will be the



featured speaker for the 1993 Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference. The Nov. 8 conference, to be held at Park Hill Church, will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m.

The conference theme, "Your Own Ministry," will be interpreted in "Running the Race Without Reeboks" and "Ministry of Prayer" seminars to be led by Martha Henderson of Little Rock and Drumwright. Glenda Gabbie of Helena will provide special music.

President Vicki Wickliffe of Des Arc will moderate the meeting to be held in rooms A 202, 204 and 206 of Park Hill's adult education building. A noon luncheon will be served in the church's Gold Room.

Participants are requested to mail an \$8 registration fee made payable to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to Rachel Preston, 601 Belmont, Stamps, AR 71860. In addition, child care registration for this conference only should be sent to Preston and should include the names and ages of children. Mothers are requested to provide lunches for the children.

Directors of Missions

Arkansas' directors of missions fellowship dinner will begin at 5 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Olive Garden, 2943 Lakewood Village Drive, North Little Rock. President Jeff Cheatham, director of missions for Arkansas River Valley Association, will preside.

Chaplains

Carter Tucker, director of ABSC chaplaincy work, will host a 4:30 p.m.

meal for chaplains on Nov. 9 at Wyatt's Cafeteria, 4701 JFK, North Little Rock.

Gary Cragun, who recently began serving as chaplain at Cummins State Prison, will be the featured speaker. Other program features will include jail chaplaincy reports.

ABSC Executive Board

The ABSC Executive Board will meet Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. in the music suite of Park Hill Church to recognize outgoing board members. The board will convene again in the music suite Nov. 9 at 4:30 p.m. to recognize new board members and elect officers.

Current board officers are president Rich Kincl, pastor of Central Church of Magnolia, and vice president Mitch Tapson, pastor of Mount Carmel Church, Cabot.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

The board of directors of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine will hold a 5 p.m. dinner meeting Nov. 9 at the Red Lobster, 3707 McCain Boulevard, North Little Rock.

President Greg Kirksey, pastor of First Church of Benton, will preside over the meeting that will include recognition of new board members and the presentation of plaques to outgoing board members.

Retired Workers

The Stewardship/Annuity department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will host a 5 p.m. dinner for Arkansas Baptist retired workers Nov. 9 at Park Hill Church.

Harvey Wright, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board vice president for Region Two, will be the featured speaker. Special music will be provided by the Ouachita Baptist University faculty quartet.

Participants are requested to make reservations for the free meal with department director James Walker's office; phone 376-4791, ext. 5114.

New Work Banquet

Jack Ramsey, ABSC director of church extension, will host a New Work banquet at the Bonanza Restaurant, 109 East Pershing, North Little Rock, beginning at 5 p.m. Nov. 9.

Certificates will be awarded to all new church starts, sponsoring churches and churches which have constituted in 1993.

Participants are requested to notify Ramsey of their attendance by calling 376-4791, ext. 5149.

Executive Board Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1

1994 Budget

I. State Causes

	1994 Requests
1. Administration	\$270,795
2. Accounting Services	154,385
3. Business Services	103,763
4. Annulry	19,021
5. Computer Services	88,950
6. Baptist Student Union	676,546
7. Brotherhood	128,095
8. Church Music	180,423
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists.....	130,821
10. Discipleship Training	224,283
11. Evangelism	266,369
12. Ministry of Crisis Support	103,958
13. Missions	495,117
14. Church Leadership Support	100,384
15. Stewardship	93,448
16. Sunday School	314,204
17. Woman's Missionary Union	308,099
18. Media Services	66,659
19. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	205,484
20. Camp Paron - Operating	57,039
21. Camp Paron - Improvement Fund	15,504
22. Expanded Church Annulry Plan	362,876
23. Baptist Student Union - Building	125,400
24. Convention	124,585
25. Historical Commission	8,722
26. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes	427,563
27. Printing Services	20,637
28. Salary Increase Reserve	176,038

TOTAL EXECUTIVE BOARD PROGRAMS \$5,249,169

29. Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries	430,692
30. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	253,104
31. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.....	217,152
32. Ouachita Baptist University	2,321,918
33. Williams Baptist College	699,330
34. Ministerial Scholarship Fund	125,334
TOTAL STATE PROGRAMS.....	\$9,296,700

II. Southern Baptist Convention..... \$6,663,300

TOTAL BUDGET..... \$15,960,000

Recommendation No. 2

1994 Priority Programs

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1994 Priority Programs related to Building God's Family and the 1994 department goals and projects.

In 1994, the Building God's Family priority emphasis is "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name." The priority projects for this emphasis include the following:

- Hope for Hurting Humanity
- Developing a Caring Sunday School
- Mississippi River Ministry
- TTEOTE (To The Ends Of The Earth)
- Evangelism in Ministry
- Equipping for Ministry

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

Name Change for Discipleship Training Department

The Executive Board recommends changing the name of the Discipleship Training Department to "The Discipleship and Family Ministry Department."

This would be implemented in the fall of 1993 if approved by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in November of 1993.

The rationale for this recommendation is as follows:

(1) All of the functions of the Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board were merged with the Discipleship Training Department in its reorganization last year. It is now the "Discipleship and Family Development Division." The name "Discipleship and Family Ministry Department" would help to mirror the Sunday School Board's pattern of organization in our state.

(2) At the local church level, Family Ministry has been an "emphasis program" rather than a program organization. There has been little or no formal organizational structure in most churches to implement Family Ministry. Most of the family resources have been channeled through Discipleship Training materials (Equipping Center Modules and LIFE Courses). This indicates the extent to which these programs have been inter-related, both in the church and at the Sunday School Board. The proposed name would help to indicate the blending of these programs.

(3) The proposed name would also help to more adequately reflect the scope of the department's assignment. While the Discipleship Training Department in our state has had the assignment for Family Ministry and other program assignments through the years, the name of the department has not reflected that.

It should be stated that expanding the name of the department will in no way diminish commitment to Discipleship Training. It should enhance what we do in both areas. It will better reflect what we are already doing and help churches know to whom to relate for assistance in both of these areas.

Recommendation No. 4

150th Anniversary Committee

The Executive Board recommends the following people to serve on the 150th Anniversary Committee to plan the celebration events of our 150th year to climax at the state convention in November 1998.

- Eddie McCord, Chairman, Batesville
- Tim Reddin, Hot Springs Village
- Wanda Pierce, Malvern
- Sharon Stanley, Warren
- Gearl Spicer, Little Rock
- Jack Nicholas, Walnut Ridge
- Mary Shambarger, Arkadelphia
- Lyndon Finney, Little Rock
- John McClanahan, Pine Bluff

Recommendation No. 5

Directions 2000 Planning: 1996-2000

Purpose: To recommend objective areas of ministry, long-range goals and limited action plans for 1996-2000 Executive Board programs.

Duties:

1. Review and revise the overall statement of purpose for Executive Board programs and individual department statements of purpose in light of convention purpose.
2. Collect and analyze data about the influences of the environment that will have a significant impact on the ability of the Executive Board programs to carry out their purposes.
3. Determine objective areas of ministry for 1996-2000.
4. Determine annual emphases and general theme for the planning period.
5. Write goals for the planning period.
6. Write broad action plans that can be implemented by various departments. (Detailed action plans will be developed in the annual planning process.)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bryan E. Smith, pastor, First, Van Buren
Will Thompson, staff, First, Arkadelphia
Dane A. Dover, pastor, Millcreek, Hot Springs
Kent Farris, staff, Park Hill, North Little Rock
Bill Bowen, pastor, First, Mena
Dale Wicker, Jr., pastor, First, Conway
John Gerlach, staff, Immanuel, Little Rock
Doug Porter, staff, Beech Street, Texarkana
Elaine Katliff, layperson, Heber Springs
Larry Loggins, pastor, Friendship, Clinton
Pat Reese, layperson, First, Mayflower
Bruce Swihart, pastor, Eastside, Paragould
John Dresbach, staff, Central, Jonesboro
Ray Davis, pastor, Union Avenue, Wynne
Max Garrison, pastor, Pleasant Hill, Cabot
Eugene Ray, DOM, Tri-County, Wynne
Roland Loe, pastor, Cornerstone, Texarkana
Lonnie Latham, DOM, Bartholomew, Warren
David Uth, pastor, Immanuel, El Dorado
Jeff Cheatham, DOM, Ark. River Valley
Richard Lee, pastor, Mt. Olive, Crossett
Jerry Cooper, layperson, Jonesboro
James D. Tucker, pastor, West Helena
Glen Power, layperson, First, Nashville

Recommendation No. 6

Partnership Mission Agreement with European Baptist Convention

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention enter into a Partnership Mission Agreement with the European Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board for three years, 1994-96.

The purpose of this partnership is: 1) to proclaim the gospel to people in Europe who have a special interest in the English language, 2) to accelerate the planting and development of English-speaking churches, and 3) to meet human need where possible through agreed upon strategies and projects.

Terms of the partnership agreement were worked out in July between the officials of the Foreign Mission Board, the European Baptist Convention, and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. These included the purpose, leadership team, ministry areas, time frame, goals and actions, procedures and responsibilities, evaluation and guidelines.

The leadership team is John Floyd, administrator; John Merritt, field administrator; Glendon Grober, Arkansas coordinator; and Bill Peacock, Foreign Mission Board coordinator.

ARKANSAS PARTNERSHIP GOALS

1. To undergird European Baptist Convention churches and programs with specific, regular intercessory prayer. (5,000 Arkansans committed)
2. To support the European Baptist Convention Long Range Ministry goals by:
 - A. Involvement in helping to initiate 20 new churches.
 - B. By contributing to the Missions Endowment Fund (DVBS, RA, GA, Brotherhood)
 3. To recruit, orient and send personnel as requested.
 - A. On-the-field coordinators are requested for a long period of service, with a minimum of six months.
 - B. Interim pastors
 - C. Construction teams
 - D. Leadership training teams
 - E. ISC pastors
 - F. Others
4. To seek to strengthen existing work at church and convention levels.
5. Evangelism goal: Assist in simultaneous revivals in summer or fall 1995, using Home Mission Board's theme.

Recommendation No. 7

Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention invite the Foreign Mission Board to conduct a Foreign Mission Board meeting and appointment service in Arkansas to be scheduled in April 1997.

