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October 8, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



Chapman inaugurated
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Volume 91, Number 21

October 8, 1992



COVER

OCTOBER IS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MONTH

Reaching out to our world in love

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resignation
stuns 1st Dallas**

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\$8 million more
CP dollars**

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leaders for SBC
studies**

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ABN Digest

CLC trustees see new Sanctity video

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees gave the green light to the CLC's new video on sanctity of human life issues, elected new trustee officers and approved a record budget of \$1,584,131 for the 1992-93 fiscal year. The new 18-minute video is entitled "The Sanctity of Human Life." It explores the attitudes and actions that have led the Southern Baptist Convention from the outskirts of the abortion debate two decades ago to the central role it now plays in sanctity of human life issues nationwide.

In their Sept. 14-16 semi-annual meeting, the trustees elected James W. Richards, pastor of Southminster Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., new board chairman. He replaces Harry A. "Hal" Lane, pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Greenwood, S.C., who has been board chairman for the past year. Richards was elected over Roy R. Gean, an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark.

Masonic opponent meets with HMB interfaith witness staff

ATLANTA (BP)—The man who prompted the Southern Baptist Convention's latest struggle with Freemasonry met Sept. 17 with the Home Mission Board group assigned to determine whether Masonic teachings are compatible with Christian doctrine.

Larry Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician, met for more than three hours with six members of the HMB interfaith witness department; HMB President Larry Lewis and Vice President for Evangelism Darrell Robinson and trustee Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla., who chairs the trustees' evangelism committee.

During the Sept. 17 meeting, Holly reviewed a 628-page notebook he prepared for the group. The notebook included Holly's writings about Freemasonry and passages from books by Masons about their beliefs. Masons have been invited to discuss their teachings and writings with the interfaith witness department, HMB President Larry Lewis said.

Southwest Baptist University dismisses three more employees

BOLIVAR, MO (BP)—Three Southwest Baptist University employees who acknowledged being part of efforts to block the election of a proposed candidate for president of the school have been dismissed.

Acting president Wayne Gott announced Sept. 14 that Jerald Andrews and Patty Edwards had been terminated effective immediately. Jo Ann Shaddy opted to resign.

Andrews served as senior executive vice president for external affairs. Edwards was director of major events and university advancement projects. Shaddy worked as administrative assistant and assistant director of the Walton National Literacy Center at SBU.

Seminaries to decide baccalaureate program

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The question of whether New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary can operate a baccalaureate degree program apparently has been left for the presidents of all six convention seminaries to decide.

Southern Baptist Executive Committee members responded to a dispute regarding the degree program last week by asking the seminary presidents to review their program statement and suggest a plan of action.

Rather than vote up or down on the New Orleans program, the idea is to allow the seminary presidents to propose what their program statement means and how it should read, said Guy Sanders of Florida, who chaired the subcommittee that addressed the issue.

Criswell College names president

DALLAS (BP)—Richard R. Mellick Jr., professor and chairman of the New Testament and Greek departments of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., has been elected president of Criswell College by the Dallas school's trustees.

Mellick, 47, will succeed Paige Patterson, president from 1975-92. Patterson is now president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Trustees gave unanimous approval to Mellick's selection Sept. 23.

Cover Story

(BP) photo / Joe Clark



CP Month

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October is Cooperative Program Month. James Austin, vice-president of the SBC Stewardship Commission, explains how Southern Baptists can best use their offering dollars to share God's love around the world.

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OCTOBER IS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MONTH

Percentage giving: a much better way

by James Austin

SBC Stewardship Commission, Vice President

Since the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, our churches have rallied around missions. In 1925, we gave the name "Cooperative Program" to the way we chose to work together to share the gospel. Our Baptist forebears knew that few, if any, congregations would have the funds, the personnel, or the theological training needed to reach all of the world alone. It would take cooperation. It would take churches praying, giving, and going together.

God has blessed Southern Baptists with remarkable financial growth in this century. The huge sums given by Southern Baptists since the birth of the Cooperative Program are impressive by comparison with any mission effort in church history. The disappointing factor in this record, however, is that for several years the percentage of gifts for our Cooperative Program mission work has been steadily declining.

Does this trend indicate that some Southern Baptist churches are now less interested in world missions? Or have some just overlooked the importance of giving a worthy percentage of receipts instead of a fixed dollar amount?

Perhaps it would be helpful for each budget planning committee and church to reconsider the percentage giving plan. And then to ask: "Why should our church give a certain percentage of its undesignated receipts instead of a set dollar amount through the Cooperative Program?"

Lyle Garlow, who has served as executive director/treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, states, "There is no question that churches are different. They are located in different areas geographically—some in cities, some in towns and villages, and some in the open country. Churches minister to people of differing backgrounds and interests. Some are older and established while others are struggling with debt, growth, overcrowded conditions, or changing communities. There is no single scale or schedule for percentage giving that can be applied to all churches. However, we do have the practice and example of the New Testament churches.

"The Macedonian churches gave out of their deep poverty (2 Co. 8:2). Paul praised the Philippi church that sent 'once and again' (Phil. 4:16) unto his necessity. How much did they give? What percentage?

They gave "beyond their power" (2 Co. 8:3).

Bold missions requires that churches plan for bold growth in percentage giving. Each church would do well to consider setting a worthy percentage goal to be reached by the year 2000. The Bible teaches percentage giving. As God blesses individuals financially, he expects them to give proportionately. The same management responsibilities apply to churches. As churches grow in size, maturity and financial ability, year after year, they should consider increasing their percentage of sharing through the Cooperative Program.

Listen to the testimonies of a few pastors.

"We use the percentage plan," witnesses one pastor, "because this makes it easier for us to increase our cooperative giving each year."

"Someday soon we will reach a level of giving to world missions which we feel will be pleasing to the Lord," says another.

"We have not always been satisfied with what we have done. But we are striving to do better," reports a third minister.

Why should our church give a certain percentage of all undesignated budget receipts received by our church through the Cooperative Program? Because...

It is easy to understand.

The percentage plan is easy to adopt and carry out. Church members readily understand the percentage principle.

If a church receives more money than anticipated, then more will go to world

missions through the Cooperative Program. If less money is received by the church, then there will be a corresponding drop in the amount of mission giving.

It is fair to all.

The percentage plan is the most equitable plan. With percentage giving, the small church can give on the same level as the large one.

It provides more money for missions.

In these days of high inflation, the percentage plan of giving is usually more productive. It produces more money for world missions. Many pastors testify that their churches give much more on the percentage plan than they would using a dollar goal.

It makes increases easier.

The percentage plan makes it easier for a church to increase its Cooperative Program goal each year. It provides attainable and regular steps for increasing the proportion of Cooperative Program gifts.

It is an appropriate example.

Percentage giving helps kindle a deeper stewardship consciousness among all church members. By example the church is saying, "We practice what we preach." The church that asks its members to be generous in their giving and in turn is, itself, self-centered sends a negative message.

It is scriptural.

The Bible teaches proportionate giving. As God blesses us he expects us to

Arkansas Baptist

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Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication: Only black and white photos can be used. Death of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief from when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

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Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

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

give.

The same applies to churches. As churches grow in size and maturity, their ability to support missions grows. God measures what we do in relation to our ability.

It is simple to carry out.

A major test of the sincerity of a commitment is follow-through. After the commitment has been made, a person's life style reflects the disciplined effort in fulfilling the commitment.

Leading your church to adopt a specific percentage of its undesignated budget receipts through the Cooperative Program is a way to extend your commitment.

Asking your church to set a higher future percentage goal and increase each year toward this goal by some percentage amount is another way to express your concern for missions.

What percentage should our church give through the Cooperative Program? No one else can give the answer for your church.

Several questions will need to be carefully considered by the congregation that takes mission support seriously.

- How great is our church's commitment to the Great Commission?
- What are our church's priorities?
- Does God expect the same from our church that he does from other churches?
- Does our church's support of missions ministries through the Cooperative Program really make a difference?
- Can Southern Baptists share the gospel with everyone, everywhere, if churches do not increase the percent of their sharing through the Cooperative Program?
- Is there a more accountable and successful method of funding missions than the Cooperative Program?

Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists continue to support the greatest outreach ministry in the world. The Cooperative Program offers the best use of any church's mission dollars.

Since the 1960s the Cooperative Program percentage share from the total collection plate income has declined by approximately two percent.

Now, I ask you to imagine the difference that approximately two percent of the collection plate dollar given through the "life line of world missions," the Cooperative Program, would have accomplished in terms of missionaries sent, churches started, hurting humanity ministered to and persons responding to the shared gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?

The Cooperative Program was not born without a struggle and every generation of

Southern Baptists - individuals, churches, conventions, and agencies - must maintain and increase its missions momentum.

A mission dollar is too precious to waste. The Cooperative Program for over 65 years has proven to be a reliable, efficiently administered and cost effective means of providing financial support for what God is doing through Southern Baptists at home and abroad.

Why should my church use and annually consider increasing the percentage of undesignated receipts by our church

through the Cooperative Program?

Ultimately, because our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20).

Now is the time to plan how your church can increase its involvement in the Cooperative Program partnership of impacting the world for our Lord Jesus Christ through your 1993 church budget.



