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### October 20, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 21

October 20, 1994



Vote **AGAINST** the  
Casino & Lottery Gambling  
Amendments  
on November 8th.

Larry Page (right), executive director of the Christian Civic Action Committee, and Hot Springs pastor Barry King, CCAC steering committee chairman, unveiled the committee's "No Dice!" media campaign during an Oct. 6 press conference in the state capitol rotunda. Eight days later, the Arkansas Supreme Court struck one of the committee's two targeted gambling amendments from the Nov. 8 ballot. See page 3 for details about the victory and focus on the remaining proposal.

# Southern Baptist foreign missionaries re-enter Rwanda

By Craig Bird

SBC Foreign Mission Board

KIGALI, RWANDA (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries have re-established a physical presence in Rwanda — more than five months after evacuating the African country in April when it plunged into ethnic bloodshed.

"We're just trying to pick up the pieces like the rest of the country," said Foreign Mission Board missionary Larry Randolph, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Rwanda.

"We're trying to get in contact with Baptist leaders, see what happened to our property and see what we can do to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the Rwandans."

At least three Baptist pastors were among the hundreds of thousands of Rwandans killed, Randolph confirmed. He also has been told that four or five evangelists who worked for the Baptist Union of Rwanda are dead.

Only six of 35 ordained Rwandan Baptist pastors have been located, "though we assume, and hope, that most of them are scattered in refugee camps," he said.

Almost all other surviving Baptist leaders also remain out of the country, and likely will for some time. So missionaries have many added tasks as they resume work.

The fate of properties has provided some good news. Most Baptist-owned buildings are pockmarked with bullets, but "at least 90 percent of the buildings in Kigali are structurally sound — and that includes our churches, offices and homes," Randolph said.

He has visited six churches and found

all of them in good shape. The compound where the Randolphs live includes a mission guest house and offices.

The home of missionaries David and Janet Hooten sustained the most damage. The entire roof and a chain-link fence were hauled away.

"Either the looters had a lot of time or there were a lot of them — or both," Randolph said.

Randolph and his wife, Diane, began staying in Kigali for short periods of time in late August. They returned the first week of October. Missionary Katrina Knox, who has been working at the Baptist camp for Rwandan refugee children in Goma, Zaire, plans to return to her home and work in Butare this month. The Hootens, now working in Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania, will move back "as soon as we can find them a house," according to Randolph.

Missionaries Stan and Marlene Lee have agreed to work in Goma for six more months.

The other FMB missionaries who evacuated Rwanda include Martha Colwell, who is in the United States on furlough, and Vernon and Sandi Sivage, who have transferred to Uganda.

"A lot of people we knew are dead and a lot we can't find, but we're thrilled just to be back home," Randolph said. "We had water when we went back and the electricity, and postal service was supposed to resume a couple of weeks ago....There's food in the markets and traders are beginning to import items.

"It will be a tough place to live and work emotionally — but it's where we want to live and work."

## Cover Story



### Campaign revealed 3

Larry Page (right) executive director of the Christian Civic Action Committee, fields reporters' questions concerning the group's media campaign against lottery and casino gambling amendments on the state's Nov. 8 ballot. Page and Hot Springs Pastor Barry King unveiled the CCAC's campaign plan Oct. 6 in the state capitol rotunda.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# There's still one 'alive and kicking'

## Court strikes two gambling amendments; opponents focus on third

A week after opponents unveiled their media campaign against two casino and lottery gambling amendments, one of the amendments was struck from the state's Nov. 8 ballot by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Proposed Amendment 4, which would have legalized a state lottery and casino gambling at two Arkansas racetracks, was struck down by the Supreme Court Oct. 14 because the court's majority (a 4-3 decision) found the ballot titles, or descriptions, to be "misleading."

Amendments proposing the legalization of charitable bingo and changing workman's compensation laws also were struck by the court.

Baptist leaders were elated at the news. "We are grateful that this has been done," said Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "We are pleased that the court did this...that we had the right information to ask for it to be deleted and had good grounds. The supreme court validated that."

Larry Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Action Committee, told KARN News Oct. 14 that "We are pleased and we feel vindicated, particularly in respect to Amendment 4. We had said all along that the amendment was misleading, that the average voter would not know he was being asked to grant a monopoly on casino gambling to out-of-state racetrack owners. We feel the Supreme Court agreed with us on that."

The CCAC is a coalition of churches, predominantly Southern Baptist, formed to fight gambling and promote moral concerns in the state.

Page said that the group would continue its pursuit for the defeat of the remaining Amendment 5, which calls for a casino in West Memphis. A Supreme Court decision on the amendment was expected the week of Oct. 17-21.

"We're going to continue campaigning, even though we are ahead in the polls," Page said. "We're going to campaign as though we are behind 20 points and work as hard as we can until we get an answer from either the court or the voters Nov. 8."

### Media campaign unveiled

The news that Amendment 4 had been struck came only eight days after the CCAC announced its intention to launch a media campaign against the gambling amendments during an Oct. 6 press conference in the Arkansas State Capitol rotunda.

The conference highlighted the group's strategy for a comprehensive television,

radio and print media campaign to defeat proposed Amendments 4 and 5.

Page told reporters that the "intent" of the campaign "is to help frame the issue for voters. We want Arkansans to understand that they are being asked to grant a monopoly on casino gambling to out-of-state gambling interests."

Arkansans voters "are entitled to know that casino and lottery gambling have adverse effects on the economy," he added, "and social problems dramatically increase where these forms of gambling exist."

Page described gambling promoters as "snake oil salesmen" who "ride into town with their wonderful elixir that will cure everything from warts to brain tumors."

"In past times, tar and feathers and a rail were used to control these kinds of scams... (but) overwhelming vote totals against the lottery and casino gambling monopoly amendments on Nov. 8 will do quite well."

During the conference, Page and campaign steering committee chairman Barry King presented television, radio and print advertisements prepared for the campaign. The television ads previewed at the conference highlighted the social and economic losses often attributed to gambling while emphasizing that the only "winners" would be out-of-state owners. Press representatives also previewed sample paid and public service radio ads for secular and religious markets and print ads for all markets.

Although ads for all three types of media have been produced, the CCAC had purchased only \$40,000 worth of television advertising in the Little Rock market by Oct. 6. Tapes also are being distributed to nine Christian television stations in Arkansas as public service announcements.

King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, said the current purchases will provide "about two weeks of advertising immediately prior to the election."

He said gambling opponents are "at a distinct disadvantage" since gambling supporters "have millions and millions to spend and we celebrate a victory of being able to spend \$40,000."

"I think it is obvious to everyone," said Page, "that we do not have even a fraction

of the resources that the proponents of amendments 4 and 5 have with which to wage our media campaign."

Page added, however, that gambling opponents have a number of advantages that will "level the playing field" in their battle. He said specific advantages are that the gambling opponents "are the Arkansans in this fight" and that they "have an extensive grassroots organization throughout the state."

King noted that the CCAC is paying for advertising only from available funds. "The committee doesn't do deficit spending. We're not spending money in hopes that some will come in. Everything we spent we had when we spent it."

Acknowledging that he had hoped for more funds, King said, "About 300 Southern Baptist churches have contributed. That is good, but that is out of 1,300 churches, so it means we have about 1,000 who haven't contributed. That's discouraging."

King said the committee is continuing to seek a \$2 per member donation from Arkansas Baptist churches to help in the campaign. "We're looking at the fact that we have an opportunity to defeat something and if we will just pool our resources we can do so. If we have over 500,000 Arkansas Baptists, \$2 for each of those would be over \$1 million."

He said the group's fund-raising effort "seems to be picking up. People are beginning to realize what's at stake, so the rate of giving has accelerated significantly over the last couple of weeks."

King said the CCAC will need contributions until Nov. 8. "One of the big things we will need money for is just the last 48 to 72 hours for response ads on the radio. A lot of times they will put out a television commercial in the last two or three days that we will need to respond to specifically. Our only medium to do that will be radio response ads."

Page said he also is relying on "grassroots organizations" away from central Arkansas to purchase advertising.

CCAC campaign coordinator Robert Arledge said that the group is "continuing to go forward with the campaign and...fight this until we hear a ruling on Amendment 5. There's still one alive and kicking out there and everyone needs to be aware of that until it is taken off the ballot."

Churches and individuals interested in contributing to the anti-gambling effort or obtaining additional information may contact the Christian Civic Action Committee at P.O. Box 193256, Little Rock, AR 72219-3256; phone 562-1304.



## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABSC Executive Director

There are so many good things you need to know I hardly know where to begin. Then, there are things you will not be glad to know that you need to know. Let's start with the good.

We had a fantastic Sunday School Convention with near record attendance. Our Sunday School director and his staff, along with the hospitality of Geyer Springs First Church made it a great experience.

It appears Baptist students are responding in record numbers to Bible study and worship programs being provided. Tremendous miracles of salvation are taking place. Volunteers are opening BSU work in community technical schools.

Thrilling stories continue with construction teams and new church starts. A new black Southern Baptist church in North Little Rock is seeing so many young men saved that a crack house has closed and gangs are being affected.

Our partnerships with the European Baptist Convention and the Iowa Fellowship are producing wonderful results. Many, many thanks to the hundreds of laypeople who go and serve so unselfishly.

Now, some not-so-good news. What can I say about the gambling amendment opposition? Every landlord, employer and taxpayer is going to be negatively impacted by gambling proposals coming before voters in November. Unpaid debts, bankruptcy, broken homes, neglected children and lost jobs go with expanded gambling. Increased crime, welfare claims, law enforcement costs and family destruction come with gambling. And yet, it seems that some pastors, deacons and community leaders have trouble making up their minds about where they stand.

My conclusion is based on the failure of the vast majority of our churches to do anything to help with the cause. The request of the Christian Civic Action Committee was for each church to give \$2 per member to this cause. The last count indicated only 15 percent of our churches had made contributions. Every Christian and every business person should work vigorously to defeat these evil measures.

RONNIE ROGERS

## The President's Corner

### Voting: your responsibility



To address political issues or Christian voting is not partisan. It's not playing politics. It is Christian stewardship. We are to speak the truth in love even in the political realm. Preachers must teach biblical truths and principles which relate to politics, just as they would in any other area of life. Our call is to make disciples, which includes helping them to think and act Christian in every area of life, even politics.

To say preachers should not speak about moral issues because they also are political has no biblical support. John the Baptist did not refrain from confronting Herod about his adultery just because he was a political figure. To "speak the truth in love" is not being political but faithful in teaching how to model Christ even in the voting booth.

Why should politics and politicians be exempt from the evaluation of Scripture? Where is it in Scripture that Christianity is supposed to affect our marriage, money, morals, job, ad infinitum, and not our politics or voting? It is nothing new that people don't want preachers to speak about certain areas. If we only dealt with areas people

wanted us to, we would just marry and bury — and of course everyone would be preached into Heaven.

I would like to suggest some non-partisan guidelines for voting consistent with scripture.

■ *Vote pro-life:* No matter what they promise to get your vote, if they are not protectors of innocent life, they are not worthy of Christian support.

■ *Prioritize character:* What a person is means more to God than what he says.

■ *Vote conviction, not convenience:* We must raise the issue of morality above personal gain.

■ *Be an informed voter:* Don't depend on their commercials, but check their voting records. Several organizations publish this information.

■ *Vote principles, not parties or personalities:* There are good and bad Democrats, Republicans and Independents. It is our responsibility to support persons who exemplify and support biblical morality.

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

## Personal perspectives

"It seems that some pastors, deacons and community leaders have trouble making up their minds about where they stand."

— Don Moore, ABSC executive director,  
on low giving by Arkansas churches in funding anti-gambling efforts

"Our heritage is not five years old, not 90 years old, but 2,000 years old, when Jesus became our Cornerstone."

— Lanny Loe, pastor of Cornerstone Church, Texarkana

"I have a strong conviction that any people has to be informed by its own history to be effective and to maintain perspective."

— Jesse Fleicher, author,  
The Southern Baptist Convention, a Sesquicentennial History

# Rich diversity highlights Baptist worship

Worship is central to the ministry of Southern Baptists' 38,700 local congregations. When Baptists talk about "going to church," they generally are referring to gathering for corporate worship.