AMENDED AND RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

Article I. - Name, Duration and Agent for Service

Section 1. The name of this body shall be "The Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

Section 2. The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

Section 3. The Agent for Service of Process of the corporation shall be the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, c/o the corporation's headquarters, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

Article II. - The Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is to assist the churches of the Convention in fulfilling their mission, and to encourage cooperative support of and involvement in our worldwide mission enterprise.

Section 2. The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on May 9, 1963, shall be the doctrinal guideline for this Convention.

Article III. - Membership

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 the spirit of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the 1963 session 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 IV. - Authority

Section 1. While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, this Convention shall never exercise any authority whatsoever over any church, nor shall it in any way interfere with the constitution of any church, or with the exercise of its functions as the only ecclesiastical body, but will cheerfully recognize and uphold the absolute independence of the churches.

STATE CONVENTION PREVIEW

Article V. - Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Convention shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected annually, except the Recording Secretary and Treasurer who shall be the same person serving as the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention shall be elected by the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the deliberations of the Convention and to discharge such other duties as may devolve upon the presiding officer of a deliberative body. He shall appoint all committees unless the Convention shall otherwise determine. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside in his stead.

Section 3. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention or his designee is authorized to execute and sign all official and legal documents involving transactions in agreement with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and/or approved by the Convention, the Executive Board or its Operating Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Executive Director-Treasurer to keep a record of the proceedings of the convention, to edit and arrange publication of a suitable number of the minutes for distribution among the churches, as the Convention may direct, as soon as reasonably possible after the close of the annual meeting. He shall file and keep in the files of papers deemed important to the work of the Convention.

Article VI. - The Executive Board

Section 1. This Convention shall elect a Board of Trustees which shall constitute the Board of Directors. This Board shall be known as the "Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention." This Board shall be composed of one member from the bounds of each cooperating association with a membership up to 5,000, and one additional member for each additional 5,000 constituency, or major fraction thereof, provided however, that no association shall be entitled to more than five (5) members. In addition, the Convention shall elect one lady from the bounds of each of the eight districts in the state to serve on the Executive Board. The President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be a member of the Executive Board with full rights and privileges. Upon the removal of any Executive Board member from the bounds of his or her association, his or her membership on the Executive Board ceases therewith. His or her successor in office shall be nominated by the Convention Nominating Committee and elected by the Convention in annual session to fill the unexpired term. No person shall be a member of this Board who is an employee of any board, institution or agency of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or who is receiving financial aid from the State Convention. One-third of this Board shall be elected annually to hold office for three years, and a majority of the Board Members shall constitute a quorum. Any member of the Executive Board who misses all the Executive Board meetings and the Executive Board committee meetings for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on the Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Convention in keeping with the Convention's instructions. The Executive Board shall raise, collect, receive and disburse all the funds of the Cooperative Program, for both state and Southern Baptist Convention causes. The offices of the Executive Board shall be a clearing house for administering the business affairs of the Convention, and a headquarters for Baptist information. Its books, records and files shall at all times be open for the reference and inspection of any cooperating church which may

desire to examine them.

Section 3. The Executive Board of the Convention may authorize the withholding of Cooperative Program funds from any institution or agency which fails to act in conformity with its Articles of Incorporation or fails to utilize funds given the institution or agency by the Convention according to stipulations and conditions attached to those funds by the Convention.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall render to the Convention annually a complete and detailed statement of all its business for the year.

Article VII. - Trusteeships

The Convention shall elect trustees who shall serve as directors to manage and operate the institutions and agencies that the Convention may possess, as follows:

Section 1. Ouachita Baptist University, 24; Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, 18; Williams Baptist College, 24; Arkansas Baptist Foundation, 15; Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, 15; Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis), one-third of the trustees (3).

Section 2. One-third of the members of the Boards of Trustees shall be elected annually to serve for a term of three years. Any member of the Board of Trustees who misses all the meetings of that Board for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on this Board.

Section 3. Each Board of Trustees shall elect from their membership a Chairman and a Recording Secretary and such other officers as seems advisable.

Section 4. All Trusteeships shall render to the Convention at each annual session complete and detailed reports of all transactions and business. The Trustees shall be sensitive to the expressions of the Convention's will in all matters.

Section 5. The Articles of Incorporation of each agency and institution held possessed by this Convention shall contain the following provisions:

(a) The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be the corporation's sole member;

(b) The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall elect the corporation's Board of Trustees which shall constitute its Board of Directors;

(c) The Articles of Incorporation shall first be approved by the Convention and thereafter no amendment to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation shall be made without the prior consent of the Convention;

(d) A vote in favor of the proposed amendment(s) by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present and voting at the state convention shall constitute consent required by this section. No proposed amendment shall come before the Arkansas Baptist State Convention unless it has been reported to the Executive Board of the Convention at least sixty (60) days prior to the first session of the Convention's annual meeting; and

(e) The corporation is organized exclusively for religious, educational, or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of a commercial enterprise. The corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, convey all of the assets of the corporation to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention if at that time the Arkansas Baptist State Convention qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Article VIII. - Operation of Agencies

Section 1. Each board, agency, and institution of this Convention shall submit to the Executive Board at its annual budget planning meeting, which is to be held prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, a detailed statement of its sources of income, and a budget of proposed expenditures for the ensuing year. When received and adopted by the Convention, these budgets shall become the basis for the ensuing year.

Section 2. No appeals for funds may be made to churches without the recommendation of the Executive Board and the approval of the annual convention in session, other than appeals through the Cooperative Program or from the annual Churches' Homes and Family Ministries and the Dixie Jackson State Mission offerings. Other appeals may be made to individuals, organizations, corporations or foundations.

Section 3. A deficit in a board, agency or institution operational budget for any year shall be reported to the Executive Board and the convention in annual session.

Such deficit may not be carried over into the second year without the approval of the Executive Board and the convention in annual session as to how this deficit will be eliminated.

Article IX. - Meetings

Section 1. The Convention shall meet annually, "if God permit," on a date to be fixed by the Convention. The Executive Board is empowered in emergencies to call special sessions of the Convention and to change either the time or place of meeting or both should the occasion demand.

Article X. - Amendments

Section 1. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting and concurring in two successive annual meetings of the convention, except Article IV, which shall remain forever unalterable in substance.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall be presented to the Convention in writing, for its consideration, upon the first day of the annual meeting, and may be voted on, on any subsequent day during the meeting, provided adequate publicity has been given by previous announcement.

Article XI. - Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall be the standard for deciding questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article XII. - Districts

The Convention shall establish such geographic districts as it may deem wise to facilitate its promotion, administration, and organization of its objectives, provided, it will never violate in any way the boundaries of any association within the area of the convention.

STATE CONVENTION PREVIEW

The boundaries of such districts shall be drawn so as to provide equitable geographical and numerical voice and representation on all convention committees, commissions, and boards, except the Executive Board. Each biennial year hereafter, the whole matter of districts shall be readjusted to take in consideration the flow of membership in our Baptist churches.

Article XIII - Internal Revenue Requirements

Section 1. The corporation is organized exclusively for religious purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 3. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, convey all of the assets of the corporation to an organization which qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.

AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

The following bylaws are enacted by The Arkansas Baptist State Convention for the purpose of carrying out its Articles of Incorporation and for the governing of the Convention.

Article I - Enrollment of Messengers

Section 1. 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 approved 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.

Section 2. A standing Credentials Committee with five (5) members shall be appointed by the President of the Convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive Conventions. The President of the Convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the Chairman each year.

Article II - Officers

Section 1. The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be elected on the second day of the Convention, their terms of office to begin

with the conclusion of the final session of the Convention.

Section 2. The election of all officers shall be by ballot; provided, however, there is only one nomination for the office, then the Recording Secretary or any other messenger present may be directed to cast the ballot of the entire assembly for the single nominee.

Section 3. The First Vice-President shall be nominated and voted upon and elected after balloting for the President has been completed and the winner announced, and the Second Vice-President shall be nominated and voted upon and elected after the balloting for the First Vice-President has been completed and the winner announced. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast. In all cases of removal from office, by death or otherwise, of the President, the Vice-Presidents shall successively succeed to the office of President in the order of their election. The President may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4. All elected officers of this Convention shall be members of churches cooperating with this Convention. This must also apply to members of the Executive Board, agencies and institutional boards of this Convention.

Article III - The Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board is empowered to act for the Convention between sessions of the Convention, provided that it shall never exercise any authority contrary to the expressed will of the Convention.

Section 2. When any unforeseen emergency occurs in any of the affairs of the Convention, or in any of the interests it controls, that in the judgment of the Executive Board requires action before the next session of the Convention, the Executive Board shall have full authority to take such action as may seem necessary, and all interests concerned shall be governed by such action, provided the Executive Board shall make full report of all matters pertaining thereto to the next session of the Convention for its approval, and provided further, that nothing in this article shall be construed as giving the Executive Board authority to execute any matters already committed by the Convention to any of its agency or institutional Boards of Trustees.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall maintain at its offices a record of the names and addresses of the messengers determined to be eligible to vote at the convention, and the books and records of account. The Executive Board shall allow any messenger to inspect at any reasonable time these records, a record of the proceedings of the Convention and of the meetings of the Executive Board, its committees, and committees of the Convention.

Section 4. All proposals requiring the expenditures of money by the Convention, or the Executive Board of the Convention, from the annual budget shall be considered by the Executive Board, before being presented to the Convention.

Section 5. No loans shall be made by the Convention to its officers, or to the members of the Executive Board.

Section 6. This Board shall be charged with the responsibility to have the books and financial affairs of each agency and institution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention audited annually by an accredited firm of auditors, all audits to be accessible to the Executive Board at its budget planning session, and to be included in the institution's report to the Convention.

Section 7. Members of the Executive Board, having served two full terms of three years each shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 8. The various associations of Arkansas

whose churches are affiliated with this Convention, may submit to the convention nominating committee names of those whom they believe should be considered for membership on the Executive Board as members from that association.

Article IV - Trusteeships

Section 1. All trusteeships of this Convention shall be sensitive to expressions of the Convention's will in all matters.