That they may hear . . .

Matthew 28:19 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

What better way to share the ultimate Gift with mankind than through the Cooperative Program

Many churches observe Cooperative Program Month in October. The theme for this year is One Mandate—Evangelizing ALL the Lost.

The objective is to enable all Southern Baptists to work together to more effectively witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ.

One missionary in a given area can make an unbelievable difference in the lives of people. Giving through the Cooperative Program helps make this possible.

By the most generous estimates, only 34 percent of the world's people claim to be related to a Christian organization.

During Cooperative Program Month, focus on the countries and states where Southern Baptist missionaries are serving. Also, prayerfully reconsider your church's commitment to the bold Southern Baptist goal of reaching everyone, everywhere by the year 2000 with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



The best news a person may ever hear is that God answers prayer. Whether it be the cry of a broken hearted sinner or the plea of a desperate parent, God hears and answers prayer.

It is of alarming consequence that most other options are exhausted before people pray. By what we do, there is every indication that prayer is not practical, viable or effective. All of our claims are to the contrary. But the question remains, "If we believe, really believe, in prayer, why is it not given greater priority in our churches, families and individual lives?"

Failure to pray is a reflection upon our own pride and self-sufficiency. Failure to pray is an awful offense to God. Prayerlessness indicates that we may feel that we can make it without God, or that God is not interested or able to meet our need. When we rely on some one, or some thing to meet needs in our life God desires to meet, we are committing spiritual adultery. God is grieved. His blessings are withheld. We drink from "broken cisterns that can hold no water."

A few people have been placed in Southern Baptist life that God is using to turn our hearts toward God in prayer. Two of these will be in Arkansas in the near future. On Oct. 26-27, T.W. Hunt will be here to help us in our personal prayer life, as well as help us develop other prayer ministries. The meetings will be at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. on Monday, and 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday. While many cannot attend during working hours, I urge your attendance in the Monday evening session.

A second leader mightily used of God is Henry Blackaby. He will be with us for a prayer retreat Nov. 6-7 at First Church, Little Rock. The sessions are 7-9 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday.

My urgent plea is that all who are in reach of these meetings be in attendance. Effectiveness in evangelism, worship, ministry or simply survival is to be found in God through prayer.

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

PAM KIRKSEY

Woman's Viewpoint

Making real memories



Our lives are composed of memories. Although there are certainly some memories which we would prefer not to think about, some of our most pleasant moments are made up of remembering our childhood experiences. The special friends I had and the time we shared together all come rushing back to me as I write this. Things such as pep-rally skits, fumbling lines in the school play, and going to see "the light" late at night on the Gurdon railroad tracks all seem far away yet still a part of me.

I played softball every summer, but what I remember most was not how many games we won or lost but how excited my mom was when I hit my first home run — she was cheering so hard she fell out of her chair and rolled down the hill. I remember my daddy piling a load of kids in his old '53 Chevy truck and taking us all to the river to swim and picnic. Things like this may not have cost very much money but they made precious memories that will last a lifetime.

In today's world, I'm afraid there are many of us trying so hard to make money

to give our families material possessions that we are missing out on the "fun" things in life. Paul tells young Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17, "Charge them that are rich in this age, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." The Lord wants us to trust in him and not worry so much about "making a buck." The simplest things often bring us the most pleasure.

We need to quit worrying about material wealth and spend more time making memories for our children. The world outside is sometimes dark, and we need to make our home a haven of light for our children and friends. I challenge you to do something enjoyable with your family or friends that will always bring back a loving memory for them. Today's actions are tomorrow's memories.

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

ATTENTION

All Boys and RA Leaders from Across the State

WHAT: RA Banquet

WHEN: Monday, November 2, 1992
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

WHERE: Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock

COST: \$4.00 Per Person
Pizza Dinner

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

For More Information Contact the
Brotherhood Department, 501-376-4791, Ext. 5158



MISSISSIPPI RIVER MINISTRY

What is MRM all about?

by Tommy Goode
ARBC Mission Department

Mississippi River Ministry is about translating a region of human need into oppor-

tunities for Christian ministry and missions. Identifying needs and organizing ministries in the local community through the local Baptist church is the essence of Mississippi River Ministry.

As a farmer and mechanic, I learned about rusty bolts and nuts. Rusty nuts always required more effort and creativity to loosen than those that were not rusty. Heat, oil, muscles, sustained effort — all were employed to turn the rusty nut. Figuratively speaking, the "rusty nut" of Mississippi River Ministry is to somehow get our church and association leaders in the 42-county area of Arkansas designated as the Mississippi River Ministry region to see themselves as being in a target area for volunteer missions, and to develop local projects which will help achieve the goals set forth by Mississippi River Ministry.

The purpose of Mississippi River Ministry is to "proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ so that persons may be transformed. Believing that God has a special work for Baptists to be done in the Mississippi River Valley, we commit ourselves and resources to providing ministries, evangelization, strengthening of existing churches and starting of new churches as God leads and provides."

The most prevalent and pressing human needs which characterize the region are: illiteracy and school drop-outs; poverty; inadequate and inaccessible health care; unemployment; inadequate housing and homelessness; broken and dysfunctional families; alcoholism and drug dependencies; teenage pregnancy; and spiritual loss and unchurched.

This region, which includes parts of seven states along the lower Mississippi River, has been referred to as "America's Third World." This label at first may seem out of place as an exaggeration. But, when the facts are known regarding health, poverty, education, infant mortality and the overall sense of hopelessness and lack of socio-economic opportunity, then this alarming ID seems to fit.



Tommy Goode

Is there any hope for the thousands of our neighbors so characterized? Is there anything that can be done to change the effects of generations of neglect and apathy? The theme of Mississippi River Ministry is "Building Bridges of Hope and Change" and is based on Isaiah 43:18-19. The response of Baptists must be "yes" to these probing questions.

As pastor Chris McNairy said, "Hope is to be found in our Lord Jesus Christ and what he did." Hope truly is to be found for both those in need and those with plenty in Jesus. As Christians, we believe spiritual security is the most important kind of security and that everyone needs the security which comes from believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We also believe in human improvement and physical security. This is harder to come by for those classified as disadvantaged socially and economically. Hope for this kind of security must be found in individual opportunity and achievement. As Christians, we can and should respond to the needs of those who are disadvantaged. Christian charity requires it. There is still another kind of security which comes from the satisfaction of faithful service as Christians. Following our Lord's example, we share with those in need, comfort those who are distressed, rescue those who are perishing and strengthen those who are weak.

Some suggestions for an action plan are: (1) get with other Christians and pray about the people and needs you know about in your community; (2) talk with your pastor, Director of Missions and missions leaders about existing ministry needs and opportunities; (3) get church or association approval to profile local projects to involve volunteers; (4) share the needs for resources and volunteers with your church, association and State Missions Department; (5) organize and begin as many ministry projects as can be adequately resourced and managed.

A good resource for developing awareness and getting people involved in Mississippi River Ministry is the Home Mission Board's Missions USA Video Magazine feature entitled "Challenge of the Blues." This video is available through your local association, the State Missions Department and the Home Mission Board. Material resources and speakers may be requested by contacting the State Missions Department. Most important of all is to do what you know God would have you to do based on your awareness of existing needs

and then to help organize for greater involvement through Mississippi River Ministry.

The goals of Mississippi River Ministry will be achieved, with God's help, as Baptists begin to respond in a faith commitment to the missions opportunities within our reach, those which lie at our front doors.

For more information, contact Tommy Goode, State Missions Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone at 376-4791, ext. 5249.

Give a banquet, invite the poor

by Diana Lewis
Special to the Arkansas Baptist

Luke 14:13 says, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor." This is what Malvern First Church did. They decided they wanted to have a very special Christmas in August party for the children of Dixsonville.

Dorothy Hayes of First Church set up the date for the special evening with me. On Wednesday evening, Aug. 26, two vans from First Church met me at Dixsonville. Fifteen children and one mother from Dixsonville boarded the vans to go to the church.

When the vans stopped in front of the church doors, First Church children and adults were clapping and cheering as we got off the vans. As we walked in, one of the little girls from Dixsonville took the hand of an older gentleman from the church and walked in with him. It was a special moment for the children to be greeted in such a way.

There was a special supper of spaghetti, bread, salad and cookies. The church fellowship hall was even decorated with a Christmas tree and decorations. The program began with Christmas carols. And then Lawson Hatfield, interim pastor, told the Christmas story and its special meaning.

The children were then each given two gifts, a backpack for school and a book. One woman also gave each of us an angel Christmas ornament. I'll hang mine on my tree every year to remember a special Christmas in August that I believe some special children will never forget.

The ministries at Dixsonville, a rural community in Hot Spring County, are a program of Central Baptist Association.

Diana Lewis is the Christian Social Ministries leader for Central Baptist Association.

Migrant center provides needed witness

by Beverly Turpin

Special to the Arkansas Baptist

The Bartholomew Baptist Migrant Mission Center provides a Christian witness in the southeast Arkansas area through mission ministries to migrant and seasonal farm workers. The migrant center offers ministries which care for the spiritual, social, and physical needs of migrant workers and their families. This project is a cooperative venture between the SBC Home Mission Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department, and Bartholomew Baptist Association. Arieland Elda Hernandez serve as missionaries through this center.