Amid its prominent role in Baptist life, diverse methods and styles of Baptist worship abound. "Typical" Baptist worship services vary from rural congregations with a simple format of singing, praying and preaching to suburban megachurches that highlights praise choruses and "seeker" services. Worship settings run the gamut from tiny one-room church houses perched on the end of dirt roads to plush, state-of-the-art worship centers in prime locations near bustling freeways.

From the earliest days of Southern Baptist life, the worship service has been a focal point of church activity. Even in the early 19th century, years before the birth of the Southern Baptist Convention, impromptu worship services across the nation's sprawling frontier helped shape the future of the denomination.

Describing such a service in *Frontiers: The Story of Missouri Baptists*, Gordon Kingsley recounted that an itinerant Baptist preacher arriving in a backwoods settlement or clearing "would pull his worn Bible from his saddlebags and, thus armed with the badge and sword of his trade, would preach to the family—and to neighbors if any existed—in the house, under the trees, wherever he could be heard."

Southern Baptist historian H. Leon McBeth wrote in *The Baptist Heritage* that early Southern Baptist worship "was marked by diversity, spontaneity and a spirit of warm and informal fervency."

E.C. Dargan, a professor of ecclesiology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at the turn of the century, emphasized that "worship provides the power to nurture the true spiritual life of the church." The 1994 Broadman & Holman book, *Has Our Theology Changed? Southern Baptist Thought Since 1845*, notes that Dargan identified five primary elements of corporate worship: prayer, praise, Scripture reading, preaching or teaching, and the giving of tithes and offerings.

Continuing to utilize those same basic elements today, many Baptist congregations in this century have consciously sought to move beyond total spontaneity to some level of worship planning. On the denominational level, "the convention has made numerous efforts in the 20th century to provide churches with adequate materials to guide and upgrade their worship," McBeth pointed out. He said

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



messengers to the 1925 SBC annual meeting adopted a resolution "deploring the prevailing low standards of worship" and set in motion efforts to strengthen the musical components of worship.

The increased emphasis on music in recent decades has prompted even greater diversity in Baptist worship. Praise choruses, youth musicals and elaborate dramatic pageants have become an integral part of many churches' ongoing worship emphasis.

***"Worship is an end in itself... We worship God purely for the sake of worshipping God."***

— Franklin Segler, author  
*Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*

One prominent Southern Baptist document that says surprisingly little about worship is the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement. It does affirm that the Holy Spirit "enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism and service" and that the Lord's Day "should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private." The absence of any details about specific elements of worship beyond the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper may provide a silent testimony to the primacy of local church autonomy in planning and conducting worship.

Primary concerns for many worship leaders in recent years have moved from the mechanics to the purpose of worship. According to Franklin Segler in his 1967 Broadman book, *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*, "Worship is an end in itself; it is not a means to something else.... We worship God purely for the sake of worshipping God."

Former convention president Ed Young told SBC Executive Committee members in a report earlier this year that Southern Baptists' "greatest need is worship. When we are a part of a church that worships," he emphasized, "there will be evangelism and there will be discipleship."

Ken Hemphill, former director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth and now president of Southwestern Theological Seminary, describes "authentic worship" as "human response to the revelation of God." Declaring that "worship has a single focus, and that single focus is to adore God and Him alone," Hemphill continued, "True worship is balanced, involving mind, emotion and will. It incorporates attitudes such as reverence and awe and respect, and actions such as bowing and praising and serving and giving."

How are such principles applied on a practical level in Southern Baptist worship services today? According to Rob Hewell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church music ministries department, effective worship requires a balance of preparation, expectancy, spontaneity and authenticity.

Highlighting the need for individuals "to worship God naturally and freely in spirit and in truth," Hewell said authentic worship "is what the people of God come to do, not what the people of God come to watch."

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., said worship services there are designed to "help people encounter God." As pastor of the state's largest Southern Baptist congregation, Floyd said he and other members of the church's worship team "spend a lot of time not worrying so much about the 'how' of worship as seeking to help individuals encounter Christ. That's our real thrust."

What is the ultimate impact of the diverse expressions of worship in Southern Baptist congregations? According to the 1958 *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*, most Baptist worship services are specifically designed "to meet such spiritual needs of the worshippers as forgiveness, assurance, conviction and dedication," adding that "genuine Christian worship results in purity of heart, strength of conviction, power for living and zeal for service."

As Hewell succinctly explained, "Before we have a passion for the things of God, we must have a deep passion for the Person of God.... Worship is as much a lifestyle as it is an event."

# Church's merger, ministry overcome stormy heritage

By Russell N. Dilday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The history of Cornerstone Church in Texarkana includes a stormy heritage — but with a happy ending. Like two people who have been reunited after a long separation, two split churches reunited five years ago for a common, effective ministry.

The split came almost 50 years ago, when a dispute within College Hill Church ended in the formation of Calvary and Immanuel churches.

According to Lanny Loc, pastor of Cornerstone, the church split led to long-term decline. "After the churches split and during the '50s both were running 500 or more in Sunday School," he said. "In the '60s, one was large while the other declined. In the late '60s both were in decline and when we merged, one was running about 100 in Sunday School and the other was running 70."

In 1989 Loc, then pastor of Calvary Church, and Immanuel pastor W.V. Garner, began evaluating the separate ministries of the churches.

"We did some PACT studies and determined that neither church was doing what they were called of God to do," Loc recalled. "We were also running out of human resources, as people in each church were doing three or four jobs each."

PACT is an acronym for Project Assistance for Church in Transition, a Home Mission Board-sponsored program. It involves churches working with a growth consultant to evaluate a congregation and its community to determine needs and resources. The consultant then helps the church develop a plan of evangelism and ministry for the church.

As a result of the PACT study, the two churches decided to reunite nearly 50 years after their split.

Paul Caver served as chairman of the Immanuel merger committee. He remembered the transition "took a lot of hard work and a lot of people."

"Lanny and Brother Garner initially started it and it got in among the community," Caver said. "They began talking and praying about it. (The members) saw it was the Lord's will and it jelled. We had been one church before and wanted to be one again."

"Although this was what God wanted

us to do," Loc added, "it wasn't a quick process. It took months to make the decision."

Although the process involved "a lot of work," the actual decision to merge was "no trouble at all," Caver said. "There were some that didn't want to merge, but only three or four out of both congregations....If it is God's will, it falls into place."

Cornerstone constituted as a new congregation in October of 1989, with Loc and Garner both serving as pastors. Garner now serves the church as pastor emeritus. Following the merger and constitution, the church has established a strong record of ministry and lay involvement in the past five years.

"We've just done things we never would have done before," Caver affirmed.

*"This five-year marker is a place for us to begin and we're making a new beginning every day....If it is God's will, it falls into place."*

— Paul Caver, member  
Cornerstone Church, Texarkana

Since 1989, the congregation has been involved in mission trips in Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyo.; Arizona; and Moberidge, S.D. More than 50 members have worked in Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools and in construction projects. They also sponsor Pablo Baptist Church, a new work among the Salish and Kootenia tribes on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Pablo, Mont.

Loc, a former home missionary to the Ute Indians in Utah, said involvement of laypeople is crucial to a church's mission outreach. "If we are going to carry out the Great Commission, they (laypeople) have to do it. In our Sunday worship, we use 20 to 25 people. The church is theirs, not the preacher's."

"We've been involved deeply in

missions at the Flathead reservations in Montana and in Arizona and South Dakota," Caver said. "The mission work alone has been well worth the merger. I don't think we ever would have done it separately."

The church's ministry involvement has not been limited to out-of-state projects. In Texarkana, Cornerstone has established an after school ministry for latch-key children, a ministry to truckers along Interstate 30, and the Cup of Water ministry, aiding neighborhood families with food.

The church ministers in what Loc calls "a post-transitional community. We have gone through the transition of white to predominantly black; from low to low-middle socioeconomic status.

"We have a stigma as a crime-ridden community," he continued. "We are not, but have that stigma. There are gangs and robberies are not uncommon anymore. But we made a decision that this is where we want to minister."

Part of the church's efforts to minister in its community have centered on involving blacks. "Blacks were being saved and baptized," Loc said, "but they never became a functional part of the church. Although we wanted to integrate, we couldn't."

The result was the establishment of a black mission, Grace Community Church. "We bought land in the worst part of the neighborhood for Grace Community Church," said Loc. After a two-year search, the church called Frank Byers Sr. as the mission church pastor and staff member of Cornerstone.

"Evangelism is the target at Grace Church," Loc said. "We are actively involved in feeding, in clothing, but the heart of Pastor Byers is that it will never supersede telling people about Jesus."

On Oct. 2 Cornerstone celebrated its fifth anniversary as a congregation. Loc explained that the church removed the pulpit for the commemorative service and replaced it with a stone altar. "We built it out of stones from Wyoming, Montana, Gorieta (N.M.), Arizona; from stones from the property that was Immanuel and from the Dudley Avenue Church (the original College Hill Church name).

"The most important stones were from the Holy Land," said Loc. "That is our heritage. Our heritage is not five years old, not 90 years old, but 2,000 years old, when Jesus became our Cornerstone."

"It makes you feel good in the Lord," Caver said of the anniversary. "This five-year marker is a place for us to begin and we're making new beginnings every day."

## Baptist effort helps keep alcohol petition off ballot

Promoters of a petition drive to allow alcohol sales in Cleburne County stores were unable to collect enough signatures to be included on the November 8 ballot. The petition drive failed partly because of a small, "quiet" effort by Baptists.

According to the Sept. 14 issue of the *Cleburne County Sun-Times*, petition organizers turned in 106 petitions with 1,594 signatures. Organizers needed 4,612 signatures, or 38 percent of registered voters, to place the issue on the ballot.

Jim Glover, pastor of South Side Church in Heber Springs, said the drive failed because of a "different approach" used by opponents.

Proponents "almost got it on the ballot two years ago," Glover said. "Since then, we have had a quiet, educational effort, telling others that everything they were saying was misleading."

Glover said resistance to the petition campaign was not formally organized. It was just a loose network.

"This is something the people of Cleburne County should be commended on," Glover affirmed. "I think the people have said clearly by refusing to sign the petition that they oppose Cleburne County being wet."

"We have too much alcohol here already," he remarked. "We don't need more. We need less."

Opponents of the petition were successful despite projected revenue increases from alcohol sales.

Glover called information put out by the petition organizers "misleading" and "full of half-truths. Once the people were fully informed as to what these petitions were for, they did not sign them," he remarked.

Heber Springs attorney Hoyt Thomas, a member of First United Methodist Church there, said the defeat "reflects how people of this county really feel about this issue. I think the main thing people are concerned about is the quality of life here."

Despite this year's defeat, petition organizer Annette Rice said in a letter to the *Sun-Times* that she will again organize a petition drive to place the issue on the ballot in 1996.

"We'll meet her challenge and hopefully we will be even more successful," Glover said. "If they're back, we'll be back."



Dan Grant (center), president of the Cooperative Services International Educational Consortium and president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University, John Lewis Myers (left), Foreign Mission Board vice president for "World A" strategies, and Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, in signing a cooperative agreement to strengthen international education exchange programs in "World A" countries.

## Baptist colleges and agencies strengthen 'World A' efforts

WILLIAMSBURG, KY (BP)—A consortium of 43 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities, including Ouachita Baptist University, has approved a cooperative agreement with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Education Commission designed to strengthen and expand international education exchange programs.

The coalition of schools, known as Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC), has worked with the Foreign Mission Board's Cooperative Services International program since 1987 to coordinate exchange of professors and students and to establish satellite higher education programs predominantly in "World A" countries where missionaries are not allowed or are restricted.

CSIEC currently is involved in about 300 projects with educational institutions in 80 countries, including China and the former Soviet republics.

Under the new agreement ratified by CSIEC member schools Sept. 23, the two SBC agencies will each contribute about \$30,000 per year to help fund an administrator and a clerical person for CSIEC who will operate out of Education Commission offices in Nashville, Tenn. The Foreign

Mission Board and Education Commission also will help establish and maintain an international computer data bank designed to match up member schools with overseas opportunities.