Section 2. Members of Boards of Trustees having served two full terms of three years each shall not be eligible for reelection until as much as one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for reelection, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 3. Not more than two (2) members of the Board of Trustees shall at the same time be members of the same local church, nor shall more than six (6) members reside in any one association. A member of the Board of Trustees of any agency or institution of the Convention may not at the same time be a member of any other Board of Trustees of any agency or institution of the Convention. No member of the Board of Trustees of any institution of this Convention may at the same time be a member of the Executive Board of the Convention.

Section 4. Any person receiving compensation from the Convention through the Executive Board shall not be a member of any Convention agency or institutional board. The President of the Convention by virtue of his office shall be a member of the Executive Board for the duration of his term of office.

Article V - Nominating Committee

Section 1. A nine-member rotating Nominating Committee, comprised of at least three lay persons, will place in nomination at each annual convention names of persons to fill vacancies on all Convention boards and committees not provided for otherwise. Following each annual convention, the President will appoint three people to a three-year term to replace the three people rotating off, plus filling any vacancies that may exist on the Committee at that time. The President shall also name the Chairman, who shall come from a one-year term member. Nominations for all boards from this Nominating Committee must be equally divided as possible between the eight existing districts of The State Convention.

Section 2. A member filling an unexpired term not having served the full term of years as provided by the Articles of Incorporation, shall be, at the discretion of the Nominating Committee, eligible for election to a full term.

Section 3. No member of a commission or committee delegated to study or make recommendations concerning our agencies and institutions shall be a member of any Board of Trustees of such agency or institution.

Article VI - Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee

Section 1. A standing Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee shall be composed of six (6) members to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. One-third of the membership shall be elected annually to serve for a term of three (3) years. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two terms until one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for reelection, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 2. The President of the Convention shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee each year. The Chairman must be one who has been a member of the Committee for at least one year and may succeed himself until his tenure of eligibility shall expire.

Section 3. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of advising the presiding officer concerning matters related to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws during the annual meeting of the Convention with reference to matters which may arise from the floor or from other committees. The Committee will act ad interim in all matters concerning the Convention Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws referred to it by any agency and institution of the Convention. The Committee will receive all proposed changes before the convention and will be responsible for preparing the writing for the Convention consideration upon the first day of the annual meeting after adequate publicity has been given. The duties of the Committee in no way preclude amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws by messengers to the Convention.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

November 10, 1993

Williams Baptist College

In keeping with recent action by the Convention concerning the Charter/Bylaws of the various agencies or institutions, the Board of Trustees of Williams Baptist College has re-examined the Constitution and Articles of Incorporation. In light of the Convention's request that certain specific wording be incorporated into each charter or constitution, the Board of Trustees of Williams Baptist College recommends that the following Restated Constitution and Articles of Incorporation be approved.

RESTATED CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION WILLIAMS BAPTIST COLLEGE

Preamble

Whereas, Southern Baptist College was initially organized and constituted on the 10th day of June 1941, and has had continuous existence as an institution of higher learning since that time, with a location initially in Pochontas, Arkansas, and permanently in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas; and

Whereas, Southern Baptist College was incorporated as a non-profit and benevolent corporation by order of the Circuit Court of the Eastern District of Lawrence County, Arkansas October 15, 1947, and has continued existence as a non-profit and benevolent corporation, as is provided by the laws of the State of Arkansas executed before the enactment of Act 176 of 1963, and was by order of the Circuit Court of Lawrence County, Arkansas on June 14, 1980, deemed to be in full compliance with the Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act, also known as Act 176 of 1963; and

Whereas, on the 12th day of July, 1990, Southern Baptist College caused to be filed in the Office of the Secretary of the State of Arkansas a certificate of amendment of its articles of incorporation reflecting the change of the name of the corporation to Williams Baptist College, an action authorized and directed by the Arkansas Baptist Convention, meeting in annual convention on the 14th day of November, 1989, in Little Rock, Arkansas;

Whereas, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the sole sponsor of Williams Baptist College, has revised its Articles of Incorporation and has expressed its desire that the College restate its Articles of Incorporation to conform with the Convention's revised Articles; and

Whereas, it is the desire of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention that the corporate existence of Williams Baptist College be perpetuated as an agency

of the Convention; and

Whereas, since the College has amended its original Articles a number of times through the years, the Convention's request provides an opportune time to review and restate the Constitution of Williams Baptist College in its entirety;

Now, Therefore, the Board of Trustees of Williams Baptist College, appointed by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, consisting of Dr. L. B. Aichison, Mr. Moscoe Cash, Mr. Charles Colquitt, Mr. Cody Fowler, Mr. Steve Fowler, Dr. Jerry Frankum, Mr. Jimmie Garrison, Dr. Donnie Holden, Mr. Bill Jensen, Rev. Don Jones, Mr. John Miller, Dr. R. W. Ross, Dr. George Schroeder, Mr. Harold Senter, Rev. Frank Shick, Rev. C. B. Thompson, Mr. Donald Tinius, Mr. Mike Todd, Rev. Gordon Topping, Mr. Frank Waggener, Rev. Ted Withen, and Advisory Members from Missouri: Mr. Arthur Alford, Mr. John Alford, and Mr. Dennis Smith; in order to carry out the will of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and to comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas do hereby associate ourselves together and perpetuating said corporation and do now and hereby adopt the following Constitution and Articles of Incorporation amending and changing the Constitution of said corporation, so that the same when so amended, altered and changed shall be as follows:

CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Article I: Name, Duration, Agent of Service

Section 1. The name of this corporation shall be "Williams Baptist College."

Section 2. The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

Section 3. The Agent for Service of Process of the corporation shall be the president of Williams Baptist College, c/o the corporation headquarters, located at College City, Lawrence County, Arkansas.

Article II: Membership

Section 1. THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION SHALL BE THE CORPORATION'S SOLE MEMBER.

Article III: Purpose

Section 1. The mission of the corporation is to maintain a quality liberal arts college in which courses in literature, the sciences, the arts, the Bible, morals and all branches of a general education may be taught from a Judeo-Christian worldview.

Section 2. THE CORPORATION IS ORGANIZED EXCLUSIVELY FOR RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, OR CHARITABLE PURPOSES. NO PART OF THE NET EARNINGS OF THE CORPORATION SHALL INURE TO THE BENEFIT OF, OR BE DISTRIBUTIBLE TO ITS MEMBERS, TRUSTEES, OFFICERS OR OTHER PRIVATE PERSONS, EXCEPT THAT THE CORPORATION SHALL BE AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO PAY REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND TO MAKE PAYMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

Section 3. NO SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CORPORATION SHALL BE THE CARRYING ON OF PROPAGANDA, OR OTHERWISE ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION AND POLICY MAKING, OR INTERFERING IN, OR INTERVENING IN (INCLUDING THE PUBLISHING OR DISTRIBUTION OF STATEMENTS) ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF ANY CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

Section 4. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THESE ARTICLES, THE CORPORATION SHALL NOT CARRY ON ANY OTHER

ACTIVITIES NOT TO BE CARRIED ON BY (a) A CORPORATION EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 501 (c) (3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, OR THE CORRESPONDING PROVISION OF ANY FUTURE FEDERAL TAX CODE, OR (b) BY A CORPORATION, CONTRIBUTIONS TO WHICH ARE DEDUCTIBLE UNDER SECTION 170 (c) (2) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, OR CORRESPONDING SECTION OF ANY FUTURE TAX CODE.

Article IV: Trustees

Section 1. THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION SHALL ELECT THE CORPORATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES WHICH SHALL CONSTITUTE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The number of said trustees shall be twenty-four members, each of whom must be a member of good standing in a Baptist church affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Section 2. One-third of the trustees shall be elected annually to serve for a term of three years. No member who has served two successive terms shall be eligible for reelection until at least one year has expired. Any member who misses all the meetings of the Board for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on the Board.

Section 3. Any vacancy that occurs due to death, resignation or a move out of the state shall be filled at the next annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Section 4. The officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, who shall be elected by the Board of Trustees, and shall hold their respective office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 5. The Board of Trustees shall hold a minimum of three regular meetings annually. The final meeting of each calendar year shall be after the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at which time the officers will be elected and the times for the meetings for the coming year will be established.

Section 6. One more than one-half of the total number of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any special or regular meeting.

Section 7. At the option of the Chairman of the Board or upon the written request of any six members thereof, a special meeting shall be called.

Article V: Officers, Faculty and Staff

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall provide for the employment of such executive and administrative officers, faculty and staff as the Board deems necessary to the efficient management and operation of the College. The Board shall endeavor to employ faculty and staff who are Southern Baptists. All tenured faculty shall be those who embrace an evangelical Christian faith consistent with the religious beliefs of Southern Baptists and are active members in a local church.

Section 2. The Trustees shall have the power to elect representatives from outside the state of Arkansas to serve as advisory members on the Board. Advisory members shall possess no legal authority in matters pertaining to properties or policies of the college.

Section 3. The Trustees shall have the power to create various advisory boards to assist in the administration in development, public relations, and general promotion of the college.

Article VI: Students

Section 1. The College shall be open to all alike, regardless of race, sex, religious faith or profession. However, since said college is an Arkansas Baptist institution, preference shall be given to students from churches affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall have power to prescribe the conditions of admission and attendance, and make and enforce such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the good

STATE CONVENTION PREVIEW

government and discipline of the College and student body. In the absence of specific rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the College the administration shall be empowered to make and enforce such rules and regulations.

Article VII: Curriculum and Degrees

Section 1. The said college, by its properly constituted authorities, may confer degrees, grant diplomas and confer certificate or honorary degrees and literary honors, and be invested with such franchises and privileges as are enjoyed by other first class colleges.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall have power to prescribe the course of study and the requirements for graduation.

Section 3. A total of six semester hours or the equivalent must be completed in Biblical studies as a requirement for all degrees conferred by said institution.

Article VIII. Property

As to property, real and personal, the corporation and the Board of Trustees shall have the power:

1) to acquire, hold, alienate, mortgage and convey real and personal property, to borrow money and execute notes, bonds, mortgages, and deeds of trust, securing the payment of same by lien on any property owned by the said college;

2) to receive and take by deed, bequest or devise in its corporate capacity any property, real or personal, for the use and purposes of a trust with the power to act as trustee in any trust and to execute the trust so vested;

3) to let and lease its property for the purpose of the proper exercise of its power herein granted; and to sell such property, except that no part of the corpus of the college's local campus may be sold without approval of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention or the Convention in its annual session.