As a summer missionary working at the migrant center, I was involved in the reorganization of the medical-dental clinic and the recruitment of health care professionals to volunteer in this facility. Listed below are the various needs of this clinic. If you can help meet some of these needs or

know of others who can, please contact the ABSC Missions Department at 376-4791 or Bartholomew Baptist Migrant Mission Center, Attn: Volunteer Medical-Dental Clinic Coordinator, P.O. Box 277, East Hermitage, AR 71647; telephone 463-8480.

(1) Health care professionals (medical doctors, dentists, nurses, and dental assistants) are needed to volunteer in the clinic whenever possible on Sunday afternoons, especially during the summer months.

(2) Any pharmaceutical supplies are needed. Antibiotics, cough medicine, allergy medicine, athlete's foot medicine, and burn medication are used regularly in this clinic.

(3) Dental instruments and dental equipment (autoclave, water-injected pump, dental unit, x-ray machine) are needed.

(4) A doctor's height and weight scale is needed.

Please pray about these opportunities of service in medical and dental missions to see how God would lead you to serve him.

Beverly Turpin, from Candier, N.C., served as a summer missionary at the Hermitage Migrant Mission Center.

Festival of Sharing slated for Oct. 17

The 15th Annual Festival of Sharing, Arkansas' Ingathering for World Hunger, will take place Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arkansas State Capitol. The event will feature Nathan Porter, a 24-year veteran of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, who currently serves in the area of domestic hunger awareness and related ministries. Porter will speak at the World Food Day "Hunger Meal" and Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, on Friday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. and at the festival on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m.

The festival features booths, displays, art, children's activities, music, puppets, and an alternative market that will offer gifts and wares from Third World artists. Donation "kits" of food, clothing, medicine and household goods are gathered in for distribution.

The Arkansas Interfaith Hunger Network sponsors the event. Tommy Goode, ABSC Church and Community Ministries director, is an officer of the Network. For more information, contact Goode at 376-4791, ext. 5249.

State LIFE Support Ministries

Conference

Monday, October 26, 1992
Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock, Arkansas
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For...

- ◆ Pastors
- ◆ Church Staff
- ◆ Others Interested in Conducting LIFE Support Groups

Regional Prayer Ministry

Workshop

Monday-Tuesday October 26-27, 1992
Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock, Arkansas
Monday 2-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m. - noon 2-4 p.m.

For...

- ◆ Pastors/Church Staff
- ◆ Church Prayer Ministry Coordinators
- ◆ Associational Prayer Ministry Coordinators
- ◆ Others interested in their personal prayer life and Their Church's Prayer Ministry

A Cooperative Program Ministry of
The Discipleship Training Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Registration

State LIFE Support Ministries Conference

Monday, October 26 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Registration Fee \$5.00 (Includes Lunch Monday)

Regional Prayer Ministry Workshop

October 26-27 2:00 p.m. Monday - 4:00 p.m. Tuesday
Registration Fee \$35.00 (Includes Lunch Tuesday)

NAME(S)	CHECK CONFERENCE(S) ATTENDING:	LIFE SUPPORT	PRAYER MINISTRY
1. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDRESS _____	CHURCH _____		

Send Registration to:

Discipleship Training Department ◆ P.O. Box 552 ◆ Little Rock, AR 72203

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Bill Brown, pastor of First Church of Morrilton and the church where he was ordained to the ministry, was honored Sept. 13 by the church in recognition of his 40th anniversary of ordination. A native of Morrilton, Dr. Brown has pastored several Arkansas churches which were all represented in the anniversary service. Three years ago he returned to pastor the Morrilton church.

Lee Bennett Moore, a resident of Lavaca, has returned from an evangelistic crusade in Ukraine, a republic of the former Soviet Union. Moore, a bi-vocational pastor, was a team leader and a preacher in local church services during his visit to the Ukrainian city of Donetsk. As a part of a 49-member team led by Jim Ponder, an evangelist from Florida, Moore also participated in open-air services, street witnessing, and a central crusade.

Roy Brooks is serving as pastor of First Church of Vandervoort, coming there from Paris, Texas. He previously has served as pastor of the Vandervoort church.

Dillard Miller, director of missions for Ouachita Association and pastor emeritus of First Church of Heber Springs, observed his 50th anniversary of ordination Aug. 30. Dr. Miller was ordained in 1942 by First Church of Horatio.

Neal Morris, who has been serving as part-time minister of music and youth, has joined the staff of First Church of Hardy full time.

Paul W. King is serving as pastor of Bethany Church in Manila, going there from Gallie Church in El Dorado where he had served for more than three years.

Gordon J. Topping has resigned as pastor of Second Church in Pine Bluff to join the staff of First Church of Pine Bluff as associate pastor with special responsibilities for education and administration.

Naomi Hall is serving Second Church of Little Rock as interim youth activities director.

Richard Allison has joined the staff of New Antioch Church at Brookland as minister of youth.

Gary Hawkins of Perryville, the Mission Service Corps pastor of Thornburg Church, recently had original poetry published in

A View from the Edge, a treasury of today's poetry compiled by the National Library of Poetry.

Steve Wilson has resigned as pastor of Temple Church in Dermott to pastor a church in Brandon, Miss.

Sammy Carr has resigned as pastor of Arkansas City Church to accept the pastorate of a Texas church.

Willine Hinsley Halsell died Sept. 16 in San Antonio, Texas. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now Ouachita Baptist University), she was the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. W.J. Hinsley who lived in Hot Springs while he served for 17 years as pastor of Second Church. She is survived by her husband, Col. Aubrey C. Halsell, USAF Ret.; one son, A.C. Halsell Jr. of Plano, Texas; and two grandchildren, Dawn Halsell and Capt. Doug Halsell, USAF.

Larry Owens is serving as pastor of Rowe's Chapel, Caraway.

Harold E. Bates is serving as pastor of Lexa Church. A native of Rome, Ga., he is

a graduate of the University of Georgia and Mid-America Seminary. He is married to the former Sheila Ann Bailey of Rome, Ga. They have three children, Richard, Gary, and Emily.

Russell Atkinson has resigned as pastor of Cove Church to serve as pastor of a church in Colorado.

Ben Finley is serving as interim pastor of Yocana Church.

Gary Ulrich has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church in Searcy.

W.W. Dishongh has resigned as pastor of First Church of El Paso.

Steve Cowan is serving as pastor of Immanuel Church of Fayetteville. A student at the University of Arkansas, he is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Raymond Martin is serving as pastor of Spring Valley Church. He pastored Johnson Church for more than 12 years.



Friendship Church, Conway, observed its 75th anniversary Sept. 13 with the dedication of an 8,400 square foot auditorium. The facility, valued at \$270,000, has a 400 seating capacity. The growing congregation had 325 in attendance for the celebration and dedication. Pastor Gary Thomas reported the day's program resulted in two professions of faith. He also had a baptismal service for five candidates. The church year ended with 62 additions by baptism.

Harry McCullough has resigned as pastor of Humnoke Church.

Troy Caroll will retire as pastor of Baugh Chapel Church, Austin, effective Dec. 31.

Greg Mecharg is serving as associate pastor of Crosby Church, Searcy. He and his wife, Shannon, have one son, Darren.

Kent Barnes will join the staff of First Church of Piggott Oct. 11 as minister of music, youth and an assistant to the pastor. He will come there from Bridgeport, Texas, where has been serving First Church as minister of music and education. He is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Sandra Gail, have a daughter, Carolyn Janelle.

Ron Williamson observed 10 years of service Sept. 13 as pastor of Spradling Church in Fort Smith when Fort Smith Mayor Ray Baker, in the church's morning worship service, declared it Ron Williamson Day for the city.

R. Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro, who completed his service Oct. 4 as interim pastor of First Church in Marion, will begin serving Oct. 11 as interim pastor of First Church in Blytheville.

Billy Hammonds resigned Oct. 27 as pastor of First Church of Maumelle to serve as pastor of a church in Trenton, Tenn.

Robert Greene is serving as pastor of Corinth Church, Wilmar. He recently was ordained to the ministry by Hermitage Church.

Briefly

Ouachita Association churches have provided \$10,125 emergency relief in Louisiana in wake of Hurricane Andrew, as well as sending emergency work crews who distributed food among the French Indians south of Houma, La.

Central Church of North Little Rock ordained Steve Jones to the deacon ministry Sept. 20. The church also had a 39 member summer mission team to work in San Francisco, Calif., which led three vacation Bible schools that resulted in enrolling more than 200 Chinese, Samoan, black and white children. They also led a three session Sunday School teachers training for a Brazilian church and completed a number of construction projects for Valley Church. Mark W. Jones, minister to youth and college, coordinated the trip.

Bingham Road Church in Little Rock held a Laotian revival Sept. 11-13 with Joshua Yang of the Home Mission Board serving as evangelist. Pastor Bill Hilburn preached the Sunday morning worship service with Yang serving as interpreter. Hilburn also conducted a baptismal service so the Laotians could be informed of its significance in Baptist life. The church hosted a Saturday evening dinner that was attended by 38 Laotians.

Strawford Church in Jonesboro ordained Kirby Roe and George Williams to the deacon ministry Sept. 27. Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association, served as moderator.