Other contributions by the two SBC agencies will include the continuation of start-up grants in the amount of \$5,000-\$10,000, funded by the SBC Foreign Mission Board to help two or three schools each year establish new exchange programs, and the use of Education Commission office equipment and staff support in the areas of communications, training, data base management and coordination.

Dan Grant, president of CSIEC and president emeritus of Ouachita, who has served as volunteer director of CSIEC for several years, said, "This agreement between three Southern Baptist entities is the next logical step in meeting the growing number of urgent requests from the Foreign Mission Board and from educational institutions throughout the world."

In other action, the CSIEC board elected Bill Williams, president of Grand Canyon University in Arizona, as chairman and Ben Elrod, president of Ouachita, as vice chairman.



# Arkansas Baptists nominated for service

## Executive Board

### Terms to expire in 1997

Arkansas Valley.....	James Tucker, West Helena
Big Creek.....	Tommy Garner, Glencoe
Calvary.....	G.A. Dover, Bald Knob
Carey.....	James Morgan, Camden
Central.....	Lacy Landers, Benton
Central.....	Dick Finley, Hot Springs
Clear Creek.....	Larry Horne, Van Buren
Concord.....	Robert Kraus, Lavaca
Conway-Perry.....	Bill Brown, Morrilton
Harmony.....	Charles R. Bonner, Pine Bluff
Harmony.....	J.R. Debusk, Pine Bluff
Independence.....	Jackie Fendley, Mountain View
Liberty.....	Lowell Snow, Junction City
Little Red River.....	Alfred Kay Mansell, Heber Springs
Mississippi.....	Marvin Reynolds, Blytheville
Mount Zion.....	Bruce Raley, Jonesboro
Mount Zion.....	Mike McDaniel, Lake City
North Arkansas.....	Robert Foster, Berryville
North Pulaski.....	Scott Hinton, Sherwood
Northwest.....	Ben J. Rowell, Rogers

Pulaski.....	Eddie Simpson, Sheridan
Pulaski.....	Bill Hilburn, Little Rock
Red River.....	Tom Calhoun, Arkadelphia
Red River.....	James Guthrie, Gurdon
Rocky Bayou.....	Doyle Robertson, Melbourne
Southwest.....	Roland Loc, Texarkana
Tri County.....	Eugene Ray, Wynne
Trinity.....	Don Neal, Harrisburg
Washington-Madison.....	Cliff Jenkins, Springdale
White River.....	Steve Martin, Flippin
District 2.....	Helen Parman, Batesville
District 3.....	Eleanor Sykes, Jonesboro
District 4.....	Joy Miller, Russellville

### Terms to expire in 1995:

Central.....	Charles E. McAlister, Hot Springs
Caddo River.....	Joe Bagwell, Mount Ida
Tri-County.....	Wayne Jones, Forrest City

### Terms to expire in 1996:

Little River.....	J. Fulton Amonette, Horatio
Liberty.....	To be named later

## Children's Homes and Family Ministries

### Terms to expire in 1997:

Larry Thomas, Kibler
Robert Hettinga, Dardanelle
Travis Stephenson, Monticello
George Wadley, Searcy
Bob Shepherd, El Dorado
Bob Lever, Fort Smith

## Arkansas Baptist Foundation

### Terms to expire in 1997:

Daniel R. Grant, Arkadelphia
Allen Thrasher, Fayetteville
James Barber, Lake City
James Lanier, Russellville
Barry Crow, Pine Bluff

## Historical Commission

### Terms to expire in 1997:

District 2, Alfred K. Mansell, Heber Springs
District 3, Kenneth Startup, Walnut Ridge
District 8, Jack Bledsoe, Fordyce

## Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

### Terms to expire in 1995:

Member-at-large, Robin Cook, Waldo
Member-at-large, Karl Cunningham, Mena
<b>Terms to expire in 1996:</b>
Member-at-large, Eddie McCord, Mount Ida
Member-at-large, Lyndon Finney, Little Rock

### Terms to expire in 1997:

District 5, Greg Kirksey, Benton
District 7, James Preston, Stamps
District 3, Curt Hodges, Jonesboro
Member-at-large, Mike Petty, Hot Springs
Member-at-large, Ken Shaddox, Camden

## Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis

### Terms to expire in 1997:

Tommy Cunningham, West Memphis
James B. Sharp, Brinkley
Marlyn Simmons, Little Rock

## Baptist Student Union

### Terms to expire in 1997:

District 1, To be named later
District 3, Bruce Raley, Jonesboro
District 4, Tom McCone, Booneville
District 6, To be named later
District 8, Stuart Bell, Pine Bluff
Member-at-large, James Griffin, Hope
<b>Term to expire in 1996:</b>
Bennie Foster, Heber Springs
<b>Term to expire in 1995:</b>
District 6, David McCord, Hazen

## Ouachita Baptist University

### Terms to expire in 1997:

Mike Carroll, Fort Smith
Diane Williamson, El Dorado
Wesley Kluck, Arkadelphia
John Ward, North Little Rock
Augusta Boatright, Alma
Mike Huckabee, Texarkana
H.E. "Pete" Raines, Stuttgart
John Miller, Melbourne
<b>Term to expire in 1995:</b>
Paul Sanders, Little Rock

## Williams Baptist College

### Terms to expire in 1997:

Donnie Joe Holden, Springdale
Harold Senter, Keiser
David Blase, Nashville
Speedy Shoemaker, Osceola

George Schroeder, Little Rock
Norman Lewis, Hoxie
Frank Waggener, West Memphis
Hugh Quimby, Warren
<b>Term to expire in 1995:</b>
Bob Fielding, Cherokee Village
<b>Terms to expire in 1996:</b>
Harry Trulove, Little Rock
Tom Williams, DeWitt

## State Joint Committee Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists

Dillard Miller, Mena
John Finn, Parkin
Don Moore, Little Rock
Kerry Powell, McGehee

## Charter/Bylaws Committee

### Terms to expire in 1997:

John Holston, North Little Rock
Phillip Smith, Pochontas

## Convention Program Committee

<b>Term to expire in 1997:</b>
Steve Tucker, Bentonville

## 1999 Convention

Date: November 9-10, 1999
Place: First Baptist Church, Springdale

## 1995 Convention Preacher

Preacher: David Crouch, First Baptist Church, Searcy
Alternate: Stephen Davis, First Baptist Church, Russellville

# Church shows disabled pastor depths of love

By Russell N. Dikday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Larry Duke knows the depths of love of a congregation for its pastor — a love that continues even though he is no longer in the pulpit.

Duke, bivocational pastor of Anchor Church in Brown Springs, had a lot to be thankful for early on the morning of April 23, 1993. Under his leadership, the church had begun both a Church Growth Breakthrough Sunday School survey and Experiencing God sessions.

"There was a sense of renewal and revival," Duke said of the small, country church, located a few miles northeast of Arkadelphia. "There was something exciting going on."

He also was thankful for a close-knit congregation which recognized and appreciated his ministry there. Member John Abernathy described him as "not only a pastor, but a dear, close, personal friend. All he needs to do is say so, and we will do it."

Duke, a father of three, split his pastoral duties with another job as a deliveryman for Clem Wholesale Grocery in Malvern. It was with a sense of expectation that he turned his 1984 Mazda compact truck onto Highway 9 near Malvern, on his way to his delivery route.

His life and ministry changed instantly when his vehicle collided head-on with a full-size truck.

Duke was cut out of the wreckage and taken by ambulance to Pine Bluff for treatment. Doctors discovered a list of injuries that read like a novel.

"I ruptured my spleen, damaged my gall bladder and pancreas, tore a hole in my diaphragm, broke my hip and thigh and a leg and knee," Duke recounted. "It was purely by the grace of God and the prayers of the saints that I lived."

He did live and his injuries were the beginning of a 14-week ordeal in which Duke received 30 pints of blood and endured six abdominal surgeries.

During that time church members mobilized to pray for and support Duke and his family. "From the time I got to the waiting room, the phone was ringing off the wall," Mrs. Duke said. "The whole church community joined together in a network of people."

During his recovery, Duke continued to minister to his congregation. Abernathy's wife, Patsy, noted that her husband had been diagnosed with cancer. "Brother Duke came up in a wheelchair and cared for us, even in the shape he was in," she shared. "We'll never forget that



Larry Duke (center) visits with Patsy and John Abernathy, members of Anchor Church, Brown Springs. The church continues to support Duke, who was disabled in a near-fatal traffic accident last year and is on medical leave of absence.

and the love God showed through him during that time of pain."

The pastor who had focused his ministry on the people of Brown Springs soon became the focus of their ministry. "We had church services in the room," Mrs. Abernathy said. "It got so crowded they let us have the Sunday evening service in a waiting room."

She said church members also mobilized to continue financially supporting the family. "The church met immediately and agreed to keep paying his salary and insurance," Mrs. Duke said. Money also came in small amounts through special gifts.

Help came from other areas as well. Red River Association director of missions Maurice Hitt completed the congregation's study of *Experiencing God* and others volunteered to fill the pulpit each Sunday.

Following the surgeries, Duke checked into Central Arkansas Rehabilitation Hospital in Jacksonville, making good progress. "I went into rehabilitation in a wheelchair and came out on a walker. The people and the services were there and I couldn't have asked for better."

He said his cane will be a permanent fixture in his life "and I will have more surgery, but I went in not expected to live and came out alive. In fact, I'm the poster boy for the rehabilitation hospital," he said with a grin, referring to a television commercial for the hospital in which he "starred."

With his progress going well, Duke resumed his duties at the church just three months after the accident. "I came back to the pulpit July 29," Duke said. "It was too

soon. It lasted 10 months. I finally collapsed while I was in the pulpit — mentally, physically and emotionally."

The church continued to support Duke. "The church granted me a medical leave of absence and continued to pay my Annuity Board insurance." He added that the church plans to continue providing his insurance.

That support has allowed him time to ponder his future. "The last six months of my life have been tough," he acknowledged. "I have had to reevaluate my life. Although the dreams and plans I had are gone as such, God still has a plan for me. I am still alive."

He said he has applied for Social Security benefits and will preach revivals without pay. "I already have a spring revival scheduled," he said.

Although he cannot actively serve as Anchor Church's pastor, the members say his ministry there continues.

Interim pastor Paul Bass, director of student activities at Ouachita Baptist University, agreed. "When the church called me as interim, I was excited that Brother Larry had some goals set for the church. Larry's ministry is still continuing although he is not pastoring."

Noting that the congregation is "halfway finished with a community survey," Duke added, "There is a sense of accomplishment. This is a congregation of the strongest, most spiritually attuned individuals. I think they have shown that amply with me."

Reflecting on the accident's impact on his life, Duke declared, "God didn't want me dead, but the devil did. God didn't let him stop me, though."

## Mission pilot gains medal of honor for daring rescue

By Jan Johnsonius  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BRASILEIA, BRAZIL (BP)—Missionary pilot Warren Rose had never put his life at risk by landing at night on an unlighted, dirt runway. But for the 25 burn victims stranded near the Brazilian jungle town of Brasileia, he was their only hope for survival.

Minutes earlier, Rose had signed a document releasing the Brazilian government from responsibility in the event of a crash. Now his thoughts focused on avoiding the unlighted antennas and towers that surrounded the landing strip.

As he broke through the low-lying clouds and dense smoke, he was met by an amazing sight: The townspeople had lined up their cars, with the headlights illuminating the airstrip. The rest of the jungle remained in darkness.

"The way the Lord worked is amazing," said Rose, a Southern Baptist foreign missionary. "Half the city's lights went out, and it was exactly the half where the airport was located. Instead of hurting, it actually helped. Instead of having other lights around to confuse you, all you had was the lights of the cars on the runway."

Such night flights normally are illegal in the Brazilian state of Acre, but the emergency outweighed the risks.

Earlier that day, a flatbed truck was traveling the jungle road between the towns of Brasileia and Asis. On the back sat about 30 people — and a container of diesel oil.