4) to designate the appropriate officials of the college to sign mortgages, leases, or any or all other legal documents pertaining to the property holdings of the college.

Article IX: Finance and Endowment

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall have power and authority to raise money for the use and benefit of the College or any department or work carried on by said College, as well as for the purpose of creating and establishing an endowment fund for the institution.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall have power to invest and re-invest its money, provided that all endowment funds or property given for the aid of the College shall be invested in conformity with the wishes of the donor and any net earnings from said endowment funds or endowment property shall be paid no less than annually to the College.

Section 3. The financial records of the College shall be audited by an accounting firm annually and an audit presented to the Board of Trustees. All checks or other orders for the payment of money shall be signed and countersigned by persons designated by the Board of Trustees.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1. The restated ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHALL FIRST BE APPROVED BY THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION AND THEREAFTER NO AMENDMENT TO THE CORPORATION'S ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHALL BE MADE WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE CONVENTION.

Section 2. NO PROPOSED AMENDMENT SHALL COME BEFORE THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION UNLESS IT HAS FIRST BEEN approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Trustees of the college and REPORTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION AT LEAST SIXTY (60) DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONVENTION'S MEETING.

Section 3. A VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED

RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR ANY FUTURE AMENDMENTS BY A THREE-FOURTHS MAJORITY OF THE MESSENGERS PRESENT AND VOTING AT THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION SHALL CONSTITUTE CONSENT REQUIRED BY SECTION 1.

Article XI: By-Laws

The Board of Trustees shall have power to establish such ordinances and by-laws for the government of its proceedings and the management of said College as it may deem necessary, provided that the same shall not be contrary to the provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, nor in conflict with any laws of the State or Federal Government, which may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Article XII: Dissolution

UPON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL, AFTER PAYING OR MAKING PROVISION FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALL THE LIABILITIES OF THE CORPORATION, CONVEY ALL OF THE ASSETS OF THE CORPORATION TO THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION IF AT THAT TIME THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION QUALIFIES AS AN EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, OR THE CORRESPONDING PROVISION OF ANY FUTURE UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE LAW.

Article XIII. Statement of Religious Beliefs

The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on May 9, 1963, shall be the doctrinal guideline for this college. The Board of Trustees shall have the power, through by-laws, policy statements, and direction to clarify the doctrinal position of the college on various issues, but shall in no case set forth a doctrinal statement which clearly contradicts The Baptist Faith and Message.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR PRESCHOOL CHILD CARE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

November 8, 9, 10, 1993 • Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Nov. 8, 9, 10, 1993. Pre-registration for babies through five-year-olds is necessary in order to provide quality care with a planned program for pre-schoolers. 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 of parents attending sessions of Pastors' Conference and Convention will need to be picked up during the breaks for meals. Child care will only be provided during the sessions listed below.

Child care for Ministers' Wives conference is to be reserved separately. See ad on page 18.

Child's Name _____ Age _____
Parent's Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please circle sessions needed:

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 10 Morning 8:15-11:45

Mail to: Steve Ogle, Park Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 4064, North Little Rock, AR 72116 • Phone: 753-3113

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Church news

Indianhead Lake Church in Sherwood dedicated its remodeled preschool and children's educational space Sept. 12 as a memorial to charter member Eva Bollen. Bollen's four children, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were guests as was former pastor Jack Kwok and his wife, Kay. Pastor Don Miller said the renovation program also included improvements to the fellowship hall, kitchen and offices, allowing the church's education ministries to continue to grow while enhancing other aspects of the church's life and ministry.

Dallas Avenue Church of Mena observed Christmas in August for Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Aug. 29 with John Ross, CHFM director of development, as speaker. The congregation, which contributed \$1,270 to the ministries, had decorated the church with poinsettias and other traditional reds and greens, as well as serving a Christmas turkey and ham dinner. Gene Stack is pastor.

Hot Springs Second Church observed its 90th anniversary with homecoming services Sept. 12 with more than 2,400 in attendance at the three worship services and approximately 600 in attendance for a churchwide dinner and historical exhibi-

tion. Charles E. "Chuck" McAlister is pastor of the 2,700-member congregation which was constituted Sept. 10, 1903, with 22 charter members.

Special guests included pastor emeritus O.L. Bayless of Hot Springs; former pastor J. Sidney Sample of Mobile, Ala.; former pastor W.C. "Nick" Garland Jr. and his wife, Jenine, of Broken Arrow, Okla.; and other former staff members. A history of the church and the "Second Helpings from Second Baptist" cookbook were featured items of the day.

Lone Rock Church held revival services Sept. 19-22 with Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, as evangelist. Music evangelist was Bobby Younger, director of music at Tomahawk Church. Pastor Doug Huskey reported four professions of faith and three commitments.

Immanuel Church of Rogers women's ministry launched a Mothers of Preschoolers program Oct. 7 that will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month. MOPS will feature Bible studies, crafts, refreshments and a children's program. The church held its third annual family reunion Sept. 12 at Lake Atalanta with activities that included a catered lunch, a ministry fair featuring displays of information which detailed more than 80 different church ministries, entertainment, and an evening worship service.

Staff changes

Ronald M. Ford has announced his resignation as pastor of Central Church in



North Little Rock, effective Oct. 10 to begin serving Oct. 24 as pastor of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. He also will teach at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Central Church will host a 3 p.m. reception Oct. 10 to celebrate Ford's 18 years of service. Ford, who began his ministry there in 1975, was instrumental in the development and relocation of the church to its current location at 5200 Fairway Avenue. In addition he has served on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and as moderator of North Pulaski Association. He currently is a professor at Boyce Bible School and is head chaplain for the North Little Rock Police Department. Ford is married to the former Kay Sowell of North Little Rock. They have two sons, Jeremy and Nathan, who attend the University of Central Arkansas, Conway.

Ray Dean Davis began serving Sept. 1 as pastor of Union Avenue Church of Wynne, going there from Morton Church near McCrory. He previously was at Bricekys Church and was youth director for both Cherry Valley Church and East Church, Wynne. Davis and his wife, Sheila, have two children, Melanie and Anthony.

Mike Paslay has joined the staff of First Church of Fayetteville as minister of music. He and his wife, Pam, and their two sons, Justin and Tim, moved there from Cleburne, Texas, where he served on the staff at First Baptist Church.

Milton L. Wilson is again serving as pastor of Matthews Memorial Church in Pine Bluff, previously serving from 1978-1982. Wilson attended Ouachita Baptist University and is a graduate of International Bible Seminary in Orlando, Fla. He has served churches in Arkansas and California. Wilson and his wife, Alice, have a married daughter, Patricia Lucas, and a son, David Kendall.

Darren Ayres of Mena began serving Aug. 22 as pastor of Chapel Hill Church,



Second Church of Monticello dedicated an educational facility Sept. 19 with a service and banquet that featured Lonnie W. Latham, director of missions for Bartholomew Association, as speaker. The new building includes a fellowship hall with a seating capacity of 300, a commercial kitchen, four classrooms and a choir room. The church also is remodeling and renovating the old fellowship hall to include six new classrooms and a second floor youth meeting area. Building committee members are chairman Milford Barnes, Eleanor Stephenson, Lamar Caldwell, Linda Sawyer, B.D. McCone and James Stanley. Keith Brickell is pastor and Richard L. Wade is minister of music and youth.

DeQueen. He and his wife, Trish, have two sons, Jeremy and Christopher.

Gary Baxter has joined the staff of First Church of Lavaca as minister of education and administration, going there from First Church of Springdale. Baxter and his wife, Kay, have two adult children, Richard Baxter and Dayna K. Lloyd.

Van Barrett resigned Aug. 8 as pastor of Richwoods Church in Arkadelphia. He serves as baseball coach in the athletic department of Ouachita Baptist University.

Steve Dumas recently resigned as pastor of Eden Church, Hamburg. He and his wife, Gloria, and their son, Christian, have moved to Oklahoma where he is serving Calvary Baptist Church in Stillwell.

Art Crymes has resigned as bivocational pastor of Community Chapel Church, Crossett, to resume his farming interests in Louisiana.

Steven Sinclair resigned Sept. 6 as minister of music and youth at Strawfloor Church in Jonesboro.

Charles Linebarger resigned Sept. 15 as pastor of Shannon Church, Pocahontas, to continue his education.

Mark Fawcett has resigned as minister of youth and music at First Church of Dumas. He and his wife, Mitzi, and their children, Zach and Josh, are moving into a different type of ministry in Ava, Mo.

Dianne Swalm of North Little Rock will join the staff of Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, Oct. 1 as single adult consultant. She previously served as single adult consultant for Central Church, North Little Rock, and as single adult director for Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Edith Simmons has retired as library director of First Church, Harrison, following 14 years of service. Lisa Hudson began the work of library director Oct. 1.

Les Aldridge retired Oct. 1 as pastor of New Life Church, Alexander, following 10 years of service. The church recently gave him a surprise anniversary celebration. Aldridge previously served other churches for 34 years in Arkansas, Illinois and Mississippi. He and his wife, Janet, have five children, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Aldridge will continue to be available for revivals or pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 847-3465.

Obituaries

Chester S. Maynard of Little Rock died Sept. 24 at age 85. He was a Southern Baptist pastor for more than 50 years,



Bryant First Southern Church broke ground Sept. 12 for additional Sunday School rooms, a multipurpose facility, an office complex and additional parking space expected to cost approximately \$500,000. Breaking ground were Larry Mitchell, Roy Bishop, Bob Gregory, Sertia Gillespie, Iona Jones, John Holloway and Walter O'Neal. Pastor Jim Lagrone (right) introduced participants. Building committee members are Mitchell, Gillespie, Jones and Holloway.

having served churches in Clay, White and Pulaski counties. Maynard was instrumental in the establishment of Central Church of Bald Knob and Brookwood First Church of Little Rock. Survivors are his wife, Maxine Atkinson Maynard of Little Rock; one daughter, Sue Maynard Mack of Little Rock; and two grandchildren, Vicky Case Smith of Waco, Texas, and Chuck Case of San Diego, Calif.

adult children, Todd Batchelor and Jennifer Davis, and two grandchildren.

Janelle Curry was recognized in September by Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock for completion of 30 years of service as financial secretary. The church also recognized Alene Roberts for 22 years' service and Linda Fincher for 10 years' service as secretaries.