Bryant First Southern began construction of preschool educational space Sept. 14. The facility will be constructed debt free as the result of members contributing in excess of \$75,000 Sept. 13 as the church observed "Glory Day." Pastor Jim Lagrone said, "It was indeed a glorious day as our people saw the need to more adequately minister to the needs of preschool children. We needed to add space, and remodel existing space to accomplish that goal. As a result of their giving, we will be able to triple the amount of preschool care provided, and include state of the art modern classrooms."

Post Oak Church at Greers Ferry ordained Pastor Curtis Alton to the gospel ministry Sept. 20. J.C. Verser gave the

charge to the pastor and church.

Perry Church ordained Pastor Sam Parker and Assistant Pastor Joel Summers to the gospel ministry Sept. 27.

Spradling Church of Fort Smith ordained Mark McDaniel and Jan Colvett to the deacon ministry Aug. 23. Nelson Wilhelm, director of missions for Concord Association, preached the ordination message. Ron Williamson is pastor.

Highway Church in North Little Rock 20-member youth mission team, accompanied by six adult counselors, was in Des Moines, Iowa July 27-31 as a part of "The Iowa Connection" program through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The group was comprised of three teams of ministry: (1) craft, (2) puppet, and (3) teaching. Their work included door-to-door visitation, a nightly mission vacation Bible school at Easter Lake Church, team activities, and assisting the church by mowing grass, cleaning the siding, and building storage shelves.

Pine Bluff First Church music ministry will present the second Sacred Music Concert Series Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. The concert, to be held in the church sanctuary, will feature the Quapaw Brass Quintet from Little Rock. This group, formed in early 1990, includes Brenda Barber, Art Hollman, Jessica Shaver, Scott Maddox, and Rick Perryman.



St. Charles Church recently honored Lucille Woodiel, in recognition of her 90th birthday and years of service as a teacher in Sunday School, training union, and vacation Bible school. She was presented with a resolution of appreciation by Pastor Frank Pfenenger (left) in the morning worship service that was followed by a fellowship meal hosted by the church and her children, Jack Woodiel of East Alton, Ill., Bill Woodiel of Ridgefield, N.J., Shelby Woodiel of Little Rock, Neil Woodiel of McMinnville, Tenn., and Maureen Charmin of Russellville. A son, Dale Woodiel, was unable to attend. Pictured with Pfenenger and Mrs. Woodiel (wearing corsage) are (left to right) Hazel McCann, Bernice McSwain, Herbert Dupslaff Jr., Grace Marrs, Arthur Brown, Thomas Coker, and Glen Widener, trustees of the church.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



The Graceline Singers of Greater Grace Church, Little Rock, the first Arkansas black Southern Baptist church to be organized, presented both a pre-session concert and music for the 1992 ABSC Sunday School Conference. This was the first conference to involve leadership from both black and white Arkansas Southern Baptist churches.

STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

'Brokenness to wholeness'

by Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

A challenge to guide people from brokenness to wholeness through the Sunday School was given Sept. 25 to those attending the 1992 Sunday School Conference sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School Department, Freddie Pike, director.

Dennis Mitchell, a black Southern Baptist pastor from Central Church of Montgomery, Ala., gave the challenge as he spoke at the first conference to be attended by leadership from both black and white Southern Baptist churches.

Using John 5:1-9, Mitchell spoke on (1) What it is to be broken, (2) The impact of brokenness, and (3) A cure for brokenness. He stated that in a day when we have more trained doctors, lawyers, health professionals, educators, and when for the most part, we have a higher standard of living than at any other time in our history, the misery index is higher than ever before. We see the impact of shattered, broken lives everywhere—we see it in the faces of unhappy people, we hear it in the voices of parents as they scream repeatedly at their children and as their children

in turn speak vulgarly to one another.

"Even though the impact of this brokenness is devastating our country, I believe that a dynamic, aggressive Sunday School eagerly seeking to reach people through the Word of God, can be a force in changing our world," Mitchell said.

Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock was conference host. Pastor Paul Sanders welcomed those attending and led the opening prayer that was followed with special music by the Graceline Singers from Greater Grace Church in Little Rock, the first organized Arkansas black Southern Baptist church. ABSC Executive Director Don Moore led the offertory prayer and Pike introduced general interest and age level conference leaders.

A special opening session feature was promotion of the returning "Great Day in the Morning," a state-wide high attendance day. Churches were encouraged to participate in this Oct. 25 event and were asked to telephone statistics to the local associational representatives who then will report attendance records to the state office. Pike said, "This was so successful before, that we are bringing it back to help get the new Sunday School year off to a great start."

ABN photo / Millie Gill



This year's conference also features some first-time leadership conferences such as the one led by Stephen Hatfield, pastor of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. His Saturday morning conference room was filled with people seeking ways to reach people by using non-traditional methods to reach adults. Elias Pantoja, ABSC language missions director, shared ideas on understanding and starting ethnic and international Bible study units. Church building conference were another first, and a preschool conference on choosing educational toys drew good attendance.

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Baptist Youth Day brings inspiration, fun

ABN photos / Colleen Backus



Baptist Youth Day, held Sept. 12 at Magic Springs Amusement Park, provided both inspiration and fun for thousands of Baptist young people from throughout the state. Total attendance in the park was 7,500. The event was not just for kids, however; their leaders took in some serious training at the leadership institute for Discipleship Training leaders. Randy Lanford, (below) editor of the Church Recreation Magazine for the Sunday School Board, conducted a workshop for 125 individuals from 60 churches. He also provided an inspirational message at the closing rally. In addition to several professional Christian entertainment groups and youth choirs, Christian recording artist Deneen Alexandrow provided music for the day. The daughter of Russian immigrant parents, Alexandrow had just flown in from Russia the night before; her unique abilities provided those attending insightful music and testimony. A number of exhibits, including "real" missionaries to talk with, rounded out the day.



SEE YOU AT THE POLE

Movement may result in awareness of Christian students' rights

by Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

With reports still coming in, "See You at the Pole," the youth prayer movement held on Sept. 16, drew at least 14,585 Arkansas students to their school's flagpole.

"We're really pleased with the results," said Randy Brantley, ABSC Evangelism Department associate. "This is a 50 percent increase over last year." The reporting method has changed this year, rather than relying on telephone reports, a mass mailing that included response cards was conducted.

"This tells me there's a lot of excitement about See You at the Pole. Anything that rallies youth about praying for their public schools gets adults excited and gives students a sense of mission."

A new twist on this year's event is that it has moved heavily into Arkansas' rural areas. "Sometimes there was more than 50 percent attendance," Brantley said. One rural town drew 200 participants out of a student population of 300.

Some students did run into difficulty, but training provided in promotional materials provided guidelines so that confrontations were avoided, Brantley said. At a junior high school in Little Rock, two groups were praying, one at 7:30 a.m. and the other at 8 a.m. Even though school did not begin until 8:55 a.m., the later group was disbanded by a security guard. At a rural high school, the school's new principal came out and dismissed the prayer group. Students simply moved out to the curb and continued praying, as they had been taught in the SYATP literature.

"I see SYATP raising up a new generation of leaders who are spokesmen for Christian student rights," Brantley said. In any instances of confrontation, Brantley faxed a copy of a document concerning students' rights prepared by Jay Sekulow, general counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, to the school and church involved.

Brantley also suggests that churches obtain a copy of A Students' Legal Rights on a Public School Campus, by J.W. Brinkley for their libraries. The book will be available through the ABSC Evangelism Department in the near future, Brantley said.

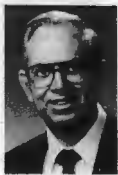
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

LIFE support and prayer ministries introduced

The Arkansas Discipleship Training Department will introduce LIFE Support Ministries and Prayer Ministries in two



Claude King



T.W. Hunt

events set for late October. A LIFE Support Ministries Conference on Monday, Oct. 26, at North Little Rock Park Hill Church will introduce the new LIFE Support Ministries and the resources to support these ministry opportunities in churches. The Regional Prayer Ministry Workshop, set for Monday-Tuesday, Oct. 26-27, also at Park Hill Church, will enable churches to begin and administer an effective prayer ministry. The two events are scheduled so interested persons may attend either or both of these conferences.

The LIFE Support Ministries conference will introduce support group ministries to Arkansas churches. Claude King, supervisor of the LIFE Support Section of the Discipleship Training Department, Baptist Sunday School Board will lead the conference, scheduled for 10 a.m.-12:30

p.m. on Oct. 26.

LIFE Support Ministries and resources are designed to enable churches to provide Christian ministry and emotional support to individuals in areas of social, emotional, and physical need. Issues to be addressed include divorce recovery, grief recovery, chemical dependency, co-dependency, abuse recovery and eating disorders.

The registration fee of \$5 includes lunch at the host church. To register or request additional information, contact the ABSC Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

T.W. Hunt will lead a Regional Prayer Ministry Workshop. The conference is planned for pastors, church staff members, church and associational prayer ministry coordinators, and other persons interested in their personal prayer life and their church's prayer ministry. Workshop sessions are Oct. 26, 2-5 p.m. and Oct. 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hunt, author and compiler of the new Church Prayer Ministry Manual, will introduce approaches to help a church begin and administer an effective prayer ministry. The fee for the conference is \$35 and includes the manual and lunch at the host church on Tuesday. The registration fee for the spouse of a registered participant is \$15. Registrations should be made through the Discipleship Training Department.