As is common in Brazilian jungle areas, brush fires had been set to clear land. High winds blew the smoke across the road, forcing the truck driver to stop. He didn't realize how fast the brush fire was moving, and it overtook the vehicle. The diesel oil exploded, burning 25 of the 30 passengers.

Three people died at the scene. The others were transported to a small clinic in Brasileia, but the clinic had no supplies or anesthesia.

Meanwhile, Rose had just landed his single-engine Piper aircraft in Rio Branco, the capital of Acre. He was fresh off another emergency flight to transport two heart attack victims from Asis.

"A Rio Branco doctor met me at the airport and said they needed help to rescue the burn victims, and I had one of only two planes equipped for night flight," said Rose.

So Rose took off on a flight which



*Southern Baptist foreign missionaries Warren and Kathy Rose utilize his flying skills to minister in remote areas of Brazil. Rose recently was honored for using his plane to rescue burn victims in a series of daring night flights.*

would earn him the state's highest award for valor and gain new respect for Baptist work in Brazil.

When he made his first landing at the dark Brasileia runway, thousands of people lined the airfield.

"The city of Brasileia only has about 20,000 inhabitants, but I think half of them were there that night," he said. "A couple of patients were in the only ambulance, and the rest were in a flatbed truck with IV fluids going. Army officials and local police were trying to control the crowd."

The missionary had removed the seats from his plane, and three patients on pallets were loaded aboard.

"They were all in terrible shape," he said. "There was one man, 63 years old. All his fingers were gone from one hand — terrible third-degree burns, skin gone, bones showing. The smell was hideous. A girl, 16, was burned everywhere but her face, which she had obviously covered with her hands. A 2-year-old girl was burned over 100 percent of her body. They were in a lot of pain."

A nurse from Brasileia flew with Rose to keep the IV fluids going. Besides being a pilot, Rose also is a trained physician's assistant who has a provisional license to practice medicine in Brazil. He has studied at a Brazilian medical school.

"It was a hard thing to fly the plane, knowing they were in pain and I couldn't treat them," he said, but the flight required all his concentration.

He completed the last flight at 7 a. m. By that time several victims already had died. The death toll eventually reached 20.

But Rose's willingness to take such

risks for the Brazilian people opened their eyes in ways nothing else could. His mother, Jeanette, noted the people "were amazed that an American would risk his life" for them.

Brazilian newspapers were filled with stories of the daring night flights of Rose and Brazilian pilot Silvio Abilio Almeida de Lima, who also joined the rescue effort with his twin-engine Piper.

"They made us look like heroes, saying we risked our lives and flew by instinct," said Rose.

"That 'instinct' was the Global Navigation System, provided by Southern Baptists through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," he said with a laugh. "It was there on my panel telling me where the runway was. It's so sophisticated that I not only knew where the airport was, I had the end of the runway programmed into the computer on my plane." The Brazilian pilot also had the navigation system.

But Rose admits there was a risk. No computer could program in how to avoid unlighted antennas and towers.

State legislators in Acre recognized the risk. They voted to award Rose and the Brazilian pilot the Order of the Star, the highest medal of honor and courage given by the state.

"What has happened has called attention to what we're doing as Baptists," said Rose. "Sometimes we're seen as only being concerned about sharing the gospel and not the physical needs of others."

"This says we care. It lends credibility and opens the doors for people to be more receptive. The authorities and mayors now have a higher opinion of who we are as Baptists."

## Florida pastors offer hope to Cuban refugees

By Barbara Denman

Florida Baptist Convention

HIALEAH, FL (ABP) — Clutching a photo of her family, Lazara Rodriguez entered the Hialeah, Fla.-based refugee center known as "Cuba for Christ" desperate for answers.

Her niece, her niece's husband and their son had departed Cuba Aug. 2 on a raft bound for the United States. Six weeks later, she had heard nothing from the young family.

Because her relatives were Baptists, Rodriguez hoped the predominantly Southern Baptist organization would have more information. For the time being, all she received was counsel.

As Rodriguez endures the long wait of uncertainty, she joins thousands of Cuban-Americans in South Florida desperate for news of family members who left Cuba in the past two months seeking a better life.

Federal officials estimate that more than half of the rafters have died in the shark-infested Florida Straits before they could be rescued or make it to land. Others were plucked from the water only to join the 30,000 other Cubans confined in three government camps set up to accommodate the refugees.

In the chaos, hundreds of families have flocked to the refugee center to try to locate missing loved ones. They read over the lists of Cuban rafters detained at Guantanamo Bay or the Krome Detention Center by U. S. immigration officials. If their relatives are in one of the camps, the center helps the Cuban-Americans complete forms giving names, statistics and the promise to financially support the refugees if they are released from detention.

Each relative is presented with the gospel message and leaves the center with a Spanish New Testament. They also receive grief counseling by a Florida Baptist pastor or a leader from a local association's Woman's Missionary Union.

"Cuba for Christ" was established

several months ago by a group of Cuban-American pastors known as "Pastors for Freedom." Since they opened the doors to the center in September, the pastors, mostly Baptists, have gathered more than 22,000 names of Cuban detainees with family members in South Florida. It is the only group linking Cuban-Americans and their detained relatives. The pastors' list is the only one recognized as valid by immigration officials.

Many of the Cuban-Americans in South Florida are concerned about the deteriorating health conditions at Guantanamo. Reports of a lice epidemic and outbreak of skin shingles place at risk the health and survival of the children, said David Lema, pastor of West Hialeah Baptist Church.

The pastors are working closely with a team of medical students from Miami University who have received government permission to begin making trips to Guantanamo to help relieve some of the refugees' physical sufferings.

And the group is negotiating with the government to send a team of pastors to Guantanamo to help the detainees deal with the stress of their confinement and offer spiritual assistance.

Efforts also are directed to other places where Cubans have fled. Three pastors from the organization, including Obel Guzman, pastor of Buenas Nevvas Church in Miami, were allowed by the U. S. government to travel Sept. 24-25 to the Cayman Islands. They ministered and gave clothes and Bibles to the 1,300 Cubans detained there. The organization hopes to begin similar ministries to exiled Cubans in the Bahamas and Nassau.

Eighteen months ago, the group of Miami Hispanic pastors organized to sound a proactive voice on Cuban-American issues. The group was familiar with events in Cuba, according to founding member Lema. They decided that Baptists needed to express Christian concerns about the human rights violations in Cuba.

"This is a response of Baptist pastors who have been moved by the compassion

of God to react to the injustices in Cuba," said Lema. "We are advocates for the right of religious freedom in Cuba."

One of the group's goals is to "promote a Baptist perspective in social affairs in South Florida," said Lema. "We're...the Baptist voice in the wilderness."

The recent influx of Cuban refugees to South Florida has helped to solidify the need for a Baptist voice, said Lema. Although the U. S. government may resettle the Cuban refugees in other places, Lema warned, in time these refugees will make their way to South Florida, where at least 95 percent have relatives.

"These people are going to come here. You can relocate them in Alaska or Panama, but they will eventually come to Miami," Lema said. "This place is the heart and soul of Cuban culture."

For months now, Lema's congregation has taken an active role in ministering to the Cuban rafters who settled in Hialeah before the immigration was halted. The church operates a food bank using funds from the Florida Baptist Convention hunger relief receipts, Red Cross and other charitable agencies. Several rafter families attend the church. Lema said the majority of the Cuban immigrants to arrive as rafters have many personal problems that do not allow them to easily assimilate into church life. Many are alcoholics, he reported. "For 25 years they have lived in moral, intellectual, political and economic bankruptcy. Theirs has been a lifestyle of instability."

But according to Lema, the Cuban pastors can collectively minister to the needs of the newest rafters who are being detained. The group speaks of providing food, health and hygiene aids, counseling and financial support if the rafters are allowed to enter the U.S.

And while most of the pastors are unhappy that their countrymen are being detained, they admit that having time to organize a strategy for reaching and ministering to the refugees will be beneficial in the long run.

## Teleconferences to network workers in inner cities

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will host quarterly teleconferences in 1995, offering missionaries, pastors and other Christian workers in inner-city areas a network to discuss ideas and challenges, HMB ministry leaders said.

The conferences, like one broadcast as a test last month from Atlanta, will target issues of importance to workers in inner-city areas, said Larry Martin, HMB vice president for ministry.

The project already has attracted leaders in 22 cities who have committed to host the conferences and recruit a core group of 10 people working in Christian ministry in the inner city, said Jane Bishop of the HMB ministry section.

Technical requirements for participating in the conferences include a satellite dish, a viewing room that seats at least 10 people and a phone line.

The two-hour sessions will include an interview with someone experienced in the area of discussion and an opportunity for viewers to call a toll-free phone number to interact.

A second test program will be broadcast Nov. 21. The topic will be children and youth at risk, Bishop said. The pilot conference drew about 200 viewers from 19 cities, she added.

More information about HMB ministry teleconferences is available from Bishop by calling 404-898-7447.

## Staff changes

**Tracey Vodrazka** has begun his first ministry as a pastor, serving at John Grace Memorial Church, Belleville. Vodrazka, who attended Arkansas Tech University, has been a member of Pleasant View Church, Russellville. He and his wife, Hillary, and their children, William and Sumer, will be the first family to reside in the church's John Grace Memorial Church parsonage.

**Phil Bynum** is serving as pastor of New Hope #1 Church near Smithville. He previously was at Valley View Church in Harrisburg. Bynum is a student at Williams Baptist College. He and his wife, Rosan, have a daughter, Sundry, and a son, Kyle.

**Alvin E. Clark** is pastor of Unity Church at Arkadelphia, having previously served as a U.S. Army chaplain. In addition, he has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana. He and his wife, Lorine, attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Clay Doss** has joined the staff of Shady Grove Church at Van Buren as minister of music and youth, coming there from First Church in Horseshoe Bend. Doss and his wife, Paula, have a daughter, Frances Young.

**Dick Emery** is serving as interim minister of music for Bella Vista Church. He is a graduate of Wichita State University in



## ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Wichita, Kan., and Luther Rice Seminary. He has served as an interim or part-time staff member for churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee. In addition, he has served as a professor at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and John Brown University in Siloam Springs.

**Jack Bledsoe**, who recently retired as director of missions for Carey Association, is serving as interim pastor of Prosperity Church at Bearden. Bledsoe, who has been pastor of Arkansas churches, has served in leadership positions for both the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention, having recently completed his service as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board. He and his wife, Ann, reside in Fordyce.

**John Clement** of Arkadelphia has retired as pastor of Riverside Church at Donaldson. He previously served Ridgecrest Church in Benton, Memorial Church in Hot Springs, First Church of Cedarville and First Church in Havana, as well as First Church in Poloco, Okla. He and his wife, Norma, have two children, Loretta and Mark. Clement will be available to do

supply work and may be contacted at 501-384-2723.

**Ray Brownholtz** resigned Sept. 18 as pastor of Buie Church due to the illness of his wife, Myra. He previously has served Pleasant Grove Church of Berryville, Sweet Home Church, Easterwood Church of Mayflower and Shady Grove Church of Gurdon. Brownholtz is available to serve as an interim pastor or lead services. He may be contacted at 110 W. Pine Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71913; phone 760-1083.

**Michael Drager** is serving First Church of Siloam Springs as part-time youth minister. Drager, who is a member of the church, is a teacher in the young married Sunday School department and works part-time as assistant director of Project Life, a ministry to unchurched youth. He previously served as youth minister at Beach Church in Taylor, Mich. Drager is a graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo.

## Obituaries

**Travis Napoleon Beeson** of Camden died Sept. 22 at age 67. A retired auditor, he had been a member of Hillside Church in Camden for more than 39 years. He also had served as a member of both the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and Ouachita Baptist University's finance committee. Survivors are his wife, Doris Smith Beeson; a son, Travis Gordon Beeson of Sherwood; a daughter, Bobbi Doris Shepherd of El Dorado; five grandchildren; three brothers; and three sisters.