People

Buster Pray was recognized Sept. 19 by First Church of Springdale for five years of service as minister of music. Pray, his wife, Martha, and their children, Andrew and Mandy, were honored with an appreciation fellowship.

Lynda Brasel was honored Sept. 12 by the congregation of West Helena Church in recognition of her 25th anniversary as church secretary. Frances Light was reception coordinator.

Willie Merle Toone was recognized Sept. 12 by Central Church of Jonesboro for 68 years of service as a Sunday School teacher, 50 of those at Central Church. Pastor Rex Holt presented her with a commendation plaque.

Pat Batchelor was honored Sept. 26 for 10 years of service as minister of music and youth and associate pastor of Cedar Heights Church in North Little Rock. In addition, he was recognized for completion of 30 years of vocational Christian ministry. Batchelor and his wife, Patsy, have two

Upcoming events

Baring Cross Church of North Little Rock will observe its 90th anniversary Oct. 17 with activities that include Sunday School, a 10:30 a.m. morning worship service and a luncheon. Featured speakers will be former pastors and staff members John Guerra of Sardis; David Garland of Fort Worth, Texas; Bill Canary of Conway; Larry Masters of Ponca City, Okla.; and Angus Emerson of Cabot. Roy Buckelew is serving as interim pastor.

Springdale First Church will host recording artist and songwriter Babbie Mason in concert Oct. 17 at 6 p.m.

Ordinations

Eden Church of Hamburg recently licensed Russell Kelley to the gospel ministry. He is a student at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Cedar Heights Church of North Little Rock ordained Jay Ward to the deacon ministry Sept. 5.

Churches address crises of local and world hunger

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

"Most of our church folk don't know a hungry person," explained Tommy Goode, director of church and community ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's missions department. Describing that lack of knowledge as a barrier to effective hunger ministries, Goode added, "They may know a stereotype or see a hungry person on TV, but they don't know about hunger up close. The missions department tries to put a face on hunger, because missions is best when it is borne out of compassion," he emphasized.

The missions department seeks to provide assistance in three basic ways: awareness, identifying and "resourcing" churches that want to get involved, and promoting giving to relieve world hunger.

Hunger ministries take on many different faces. Home missionary Diana Lewis started a summer-feeding ministry in Dixsonville a few years ago for children who received school lunches during the school year. Another church in that association used the Dixsonville model to create its own summer feeding program. The Baptist Women of Ridgecrest Church in Benton felt that some of the same needs that existed in Dixsonville were also present in their community. Even though they represented a small church, the women tackled the project of a one-week children's lunch program under the leadership of pastor's wife Toni Honts.

With funding assistance from ABCS missions department hunger relief, the women fed an average of 18 children, with a high of 33, for the week.

"We coordinated the lunch time feeding and Bible stories with a night time Vacation Bible School," said pastor Curtis Honts. "We did a mailing to the immediate community and several of the children also came back in the evening for VBS."

Another small church has taken a different approach to helping the hungry in the community. Eastern Heights Church, a mission chapel at the time, saw an immediate need in the community in January when a charitable organization providing food shut down. Pastor Denny Neff and five other area ministers formed Compassionate Ministries of Crawford County in an attempt to fill the gap.

"The churches involved pool resources to provide hungry families with emergency food supplements," Neff said. For several months, the ministry was housed at the

chapel but has recently moved to a building near the low-income housing developments where people needing it help live. The facility provides food for nearly 500 individuals every month.

Ministers from the participating churches serve as rotating chaplains, providing spiritual counseling. When the recipients identify with a particular denomination, they are referred to the appropriate church, and if they have no church background, they become prospects. "We have four to five professions of faith every month because of this point of contact counseling," Neff said.

World Hunger Sunday

Other churches contribute monies to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Although no specific offering emphasis is promoted, the second Sunday in October is World Hunger Sunday and many churches provide an emphasis at this time. Other churches collect funds year-round, like Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

"Several years ago our pastor, Cary Heard, and his wife went to the Southern Baptist Convention and got the idea to save loose change and give it to world hunger," said pastoral secretary Marty Davis. The result is that every Wednesday night during the evening meal and prayer service, church members place loose change in containers on their tables. "That

way we don't forget the reality of world hunger," Davis said.

Another church that contributes to world hunger needs through an ongoing emphasis is Central Church in Magnolia. "In every worship service, we read Missions Moments, provided by the Foreign Mission Board," pastor Rich Kincl said. "Many times, when you highlight missions work, the need for hunger relief comes out." When members of his congregation want to contribute to world hunger relief, Kincl encourages them to designate a gift to world hunger through the Foreign Mission Board.

Last year, gifts to world hunger relief in Arkansas totaled \$289,773.92, with Park Hill Church and Central Church leading the state in that area of giving. Distribution among Baptists' 16 hunger ministries totaled \$33,200.

Addressing both local and world hunger needs is a vital ministry tool, as exemplified by the \$30.88 contributed by the women's Bible study group in Dixsonville. The community is rural, isolated and poor, and in 1993 \$550 of world hunger funds were used by volunteers for food distribution in Dixsonville. But when missionary Diana Lewis explained the plight of starving families in Somalia, the women collected loose change for 10 weeks. Their \$30.88 will feed a family of four in Somalia for a month.

"We've got to get outside the emotional response and into a proactive lifestyle in dealing with hunger," Goode emphasized. "That's what makes ministry projects exciting."

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Boys Ranch expansion helps impact lives

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

The Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch in Harrison, a ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, reached a milestone Sept. 14 as officials celebrated completion of phase two of its building program.

The ranch, founded in 1989, includes four 4,100-square-foot ranch houses, each equipped with 11 bedrooms, seven bathrooms, two kitchens and two living rooms. Children's Homes executive director Johnny Biggs said each facility provides living quarters for eight boys, full-time houseparents and relief houseparents.

David Perry, director of program and staff development, said the ranch ministry is "dedicated to helping young men who come there from intensive inpatient hospital treatment for chemical abuse related to drugs and/or alcohol."

During the dedication service, trustees and staff of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries recognized Bernice Jones of Springdale for her philanthropic gifts to the organization, an agency of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust has provided funding for all ranch construction work.

"This trust, established by Mrs. Jones and her late husband, has provided incredible contributions for our ministry," Biggs noted.

"One of the most remarkable attributes of Mrs. Jones is her humbleness and

Christian commitment," he continued. "She daily seeks God's will in her decision making. I definitely feel lives have been changed at the boys ranch because of her daily prayers for the residents there. She rises early each day to pray for them."

Ranch chapel planned

In the recognition service, Mrs. Jones was presented with a picture of the artist's drawing of the ranch chapel to be completed in 1994 as part of phase three. That phase also will include a multi-purpose building, housing a gymnasium, commercial kitchen and staff offices.

The chapel will be constructed at the highest point of the 360-acre campus, located in the picturesque mountains of northern Arkansas. "When completed," Perry said, "this chapel with its bell tower will be the crowning glory of a premier childcare facility in our state and will symbolize what Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries is all about."

Affirming the beauty of the setting and her desire to see young men healed, Mrs. Jones remarked, "If healing can't take place in this God-created environment, it can't take place anywhere."

Describing the ministry of the ranch, Perry said ranch director Clint Morrison aids young men "who have faced failures, school suspensions and involvement with juvenile authorities." He added that those involved in the ministry "are seeing the 'fruits of our labors' as some are coming to know Christ as Savior and Lord, some are

graduating from high school and one recently received both his general education degree and a vocational technical school diploma."

"The Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch offers young men the best Christian home in Arkansas for recovery, if they want to take advantage of the opportunities here" Morrison declared. "As director for the past four years, I have seen many changed lives. We do not expect to change anyone. Only God can change a life. But it is an awesome joy to see the changes in the life of a boy."

Describing one of the ranch's success stories, Perry said Bill is a young man who "came to the ranch from a background of drinking and smoking with his mother's friends, beginning at age 7. At age 11, he was using marijuana and harder drugs and at age 12 he was a regular user of cocaine, was repeatedly suspended from school and constantly in trouble. Three times he received hospitalization for his drug problems.

"The first report from the ranch stated, 'Bill refuses to follow rules and is defiant to his houseparents.' We planned to release him, but then decided to give him one more chance," Perry said. "Bill's last report stated he is serious about his program to maintain sobriety, has made more progress academically than any other ranch resident, has good self-esteem, has excellent school spirit, actively participates in church functions and won the citizenship award, the highest honor given by the ranch."

Describing the ranch staff as "superb," Morrison concluded, "Their long hours, dedication and concern is remarkable. 'Caring' best describes these dedicated servants who work around the clock, addressing the hurts and pains of the boys so they may become productive citizens in our communities."

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Committee handles full agenda, encourages prayer for Clinton

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—In a series of unanimous votes, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved 37 items of business during its Sept. 20-21 meeting. Actions ranged from a 40-day call to prayer for President Bill Clinton to a re-examination of the responsibilities assigned to each SBC agency.

The Executive Committee's call for prayer for President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore followed a lively account by SBC president H. Edwin Young of a Sept. 16 White House meeting with Southern Baptist leaders.

Young, pastor of Houston's Second Baptist Church, recounted giving Clinton a copy of "Pray for the President, a 40-Day Intercessory Prayer Plan," a booklet recently developed by the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Accepting an invitation to jog with Clinton the following day, Young said the president told of reading the booklet and appreciating its call to prayer in his behalf.

Young urged SBC churches to begin a 40-day period of prayer Jan. 1 for Clinton and Gore, using Brotherhood's "Pray for the President" booklet.

"There is a heart there — a spiritual cross-pull — in the life of our president," Young said of Clinton's apparent sensitivity to spiritual matters. "Who knows what the Lord will do?"

The study of SBC agency responsibilities, called "program statements," will entail "taking a hard look" at the SBC boards and commissions, said Fred Wolfe, Executive Committee chairman and pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Beyond seeking to increase the flow of dollars to the Cooperative Program, Wolfe said the study will examine "how we might be more cost-efficient with the ones we already have" and where various program statements need to be updated.

The seven-member committee includes two Arkansans, Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, and attorney Rex Terry, a member of First Church, Fort Smith. Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., was named chairman.

Executive Committee action to "decline to recommend" changing the SBC constitution to exclude churches that have ordained women was one of 10 such votes by the committee on referrals from the SBC annual meeting in Houston.