FINDING TIME

Secretaries' conference slated for Oct. 26

Church and denominational secretaries will have an opportunity for personal

and professional enrichment at the Church Denominational Secretary Conference to be held on Monday, Oct. 26 at North Little Rock Park Hill Church. Glenda Posey, Certified Secretary Trainer from Shreveport, La., will lead the conference.



Glenda Posey

"Finding Time"

will be the theme of the conference which will focus on time management. Conference topics include personal and professional goal setting, planning, organizing, prioritizing, and networking. The registration fee of \$5 includes lunch to be served at the host church. Registrations should be addressed: Secretary Conference, ABSC Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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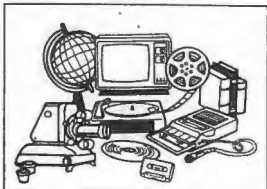
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Media Library Conference

A State Church Media Library Conference will be held at the North Little Rock Central Church on Oct. 26. The conference begins at 9:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 4:45 p.m. and will include two workshops: Developing a Media Library in a Smaller Membership Church and Advanced Media Library Administration.

Barbara Freese and Steve Gateley, Baptist Sunday School Board Media Library Consultants, will lead the workshops. Freese will lead Developing a Media Library in a Smaller Membership Church, a workshop that will provide basic information and skill development for beginning or improving a media library in a smaller membership church. Gateley will lead Advanced Media Library Administration, a more intense workshop for experienced media library staff members.

For additional information, contact the Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203-0552; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

Cottrell appointed by HMB, Scott coming to Eureka Springs



Brett Cottrell



Maria Scott

Arkansas native Brett Cottrell was appointed as a US-2 missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in August.

A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

Cottrell is a native of Fayetteville and a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington.

He served as a summer missionary with the Foreign Mission Board in Melbourne, Australia, in 1989. Cottrell will be an evan-

gelism missionary church starter strategist in Hope, Ind. He plans to attend seminary after US-2 service.

Coming to serve in the state is Maria Scott. Scott, of Kaysville, Utah, is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. She served as a summer missionary in California in 1990. Scott will serve as a resort worker in Eureka Springs.

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- Musical Programs - Thanksgiving night features a traditional gospel program. Friday and Saturday features "Full Circle," a quartet of young women noted for their Celtic melodies, Ragtime, Swing and a cappella harmonies.
- Saturday, November 28, 2 p.m. - Free Children's Folk Music Workshop by "Full Circle" in the small auditorium.
- Craft Grounds will be open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, November 26, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, November 27 and 28. Free admission.

13th Annual Ozark Christmas December 4-6

- Old-time Christmas Shopping Fun On The Craft Grounds - Featuring over 60 Ozark Crafters. Craft Grounds will be open Friday, Dec. 4, from noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Group Carolling on the Craft Grounds Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5. Hot cider, cookies and fresh baked goods.
- Traditional Christmas music at 7:30 p.m. each evening in the large auditorium. Free admission Thursday, December 3. Small admission fee Friday and Saturday.



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Volunteer joins Brotherhood team

Ronnie O'Neal, a layman from Amity First Church, has volunteered to work with Glendon Grober as an assistant in the ABSC Brotherhood Department. The particular areas in which he will work are Church In A Day, Nailbenders, Royal Ambassadors, Disaster Relief, and Baptist Men's organizations.

A former business man in Glenwood, O'Neal and his wife, Penny, owned and operated Caddo Homes, a manufactured homes business. They have a married daughter and one grandchild.

"God has blessed us so that we can give our lives in ministry. This is our way of giving to God. Two years ago he called us to this type of ministry," O'Neal said.

O'Neal is no stranger to Brotherhood volunteer endeavors. He has helped with supervision of 13 Church In A Day projects. He and his wife have been in Russia with Project Brotherhood, a food distribution program operated by the SBC Brotherhood Commission. He also has assisted in



(Left to right) ABSC Executive Director Don Moore, Ronnie O'Neal and ABSC Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober.

volunteer building projects at two association camps in Arkansas. He has been involved in the Guatemala Partnership, making two trips there, and assisted in the construction of the Arkansas House while in that country.

O'Neal has served in his local church and Garland County Association as Brotherhood director, and he also has served as a Sunday School teacher at his home church. Both O'Neal and his wife are currently enrolled for their first formal training at Boyce Bible School.

ABSC Executive Director Don Moore said, "It is an incredible act of God to prepare and prompt such a man to give his life voluntarily in an area of work where he is so desperately needed."

2nd annual softball tournament

The Arkansas Baptist Men held their second annual softball tournament in Hot Springs on Aug. 15.

Teams from Cabot, Lavaca, and Camden joined church teams from central Arkansas for the event.

Benton First Church placed first. Little Rock Markham Street Church was second.

The ABSC Brotherhood Department extends a special thanks to Hot Springs First Church, Pastor Jerry Mixon, and Milton Raabe for hosting and organizing the tournament.

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Abundant Life Schools dedicates library

The Iva Vines Media Center for Abundant Life Schools, a ministry of Sylvan Hills First Church, was dedicated Sept. 15 with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Sherwood Chamber of Commerce.

Participants in the service included Mrs. Vines; Clytice Koehler, chamber president; several chamber members; Marvin Peters, director of missions for North Pulaski Association; Nora Yates, school superintendent; Pastor Don Moseley, who also serves as chairman of the Abundant Life School board; and Susie Burrow, a school board member.

Vines, who retired in 1980 from the



ABN photo / Mills Gill

A ribbon cutting ceremony, led by the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce, honored Iva Vines (center), for whom the library is named.

North Little Rock School System and began teaching that same year in the Abundant Life Schools, began serving as school librarian in 1985, serving in that position through 1991. During her tenure she de-

veloped the library to its present 6,000 volumes with a wide range of video cassettes, computer discs, and film strips. She also served 33 years as librarian for North Pulaski Association, assisting local churches in establishing and developing libraries. A member of Amboy Church in North Little Rock, the library there also has been named in her honor.

As a part of the ribbon cutting service, Mrs. Vines was given a dozen red roses, and Moseley presented her portrait to be hung at the library entrance.

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Photo / Mark Kalty

Hilldale dedicates - Hilldale Church near Alexander celebrated completion of a new sanctuary in special services Sunday, Sept. 20. Paul McClung, associate in the ABSC Evangelism Department, delivered the dedicatory address. The Happy Day Gospel Quartet highlighted an afternoon service. The 3,600 square foot building was constructed with the help of volunteer builders from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. The 76-member team, sent by Oklahoma Baptist Builders, raised the building and had it ready for carpet in 34 days. The new facility, which provides a 194-seat sanctuary and office space, was put up at a cost of \$65,000, according to Pastor Mackie L. Hawkins. Above, (left to right) Neil Gaiser, Dale Orr, and Ronnie McJunkins set the cornerstone.

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JONESBORO AREA

National-Southern Baptist Fellowship

"Don't Let the Devil Get You," warned Charles Latham, pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Jonesboro. Latham gave this warning to more than 225 black and white Christians attending the second annual National and Southern Baptist Fellowship in the Jonesboro area. Highland Drive Baptist Church in Jonesboro hosted the Aug. 24 fellowship.

One of the stated purposes of the fellowship was to declare racism as a doctrine to be heresy and racism as a practice to be sin. Speaking from Mark 5, Latham declared that behind racism and other sins lie the person and work of Satan. To resist racism one must resist Satan.

Another speaker, Emil Williams, described racism as a wall of separation. Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, referenced Ephesians 2 as his source for the removal of this and other walls. He encouraged the participants not to rebuild these walls once they have been removed.

Participants also heard a challenge to cooperate in ministry and evangelism. The Mississippi River Ministry will address health, education, employment, and housing needs in Arkansas and other states touching the lower Mississippi River region. National and Southern Baptists in Arkansas will cooperate at the local community level.

In 1995, Arkansas National and Southern Baptist churches will be encouraged to conduct simultaneous revivals during the months of March and April. Prior to the revivals, the churches will be encouraged to participate in 60 days of personal soul-winning. A joint state evangelism conference is planned in January 1995 to kick off the Here's Hope Revival Campaigns.

Another National-Southern Baptist state evangelism conference is planned for January 1994 to provide training for the revival campaign.

National and Southern Baptists in the Jonesboro area will have another fellowship Aug. 23, 1993. First Missionary Baptist Church will host the fellowship. Herman Lewellen is pastor.

Convention updates

The following information updates or corrects information on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to be held Nov. 10-11 at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

On-site camping facilities will be available for messengers at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. The center has parking spaces for more than 100 recreational vehicles in a new parking area located at the back of the center. The space is equipped with water, electricity, and restrooms.

It should have been reported that D.C. McAtee, from Mount Vernon, is a member of the Credentials Committee.

The Ministers' Wives ad should have listed one of the seminar's as "Family Altar Ideas 1-12."

The Ouachita Baptist University reception will take place at 5 p.m. Tuesday, not following the evening session as reported.