**William Amos Ryan** of Little Rock died Oct. 1 at age 86. His funeral services were held Oct. 4 at South Highland Church in Little Rock where he was a member and lifetime deacon. Survivors include his wife, Alice Ryan; two sons, John Ryan of Ozark, Ala., and James Ryan of Hendersonville, Tenn.; a daughter, Lois Marie of Maryland Heights, Mo.; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Charles H. "Bud" Moore** of Mena died Sept. 19 at age 97. His funeral services were held Sept. 22 at First Church of Mena where he was a member. Moore, a retired Southern Baptist minister, preached his first sermon at Lower Big Fork Church in August 1925. He organized Bethel Church at Potter, Acorn Church at Mena and led in reestablishing Lower Big Fork Church, Pine Ridge Church and Big Fork Church in Caddo River Association. In addition, he had been pastor of several churches in Ouachita Association. Survivors are one son, Hershel Moore of Lamont, Ill.; four daughters, Lavern Kelly, Lucille Brown

## Nettleton Church celebrates centennial

Recognition of the faithfulness of the church's forefathers and future challenges were presented by pastor Stan Ballard and guest speaker Don Moore as Nettleton Church in Jonesboro celebrated 100 years of ministry Oct. 2.

"I am thankful we can learn from the past and be grateful for the faithfulness of our forefathers, but I am also thankful by God's grace we can look to the future," declared Ballard. "Many challenges and opportunities are awaiting us. Souls need to be saved, young people need to be called and many missionaries and ministers need to be sent."

Moore, speaking from I Corinthians 16:9, said, "Those who established this church 100 years ago had no idea that their efforts then would result in such a great ministry today. They simply entered the door God had opened to them."

"Likewise, as you enter the doors open to you today, you have no idea

what the tremendous result will be in years to come," he said. "The doors God opens are great and effectual as Paul found at Ephesus. But he also noted that there were many adversaries."

The centennial celebration included "Friend Day" in Sunday School with a record attendance of 805, a worship service attended by 986 and a "dinner on the grounds" for more than 750. It also included a music concert by Tony Weston and Billy Davis, as well as recognition of layman Elmer Gord for more than 68 years of continuous membership.

Former pastors present included R.D. Harrington of Little Rock; Harold Ray, currently director of missions for Mount Zion Association; and Mikael Carrier of Bellevue Church of Memphis. Also recognized was Gladys Boyd, widow of former pastor G.W. Boyd, and James "Benny" Turner of Eastanolee, Ga., a former minister of music and education.

and Carrie Jo Lunsford, all of Mena and Charlene White of Murietta, Calif.; one brother; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Memorials may be made to First Church of Mena.

## Ordinations

**Community Bible Church** at Glenwood ordained pastor Stephen Tillman to the ministry Sept. 18.

**Bella Vista Church** ordained Bill Wright to the deacon ministry Sept. 25.

**Crow Mountain Church** at Russellville ordained Lyman Harris and Dub Taylor as deacons Sept. 25 as the church observed its fourth anniversary of ministry.

**Lonsdale Church** ordained pastor Wayne Smith to the ministry Sept. 25.

**Beebe First Church** ordained Joey Herrin and Clay Goff to the deacon ministry Sept. 25.

**Mount Gilead Church** at Norman ordained Vernon Caughron to the deacon ministry Sept. 25.

**Meadowview Church** at Sheridan ordained youth director Larry Dice to the ministry and Randy Jewett to the deacon ministry Oct. 2.

**Calvary Church** of Booneville ordained Dan Clark to the deacon ministry Oct. 9.

## Church news

**Amboy Church** in North Little Rock recently held a Lay Renewal Weekend conducted by Mike Salkeld and more than 50 other lay leaders from across the state. The church also recently sent 18 members to Marshall where they assisted Searcy County Church with backyard Bible schools. Wayne West is pastor.

**Jacksonville Second Church** will sponsor Hoopla, a three-on-three basketball tournament Nov. 4-5. Teams will be four man, with half-court, in a double elimination format. The top three teams will receive cash awards, as well as T-shirts and team trophies. Additional information is available by calling the church at 985-2502.

**Psalm Camp** in Kingsland will host a conference for an "old-time adult camp meeting" Oct. 28 and 29. The conference will be led by Laverne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College of Mayfield, Ky. Additional information is available by calling 348-5426 or 348-5604.

## Joy Explo slated for Dec. 29-30

Arkansas Baptist youth will gather for fun and faith at Joy Explo Dec. 29-30 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The theme for Joy Explo, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, is "Start a Party: Share Jesus Now."

Randy Brantley, an evangelism department associate, said the theme is in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention's 1995 "Here's Hope" evangelism emphasis and revivals.

He said the "Start a Party" theme will highlight youth evangelism training. "The idea is when a person comes to know the Lord, the angels rejoice. There is a party in heaven."

The keynote speaker will be Jay Strack, a vocational evangelist from Dallas. Worship leaders will be First Impression, a Rome, Ga., "praise team."

Brantley said other highlights of the event will include the drama team of John and Vickijo Witty and a Thursday night concert.

During the Thursday afternoon session, the Wittys will present the drama, "Time Trip, a Docu-Comedy About How Time Took Us." Brantley said the drama will "trace the disintegration of traditional American values from the 1950s to the present in a humorous way. It's entertaining, but

it makes a point just like a movie."

The Thursday night dual concert will feature Star Song Christian recording label artists Sierra, a women's pop vocal trio, and Brian Barrett, a pop country performer.

The cost for Explo is \$4 per person, which includes all of the Explo events. "Joy Explo is a low-cost event that gives kids a Christian event out of the house during the holidays," Brantley emphasized.

Youth and leaders are responsible for their own meals and lodging during Joy Explo. Brantley encouraged students to bring their Bibles and asked churches to send one sponsor per six students.

In preparation for Joy Explo, Brantley said the evangelism department will sponsor two "Start a Party" training events for youth.

"The Start a Party rallies will be an important tool to equip Christian youth in fresh, exciting, effective ways to witness to their friends," he noted.

The rallies will be held Oct. 29 at First Church, Searcy, and Nov. 5 at First Church, Benton. The cost for the rallies is \$3 per person.

For more information on Joy Explo or the Start a Party events, contact Brantley at the ABCS evangelism department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5222.

## Youth can join Explo music groups

Students attending Joy Explo will have an added participation option by joining the Joy Explo band or choir. The band and choir are regular features of Joy Explo, set for Dec. 29-30 at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

The choir will perform during the Explo's Thursday evening session and the band will perform Friday morning.

Rob Hewell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, described participation in the band and choir as an "opportunity."

"The Joy Explo choir and band provide an opportunity for young people to join with others from across the state," Hewell said, "to sing and play for the glory of God and to enrich their individual musicianship and leadership."

Hewell said the choir and band are open to youth in grades 9-12 who are active in a Southern Baptist church and who are recommended by their music

director, youth director or pastor.

Choir participants also must be able to attend one of two regional rehearsals in December. Band members must supply their own instruments with the exception of percussionists.

Hewell said each choir participant must register by Nov. 14 and each band member by Dec. 1. He asked churches to send a maximum of five youth per voice part (a total of 20). There is no maximum limit for band members.

Registration forms have been sent to all Arkansas Baptist churches. The forms may be reproduced as many times as needed, Hewell added.

Hewell said his department also will audition for a "qualified high school pianist" to accompany the Explo choir. He will accept applications for accompanists until Nov. 14.

The cost for participation in the choir is \$10 per person and includes an evening meal. The cost for band members is \$8 per person.

## FMB grants missionary raises, elects communications team

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted Oct. 12 for the first across-the-board pay raise for missionaries since 1991 and heard the denomination's president challenge Southern Baptists not to splinter their giving to the Cooperative Program.

Trustees also unanimously elected David T. Button as vice president for public relations and development and affirmed the naming of Louis A. Moore as associate vice president for communications and director of news and information.

In other action during their Oct. 10-12 meeting, trustees revised its policy for handling missionary terminations or resignations related to lifestyle and performance issues.

The missionary pay raise came as trustees approved a 1995 budget of \$186.2 million, including a previously unallocated \$1.5 million in receipts from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

"We've said missionaries will get a raise when Southern Baptists give the Foreign Mission Board a raise," Carl Johnson, FMB vice president for finance told trustees. "They've done that."

The pay raise, to take effect Jan. 1, will amount to \$60 a month for each missionary couple, \$36 a month for single missionaries and \$32.40 for shorter-term International Service Corps couples.

In a separate action, trustees granted FMB staff a one-time payment of \$600 in December. Staff salaries have fallen behind cost-of-living increases over the past decade. The payment will come largely from funds in the FMB staff payroll account that have not been spent, mainly because of retirements and downsizing.

Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., addressed trustees, issuing a stirring appeal for Southern Baptists not to tamper with the Cooperative Program.

Henry urged those in Southern Baptist institutions and state conventions to "stay the course" and help focus Southern Baptist resources on the task of reaching the world for Jesus Christ.

Addressing both SBC moderates and conservatives, he also urged Southern Baptists to "think prayerfully and carefully" before they splinter away from cooperative

efforts to support missions.

"These splinter groups (on) both sides of the mainstream... I hope will realize we are strongest by staying together," he said. "I urge (them) to be careful about leaving.... Our people in leadership need to stand up and show what leadership is all about...and

say, 'This is right. We give our money through the Cooperative Program.'"



David Button



Louis Moore

Button, 41, currently mayor of Canton, N.Y., and president of a radio station there, will join the board as vice president-elect Nov. 1 and assume his duties Jan. 1, after Alan Compton, vice president for communications, retires Dec. 31.

The new vice president, an 18-year veteran of the broadcast industry, will supervise the board's communications and research and marketing functions and also oversee the development and public affairs offices.

Moore, 48, director of media and products for the SBC Christian Life Commission, will join the board Nov. 15 and assume his full duties Jan. 1.

A veteran of 16 years as a newspaper reporter and editor before joining the CLC in 1988, Moore will work under Button.

The committee used the services of the Meridian Consulting Group of Houston to gather a pool of names of candidates qualified to fit the board's profile for a new vice president. Rankin said the committee narrowed Meridian's list of 50 candidates to about 15 names.

Finally, six candidates were chosen and interviewed by Rankin and the committee. They achieved "total consensus" on Button's selection, Rankin said.

During the process, Rankin said, trustee Paul Pressler offered to resign from the search committee to avoid appearance of conflict of interest because his son-in-law, Les Csorba, is a director of the Meridian Consulting Group. But Rankin and committee members did not feel that would be necessary. Pressler also has served on the SBC Executive Committee with Button.

In other board action, trustees voted to delay the process of forming separate administrations for Eastern and Western Europe. They also appointed 39 missionaries Oct. 11, bringing the total missionary force to 4,045.

## Agencies receive capital funds, designated gifts up

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Eight Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions received nearly \$1.7 million for capital needs as a result of Cooperative Program gifts exceeding the 1993-94 SBC program allocation budget.

Also, SBC designated gifts for the 1993-94 year of \$127.8 million topped the previous year and almost matched the record high total set in 1991-92.

Those statistics were part of the fiscal year end information released by Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president. The SBC fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

SBC Cooperative Program gifts for 1993-94 set a record of \$142,866,782, more than \$4 million above the SBC program allocation budget and more than \$6 million over the previous year's total gifts.

When CP gifts surpass the allocation budget, distribution of those extra undesignated CP funds are one-half to all the SBC agencies according to the standard budget distribution and one-half to a special capital needs budget approved by the SBC.

Thus nearly \$1.7 million was distributed to all SBC agencies, over and above the budget, and an equal amount went to the Home Mission Board, the six SBC seminaries and the Radio and TV Commission for capital needs.

The capital needs distribution was: Home Mission Board, \$177,696; Golden Gate Seminary, \$195,516; Midwestern Seminary, \$208,245; New Orleans Seminary, \$235,740; Southeastern Seminary, \$171,077; Southern Seminary, \$255,258; Southwestern Seminary, \$303,628; and the Radio and TV Commission, \$150,032.

The last time SBC agencies received funds for capital needs was at the end of 1990-91 fiscal year.