Wolfe said most Executive Committee members oppose ordaining women but would regard it as a local church matter.

"I do think our convention has spoken" against women's ordination through resolutions adopted at previous SBC annual meetings, Wolfe added.

Among other "declined to recommend" referrals were limiting of agency severance benefits, tying the SBC Committee on Committees to people nominated by state conventions and requiring the SBC parliamentarian to be a member of a Southern Baptist church.

Concerning its request last February that the Southern Baptist Annuity Board divest stocks of companies supporting Planned Parenthood, the Executive Committee voted to "reserve further comment" until the Annunity Board's response to a motion from the SBC in Houston to "divest itself forever" of stocks of companies with practices in "conflict with the teachings, commands, and spirit of the Holy Bible." The Annunity Board will respond to that motion in its report at the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June 1994.

Annuity Board president Paul Powell, in an August letter to the Executive Committee, cited several reasons why the committee's request "must respectfully" be declined, including state and federal laws requiring trustees to handle investments for the exclusive benefit of plan participants and their beneficiaries.

Powell also cited the Annunity Board's own policy barring investments in any company whose "products, services or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annunity Board...." He said the board diligently applies the policy and does consider abortion as incompatible with its moral and ethical posture.

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CP among top topics for convention leaders

By Treannis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

NASHVILLE, TN—Repeatedly affirming the vital role of the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program during their Sept. 20-22 meeting in Nashville, SBC Executive Committee members stopped short of tying their elections to a minimum CP contribution from their churches. The action marked the third time in four years that the Executive Committee has declined such a proposal.

The motion, presented during the 1993 SBC annual meeting by Tammy Albrecht of Texas, called for Executive Committee members to be from churches which contribute at least 10 percent of receipts through the Cooperative Program.

Noting that "Individuals and not churches are eligible for election" to the SBC Executive Committee, the committee's response added that "individual church members may not feel the same way about the Cooperative Program as do the majority of church members, churches give through the Cooperative Program on

a voluntary basis, and, the Cooperative Program is not referenced in Article III of the SBC Constitution" which details qualifications for SBC messengers.

The action added, however, that the Executive Committee "has endorsed the Cooperative Program as a God-inspired channel of missions support and encouraged all churches to prayerfully consider increasing missions support through the Cooperative Program."

Contributions records

Board members also voted to publish in the SBC Annual church contributions that are received directly by the Executive Committee exclusively for the support of SBC programs. The motion, introduced at the June SBC by Stanley Cole of Kentucky, provides published recognition of church contributions which bypass state conventions and do not qualify as Cooperative Program funds.

In other CP-related discussion, SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman reported that current CP receipts

are 1.36 percent below 1992 year-to-date totals and 1.88 percent below 1993 budget requirements. He added that Executive Committee members' churches chanel 7.23 percent of undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program, 2 percent below the national average.

Looking toward the goal of each SBC church giving at least 10 percent through the Cooperative Program, Chapman said, "Somebody must give the leadership.... We are at the crossroads of determining as a denomination whether we are going to hang together to reach the world for Christ."

Emphasizing that "one of our great strengths has been the desire and ability to do together what we cannot do separately," Chapman reminded Executive Committee members that "God honors a faithful steward."

Board members also received budget request proposals from 18 Southern Baptist entities, including the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and six SBC seminaries, as part of the 1993-94 budget process.



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Credentials guidelines adopted for churches challenged at SBC

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—A challenge to the seating of messengers from President Bill Clinton's home church at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last June prompted Executive Committee action Sept. 21 to establish guidelines for responding to such challenges.

National publicity followed the unsuccessful challenge by a messenger from Florida who objected to seating messengers from Immanuel Church in Little Rock, because of Clinton's stand on homosexuality.

The Executive Committee's eight-point set of guidelines calls for a meeting with the challenger to assure that a valid challenge exists. If so, a Credentials Committee hearing will be held with the challenger and the challenged church's messengers.

The challenge can proceed only if a church has not supported the SBC financially or if the church—not individual members or messengers—has specifically acted to affirm homosexual behavior.

In other actions, the SBC Executive Committee:

■ Delayed a request to change the location of the 1999 SBC annual meeting from Atlanta to Denver.

The request stemmed from Atlanta city council action last November to bar any city-funded travel to Denver because of Colorado voters' passage of a constitutional amendment prohibiting the passage of and enforcement of laws and ordinances protecting homosexual rights.

With some concern any action taken now might cause problems with a contract for the 1995 meeting in Atlanta, Executive Committee members delayed any decision on the 1999 meeting until their February meeting.

■ Released \$300,000 in capital funds to the Christian Life Commission upon notification that the CLC's trustees had signed a contract to purchase a building in Washington.

The Executive Committee action is the final chapter in a debate over capital funds set aside in 1964 for "public affairs" in the nation's capital. The CLC's new building is near the nation's capitol and was purchased for \$495,000 on Sept. 15.

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constitutes
as new church

West Pulaski Church was constituted Sept. 26 with 22 charter members. First Church of Little Rock has been providing assistance to the new congregation for approximately three months.

Glenn Hickey, Pulaski Association director of missions, moderated a business session in which Larry DeVorak was elected pastor; Molly Melvin, clerk; Maxine King, treasurer; and Jennifer Melvin, pianist. Jack Ramsey, Arkansas Baptist State Convention director of church extension, was the guest speaker for the constituting service.

DeVorak, who began serving as pastor to seven members in September 1991, is a bivocational pastor who is enrolled in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's master of divinity extension program in Little Rock. He was ordained to the ministry Aug. 8 by First Church, Little Rock.

"The church had been functioning under the leadership of some community families before I became pastor," DeVorak said. "These families had a burden for establishing a community church and were able to secure a facility."

With a vision to grow, this new Southern Baptist church already has launched a building expansion program that will increase auditorium seating capacity and also will provide a counseling room and restrooms. Even with the expansion, DeVorak noted, Sunday School classes will continue to meet in a nearby house.

The congregation's Sunday schedule includes Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m. and evening worship, 6 p.m. Wednesday evening activities include both 6 p.m. prayer and youth meetings.

"Wednesday evening services are vital to our ministry," DeVorak said. "We first seek God's guidance through prayer and then move out to visit prospects in the Garrison Road and Barrett Road areas of west Little Rock."

"Harvey and Cathy Smith are leaders of our very successful youth program," he noted. "They have involved numerous unsaved youth in this. In fact, one of these made a profession of faith Sept. 25, the day prior to our constitutional service."

DeVorak added that one of the most significant aspects of the congregation's first Sunday as a church was the observance of the Lord's Supper in the evening worship hour.

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TREATMENT CENTERS

Clinton's health care proposal raises concerns

By Tom Strode

SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Calling on Congress to "make this our most urgent priority," President Bill Clinton implored members of both houses Sept. 22 to join him in an effort to "guarantee every American comprehensive health benefits that can never be taken away."

In his long-awaited address, the president asked for a reformation of the country's health care system based on six principles: security, simplicity, savings, choice, quality, and responsibility. His proposal would provide every American with a health care security card assuring lifetime health care benefits.

The proposal has raised ethical and religious concerns among some groups, however. Among these are:

- Abortion, which is included in the basic benefits package;

- Rationing of health care, which may be based on criteria other than medical need;

- Living wills, which will guide doctors in determining when to withhold treatment aimed at delaying death.

Pro-life members of Congress and pro-life organizations, including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, have said they will oppose the plan unless abortion is removed from the basic package while pro-choice organizations and congressman said inclusion of abortion is essential to their support of the health care proposal.

"It is abundantly evident that most Americans feel that our health care system needs major revision," said Richard Land, CLC executive director. "President Clinton has done a good job of articulating many of the problems with the present system. I must confess, however, that I am more pleased with his diagnosis than I am with his prescription for treatment.

"The CLC's major focus will be on how the president's proposed health care reforms impact sanctity of human life issues. Funding for abortion, the prospect of living wills and the attempts to ration health care in the last stages of life will be of paramount concern to us," Land said.

Rep. Tim Hutchinson (R.-Ark.), a Southern Baptist, said, "I want to support health care reform, but abortion service poisons the well of health care reform, and this is an issue on which we who believe in the sanctity of human life cannot bend, buckle or bow."



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Convention leaders meet with Clinton, Gore

WASHINGTON (BP/ABP)—President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore held a lengthy meeting Sept. 16 with four Southern Baptist ministers, including Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, where Clinton is a member.

Clinton and Gore met for about an hour and 40 minutes at the White House with H. Edwin Young, SBC president and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston; Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Wendell Estep, pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C.; and Horne.

It was Clinton's first meeting with Southern Baptist leadership since messengers to June's annual meeting overwhelmingly passed a resolution separating themselves from the president's support of abortion and homosexual rights.

"We talked about areas where we as Southern Baptists strongly disagree with

the president and the vice president," Young said. "We are pro-life. We are deeply concerned about the gay agenda, and the perception is that the president and his administration have totally endorsed pro-choice, have endorsed the homosexual lifestyle as a minority lifestyle....We dealt with this. Scripture was used."

The six men prayed together, and Clinton laid out his views favoring the right of women to make choices about abortion, Young said.

"We really didn't get into a debate. We simply stated our position biblically. He stated his position and how he came to that position. He knew we didn't agree with him."

"I came away with the strong impression to pray for them," said Chapman. "God has placed them in this unique position. They want to do their

best, and they sincerely invite our prayers."

Estep told the president there needs to be a "a conservative evangelical who has a prominent place in the administration of the president," Young said. "(Clinton) said he wants the cabinet to look like America, and from our perspective it looks like the far left of America."

"The president seemed to be very open to the suggestion," Chapman said.

The meeting, which was held on the Truman Balcony overlooking the south lawn, was a "very frank, candid, congenial conversation," Chapman said.

Young, Chapman and Horne all said the meeting fulfilled its purpose.

"What I was hoping would happen in the meeting was there would be an open, frank, cordial dialogue, and we could leave the meeting thinking there would be the openness to meet again," Horne said.

"Values were talked about in a broad sense, as well as some specific ones, but not in an adversarial way, just among concerned Christians."

Young said, "It's a beginning dialogue. If there were any agenda, it was get to know one another, talk, share. We left it like, 'We need to sit down and talk again away from the public eye.'"