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation updated charter under "X. Dissolution" should have read:

SHOULD THE CORPORATION BE DIS-

SOLVED, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL, AFTER PAYING OR MAKING PROVISIONS 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.

Morgan new BSU director at EACC

Barry Morgan is the new Baptist Student Union director for East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City. Morgan is also the pastor of Pine Tree Church. He is a former youth minister and summer missionary, and has served churches in Cabot, Maumelle and Sylvan Hills. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Mid-American Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Morgan and his wife, Kim, have two children, Justin and Rachel.



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Gregory resignation stuns First Dallas

by Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press

DALLAS (BP)—Frustrated with lack of progress in the transition of leadership at First Baptist Church in Dallas, Joel C. Gregory unexpectedly resigned as pastor during a Wednesday night service.

Gregory, 44, has been pastor of the 28,000-member congregation following his election in November 1990, ostensibly to fill the shoes of W.A. Criswell who will celebrate his 48th anniversary with the church Oct. 4. Criswell, 82, had been designated "senior pastor" and reportedly was planning to retire from the pulpit and spend more time leading Criswell College.

But lack of progress in that transition, in Gregory's understanding, was cited in the surprising announcement Sept. 30 during the regular Wednesday night service. About 300 members were present when Gregory asked for a "personal privilege" to speak.

His announcement stunned the congregation which, in complete silence, watched Gregory leave the pulpit and the building. He left instructions that he would not be available for several days, with no further clarification provided.



At press time, Gregory had not informed Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff officials whether he intends to remain chairman of a search committee seeking a successor for FMB President R. Keith Parks, who retires Oct. 30. Gregory, in the third year of his first four-year term as an FMB trustee, can remain as a trustee as long as he continues to reside in Texas.

Gregory, in his statement to the church, said even though Criswell had handed over day-to-day responsibilities nearly two years ago, the senior pastor continued to lead the church.

"The ultimate agenda," Gregory said, "is the prolonging of the incumbent's ministry rather than the enabling of the new pastor's. None of these things can be a surprise to the informed members of this congregation. In light of these circumstances I immediately and irrevocably submit my resignation."

Criswell did not comment on the resignation. He did tell the *Dallas Morning News* that Gregory "is one of the best preachers ever heard in this generation. He is a sweet friend and prayer partner."

Gregory told the Dallas paper he did not inform Criswell or the church of his intentions to quit because he would have been pressured not to resign. He plans, for now, to "rest a while to see what opens up."

"That congregation is a huge burden: a day and night responsibility," Gregory told

the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

When it became apparent that Criswell might stay as senior pastor until his 50th anniversary with the church, Gregory made plans to resign and only a few congregational leaders knew about it. They wanted him to work it out with Criswell but Gregory objected to the idea of dealing directly with Criswell to solve the matter.

Conservative leaders in Texas and the Southern Baptist Convention reacted with shock and surprise at the announcement although most privately agreed there has been some frustration evidenced by Gregory over the transfer of leadership in the SBC's largest congregation.

Saying he was shocked to hear the news, Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper, Jr., former pastor in Euless, Texas, affirmed Gregory.

H. Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Gregory is a superb teacher of homiletics and a great pulpiteer.

Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and president of Criswell College from 1975-92, told Baptist Press he was astonished by Gregory's announcement but only at the timing and the method he chose.

Morris Chapman, new president of the SBC Executive Committee and former Wichita Falls, Texas pastor, also expressed his concern for all involved.

Gregory was pastor in several Texas churches and taught at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He came to Dallas from Fort Worth where he had been pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church since 1985.

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SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapman inaugurated

by Art Toalston and Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—In a new era of leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, the SBC Executive Committee inaugurated Morris Chapman as its president-treasurer during sessions Sept. 21-23 in Nashville.

That new era will be shaped by at least two studies the Executive Committee endorsed. One study, initiated by new SBC President Ed Young, will take a sweeping look at SBC foreign and home evangelistic outreach, theology, structure and funding as the convention approaches its 150th year in 1995.

And Executive Committee members authorized Chapman to conduct a study to determine the need for a new national publication.

Chapman, one of seven conservatives elected as SBC president since 1979, succeeds Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer since that same year.

In his retirement dinner, Bennett voiced strong affirmation for the SBC: "I respect the convention. I have committed my life to the convention. And I assure you here tonight that I stand by our convention. I believe with all my heart God is not through with Southern Baptists and God is going to bless the work of our convention in the years yet ahead."

Chapman, in his inauguration service, acknowledged the Executive Committee at times must make tough decisions but pledged to "always seek the highest good



Morris Chapman

for the convention it serves. We will seek always to honor the name of our dear Lord Jesus.

"Truth and trust are the foundations to the integrity of the Executive Committee and its very existence," Chapman said, promising to "seek to earn and maintain the confidence of the Southern Baptist family."

In his first address to the Executive Committee as SBC president, Young said,

"I have not and never will be a status-quo kind of guy," then outlined plans for a national task force to "examine where we have been, where we are and where we need to be."

He announced 18 co-chairmen who will lead nine special study groups and then as a task force will make suggestions and recommendations to the denomination. Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. will serve as overall chairman of the study.

Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, acknowledged the sweeping study "is fraught with risks but filled with faith." SBC agencies need to "forget about turf, forget about politics.... We need to dream again the dream God has laid on us as Southern Baptists."

Young noted no funds have been allocated for the committee and that "every person will be on their own financially."

Executive Committee members voted unanimously to affirm Young's plan.

Young also called for a change in how Southern Baptists "do business" at their annual sessions, citing problems in obtaining quorums for the night sessions and the last day.

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Agencies ask \$8 million more of CP

by Art Tolston
 Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists' Foreign and Home mission boards and 17 other convention-related entities have requested \$8 million more from the Cooperative Program to do missions and ministry during the 1993-94 budget year.

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention's boards, commissions and institutions presented Cooperative Program allocation requests during the Executive Committee's Sept. 21-23 meeting in Nashville.

The agencies requested a total of \$148,202,053, up 5.7 percent or \$8 million over the current SBC Cooperative Program budget.

Final deliberations over the 1993-94 Cooperative Program budget recommendation to the 1993 SBC meeting in Houston will come during the Executive Committee's upcoming February meeting.

The largest requested increases were from the Christian Life Commission, 29.5 percent; Radio and Television Commission, 13 percent; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 12 percent; Historical Commission, 11.8 percent; and Brotherhood Commission, 10 percent. Other percentage increases ranged from 1 percent to 8 percent.

In another Cooperative Program matter, Executive Committee members approved a Dec. 2-3 meeting of key staff with state Baptist convention executive directors and Stewardship Commission staff for "discovering and developing understandings and relationships that will enhance the future effectiveness of the Cooperative Program."

Six regional Cooperative Program dialogue sessions were held earlier this year to discuss concerns among Southern Baptists for the convention's unified fund for national and international missions and ministry.

In other business, concerns over New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's new baccalaureate program were assigned to the presidents of the six SBC seminaries for a recommendation during the Executive Committee's meeting in February.

More than 50 students have enrolled at the seminary to pursue the baccalaureate degree, which has been criticized by a number of state Baptist colleges and universities as violating convention-assigned programs of SBC seminaries.

In discussing the matter, various members of the administrative subcommittee said a larger study is needed of the overall direction in theological education at the seminaries.

Addressing a motion from the 1992

SBC in Indianapolis that the Executive Committee charge the Woman's Missionary Union for its meeting hall expenses, the Executive Committee opted to maintain its longstanding practice of providing the space at no charge.

At the same time, the committee instructed its staff to study the present policy of paying a portion of the cost of the Pastor's Conference meeting space.

According to figures compiled by Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, the committee paid \$169,945 to help underwrite Pastor's Conference costs from 1988-92 while WMU costs totaled \$20,000.

In other business, the Executive Committee:

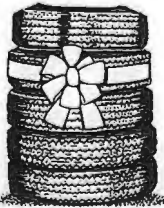
- approved a three-year phased return to the enrollment-driven funding formula in place for the SBC's six seminaries in the 1989-90 budget year.

- approved three additional years of \$200,000 special allocations to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., for faculty-staff housing supplements due to the San Francisco area's high cost of living.

- approved a recommendation to the 1993 SBC of program statement revisions for the Home Mission Board to include ministries with disabled persons as part of its social ministries assignment

- affirmed plans by the SBC Sesquicentennial Committee to join in a Historical Commission-sponsored commemoration of the SBC's 150th year May 8-10, 1995, in Augusta, Ga.

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to 13 hours. Pray that God will continue to protect the Leeches from danger and accidents in their day-to-day ministry.



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Young appoints leaders for SBC studies

by Linda Lawson

Special Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Leaders of nine groups to study Southern Baptist theology, women's ministries, the family, inclusion of other churches in denominational evangelization efforts and other issues have been announced by SBC President H. Edwin Young.

Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, named Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. as overall chairman of the process to "glance at the past and study the present, in order to plan, pray and dream toward the future."

Young said he will work with the co-chairpersons to enlist nine others to serve on each group, including a representative from a Southern Baptist agency, institution or seminary with assignments related to the group's topic. All participants must agree to pay their own expenses.