Designated gifts totaled \$127,828,517 for the fiscal year, just missing the 1991-92 record of \$127,916,369.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

# Churches to be affected by new tax laws

By Mark Wingfield

Kentucky Western Recorder

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Although tax time is still months away, church financial secretaries should prepare to help donors comply with new tax laws related to charitable giving, two IRS employees advised.

Effective Jan. 1, any single contribution of \$250 or more to a charity must be substantiated in writing by that charity. The documentation also must indicate whether the donor received any goods or services in exchange for the contribution.

Because of the new law, church officials will want to get out donor statements as soon as possible each quarter or at year-end, said Karin Gross, a senior technician reviewer with the IRS chief counsel. Gross and Howard Schoenfeld, IRS special assistant for exempt organizations, spoke to a briefing of Baptist editors in Washington Oct. 2.

They said the IRS has received many phone calls about the changes from people who have misunderstood the new law.

Highlights of their explanations include:

- Deductibility is not changed. The new law relates only to documentation of deductions, not what may be counted as a tax deduction.

- The law affects only single contributions of \$250 or more. To illustrate, consider two people who both give \$5,200 annually to their churches. One person gives \$100 every week to the church and therefore is not affected by the new law. The other person gives \$433 once each month, and therefore is affected by the new law.

- Documentation is required. Before filing a tax return, a donor must obtain from the church a statement which lists all contributions of \$250 or more and reports any goods or services given to the donor in return. A donor's cancelled checks will not be considered adequate documentation because they do not indicate whether any goods or services were received in return.

- Compliance is the goal. The IRS wants to eliminate charitable deductions claimed wrongly. That's why the no-goods-or-services requirement is key to the new law. For example, a person might pay the church more than \$250 to participate in a mission trip. That payment differs from a regular tithe or offering, which is given without expecting to receive any goods or services in return. For the mission trip, the money paid is not a contribution to the church but provides lodging, food and

transportation services.

- Mixed gifts have a different standard. Payments to a church of more than \$75 that are part charity and part payment for goods and services must be reported and documented as such. For example, should a church hold a fund-raiser where individuals pay \$100 to attend a concert, the donor could deduct as a contribution only the amount of that \$100 that didn't cover the value of the concert. So if tickets otherwise would have cost \$20, the donor may deduct only \$80 as a charitable contribution, and the church's documentation must note this distinction.

- Timeliness counts. Documentation of charitable gifts required under the new law must be received by the donor before the tax return is filed. For example, a donor may not file a return claiming the deductions on Feb. 1, although not receiving documentation from the church until March 1.

- There is no standard format. The IRS has no standard format churches must use to report contributions. Any form will suffice, as long as it provides enough information to substantiate the amount of the deductible contribution and a statement about whether goods or services were received in return.

## Southern trustees affirm Mohler

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary voted Oct. 11 to affirm seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.'s actions surrounding the resignation of associate professor of theology Molly Marshall.

Marshall, a faculty member at the Louisville, Ky., seminary since 1984, submitted her resignation Aug. 19 at the request of Mohler. He had accused Marshall of teaching outside the parameters of the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's confession of faith. Marshall, whose resignation is effective Dec. 31, has disputed Mohler's contention that her teaching was outside the document's boundary.

"The entire seminary community should know that the board trusts the judgment of the president in his understanding and application of the Abstract of Principles as it relates to this case," the trustees said in their statement.

"We affirm Dr. Marshall's giftedness as a teacher and acknowledge the affection which many colleagues and students have come to have for her," the statement continued. "There is no joy in such a situation as this for us."

Nevertheless, the trustees said they "acknowledge with the president the necessity of preserving the confessional

integrity of our beloved seminary."

The trustees' academic personnel committee, which proposed the resolution in support of Mohler, also submitted a report of its review of Mohler's actions related to Marshall's resignation. That report stated that Mohler "acted in accordance with Academic Personnel Policies, established by the board of trustees."

Trustees discussed the president's handling of the Marshall resignation during a one-hour executive session.

In open session, trustees voted to amend the wording of the seminary charter regarding church membership of professors. Since the seminary's founding in 1859, every elected professor has been required to be a member of a "regular" Baptist church. The trustees voted to change the wording to require each professor to be a member of a "Southern" Baptist church.

"The understanding of the word 'regular' (Baptist) in 1859 can best be captured as 'Southern' (Baptist) today," said trustee John Allen, who brought the recommendation as chairman of the board's executive committee.

Mohler added the intent is simply to "remove archaic language and make clear" the intention of the seminary's founders.

## Annuity medical rates avoid hike

DALLAS (BP)—Rates for the first half of 1995 will not increase for participants in three Annuity Board medical plans that cover church ministers, church staffs and seminary students, according to Annuity Board officials.

Rates will not change in the Comprehensive, Major and Catastrophic Medical plans, said officials. Life and long-term disability rates also will remain unchanged for 1995. No decision has been made about 1995 rates for the ProCare HMO.

Although there is no across-the-board increase for the first half of 1995, rates may change for participants who move to ZIP code areas with higher rates or who have birthdays that put them in higher age brackets. Participants who add a first or second dependent to their coverage will also see an increase.

There will be major changes for 1995 in the Annuity Board's prescription drug program which will benefit participants in the Comprehensive Medical Plan. Specific information about the new prescription drug benefits will be sent to all participants soon.



## Huddleston new BSU director at Gateway

Joella Huddleston began serving Oct. 4 as volunteer Baptist Student Union director for Gateway Technical College in Batesville.

A native of Arkansas, Huddleston has worked with youth at the church and associational level and currently teaches an adult singles Sunday School class at Batesville First Church. She has two grown children and three grandchildren.

"I'm hoping to encourage students in cooperation with the college; the students are focusing on what they can do with their lives through education. I want to show them what God's direction can do," Huddleston said. "I want to minister to the older singles and adults changing careers as well as those more traditional students who are just starting adult life."

George Sims, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist student ministry department, is enthused about the expanding

role of volunteer BSU directors on the campuses of technical colleges. "Joella is excited about extending the ministry of Baptist Student Union to the students at Gateway Technical College," Sims commented. "She strongly feels that they should have the same opportunity to serve, in ministry and missions and to grow as Christians that students at larger campuses have."

## New eye center opens with doubled capacity

The new Baptist Eye Center officially opened for business Oct. 3 in Little Rock. Six state-of-the-art equipped surgical suites and doubled staffing will provide twice the capacity of the previous facilities.

Baptist Eye Center, Baptist Medical System's first freestanding ambulatory surgery center, is a cooperative effort with ophthalmologist on staff at Baptist Memorial Medical Center and Baptist Medical Center and optometrists.

"The goal of Baptist Eye Center is to make advanced, comprehensive eye care available to all Arkansans," said Cliffee Reed, Baptist Medical Center vice president. "This will be possible through enhanced

relationships between eye care professionals across the state and physicians affiliated with Baptist Eye Center."

Reed said the center will offer "a broad spectrum of ophthalmic subspecialties, patient education and other support services, educational opportunities for physicians and staff and a dedication to community service."

Services available through physicians affiliated with Baptist Eye Center include preventive vision screenings and eye health screenings, diagnostic testing procedures, laser treatment procedures, medical and surgical treatment of eye diseases, follow-up and monitoring, additional information about the center's services is available by calling 227-2020 or 1-800-262-0054.



## Missionary notes

Jim and Louise Brillhart, missionaries to Togo, are on the field (address: B.P. 8, Anie, Togo). Both consider Little Rock their hometown.

Milton and Nannette Lites, missionaries to Taiwan, are in the States (address: 6302 Arrowwood, Arlington, TX 76017). He was born near Garland. The former Nannette Webb of Arkansas, she was born near Dyess and grew up in Wilson.



# PRAYER RETREAT

## Avery Willis

**First Baptist Church, Little Rock  
62 Pleasant Valley Drive**

**November 4 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**November 5 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**No Registration Required**

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

# Greater diversity characterizes building designs

By Charles Willis

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Casual glances from a moving car are no longer sufficient to identify church buildings as distinctively Southern Baptist due to a variety of changing influences, including architectural and human factors, according to the new director of the denomination's architectural services.

Southern Baptist churches have moved from a limited range of traditional and colonial looks to a wide selection of architectural and functional designs driven by the needs of local congregations, said Davis Byrd, who assumed leadership of church architecture services at the Baptist Sunday School Board in June.

Byrd said he believes some architectural designs, such as colonial-style sanctuaries, came to be associated with Southern Baptist churches because of the common denominator of Southern heritage.

Today, he said greater architectural diversity is found "because the geographical spread of the SBC has moved the denomination out of the Deep South heritage, allowing other regional influences to have a greater impact on design."

And he said he believes there is "an increasing recognition that the buildings of the church make a statement about the church....As churches become more outreach-driven, they are more concerned with their architectural message. For example, through increasing ethnic

diversity in the United States, we are embracing a more diverse group of people than in the past.

"While it has always been true that churches made their own architectural decisions," he observed, "people homogeneity equals architectural homogeneity and cultural diversity equals architectural diversity."

"As churches have become more focused on the people who are...really the church, they have begun to want the influences to humanize the buildings."

He cites as examples radial seating, providing a closer proximity of worshippers to one another and to worship leaders; a larger platform area, making it physically and visually open to the congregation; and fewer barriers, such as railings, uniting the choir with other participants.

"These are more honest interpretations of the gathering of participants in an event, rather than observers of an event," he noted.

Diversity in worship also has affected design with consumer-driven elements, such as the introduction of drama sets, orchestras and other features that require additional space.

"More happens today in conducting worship that takes more space than just providing for a choir," he declared. "Rules of thumb about square footage in worship space have to be revised."

Expanding use of multimedia requires provision for screens and projection of images in an effort to make the worship

experience more attuned to today's visually and technologically oriented society.

Additionally, Byrd said "person sensitivity" is expressed outside worship centers in gathering and circulation spaces. Narrow corridors prompt persons to move through quickly, while "spacious and gracious entering, welcoming and circulation space promotes fellowship and chance encounters."

Among some congregations, multiple worship services and Sunday Schools are provided, not because of financial considerations, but for effectiveness in reaching people, he observed. Choices in meeting times and worship styles often drive the decision to offer more than one worship or Bible study time.

Intentional growth orientation brings a new awareness of how a facility visually, theologically, psychologically and functionally affects an ever-expanding group of people, Byrd continued.

He advises congregations to provide quality in whatever style is chosen, using appropriate materials aesthetically and functionally. Other factors Byrd said he believes relate to effective facilities are cleanliness, quality lighting, comfortable seating, quality sound equipment, adequate parking and "curb appeal" — an attractive and inviting outside appearance to passersby.

Using the theme, "From Dream to Dedication," the Sunday School Board's church architecture service now provides full service from needs assessment and early planning through the entire process of construction documents and construction. Fees for services are negotiated on an individual basis.

Byrd, whose background includes the vice presidency of a Louisville, Ky., architectural firm, said today's service offers "not only a broad base of education and experience in church life and architecture, but also the expertise of Sunday School Board leadership in areas of church growth, worship, education and recreation....Our goal is to make the expertise of church architecture available to every church so their buildings fully support their unique mission and ministry."

## Tutoring Children and Youth Workshop

Nov. 10-12

Park Place Baptist Church  
721 Park Ave., Hot Springs

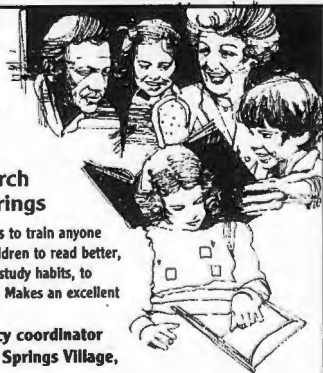
This HMB-certified 14-hour workshop is to train anyone interested in learning how to teach children to read better, to help with homework, to learn good study habits, to become more interested in school, etc. Makes an excellent outreach program for churches.

To register, contact state literacy coordinator  
Gail Williams, 7 Albala Ln., Hot Springs Village,  
AR 71909; phone 922-4236.

Registration fee of \$5 by Oct. 28 assures materials will be available.

Cost is \$20 for materials.