He called the meeting a "wonderful time of praying together, sharing together."

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Musicians endorse 'True Love Waits'

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Some of today's most well-known contemporary Christian recording artists have voiced their support of a nationwide campaign aimed at encouraging teenagers and college students to remain sexually pure.

In a Nashville news conference, the artists endorsed "True Love Waits," a campaign initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board and now supported by a variety of denominations and religious organizations. As part of the campaign, thousands of young people from across the country already have signed covenants promising to remain sexually abstinent until they marry.

To encourage those making pledges, several Christian artists have combined their talents on a new 10-song cassette specifically focusing on God's original design for sexuality.

Featured on the "True Love Waits" tape are songs like "I Don't Want It" by DC Talk; "Old Enough to Know" by Michael W. Smith; "Love" by Petra; and "I Am Not Ashamed" by the Newsboys. It is being released by Genevox, the music publishing arm of the BSSB, in conjunction with Inter! Inc, a Nashville-based agency that links contemporary Christian artists with local churches and Christian ministries.

"Music is the language of today's youth," Inter! Inc president Allen Weed said. "The Christian artists on the 'True Love Waits' tape are great role models for kids today. We believe getting the tape in the hands of teens who make the 'True Love Waits'

pledge will serve not only as a positive reminder of their promise, but as an encouragement to keep it."

Genevox director Mark Blankenship agreed.

"Today's youth are hit with so many conflicting messages about sex from the media, no wonder they're confused," Blankenship noted. "If we can play a part in helping them understand God's plan for sexuality from the Bible and encourage them to follow it, then we will have accomplished something important."

Several of the artists participating in the project attended the news conference announcing the upcoming release of the special recording.

'The sex game is no game'

"We have got to understand that the sex game is no game. It's life and death now," Petra lead singer John Schlitt said. The father of four added, "I'm scared for my kids. If we don't get serious about (this issue), then who will?"

Michael Tate of the Christian rap group DC Talk said the mainstream media has ignored abstinence for a long time, "but it is a positive goal. I'm glad we can be a part of this."

The "True Love Waits" recording is scheduled for release Oct. 15 and will be available in both the audio cassette and compact disc formats. It can be ordered directly from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772.

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Ouachita, Moscow State plan student exchange program

MOSCOW — An education exchange agreement between Ouachita Baptist University and Moscow State University came one step closer to reality when representatives of the two universities agreed to exchange faculty and students. A signing ceremony was held Sept. 28 in Moscow.

Beginning as soon as 1994, Ouachita and the College of Economics at Moscow State will begin short-term (10-30 day) exchanges. Longer term programs also

may result from the exchange agreement.

Vasilii Kolesov, dean of the College of Economics at Moscow State, and Jim Jones, a member of the executive committee of the Ouachita board of trustees, led the discussion of terms of the agreement.

"I believe this agreement will be meaningful to both universities," Jones noted. "I was encouraged by the interest and spirit of cooperation of the economic department staff at Moscow State. It is exciting to be here in Russia during this

dynamic period."

Ouachita students studying at Moscow State will attend lectures on Russian history, art, economics and culture. They will also have the opportunity to visit cultural, historical and religious sites.

Sergei Yakovlav, associate dean of the Moscow State College of Economics, said the opportunity "is of paramount importance to our youth in this period of stormy transformations both in the material and spiritual life of this country."



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Coalition of Hope seeks state support

By Robert Dilday
Virginia Religious Herald

NASHVILLE, TN (ABP) — The Coalition of Hope — a group which says it wants to end division in the Southern Baptist Convention by focusing on missions — is urging the formation of state-level organizations related to their national movement.

The Coalition of Hope's coordinating workgroup met with state Baptist convention leaders Sept. 20, seeking support for its effort to "call Southern Baptists...to new levels of missions commitment and accountability in response to God's fresh call to world evangelism."

Rodney Osborn, the workgroup's convener, asked about a dozen state convention executive directors and presidents to facilitate the creation of state-level workgroups which would send representatives to a national convocation this spring.

That convocation, Osborn said, would hammer out details to guide what he called a "modern missionary movement" to

restore harmony in the denomination.

The Coalition of Hope is an outgrowth of a research project headed by Lloyd Eider, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Osborn, a Peoria, Ill., physician who is immediate past president of the organization of state convention presidents, told state leaders he hopes local workgroups will examine the level of support among churches in their states for the Cooperative Program and suggest ways to remodel the denomination to increase contributions to it.

"We have no authority — none — in the Southern Baptist family," Osborn acknowledged. Still, he said the workgroup hopes it may be allowed to report its findings and conclusions during the SBC annual meeting next June in Orlando, Fla.

Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York and a coordinating workgroup member, noted, "Some have no doubt assumed we are against something or someone. We oppose no one. We are here to respond to the fresh call of God."

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Moderate leaders issue call for renewal, revival

NASHVILLE, TN (ABP/BP) — Moderate Baptist leaders adopted a statement Sept. 23-24 calling for state conventions "to confess there have been far too many unethical actions in Southern Baptist political movements."

The five-point statement, adopted at a meeting at a Nashville hotel, also encourages each state convention "to resolve that such unethical actions will not be tolerated in its life and work."

More than 80 people attended the meeting arranged by Houston layman John Baugh to focus on a "Call to State Conventions: For Preservation and Renewal of Historic Southern Baptist Work and Witness." Baugh said the meeting was not tied to a particular moderate group such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Texas Baptists Committed which he helped launch.

Houston pastor Dan Vestal of Tallowood Baptist Church presented the "call" for the body to consider the statement. State conventions "are absolutely crucial to the future of a united Baptist witness," Vestal said.

Vestal, a former moderate candidate for SBC president and a leader of the Fellowship, said he desires to see "each state convention free of Southern Baptist control, secular political control, and free to pursue whatever it feels God wants it to pursue."

"This is not a call for a disassociation with the SBC," he said. But, "we have fallen into a trap of making the state convention synonymous with the Southern Baptist Convention."

"It is important to preserve historic Baptist principles at the state convention level," he emphasized.

The "call," which underwent revision by an ad hoc committee and then the overall group, contains a preamble and five points.

The preamble states: "It is time for healing in the Southern Baptist family. Now is the time for renewal and revival. The world desperately needs our witness. The problems of our day are too dangerous for anything less than a unified witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

In answer to how such a renewal can

occur, the document calls for each state convention to:

- Renew its commitment to historic Baptist principles, the authority of Scripture and the priesthood of all believers, resulting in the autonomy of all Baptist bodies and the voluntary character of cooperation in missions and evangelism.

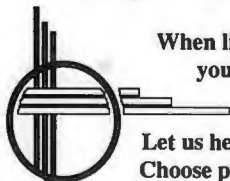
- Renew its commitment to the love of Christ as the method and means of cooperative ministry.

- Renew its commitment to the centrality of Jesus Christ and His kingdom as the basis for our mission.

- Renew its commitment to religious liberty, and its corollary, the separation of church and state, and avoid being used as an instrument of, or promoting, any secular agenda.

- Confess that there have been far too many unethical actions in Southern Baptist political movements; let each state convention resolve that such actions will not be tolerated in its life and work; and let each state convention renew its commitment to truth and integrity which ultimately will result in a renewal of love and trust among all Southern Baptists."

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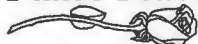
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Convention Uniform

Abram to Abraham

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

Basic passage: Genesis 17

Focal passage: Genesis 17

Central truth: God continues His redemptive work as He renews His covenant.

God continues to affirm Himself as a God of intent and purpose. Genesis 17 is filled with such affirmation.

God reaffirms His covenant with Abram. That covenant, simply stated, called for God to be Abram's God and Abram with his descendants to be God's people. The reaffirmation also added a new dimension as the covenant was first extended to Abraham's descendants.

Included in the covenant reaffirmation was a name change. Abram would now be Abraham. Now his name meant father of a multitude, not just exalted father. This new name was a symbol of God's intent to yet fulfill all His promises. Sara's name was also changed. She became Sarah. This new name was not significantly different. The significance was that she received a new name just as Abraham did.

Each Hebrew was to be an heir to the promises of the covenant. With the promises came the obligations. They included faithfulness to the covenant and exclusive loyalty to God. Circumcision was established as the symbolic seal.

A parallel might be seen in the New Testament/New Covenant. It is incumbent on the Christian that the relationship to God through the New Covenant be evidenced by baptism and lived out daily.

Abraham asked that God bless Ishmael as his descendant. We are reminded of the circumstances of Ishmael's conception and birth. Abraham's crisis of faith had caused him to take God's plan into his own hands. God did not deny Ishmael His blessing. But he once again reminded Abraham of the initial promise. This time He specifically said that Sarah would bear the heir.

Abraham's faith crisis was not unlike ours. God's response of reaffirmation was no less than His response to us. When we experience a lack of faith, we may be tempted to "give up." God sees, even as Hagar learned in Genesis 16. His seeing is understanding. He will not abandon us because we failed. As with Abraham, He remains faithful and will reaffirm His relationship with us.

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Life and Work

An offer you can refuse

By Michael Seabaugh, pastor, Pike Avenue Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Isaiah 55

Focal passage: Isaiah 55:1-13

Central truth: God offers to provide for our needs if we will let Him.

Asked how he measured whether an offer was a good deal or not, a businessman replied, "I determine how well the deal will benefit me and how badly it will rip the other guy." I'm glad God doesn't operate like that. He offers to benefit us at His own price.

God offers a covenant (v. 3) to those who would be His people. The requirement for this contract is that we must admit our need (v. 1). If we are thirsty, hungry or gully, He offers drink, bread and mercy.

Not willing to believe their ears (vv. 2b-3), many would rather cut a deal with the devil (v. 2). They settle for the rip-off of the weak! Talk about making money, losing weight or gaining power and people will listen. When it comes to the "bread of life," "living water" and mercy of God, people just don't see the need.

Although Yahweh's offer is wonderful, it does have a deadline (v. 6). You cannot obey tomorrow, God's will for today.

Even though God's offer is without price, it is not without cost (vv. 1, 7). It is without price for several reasons. What God offers is too valuable to purchase. God has no need of anything we have. What He offers has already been paid for. We are unable, unworthy and indebted to Him already.