Young released in a Sept. 24 news conference a document outlining job descriptions of each study group, along with the names of the co-chairpersons. The document noted the descriptions are "written in general terms to provide direction, but also to give freedom to each group to work toward its assigned task in the most effective and efficient manner they feel possible."

The description of the theological study group, which Young said was written by co-chair Timothy George, specifies the group is to "develop and to articulate theological directions and parameters for our common mission as Southern Baptists. The work of this study group may result in a statement of convictions as well as specific recommendations which shall be passed along to the task force convened by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention."

George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., will work with Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in leading the study. They will use as foundational documents the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement, the 1987 report and recommendations of the SBC Peace Committee and the 1978 and 1982 Chicago Statements on Biblical Inerrancy.

A second group, "cords and stakes," was given a two-fold assignment: (1) to "reach out to like-minded local churches in America and abroad in order to invite them to join Southern Baptist efforts in

reaching America and the world for Christ"; and (2) to study the degree to which recommendations of the SBC Peace Committee have been implemented. Co-chairs will be Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., and a former SBC president.

Young, who served on the Peace Committee, said recommendation five of that report called for trustees to "determine the theological positions of the seminary administrators and faculty members."

"I don't know of any (boards of) trustees that have done that," Young said.

He said he believes there are Baptist churches now affiliated with other denominations and many independent Baptist churches "who need a vehicle in evangelism, missions and education. Anyone who would like to join us in the cause of missions and evangelism is welcome."

The women's ministries group has been asked to "identify strategies and methodologies for mobilizing the enormous spiritual gifts and resources of women in the

Southern Baptist Convention." Co-chairs will be Sarah (Mrs. Roland) Maddox of Brentwood, Tenn., and Susie (Mrs. O.S.) Hawkins of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Young said he plans to name a representative from Woman's Missionary Union to work with the group.

The family group assignment specified five areas to focus greater attention on the family. They include strategy to offer training on family issues, providing abstinence-based sex education materials adaptable for use in public schools, providing family life materials for a mass market and work with the Christian Life Commission to lobby on behalf of tax codes which support families and report to the 1993 SBC.

Co-chairs are Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., and Stephen Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark.

The other five groups are: Multi-ethnic advisory group, Reaching the world, Reaching America, Reaching children and youth, Cooperative Program and special offerings.

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Convention Uniform

Reacting to opportunity

by Andrew Setliffe, Calvary Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 1 Kings 1:28-37; 2:1-4; 3:3-14

Focal passage: 1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:5-12

Central truth: True success and becoming a blessing to others result from walking in God's way.

The character of a person is revealed by the way he reacts to his opportunity. The wisdom David delivered to Solomon, his son, was not wasted. What was the formula for success David gave to Solomon? (1 K. 2:3). Be obedient to God and do the will of God to attain true success. A successful life is more than accumulating money or material wealth.

David was telling Solomon to be strong spiritually and emotionally; have strong convictions and character. Be a real man; a man of integrity, faith, and love.

Life gave to everyone of us "Ask what I shall give thee" (1 K. 3:5). We make the choice. What stands between us and Christ-likeness?

The offer God made to Solomon turns out to be a testing of his priorities.

How do you and I respond to the question? Solomon was ready with his answer. We are not. God calls us to be definite about our desires—our commitment. Commitment has a way of eliminating the non-essential.

Do you expect new opportunities? Can you be ready for opportunity if you do not expect it to come? As we study Solomon's response to his opportunity, what may we learn?

The understanding heart Solomon asked for is a heart of empathy and sympathy. It is open to all opinions. The understanding heart is a forgiving heart. The problem most of us have is narrowness of heart—a prideful heart.

God is happy to grant the requests of his people for those things they need to fulfill his purpose in their lives (v. 12).

An opportunity begets unavoidable responsibility. Regardless of how the opportunity came about, the opportunity is from God to be used for his glory.

1 Kings 2:2-3 points the way for us to meet our opportunities. How does the charge apply to us? How can we accept and live up to the charge? Is this charge needed in your church? Where? How? In what areas of your personal life is it needed?

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Life and Work

Paying back your parents

by Barry King, Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 5:1-8, 16-21

Focal passage: 1 Timothy 5:3-8, 16

Central truth: Children are to take care of their parents when their parents can no longer take care of themselves.

Love You Forever, a little book by Robert Munsch, tells how a man who had been lovingly cared for by his mother through infancy, childhood, adolescence, and maturity repays her by caring for her when she is no longer able to care for herself. In the final scene, the fully grown man takes his aged mother in his arms and sings her to sleep. Paul's letter to Timothy instructs the believers of Ephesus to have this same kind of love for their aging parents.

They were admonished to requite their parents. This means that adult children were to repay or recompense their aging parents for what they had done for them. In the same way that the parents cared for the children when they could not help themselves, the children were to care for their parents when they could no longer help themselves.

Paul indicated two positive things come as a result of such actions. First, real piety is demonstrated. The true nature of a person's spirituality is revealed by their relationship to their family. Genuine spirituality is expressed when children seek to do unto their parents as their parents have done unto them. Secondly, God is pleased. The Scriptures teach that caring for one's family is good and acceptable in the sight of God.

Also, the believers at Ephesus were instructed to relieve their parents. This means they were to quite literally assume responsibility for their aging parents. This responsibility has financial, physical, as well as spiritual aspects.

The Ephesian believers were also reminded that when they acted responsibly toward their parents, the church was then able to help those persons who did not have children. As it was, the church was having to care for some who should have been being cared for by their families. Paul taught them not to depend on the church, to do something God expected them to do. By so doing, God would be pleased and the church would be better able to carry out her mission.

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Bible Book

Righteousness provided

by Jack Kwok, ABCS Director of Cooperative Ministries

Basic passage: Romans 3:21-4:25

Focal passage: Romans 3:21-31

Central truth: God has provided his righteousness for unrighteous humanity, and his righteousness is received only by faith.

What humanity could not do through actions and affiliations, God did in the atonement. Fallen humanity needed righteousness; the atonement provided it. The text focuses upon how righteousness was provided and how it is received.

God's provision for righteousness came through the instrumentality of the redemptive work of Christ (3:21-24). It did what the law could not do. The law could justify only the innocent, not the guilty. Christ's redemptive work satisfied the law.

Satisfaction of the law was the intention of God's provision of righteousness. Since all had sinned, the provision is for all (3:22-23). God's grace applies the provision of justice and morality, righteousness, which was procured by the redemptive work of Christ (3:24). His redemptive work satisfied the penalty for humanity's violation of God's justice and morality (3:25).

Propitiation involves the appeasement of God's wrathful judgment upon humanity due to their sin of violating his justice and morality. He accepted the blood of Jesus (atonement of cross) as the sin-penalty payment. His justice and morality, righteousness, was satisfied. Now, he can make an unrighteous person righteous without compromising his own righteousness, justice and morality (3:25-26).

Righteousness provided is the work of God; righteousness received is the response of man. He provided righteousness for all humanity, but he dispenses it to individuals who place their faith in Christ (3:22, 26). The grace of God is the agent, the propitiation to God is the basis, the faith of the individual is the response for God to forgive a person and declare that person to be righteous (3:24-25).

Concerning an individual reception of righteousness by faith, chapter 4 supplies two illustrated receptions: Abraham and David. Both testified to receiving God's righteousness by faith. They attributed their salvation to God imputing his righteousness unto them. God exchanged their unrighteousness for his righteousness.

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Convention Uniform

Young man's commitment

by Andrew Setliffe, Calvary Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Chronicles 34
Focal passage: 2 Chronicles 34:3,8,14,18-19,24-27,29-33
Central truth: Commitment to God and his way provides the route for a full and meaningful life.

Josiah ascended to the throne at the age of eight.

The great decision of his life came at the age of 16. Surrounded by incredible idolatry, Josiah began to seek after the God of King David. Acting on his own initiative he made a personal commitment of his life to God and his way. This was not a short term commitment; but a total commitment that would be consistent throughout his life.

At the age of 20, Josiah personally set out "to purge Judah and Jerusalem" of all their idolatry and immoralities.

At age 26, Josiah undertook restoration of pure worship of Jehovah—re-establishing national worship centered in Jerusalem. He began the cleaning and repairing of the temple to make it ready for worship of God. Likewise, we must get the spiritual temple of the heart cleansed from sin so as to be fit vessels to worship and serve God.

During the repair of the temple, "Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses." Josiah was terribly troubled upon hearing the reading of the book because he saw the nation guilty of overwhelming transgression of the law of God.

If we were hearing these words for the first time, as Josiah did, we would be more concerned. However, they are not less important and our hearts should be torn due to our failure to keep the Lord's Word.

God's message to Josiah was the nation would receive her punishment for apostasy, but it would be delayed as a result of Josiah's commitment to him (v. 27) until after his death.

Verse 30. The people were well taught; then they were called to duty. All people were instructed—great and small—so they might intelligently covenant with God. Before all the people Josiah made commitment to keep God's commands and urged upon the people their responsibility to do the same. The people responded "and all his days they departed not from following the Lord" (v. 33).

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Life and Work

Contentment vs. greed

by Barry King, Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-12,17-19
Focal passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-11
Central truth: The man of God should choose contentment over greed.