Sponsored by the Missions Dept., ABSC



## MK birthdays

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in October:

■ Oct. 25: Allison Anthony, OBU Box 3755, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; sophomore from Israel

■ Oct. 28: Ben Carothers, OBU Box 3259, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; freshman from Guatemala.



# Arkansas Baptists... Welcome to Little Rock & North Little Rock

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## Ouachita Baptist University

**Wehr is artist-in-residence**—David Allen Wehr has been named OBU's artist-in-residence. Traveling the world on weekends to record or give concerts, Wehr returns to Ouachita during the week to guide 12 private students, including nine piano majors. He also teaches a seminar each week for all piano majors.

**Shambarger named to post**—Mary Shambarger, professor of music at OBU, has been named chairman of the Department of Applied Music in the OBU School of Music, according to Charles Wright, dean of the school. Shambarger succeeds William Trantham who retired from the faculty this past spring.

**Benson honored**—OBU coach Buddy Benson, who has directed the Tiger football program for the past 30 years, recently was honored by a group of his former athletes. Gifts included a special one-of-a-kind ring featuring the seals and mascots of the OBU Tigers and the University of

Arkansas Razorbacks, Benson's alma mater, and a set of golf clubs. The former players made the presentations to honor Benson's recent selection to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame as well as his 30 years of service at OBU.

**Baker appointed as recruitment coordinator**—Verna Baker, assistant professor of home economics at OBU, was recently appointed as the American Dietetics Association state professional recruitment coordinator for Arkansas. The recruitment network is an effort to increase awareness of the need for more dietetics professionals.

**Track/cross country coach retires**—Bob Gravett, head track and field and cross country coach at OBU for the past 29 years, recently announced his immediate retirement from coaching and teaching. He will be succeeded by interim coach Johnny Kelley of Oklahoma City, Okla., a recent graduate of Ouachita.

Gravett coached more than 20 All

Arkansas during his tenure at OBU. His track and field teams have won six Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference track and field championships and two cross country titles.

**Sharon Morgan resigns**—Sharon Morgan, head coach of the Lady Tigers basketball team and instructor in health, physical education and recreation since 1991, has resigned to take the position of assistant to the women's athletic director at the University of Texas at Austin. Morgan, a native of Star City, was awarded the 1994 NAIA District 17 Women's Administrator of the Year Award.

**Yearbook receives award**—The 1993 "Ouachitonian" yearbook was recently awarded a Medalist rating by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association of New York City. The Medalist award is the highest award given in the annual critique of college and university yearbooks and newspapers. Rachael Ward of Texarkana, a 1994 OBU graduate, served as editor. Deborah Root was the yearbook advisor.

**Fall choir concert**—The school of Music at OBU will present the Ouachita Singers in concert Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the recital hall of Mabee Fine Arts Center. The public is invited to attend the concert. There is no admission charge.

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## NOTICE!!!!

### ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

#### ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

The History Book Committee will be meeting during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Nov. 1-2, at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, in Room 104. They will be interviewing resource people to contribute to the gathering of information for the 150th anniversary history of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, please come by to talk with one of the committee during the convention.

*Dr. Fred Williams, Chairman*

*Dr. Ken Startup*

*Dr. Ray Granade*

## Williams Baptist College

**Spears honored**—Gay Homes Spears, associate professor of music at WBC, has been honored for one of her compositions. Tudor Variations, a work for concert band, has been selected as one of eight "very best" new works for elementary band by the international music education journal Band Director's Guide.

**Booster club organizes**—Supporters of athletics at WBC have formed the Eagle Booster Club. The club organized with the intent of supporting Williams athletics emotionally and financially. The President of the Eagle Booster Club is Tom McHendry and the treasurer is Kenny Allen, both of Walnut Ridge.



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# Massachusetts missionaries get free church

By David Winfrey  
SBC Home Mission Board

FRANKLIN, MA (BP)—When money's no object, churches can buy any building. Southern Baptist home missionaries Charles and Laura Lee Chamblee, however, have learned God also can provide a building when there's no money at all.

Money was no object this spring when the Chamblees started looking for a place their growing congregation could meet.

With an average attendance of 45, the mission had outgrown the Elks Lodge No. 2136 and was getting close to reaching the fire code limit of 49 people in the building it was renting.

In June, a local nondenominational church contacted Chamblee, offering to sell its building because the pastor, Walter Lanagan, was retiring and the church was disbanding.

The building appraised for \$225,000, said Chamblee. "I told the Lanagans that there was no way a little mission church could afford \$225,000."

Nevertheless, the pastor and his wife asked Chamblee to meet with the church board of directors. Chamblee said he agreed, thinking they might "fix a payment plan over the next 650 years or something."

The day of the meeting, Chamblee said, the 92-year-old chairman of the church's board told him, "God called us to begin this work back in 1932 and we now feel as though God is calling us to bring it to a close. We feel that God has placed the gauntlet for reaching Franklin on you and your church."

"And then he said, 'Just as God has been good to us, we feel we need to be good to you. We want to give you our building and property.'"

Chamblee said he was overwhelmed. "It was everything I could do not to bust out crying like a little baby," he said. "One of the first thoughts that went through my mind was the verse, 'To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ever ask and imagine.'"

Built in the early 1960s, the building seats about 100 people, he said. In addition to the first floor sanctuary, it has a fellowship hall, baby grand piano and church office. "Everything that could be used for ministry they left," he said.

Located 26 miles southwest of Boston, Franklin is the fastest-growing town in Massachusetts, he said. "In the past 15 years it's gone from a population of 9,000 to a population of 26,000 and it's still

growing. Nobody really perceives that growth stopping any time soon."

The two churches held a joint worship service Saturday, Sept. 17, to exchange the deed for the land and property, said Chamblee.

"This is just one of a number of things that God has been doing in our midst recently," he remarked. "Small miracles have been happening all over the place."

Chamblee noted the gift came from a church that wasn't Southern Baptist. "This church has no denominational affiliation, whatsoever. All they knew was that God was doing something and that was one way of their being a part of it."

## Classifieds

**Pews for sale** — 5 year old solid oak, cushioned. Call 863-4113.

**Minister of education** — Central Baptist Church, North Little Rock, is seeking resumes for the position of minister of education. Please send resumes to Search Committee, 5200 Fairway, North Little Rock, 72116.

**Part-time youth director needed** — First Baptist Church, Wilson, AR. Phone 501-655-8428. 45 miles north of Memphis, TN.

**Needed** — Bivocational minister of music/youth. Call Pocola First Baptist 918-436-7012; or send resumes to P.O. Box 402, Pocola, OK 74902.

**Accepting resumes** — for minister of youth & education. Send to Search Committee, Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 66, Eureka, MO 63025 by Nov. 18, 1994.

**Part-time music director needed** — Send resumes to: Indian Springs Baptist Church, 705 Lora Dr., Bryant, AR 72022.

**Associate minister** — full-time, music/youth/children. Job description: Search Committee, Third Baptist Church, 617 Young, Malvern, AR 72104.

**Youth/Education director** — Full-time. Please your resumes to Marshall Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 726, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. Classified ads shall be restricted to church-related subject matter. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

## Everybody Ought to Know!

Royal Ambassadors — Want Everybody To Know Who Jesus Is.

Royal Ambassadors reported through their monthly magazines contributions of over \$10,400.00 for foreign missions; over \$7,600.00 for home missions; over \$9,600.00 for world hunger relief; and over \$16,100.00 for other missions causes.

Royal Ambassador Week, November 6-12, 1994

Now RAs is the Southern Baptist missions education organization for boys in grades 1-6.

## ATTENTION NORTHEAST ARKANSAS!

First Baptist Church of Poplar Bluff (20 miles from ARI) invites you to ... "Run The Race" A Special Singles' Weekend • Nov. 4-6

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- Concerts Friday & Saturday nights & Sunday morning featuring KEITH LONGBOTHAM, nationally renowned singer/songwriter from Nashville, TN
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# SBC sesquicentennial

Author of new SBC history book sees people of faith and hope

ABILENE, TX (BP)—Southern Baptists, "for all their biases and weaknesses, are a people of faith and hope," the author of the sesquicentennial history of the Southern Baptist Convention has concluded.

Jesse C. Fletcher, chancellor and Connally professor of missions at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, has written *The Southern Baptist Convention, A Sesquicentennial History* published by Broadman & Holman Publishers and released in September.

"The history is the way we were and how we got to be who we are," Fletcher said in an interview. The 467-page narrative includes one chapter titled "The Battle for the Gavel, 1979-90," detailing the denomination's "conservative resurgence" beginning with the election of Adrian Rogers as SBC president in June 1979.

He described that event as "not the end of a campaign, but the beginning of one," adding: "It soon became obvious this controversy would be different from anything Southern Baptists had experienced."

Recognizing the difficulty of writing a history in connection with controversy, Fletcher wrote in his introduction: "Because of the political climate and the author's determined effort to avoid undue bias, only materials published or collected in libraries have been used."

He said SBC annuals were "primary" sources for much of the history.

"But, background to this material is crucial to its understanding and is found in Baptist state paper articles, journals and periodicals, as well as collections of letters and papers of the principal players found in libraries and other repositories," Fletcher added.

## Six years in the making

Six years in the making, Fletcher said he spent the first three years doing research for the book and the last three in writing. Going back in history to 1609, the book includes events and actions through the 1993 SBC annual meeting in Houston.

During his "final rewrite," he said he had a year of getting reader reaction. The book was used as a text in his classes at the

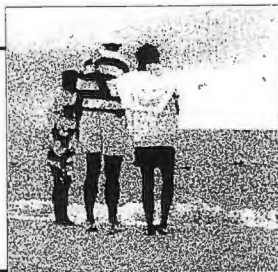
HU Lynch School of Theology and in church history courses taught by Leon McBeth at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Fletcher said he found "surprisingly helpful" in gathering material for inclusion in the updated history "unpublished dissertations emerging from the graduate studies in seminaries and universities both in and outside Southern Baptist life. These studies not only yielded important perspectives but also pointed to key sources."

"I have a strong conviction that any people has to be informed by its own history to be effective and to maintain perspective," Fletcher said. Official observation of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Southern Baptist Convention will be marked at the 1995 annual meeting in Atlanta, June 20-22.

After reading an advance copy of the manuscript, Southern Baptist statesman Herschel Hobbs said the sesquicentennial history book "both informs of the past and inspires for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention. Every Southern Baptist should read and reread it and keep it close at hand as a ready reference book."

Fletcher's entire career has been spent in denominational roles, including 14 years as president of Hardin-Simmons, a Texas Baptist school. Earlier, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., and worked for 15 years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.



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## Convention Uniform

### *Fox-hole faith*

By Roy Buckelew, professor,  
Ouachita Baptist University

Basic passage: I Samuel 13

Focal passage: I Samuel 13

Central truth: Fox-hole faith usually becomes a failed faith.

The term, "fox-hole faith," refers to soldiers in fox holes in the heat of battle who are afraid they are going to die and bargain with God that, if He will spare their lives, they will believe in Him and be faithful to Him. We have come to use the term for other situations such as terminally ill patients who bargain with God to save their lives. When I think of the events in I Samuel 13, I see fox-hole faith.

■ First, fox-hole faith usually comes from fear. The people of Israel were in a war with the Philistines and they were afraid of death (vv. 5-7). They also reacted with cowardice (vv. 6-8). Even Saul, their king, seemed to be afraid when he offered sacrifices to God (vv. 9, 12). Often, people who have never given God much thought turn to Him when faced with death or other disastrous situations.

■ Second, fox-hole faith is often the consequence of foolishness. When Samuel arrived at the camp of Saul's army, Saul explained that he was afraid and offered sacrifices to get on God's good side. Obviously he was in this predicament because of his foolishness. He had foolishly attacked the Philistines for no reason (vv. 3-4). And Samuel told him that he had been foolish because he had not kept God's commandments (v. 13). So many people have gotten themselves into a fox-hole because of foolishness. They do stupid things, or they fail to do what is wise. They fail to follow God's guidance.