The cost (v. 7) is everything (which if you stop and think about it—it really is nothing). How do you pay the cost for God's offer? It is as easy as C.O.S.T. Count the cost. Obey the terms of the offer. Seek the Lord and His kingdom. Thank Yahweh for His mercy. The truth is we are not paying the cost, we are simply investing our lives and resources (Matt. 18:28-30).

God's offer comes with a guarantee of satisfaction and success (vv. 8-13). A guarantee is only as good as the one who stands behind it. If God puts His name on it (v. 13) you can bank on it. This is an offer you can refuse—but don't.

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Bible Book

How to love God wholly

By Maurice L. Hitt, DOM, Red River Association

Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 6:1-25

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 6:1-25

Central Truth: Loving God involves the total personality and one's total life.

This passage declares the basic truth of God's uniqueness, calls us to love God completely, and describes how to show genuine love.

1. We love God wholly by knowing God in His uniqueness. Verse 4 commands us to "hear" the truth about God. One translation says, "Hear O Israel, Yahweh is our God, Yahweh alone." We love God, who already has loved us. Different from the world's gods is God who is God alone. We love Him for who He is.

2. We love God with our heart, soul and might. These words speak of the total energies of a person. Such love requires bringing all the person under self-discipline to offer such devotion. This describes intentional and sacrificial offering by the one who loves. No accidental disciple will be found loving their Lord this way. No half-hearted pretenders will apply for this task of sacrificial love.

3. We love God by placing God's truth in our hearts and minds. The promise and command of verse 6 is that the words will be upon our hearts. Psalm 119:11 expresses the result of treasuring God's words in one's heart as the power to resist temptation. We love God by keeping His word and His word will keep us.

4. We love God by teaching His word to our children (6:7-9). All parents need to grasp the principles here. Parents must teach with diligence, not at convenience. Parents teach at all times and places and by example. The parent who loves God is not just talking but living the truth—a virtual walking testimony. A testimony that teaches means the Word is guiding our vocation (6:8). Even one's own house and home testifies concerning the parents' values (6:9). We love God and teach concerning our relationship with Him by what we value in this temporary world. I am convinced that this verse teaches that parents are not raising children, but are raising parents. It is not that our children give up their childhood, but that parenting is taken as a sacred trust toward God and toward the coming generations.

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Convention Uniform

God is faithful

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

Basic passage: Genesis 21:1-21

Focal passage: Genesis 21:1-21

Central truth: God expects our faithfulness, but His faithfulness is not something we earn.

God's covenant with Abraham included an expectation that Abraham and his descendants would be faithful to God and Him only. His covenant with us includes similar expectations. We will from time to time fail to live up to that expectation. God still remains faithful in His love and promise.

Abraham and Sarah had heard God's promise. They had received His reaffirmation, but still attempted to manage His plan. Dire consequences resulted through generations. God did not go back on His promise. His faithfulness is demonstrated.

Sarah became pregnant, as He had promised. She had a hard time believing it had happened, but the evidence was there. God was faithful.

Isaac was born. Who could believe it? This 100-year-old man and his 90-year-old wife had a baby. It was hard to believe, but the evidence was there. God was faithful.

God's covenant was reaffirmed. Abraham may have thought by now that God would surely give up on him. But the covenant was actually coming true. God was faithful.

Abraham and Sarah had attempted to take God's plan into their own hands. They sought to alter His timetable. The consequences were significant and long lasting. But God's faithfulness was not interrupted.

We will attempt to manage God's plan for Him. The result will always be cause for regret. God will remain faithful however. It's who He is. He is faithful.

Jealousy will always breed strife. In the case of Hagar and Sarah, there wasn't an easy solution to the strife. Sarah insisted on the abandonment of Hagar and Ishmael by Abraham. Unhappily, Abraham complied with his wife's wishes. Hagar discovered once again that the "God of Seeing" was faithful. She discovered that man's abandonment is not tantamount to God's abandonment. Man may abandon man. Man may abandon woman. Man may abandon children. But God does not abandon. God is faithful.

Life and Work

Here am I—send help!

By Michael Seabaugh, pastor, Pike Avenue Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Isaiah 6

Focal passage: Isaiah 6:1-8

Central truth: God helps us to help ourselves.

She was only eight. She had not really wanted to do the Bible drills but upon the urging of her mother she had tried and did well enough to proceed further. Her lack of confidence and conviction surfaced again and her mother encouraged her to pray about whether to go on.

"Mom, when I asked Jesus what to do," she calmly reported, "He told me I'd make a fool of myself." Many people pray that way. "Here am I—send help." They blame their lack of initiative on Jesus. The truth is that the Lord helps us to help ourselves.

God helps you help yourself to see what He is doing when you look in the right place (vv. 1-4). Isaiah's world looked pretty unsettled. The king was dead. The people did not have a heart for God. It must have been discouraging to face such an uncertain future. But Isaiah was in the temple and he saw the Lord was still on His throne.

Where do you look for help? When disappointment and failures come, remember to lift your eyes toward heaven and "Behold, God is my helper" (Psa. 54:4).

God helps you help yourself to be what He desires when you learn the right things (vv. 5-7). Seeing God is a learning experience. We learn who we really are. We learn that we are truly sinful, weak and needy. We also learn how blessed we are to have a God who helps us.

We learn the lessons which God has for us from His word, the Bible. Through the Helper (John 16:7-15), the Holy Spirit, we are guided into the truth of God's word.

God helps you say, "help yourself to me" when you live for the right reason (v. 8). Looking upon the glory of the Lord, and learning the lessons of how He helps us with our needs, we change our prayer. We no longer pray, "Lord, here am I—send help!" We see what God needs for us to do and we can pray, "Lord, Here am I—send me."

Bible Book

Facing the future

By Maurice L. Hitt, DOM, Red River Association

Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20

Central Truth: Following God's principles is a safeguard against the temptations of tomorrow.

There are four principles in this passage that if followed will prepare believers for difficult times.

1. Maintain a separation from the world (7:1-5). Do not make covenants with the heathen through treaties or marriage vows. Why? Because to make a covenant with those opposed to God violates the prior and higher covenant with God. Separateness does not mean separate existence, but an identity that does not allow our relationship to God to be secondary.

2. Magnify grace (7:6-10). As Moses spoke of election, he emphasized that Israel was holy, loved and chosen because God loves and He keeps His promises. God is faithful to His covenant by being merciful to those who love Him and by repaying the unfaithful. There remain various understandings of election, but many will agree that election is God's purpose, grace is God's instrument of giving, and faith is the believer's means of receiving.

3. Magnify faithfulness (7:11-26). Accompanying the theme of grace is faithfulness. Paul declared that God's grace which brings salvation also teaches the believer how to live (Titus 2:11-12). Moses admonished the elect by grace to experience the blessings of faithful obedience. For the graced to be unfaithful is disgraceful. For the graced to be faithful is natural—the result of a new nature.

4. Practice disciplined memory (8:1-20). Phrases such as "remember" and "forget not" characterize this passage. Moses related the danger of forgetting to the past and future, and to times of want and plenty. God had provided manna for Israel to eat when food was scarce. Moses explained that those times of want were for Israel's good: that they not forget that man is sustained by God's word, not by food alone (8:3).

Another danger was that affluence can lead to pride and selfishness, and forgetting God. The dangers of forgetting are as real today as when Moses warned Israel.

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NEWS DIGEST

Violence in Somalia forces evacuation of Baptist workers

NAIROBI, KENYA (BP)—Southern Baptist relief workers in Somalia have evacuated because of escalating violence.

Four Southern Baptist workers left the capital, Mogadishu, in late September. They were helping feed 48,000 people in Mogadishu and surrounding villages. The feeding operations continue under Somali supervision.

The evacuated workers may be assigned temporarily to other relief operations that deliver aid to Somali refugees in bordering countries, according to the coordinator of the Baptist relief work.

Six Southern Baptist volunteers work full time in Somali relief projects in Somalia and neighboring countries. A number of Southern Baptist missionaries in Africa also rotate in and out on 30-day stints. So far, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent \$1.3 million in hunger relief to Somalia.

Senate supports 'Hyde,' hands defeat to pro-choicers

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Senate voted 59-40 on Sept. 28 to uphold the Hyde Amendment, which has prohibited Medicaid funding of most abortions since its enactment in 1976. The House of Representatives had approved the amendment by a margin of 85 votes in June.

Although President Bill Clinton called for removal of the Hyde Amendment in his budget, he is not expected to veto the spending bill to which it is attached.

This year's version of the Hyde Amendment, named after Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) allowed exceptions not only for abortion to save the life of the mother but in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest. From 1981 to this year, the amendment allowed abortion to be paid for only when the mother's life was threatened.

Herschel Hobbs tells his story from boyhood to SBC giant

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Herschel H. Hobbs, 85, one of Southern Baptists' most revered sons, recounts his history-making journey through the denomination in a new autobiography that was published Oct. 1 by Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Herschel H. Hobbs: My Faith and Message, an autobiography contains stories from his childhood, local churches, seminary experiences and just encounters with friends. Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, was chairman of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message committee, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of the SBC Peace Committee.

One of the chapters of his book discusses the importance and difficulties of the pastorate. And as in other chapters, Hobbs illustrates his points with stories, frequently humorous, about encounters during his years in churches in Alabama, Indiana and Oklahoma.

HMB construction contract awarded for \$13.5 million

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's executive committee voted unanimously Sept. 14 to award a \$13,572,000 construction contract to Metric Contractors, Inc., of Marietta, Ga., for construction of the board's new national office building. Six firms submitted construction bids for the project ranging from Metric's low bid to a high bid of \$14.7 million.

The project will be funded primarily from the sale of the board's present location near Atlanta's downtown which has already been sold. The new property is located in Alpharetta, Ga., a fast-growing suburb 22 miles north of the present site.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project will be Oct. 11 as part of the HMB's regular fall board meeting. Construction is expected to be completed by the spring of 1995 with dedication ceremonies in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June 1995.

HMB church loans available for 6.95 percent interest

ATLANTA (BP)—Loans with a three-year fixed interest rate of 6.95 percent — the lowest rate in 15 years — are available to Southern Baptist churches, the Home Mission Board's church loan division has announced.

The interest rate is available for new loans or refinanced loans for Southern Baptist churches to buy property or construct buildings for church use, said Bob Inlow, director of the church loans division. The interest rate will be adjusted after three years to reflect interest rates at that time.