The man of God is commanded to flee pride, envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, and greed. He is commanded to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. In other words, the man of God is to be a model of spiritual maturity. This maturity is especially important in his attitudes toward wealth and material possessions.

The man of God should be content. This contentment is based on the fact that God has supplied his needs in the past, and the faith that God will supply his needs in the future. Food and clothing are specifically identified as essential needs. When these needs have been met, a person can be content. In fact, the rich man of Luke 16 is characterized as rich on the basis of these two things. He had clothes to wear and food to eat (Lk. 16:19).

When the man of God ceases to be content, he gives greed opportunity to take a stranglehold on his life and ministry. Greed never lifts a man up. Greed always pulls man down. Those who are filled with greed fall into temptation and into many foolish and harmful lusts (1 Ti. 6:9). Greed always pulls a man down.

Greed could well be defined as "the love of money" (1 Ti. 6:10). As such, greed is the root of all kinds of evil. Drug and alcohol abuse, gambling, prostitution, theft, racketeering, and other abhorrent evils too numerous to mention. All have greed as their common root. Greed inevitably leads a man away from God.

Consequently, the man of God is to flee greed. He is to run from materialism. He is to forsake the love of money. On the other hand, he is to diligently pursue the spiritual wealth which comes from righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness. The man of God is to choose contentment over greed.

Fallure to choose contentment over greed will spell disaster for the man of God. He will be more susceptible to temptation, more prone to error, and more likely to compromise his convictions. The contented man will likely be the Christ like man.

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Bible Book

Righteousness experienced

by Jack Kwok, ABSC Director of Cooperative Ministries

Basic passage: Romans 5:1-21
Focal passage: Romans 5:1-11
Central truth: Reception of God's righteousness by faith is a completely life-changing experience.

God's atonement in Christ provided righteousness for fallen humanity. When a person receives by faith righteousness in Christ, that person experiences personally the righteousness of God (1). This passage reveals the results of righteousness (1-11) and rehearses the reason for righteousness (11-21).

Peace with God leads the list of the results of God's righteousness (1). This is different than the peace of God. "Peace of God" denotes contentment, calmness, serenity, etc. "Peace with God" expresses the removal of enmity between God and the believer. God's justice and morality no longer condemn the believer. The agent and basis of this peace is the Lord Jesus.

Christ is also the agent for another result: access to God (2). A believer has access to God because his grace enables the believer to stand in the presence of God.

While standing in God's presence, the believer experiences another result of righteousness: hope in God (25). Such hope empowers the believer to rejoice in tribulation because even that will give glory to God. Shame, humiliation, disgrace, or disappointment never issue from this hope.

Alongside of peace, access, and hope stands the love of God (5-11) as a result of righteousness. As with peace, love has an initial and sustained relationship with the believer. God initiated the provision of righteousness because he loved fallen humanity (6-11). Yet, his love did not stop there. After conversion, God pours out his love into the heart (essence) of the believer (5). The Holy Spirit performs this ministry in the life of the believer.

The remainder of the chapter rehearses the reason for these results. They grow out of the atonement (11). The atonement was necessary due to sin. Sin entered into humanity through the first man, Adam. God gave the law to expose sin not to cure it. The only cure for sin was and is the atonement in Christ. Righteousness experienced is to experience life not death thanks to the atonement.

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Affiliates' future uncertain as VISN-ACTS launched

by Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (BP)—On Oct. 1, programs from Southern Baptists' American Christian Television System will be seen for the first time in New York, Chicago, Las Vegas and other "pioneer missions" areas.

But that same day, ACTS may no longer be carried in some Bible Belt communities by affiliates who feel they built the network, only to have it move in a direction they could not follow.

Affiliates in Wichita Falls, Texas, Springdale, Ark., and several other communities apparently no longer will be identified with ACTS after Sept. 30, and many other affiliates are taking a cautious "wait-and-see" attitude.

Beginning in October, the ACTS network will share a common channel with the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network capable of reaching 21 million households. According to the agreement reached in July between ACTS and VISN Group, Inc.,

the two networks will maintain their own identities and separate program times on the shared channel. In alternating time slots, ACTS will broadcast eight hours daily; VISN, 16 hours.

Officials with the SBC Radio and Television Commission praised the channel-sharing deal as both an economic boon and an evangelistic opportunity.

The agreement with VISN allows ACTS during the coming year to avoid a \$3.7 million expenditure that would have come had the network moved to a new satellite from the soon-to-be-outdated one they have been using. Beginning in October, ACTS will transmit via a satellite currently used by VISN and pay no user fee.

Furthermore, the shared channel immediately will make VISN-ACTS the country's second largest religious network, and industry insiders expect VISN-ACTS to seize the No. 1 spot quickly.

However, some local ACTS affiliates claim it sends viewers a "mixed signal" to have Southern Baptist programs on the

same channel as non-evangelical Christian programs, including those produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), which many Southern Baptists consider a cult.

The commission is sensitive to the "emotional parameters" of the VISN-ACTS deal, including the feelings of loyal affiliates who feel they have been placed in difficult circumstances.

But words of comfort have not been solace enough for some. It was church-based affiliates that negotiated with cable companies, built a viewership base and invested heavily in equipment to produce local programming, said Mark Brooks, chairman of the local ACTS board in Springdale, Ark.

"Someone else gave the farm away and I'm left out here doing the best I can," said Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Baptist Church in Springdale. "Our choices are either find a way of providing an alternative source of programming apart from ACTS and VISN or pull out of television altogether."

ACTS currently broadcasts 24 hours a day to about 8.2 million households primarily in the South and Southwest. VISN currently reaches an estimated 12.8 million households through 712 cable systems, mostly in the North and West.

RTVC trustee Gary Underwood is excited about the missionary possibilities of the shared channel, but he also understands the concerns of local affiliates. Underwood is executive vice president of Beech Street Communications in Texarkana, Ark., an ACTS affiliate.

"We may lose some communities. I wish it didn't have to come to this," he said. "But when you look at those we may lose, they are communities where there's already a strong Southern Baptist presence. At the same time, we're picking up places where we don't have very many home missionaries or Southern Baptist churches."

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR PRESCHOOL CHILD CARE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

November 10-11, 1992 • Pine Bluff Convention Center
Child Care provided at South Side Church, Pine Bluff

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Nov. 9-11, 1992. 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 will need to be picked-up during the breaks for meals. Child care will only be provided during the session listed below.

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

Please circle sessions needed:

Monday, Nov. 9	Morning 9:30-11:30	Afternoon 1:30-4:00	Evening 6:30-9:00
Tuesday, Nov. 10	Morning 8:30-11:30	Afternoon 1:30-4:30	Evening 6:15-9:10
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Morning 8:15-11:50		

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WORLD

FMB to aid Somali group with peace initiative

by Donald D. Martin

SBC Foreign Mission Board

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will assist a group of Somali expatriates in its attempt to secure peace between warring factions in Somalia.

The board has agreed to transport five members of the Somali Coalition for Action to Somalia as soon as the group secures written invitations from faction leaders assuring safe passage in and out of the country.

Board administrators hope the trip will take place by mid-October or early November. They also plan to send relief supplies with the coalition delegation, said Jim Houser, FMB associate area director for eastern and southern Africa.

"The idea is to help bring about a ceasefire in the short term and, in the long term, peace so relief goods can be distributed safely to the people," Houser said. "We're involved because we were approached by the group and felt this was at least worth a try."

Since March 1991 the Foreign Mission Board has channeled more than \$115,000 in relief and world hunger funds to workers in Kenya and Yemen aiding Somali refugees. Board officials expect to send more aid in the coming months. The board also has issued special calls to prayer for Somalia and asked several hundred Southern Baptist churches to include the Somali people in their prayer ministries that focus on unreached people groups.

The board also is involved in efforts to help with relief work in Somalia itself, explained Bill Bullington, vice president for mission work in Africa. Soon mission workers in the region will submit new requests for funding relief work, he said.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission also hopes to raise Southern Baptists' awareness of relief needs in Somalia during the denomination's World



Members of the Somali Coalition for Action called for an end to the fighting in Somalia and announced their participation in a SBC Foreign Mission Board-sponsored trip to Somalia. Somali coalition members Ali Mohamed Aden (left) and Mumin Barre said that, because they are Somalis, many leaders of the warring factions will listen to their appeals for peace.

Hunger Day observance Oct. 11.

But the fighting in Somalia must stop before relief groups can effectively distribute food. And the Somali Coalition for Action believes it can play a part in ending the violence.

The year-old group has appealed for peace in Somalia so international relief supplies can reach the thousands of Somalis who are dying from lack of food, medicine and water, explained Ali Mohamed Aden, the coalition's chairman and main spokesman.

Between 2,000 and 5,000 people die each day in Somalia because of drought and civil war, relief groups report. They estimate 25 percent of children under 5 years old have died in Somalia in the past 12 months.

Somalia's plunge into anarchy began in January 1991 when a loosely unified opposition force ousted President Mohamed Siad Barre, ending 21 years of brutal dictatorial rule.

Coalition members believe many of the faction leaders will trust them and listen to their appeals for peace. The coalition is made up of Somalis from various clans who claim they have no political agenda other than finding an end to the killing.

"We are Somalis, and this is a Somali tragedy, and I believe Somalis can solve this," Aden said.