■ Third, fox-hole faith is usually a call for God's favor. Saul was probably sincere when he turned back to God, but Samuel told him that God had rejected him as king because he was not a person "after God's own heart" (v. 14). Just as Saul didn't find favor with God, the people of Israel also fell out of favor with God. In their war against the Philistines, they didn't have God with them. They were defenseless. Later, God showed compassion for them, enabling them to defeat the Philistines (I Sam. 14). If we have rebelled against God or ignored Him, we cannot be sure He will respond favorably when we call on Him from a fox-hole. God urges us to call on Him while He may be found: Before we fall into a fox-hole.

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## Life and Work

### *A community covenant*

By Rick Hyde, pastor,  
Malvern Third Church

Basic passage: Genesis 8:15-9:17

Focal passage: Genesis 9:5-7, 17

Central truth: God calls the community to responsibility.

God dictates that all people be responsible. "(God said,) 'Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man'" (v. 9:5, NKJV). God gives us the gift of life. Those who choose to follow Him return to Him the gift of his or her life. Noah had chosen to acknowledge God's lordship. We are accountable for how we choose to use our lives.

God demands that guilty people be reprimanded. "(God said,) 'Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man'" (v. 9:6). It's not a popular position, but it is a biblical principle. Whether the issue is proper punishment for misdemeanor crimes or capital crimes, the issue is punishment. The primary purpose of criminal punishment is to exact justice.

It is God's desire that His people be rewarded. "(God said,) 'And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it....(the rainbow) is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth'" (vv. 9:7, 17).

Not only should the guilty be punished, but the innocent are to be recognized. God's covenants have always included a visible sign of His commitment...a rainbow for Noah. Do you have a visible sign of your commitment? A Christian smile can light up a day just as effectively as any rainbow in the sky. Being "fruitful" and "multiplying" not only refers to procreation (children), but to propagation (culture) as well. Reward others with the rainbow of God's love.

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## Bible Book

### *Live changed lives*

By W. David Moore, president,  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation

Basic passage: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Focal passage: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Central truth: God's people should live changed lives in the light of Christ's love.

The apostle Paul clearly reveals his pastor's heart in our passage. He wants to insist that believers should live differently from the world. There ought to be a difference in the way we live in order to reveal the purity of God's love.

Every pastor must feel the tug of God's Spirit as He encourages his people to live apart from the world. At the same time, that pastor grieves to see his people live as pagans. Do you watch the same movies as pagans? Do you attend the same concerts, go to the same establishments, use the same language, read the same books? Christians are called to live a higher life than the people of the world.

Now in case you do not understand this, Paul uses a clothing metaphor to illustrate his point. It is like taking off old clothes and putting on new clothes.

Too often Christians try to take off old clothes (habits, mannerisms, sins) without putting on new clothes. The more you try to avoid an old habit ("I'm not going to do that, I'm not going to do that"), the more you tend to do that which you despise.

Counselors will tell you the wisdom of Paul's statements. If you want to overcome a bad habit, put a good habit in its place. If you want to overcome a sin, put an act of righteousness in its place!

If you want to be more specific, Paul focuses on the tongue and the words we speak. Instead of being angry and blowing up, instead of giving the Devil a foothold, instead of speaking unwholesome words and thus grieving the Holy Spirit, speak the truth and put wholesome, edifying words in your mouth. Remove the old and replace it with new!

The kindness referred to in verse 4:32 is a covenant term. God's promise to us prompts Him to act as He acts toward us. In response, our covenant with Him should prompt us to be loving and forgiving toward others, just as He has been loving and forgiving toward us.

Christianity should require from its adherents a different lifestyle. Does your life exemplify and bear testimony to the Christ you profess?

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## Convention Uniform

### Response to a revelation

By Roy Buckelew, professor,  
Ouachita Baptist University  
Basic passage: 2 Samuel 7  
Focal passage: 2 Samuel 7  
Central truth: What God started  
with Israel, He has continued with  
the church.

It was the pinnacle of David's reign as King of Israel...before his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. In chapter 6, we read about David's military triumphs, about the Ark of the Covenant symbolizing God's approval and power among the people (vv. 6:6-7) and about their celebrating and worshipping God (vv. 6:5, 14-15). Against this backdrop, God revealed something special and David responded in kind.

■ *The revelation of God* (vv. 5-15). God revealed Himself, His will and purpose to David through a prophet, Nathan. God sometimes reveals Himself through natural phenomenon, through social, political, moral and economic movements, through "the course of human events" (Lincoln's phrase in the Gettysburg Address), or through nations such as Israel. But usually God's revelation comes to a person through a person such as Nathan. Through Nathan, God revealed what He had done in the past – for Israel and David – and what He promised to do: a King who would establish a kingdom forever. This was a prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ. They could believe His promise because of what He had done in the past.

On one level, God was speaking about David and Israel (vv. 5, 8-11, 22-26). On another level, He was speaking about Jesus Christ and the church (vv. 12-16, 27-29). Christ and His church are the fulfillment of this promise to David and Israel. Ultimately, heaven and eternal life are the fulfillment of this promise.

■ *The response of David* (vv. 18-27). David responded to God in three ways. He responded with humility, with a sense of his own unworthiness. Notice the repeated references to the sovereignty of God. Another way he responded was in awe, reverence and faith toward God which should be the natural and normal response to the Sovereign God. He also responded to God with prayer. God is not only sovereign but personal, and prayer to a personal God should be as natural as breathing. Our response to God today should be the same as David's response.

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## Life and Work

### A lasting love

By Rick Hyde, pastor,  
Malvern Third Church  
Basic passage: Hosea 1-3  
Focal passage: Hosea 1:2, 2:19-20,  
3:1-5  
Central truth: God's love for His  
people is lasting.

God loves His people at all times. Sometimes His people return that love and sometimes His people resent that love. This truth is illustrated through the actions and reactions of husband Hosea and wife Gomer.

Hosea loved Gomer first. "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the Lord" (v. 1:2, NKJV). God instructed His prophet Hosea to marry the prostitute Gomer. God's command was to illustrate the relationship that His people had chosen with Him. Even though He had rescued them, they chose to rebel against Him. Hosea's initiative toward Gomer corresponds to God's initiative toward us. God loves us first then we love Him back. Just as Gomer would have never been delivered from the sin that enslaved her if Hosea had not intervened, we who claim His name would have never been delivered had God not intervened in our lives. God loved us first.

Hosea loved Gomer faithfully. "So I bought her for myself...And I said to her, 'You shall stay with me many days...' (vv. 3:2-3). Even though Gomer chose to return to prostitution after her marriage to Hosea, Hosea still sought her redemption. There are times that we as God's people return to our old ways, but God is still faithful. Our relationship with Him is not dependent on our faithfulness, but on His. God loves us faithfully.

Hosea loved Gomer forever. "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness ..." (vv. 2:19-20). Earthly marriages should endure on this earth as the spiritual bond that God establishes with His people endures in heaven. Hosea promised to love Gomer as long as possible. God loves us forever.

Can one forgive and love a prostitute? Can God forgive and love us when we stray from Him? The answer to both questions, according to the prophet Hosea, is a resounding "Yes!"

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## Bible Book

### Walking in the light

By W. David Moore, president,  
Arkansas Baptist Foundation  
Basic passage: Ephesians 5:3-20  
Focal passage: Ephesians 5:3-20  
Central truth: Believers should  
exemplify the light of God's purity  
in their daily walk.

Again we focus on the practical section of Ephesians. Our actions (chapters 4-6) should reveal much about who we are in Jesus and what we believe (chapters 1-3).

There has always been a tension between a Christian and his life in a lost, dark world. Jesus should make a radical change in the way we live and think.

It sounds silly to have to say this, but there should not be even a hint of sexual misconduct among Christians (v. 3a). There should not be a hint of greed among believers (v. 3b). There is no place in the Christian life for profanity, foolish speech, or coarse joking (v. 4).

Instead of being a part of the darkness, we are people of the light who should expose the darkness. When I served as a pastor, I would walk into a room where dirty stories were being told. When others saw me, the conversation quickly changed. That same event should continue to happen to me and to you, not because we are seen as "ministers," but because we are Christians! Our presence should expose the darkness!

The text's implication is that if Christ is not shining in you, then you are asleep. It is possible to live in the world and be spiritually asleep. Paul admonishes us to wake up, because the most precious asset we have is time. Start using it for Him!

You might want to know how all this works, and Paul wants to tell you. It "works" only when you are filled with the Spirit of God.

What does it mean to be "filled" with the Spirit? Like a sailboat moves along a path as the wind catches the sail, so we are to have our "sails" up and directed toward His Spirit. If we do, He will guide us! The word "filled" is used throughout our New Testament to refer to total dominance. For example, when a disciple was "filled with fear," he was totally dominated by that fear. He was overcome by fear.

Our task is to let the Spirit dominate our lives so that we are living in the power of the Holy Spirit. The result will be a heart of spiritual music and an attitude of gratitude. This is real evidence of God's Spirit filling and dominating one's life!

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## Court declines to review pair of church-state disputes

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Religious liberty disputes over a Florida city's efforts to regulate charitable solicitation and Puerto Rico's requirement that religious schools be licensed were among more than 800 cases rejected Oct. 3 by the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court issued the orders as it opened its 1994-95 term.

The court left standing a federal appeals court decision that struck down a Clearwater, Fla., ordinance which imposed substantial record-keeping and disclosure requirements on charities and religious organizations that solicit funds in the city.

The appeals court said the ordinance violates both the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment. Clearwater officials singled out the Church of Scientology for regulation, the appeals court said, entangling church and state.

The Supreme Court also left standing a ruling by the Puerto Rico Supreme Court upholding a law that requires all preschools, elementary and secondary schools to be licensed by the Puerto Rico Education Department. Puerto Rico's top court said the requirements are strictly secular and designed to assure educational quality.

## Past SBC president endorses Christian Coalition mailing

CHESAPEAKE, VA (ABP) — A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention has joined televangelist Pat Robertson in urging churches nationwide to help get out the vote in next month's elections.

A recent letter to church leaders from Robertson's Christian Coalition is signed by Robertson; Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston and immediate past president of the SBC; and James Kennedy, president of Coral Ridge Ministries in Florida. Young's signature line identifies him as "Former President, Southern Baptist Convention."

The letter urges church leaders to request materials to help register Christian voters and copies of the Christian Coalition's "Voter Guides."

## World Changers scheduled to work in 19 cities in 1995

MEMPHIS, TN (BP) — Twenty-two World Changers National Work Projects have been scheduled for 1995 in 19 cities, including West Memphis.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, involves youth and adults in weeklong missions projects. Participants work to renovate and repair homes in low income areas. The West Memphis project will be held July 29 through Aug. 5.

During 1994, World Changers involved more than 5,900 youth and adults in 24 projects. Participants from 27 states painted, roofed and repaired 490 homes. For more information about World Changers, contact the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104; phone 901-272-2461.

## Texas attorney files charter for new state convention

HOUSTON (BP) — Houston attorney J. Walter Carpenter has filed a charter for a "Texas Baptist Convention, Inc.," should the need arise for a new convention.

Carpenter, who is a trustee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said he had "no intention to use it, but it is there to use if things go from bad to worse and conservative leadership in Texas wants it. It is merely an enabling thing in the event it is needed."

Events which might bring on separation from the Baptist General Convention of Texas and establishment of a new convention, he said, could include inclusion of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the BGCT budget if the Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee report is rejected at the annual convention in Amarillo, Oct. 31. He said he had "no idea" if the approval of the committee report, which would permit CBF gifts to be considered as Cooperative Program gifts, would "trigger" establishment of the new convention.

## Senior adult convention to stay in Nashville; moved to 1997

NASHVILLE, TN (BP) — Delay in construction of a Nashville arena has pushed the dates of a Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention back a year, said Jay Johnston, event coordinator in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family adult department.

The new convention dates are April 28-30, 1997, Johnston said. The event was originally scheduled for May 1996.

"Several of the senior adults who had been planning to attend the convention in Nashville have said they would rather wait a year if it could still be held here," Johnston said. "Our decision to keep it here and move it back a year was really based on the response of our people."

Johnston said he expects about 20,000 senior adults to attend the event.